

SPOTLIGHT

10

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m MENNTAMÁLASTOFNUN

Spotlight 10

Textbook

ISBN 978-9979-0-1609-0

©2010 Randall Jonas, Carolyn Keay, Catharina Lantz og
bókaútgáfan Natur & Kultur, Stokkhólmi

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Bók þessa má ekki afrita með neinum hætti, svo sem með ljósmyndun, prentun, hljóðritun eða á annan sambærilegan hátt, að hluta eða í heild, án skriflegs leyfis höfundar og útgefanda.

1. útgáfa 2012

önnur prentun 2015

Menntamálastofnun

Kópavogi

Prentun: Ísafoldarprentsmiðja ehf. – umhverfisvottuð prentsmiðja

Contents

Unit 1: Growing Up

Intro pages	6
Common Sense Dot Com <small>TEXT A</small>	8
We Never Talked About It <small>TEXT B</small>	12
Cool Reads – Growing Up	15
High School Never Changes	16
Who is Protecting the Children?	20
Internet Health Advice from Dr. Feelgood	22
Clara’s Day	26

Unit 2: Ireland

Sanna’s Backpacker’s Blog	30
Irish Trivia	35
A History of Conflict	36
Guinness World Records	39
My Dog is Great!	42
Angela’s Ashes	44

Unit 3: A Sense of Fear

Intro pages	48
Footsteps in the Night <small>TEXT A</small>	50
Abducted by Aliens <small>TEXT B</small>	52
Cool Reads – A Sense of Fear	55
True Terror	56
Nightmares	58
It’s Not a Safe Place for Little Girls	60



Unit 4: Voices of English

Where Did the English Language Come from?	64
English is a Weird Language	68
The Nonreader	70
OMG, What is Happening to the English Language?	72
A Chinese-English Dictionary	75
The Hyphen	78

Unit 5: Fame – A Treacherous Thing

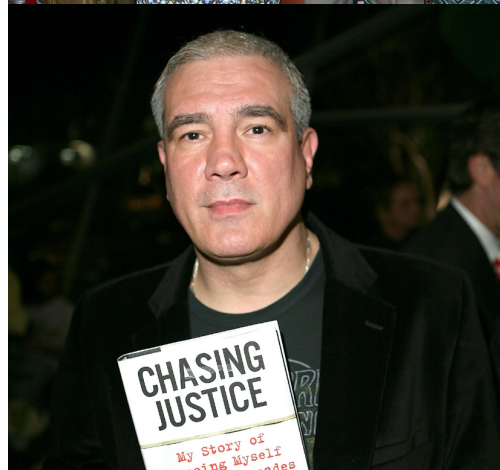
Intro pages	80
Dreaming of Stardom <small>TEXT A</small>	82
MJ – The King of Pop <small>TEXT B</small>	84
Cool Reads – Fame – A Treacherous Thing	87
Too Famous Too Young?	88
Woodstock – An Unforgettable Event in Music History	90
When Do You Go from Fan to Fanatic?	92
The Blond Actress	95

Unit 6: South Africa

A Country of Contrasts	98
Elephants – Breeders and Demolishers	102
Kwaito	105
Pick Up a Piece	106
The Rainbow Nation	108
From Prisoner to President	110
Making Headlines	112
Honest Gladys	114
Fear of the Country	118

Unit 7: Dead or Alive?

Intro pages	124
Before I Die <small>TEXT A</small>	126
Talk About a Dump! <small>TEXT B</small>	128
Cool Reads – Dead or Alive?	131
Kerry Max Cook, Execution # 600	132
The Road ... to what?	134
Where is Your Brother?	136



Irregular Verbs	141
Words for:	
<i>Where Did the English Language Come from?</i>	
<i>A Country of Contrasts</i>	144
Word List in Alphabetical Order	145





Unit 1

Growing Up



The trick is growing up
without growing old.

Casey Stengel (1890–1975)

- * What is Internet common sense?
- * Do we plan our relationships?
- * Do high school film stereotypes exist in real life?
- * To spank or not to spank? How important is respect for children?
- * Are we too concerned with our bodies and looks?
- * What do you do when you don't get the attention and appreciation you need?

Read the following unit and discuss some of these questions.

common sense
relationship
spank
concerned
attention
appreciation

Common Sense Dot Com

Three 9th graders, Sally, Eric and Emma, are hanging out after school in front of the computer at Sally's house. All three of them spend a lot of their free time surfing the Internet and so they start to discuss online safety.

Sally God, I bet you my mom's gonna come barging in here any minute. Ever since I got my own computer she's constantly in here asking all kinds of questions about what I'm doing and who I'm talking to.

Eric My parents don't care one bit what I do on my computer. I mean, all I do is just hang out on MySpace or Facebook. No big deal anyway.

Sally Really? I have heaps of restrictions from my mom. I'm not even allowed to post any pictures on my Facebook page without her consent.

Emma What? Why? I post all my pictures on Facebook. Me and my friends always make really funny photo albums to put online.

Sally My mom says that someone can save your photos on to their computer and use them for other things. She means that you have to think about what you put out there.

Emma Your mom is really making the Internet seem a lot more dangerous than it is!

Eric But, she might be right. We might not be doing anything foolish on line, but there are many people out there who pretend to be someone else on the Internet and stuff like that.

Emma I often chat with people I don't know online – it's fun.

Eric But you can't be a hundred percent sure who it is you're talking to.

common sense
dot
bargе in
No big deal!
restriction
allow
consent
stuff
foolish
pretend to be



Emma But I ask of course!

Eric So just because someone says his name is Bob you believe him?

Emma Well yeah ... Plus I only use chat rooms for teenagers, so it's just people like us on there.

Sally It's not that hard to pretend to be a teenager when you can't see the person or hear his or her voice. You think you are talking to a fifteen-year-old girl but it could be a fifty-year-old man.

Emma Usually they send photos of themselves, so I can see who they are.

Eric But you just said you post pictures online. What stops a fifty-year-old man from taking a picture of a teenage boy and pretending to be him? And what stops me from taking one of your photos and pretending to be you?

imagine
pose to be
underestimate
random
talk of the devil

Sally Emma, imagine meeting yourself in the chat room.

Emma Oh stop it! But if someone really did pose to be me online, that would be pretty scary.

Eric I don't give out any personal information when I'm chatting.

Emma So you're saying I shouldn't post pictures, I shouldn't chat with strangers, because they might not be who they say they are and I can't post ANYTHING on my private profile page? Do I have to be constantly worried that someone is out to get me?

Eric Well, yes. Or no ... I don't know! All I'm saying is that we have to be careful.

Sally Still, we've grown up with the Internet – I think we know what's safe and what's not safe most of the time. I think my mom underestimates me – it's not like I'm gonna tell a random person I've just met online where I live!

Eric Maybe it's just about common sense. We don't tell strangers we meet on the street where we live, then why should we get personal with people we've just met online?

Sally I agree.

Emma Hm, I dunno ... I'm kinda glad I don't have to live by your mom's rules. And talking of the devil, it seems like she's on her way up the stairs now.

Netiquette

The Internet has revolutionized everyday life in a fantastic way.

How on earth did we even survive without it?

Nevertheless, a few ground rules are necessary when living in an online world.

- ❖ Don't trust everything you read on the Internet. Remember, EVERYTHING can be found online – from websites stating that the Earth is flat, to blogs saying buy this clothing label or this brand of shampoo. Read with a critical mind.
- ❖ The same goes for people you meet online. There are a few cranks out there – sexual predators out to get what they want, so don't be gullible. Better to be safe than sorry.
- ❖ Don't give out too much information online. Your business is your business.
- ❖ Keep your email password secret, even from your friends. Just because you're best friends today doesn't mean you're going to be friends forever. You don't want people to have access to your personal messages.
- ❖ Don't write things you wouldn't say in the "real" world. Information is spread quickly on the Internet – something that is not always good. "Talking" to someone in writing makes it easy for that person to pass that information on. You could get in trouble for expressing something you shouldn't.
- ❖ Don't open emails from people you don't know or click on suspicious-looking links or web pages. If they carry some sort of virus your computer may crash.
- ❖ When posting things online, you don't only have yourself to consider, but also your friends. Be respectful and imagine being in your friend's shoes – would you like your friend to post something like this about you?
- ❖ You can be anonymous online, but it's important to remember that it's just as illegal online as it is in real life to harass or intimidate people. Obey the Golden Rule: "don't do to others on the Internet what you wouldn't have them do to you".



Don't do to others on the Internet what you wouldn't have them do to you.

survive
state
label
brand
crank
predator
gullible
access
suspicious
imagine
harass
intimidate



We Never Talked About It

Alicia and Sam are sixteen and met at her mother's fiftieth birthday party. They decided to go to the cinema the next day. Instead of seeing the film they went for a frappucino and then Alicia suggested they go back to her place. This is Sam's version.

We slept together for the first time that night.

'Have you got anything?' she said, when it was obvious that we might need something.

'No. Of course not.'

'Why "Of course not"?'

'Because ... I thought we were going to the cinema.'

'And you don't carry anything around with you? Just in case?'

I just shook my head. I knew blokes at school who did that, but they were just showing off, most of them. They did it to look flash. There was this kid, Robbie Brady, who must have shown me the same Durex box fifteen times. And I'm like, Yeah, well, anyone can buy them. Buying them isn't the big deal. But I never said anything. I'd always thought that if I needed anything, I'd know well in advance, because that's the way I am. I never go out thinking, Tonight I'm going to shag someone I don't know, so I'd better take a condom with me. I'd always hoped it would all be a bit more planned than that. I'd always hoped that we might have talked about it beforehand, so that when it happened we were both prepared for it, and it would be relaxed, and special. I never liked the sound of the stories I heard from kids at school. They were always pleased with themselves, but it never sounded like the sort of sex you read about, or saw in porn movies. It was always quick, and sometimes they were outside, and sometimes there were other people nearby. I knew I'd rather not bother than do it like that.

'Oh, you're a nice boy,' said Alicia. 'My last boyfriend, he always carried a condom around.'

frappucino
suggest
bloke
show off
look flash
in advance
shag
I'd better
prepared
relaxed
porn
nearby
I'd rather not bother
carry

You see? That was exactly what I meant. He always carried one around, and he never got to use it, because Alicia didn't like the way he was trying to put pressure on her. Sometimes condoms really really stop you from making babies. If you're the sort of kid that always has one on you, then no one wants to sleep with you anyway. At least I was with someone who wanted to have sex with me. Did that make me any better off, though? Alicia's ex didn't have sex with her because he always carried a condom around; I wasn't going to have sex with her because I didn't.



vest
knickers
incredible
soppy
common sense
get back
pissed off
dump
half-decent
had a bet
virgin
the point of it

At least she wanted to have sex with me, though. So on the whole I was glad I was me. Which was probably just as well.

'I'm going to go and steal one,' said Alicia.

'Where from?'

'My parents' bedroom.'

She stood up, and started to walk towards the door. She had a vest on, and her knickers, and if anyone saw her, they wouldn't need to be an incredible genius to work out what had been going on in her room.

'You're going to get me killed,' I said.

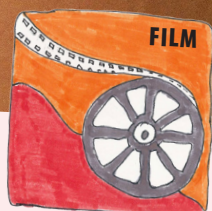
'Oh, don't be so soppy,' she said, but she didn't explain why a fear of being killed was soppy. To me, it was just common sense.

So I had probably two minutes on my own in her bedroom, lying on her bed, and I spent it trying to remember how we'd got from there to here. The truth was, there wasn't much to it. We came in, said hello to her mum and dad, went upstairs, and that was it, pretty much. We never talked about it. We just did what we wanted to do. I was pretty sure, though, that she wanted to go all the way because of her ex. It wasn't much to do with me. I mean, I don't think she'd have wanted to do it if she hated me. But when she'd said to me at the party that she might change her mind, I could see now that she wanted to get back for something. It was like a joke on him. He kept asking her, and she kept saying no, and then he got pissed off and dumped her, and so she decided to sleep with the next person who came along, as long as he was half-decent. I had a bet with myself that if we did have sex that night, it wouldn't stay a secret between us. She'd have to find some way of letting him know she wasn't a virgin. That was sort of the point of it.

From 'Slam' by Nick Hornby

COOL READS

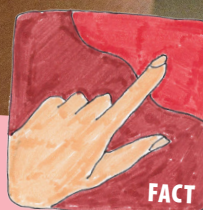
– Growing Up



High School Never Changes

This is a presentation of the most common stereotypes in high school movies.

Page 16



Internet Health Advice from Dr. Feelgood

Too heavy, too tall, too thin – young people seek advice on the net and get answers from an experienced health advisor.

Page 22



Who is Protecting the Children?

There are different ways of bringing up children. A newspaper article presents the attitudes towards corporal punishment in different countries and how smacking might affect children.

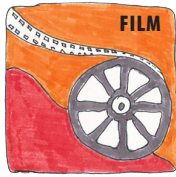
Page 20



Clara's Day

This short story by Penelope Lively is about the day 15-year-old Clara Tilling takes her clothes off at school assembly and walks naked in front of everyone.

Page 26



High School Never Changes

One of the criteria for a movie to be called a 'high school movie' is of course that it takes place in a high school setting. But what distinguishes a high school film from other genres? The answer is: the recognizable characters.

The high school genre is often considered to be shallow and a bit silly. Often the films reduce all characters to teenage stereotypes, far from real life. However, the popularity of movies featuring these cliché characters implies that they carry some sort of significance for the audience. In fact, these characters are partly what make the genre so popular.

Let's take a look at six frequent coming-of-age characters on film to see what distinguishes them.

The Jock

This is the guy who spends all his time with his buddies on the football field, basketball court or baseball field. It doesn't really matter which sport he plays, he is the most popular guy in school because of his good looks, self-confidence and athletic lifestyle. But that's about all – he's usually not particularly smart or nice. How do you recognize him? By his sports jacket with his team emblem on, and a pretty cheerleader on his arm of course.

➔ Look for this character here: *Can't Hardly Wait*, *She's All That*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *17 Again*



From 'She's All That'

criteria
distinguish
recognizable
consider
shallow
reduce
feature
imply
significance
frequent
coming-of-age
jock
buddy
athletic
particularly
cheerleader



From 'Clueless'

The Cheerleader

'The cheerleader' is just one of many names this character goes by, another is simply 'the most popular girl in school'. We have all met her: the girl who thinks she owns the world. She is rich and spoiled, with beautiful long hair and a pretty smile. She has never had a bad day in her entire life. However, this character can differ from one movie to the next when it comes to this aspect; either she is totally ignorant of anything outside of her own self-indulgent life, or she wants to break free from the superficial life she leads.

➡ Look for this character here: *Mean Girls*, *Clueless*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Bring it on*, *Popular* (TV show)

spoiled
entire
differ
ignorant
self-indulgent
superficial



From 'Revenge of the Nerds'

nerd
brainy
main
attribute
neat
eccentric
antisocial
self-confident



From 'The Breakfast Club'

The Nerd

This brainy guy – because 99% of the time the nerd is a guy – is easy to detect by one main attribute: his glasses. In addition to them, he is dressed in neat clothes, often with a pair of pants pulled up a bit too high. This person is the ideal student, likes math, is often part of the chess club and he loves science fiction and fantasy. He is the guy the audience feels sorry for, until he outsmarts the jocks.

➔ Look for this character here: *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Superbad*, *Can't Hardly Wait*, *Revenge of the Nerds*, *Freaks and Geeks* (TV show)

The Eccentric

The eccentric is most often an antisocial girl. Everyone sees her as a bit crazy, but she is really just 'different'. She likes to keep to herself, she wears black clothes and she hates everything that has anything to do with high school. She is usually artistic and smart, and can be either quiet or very loud and self-confident. Even though this character prefers to be alone, it is very common that she is finally 'noticed' by someone, often a male character.

➔ Look for this character here: *10 Things I Hate About You*, *She's All That*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Ghost World*, *My So-Called Life* (TV show)

The Lone Wolf

This is the male equivalent to the so-called 'eccentric'. He is also dressed in dark clothes, keeps to himself and hates everybody. The difference in his case is that people think this is all due to a criminal past, which is often just a rumour. But it keeps his fellow students cautious. Of course there usually is a very nice person underneath this tough facade.

➔ Look for this character here: *The Breakfast Club*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *Drive Me Crazy*, *American Beauty*



From 'The Breakfast Club'

The Guy Who Just Wants to Get Laid

If you take away every high school movie that contains this character, there would be no movies left. This character is the heart of the genre. Why? Because the most terrifying thing for a boy in a high school film is to graduate a virgin.

This character is not as easily detected by his appearance as the others – it can be just about any guy. He has one evident goal throughout the movie that he pursues in any way he can – to get laid. Who the girl is doesn't really seem to matter.

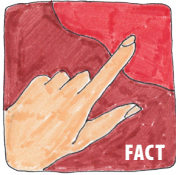
➔ Look for this character here: *Porky's*, *Superbad*, *American Pie*, *Can't Hardly Wait*



From 'American Pie'

lone wolf
equivalent
rumour
cautious
underneath
facade
get laid
contain
graduate
virgin
detect
appearance
evident
pursue
matter

Which stereotype is your favourite?
Which one do you dislike? Why?



Who is Protecting the Children?

All families are different, and all families have different rules for their kids at home. There is one way of teaching kids right from wrong that is not allowed in many countries.

ANN AND PETER live in Brighton in the UK, and have a nine-year-old daughter named Olivia. Olivia is a very well-behaved girl, but on rare occasions she does things her parents do not approve of. For instance, one evening Olivia lied about being at a friend's house when she was actually at the park all by herself. Another time she stole three pounds from her mother's purse because she wanted to buy some sweets. When Olivia's parents found out about these things they spanked her. It hurt her of course and Olivia cried, but afterwards they comforted her and said they loved her.

Ann and Peter see this as their only option in making her understand that she has done something wrong. They were brought up the same way by their parents.

In the UK parents are allowed to use mild corporal punishment on their children, so Ann and Peter are not breaking any laws when they smack Olivia.

KAREN LIVES in Auckland, New Zealand with her three-year-old son named Darren. Darren is a real wild child and she is constantly afraid that he might get hurt. He runs around the house out of control. An accident is just waiting to happen.

One time he almost placed his small hand on the stove's hot plate when Karen wasn't looking. Just in time she slapped his hand violently away. When he tried to climb up the bookcase and almost tipped the whole thing over, she had to grab him hard by the arm and pull him down. It's painful for Darren when Karen grabs him like that, but she is so scared that he might hurt himself severely. She feels that she can't stop him in any other way.

Karen is breaking the law because New Zealand is one of the twenty-four countries in the world where corporal punishment, or "slapping", "smacking" or "spanking" as it usually is called when parents punish their children physically, is forbidden. Most of the other countries are located in Europe, and some in South America.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT is still legal in countries such as the USA, Canada and the UK. In Canada and the UK, spanking may occur but there are some rules for parents to follow, such as it may not bruise the child. In the US, the different states have different laws on how parents may hit their children. Even if the practice of physically punishing children hasn't been made illegal in

protect
well-behaved
on rare occasions
approve of
spank
comfort
option
bring up (brought)
corporal punishment
constantly
stove
plate
slap
severe
punish
physically
located
legal
occur
bruise
illegal

most of the English-speaking world, it is however often frowned upon and highly controversial. But things are complicated – even in countries like New Zealand that have already banned corporal punishment.

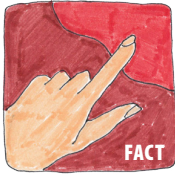
Since New Zealand decided in 2007 that it was against the law to smack children there have been a lot of disputes. People disliked this new-formed law, so much that they forced a popular vote in 2009. It turned out that 87% were *against* the so-called “anti-smacking” law – the majority of the voters wanted to be able to slap their children without breaking the law. These people believe that a certain amount of corporal punishment is necessary, or else a child will not learn right from wrong. It encourages good behaviour without negatively affecting the child in the long run, they say.

Critics of corporal punishment argue that the degrading experience of being hit can create wounds on the inside and low self-esteem. Violence breeds violence. Studies show that hitting children can also affect their intelligence. It may lead to lower IQ scores due to psychological stress. The United Nation has made it clear that all assaults on children must be made illegal, but there seems to be a long way to go.

It is illegal to hit your wife or your employees today – which was also acceptable once upon a time – but it is not illegal to hit your kids. How come the only people that you are allowed to hit today are children? Maybe it is because children are the only ones that cannot defend themselves legally. But shouldn't it be the other way around then; that they are the very ones that should be protected by the law?

frown upon
controversial
ban
dispute
popular vote
encourage
behaviour
affect
in the long run
argue
degrade
experience
wound
self-esteem
breed
IQ score
assault
employees
allow
defend





Internet Health Advice from Dr. Feelgood

Health Advice from Dr. Feelgood

This Week's Topic: Too Heavy, Too Tall, Too Thin – Too Much!



Hi there folks,

This week we have some advice for teens on how to deal with the problems young people face because of their body types. I receive many emails each week and below are answers to some of the most common issues. Many people wrote about being angry or sad about being too fat, too thin or tall and worrying about their shape and size.

Read these letters from Martin, Susan and Charlene. I have given them good tips and ways to deal with these issues.

Your Internet Health Advisor,

Dr. Feelgood

advice
topic

face
common

issue
advisor

Depressed and Overweight

Q:

Dear Dr. Feelgood,

I actually feel very bad and it is because I am terribly overweight. I eat when I get nervous. I eat when I am upset and I eat when I feel depressed about my weight. It is a never ending circle for me. I have tried all kinds of stupid diets that I found on the Internet and even tried fasting for a few days. Nothing seems to work. Some days I don't even want to get out of bed and most of the time when I am not at school I just feel tired and sit around watching TV or playing games on my computer. I really don't know what to do anymore!

Martin Ship

A:

Hi Martin,

Do not fast. Not eating is dangerous for you and will not help you at all. There are many things you can do to start feeling better about yourself. First of all, get some exercise every day. You can go for walks or a bike ride to start. Secondly, stop eating foods that are sweet and fatty. Get rid of all the white sugar and most of the saturated fats in your diet right away. You should add vegetables, fruits and healthy snacks to your diet and drink water too. Finally, I think you should talk to someone. Feeling depressed and tired all the time are signs that you need to talk about with someone you trust. Try your parents or talk to a counsellor or a teacher at school about what is bothering you, even if it is not only about your weight. Sometimes we need guidance from others to help us feel better.

Good Luck!

Dr. Feelgood.

depressed
overweight
never ending circle
fast
exercise
fatty
saturated fats
add
counsellor
bother
guidance

Tall and thin

Q:

Dear Dr. Feelgood,

I am quite upset. I happen to be the tallest girl in my class.

I am even taller than most of the boys. It seems like all the guys are put off by this. To make things worse I am pretty thin.

I worry a lot that the guys think their girlfriend should be shorter than them and have more curves to her body. Many girls envy me for being thin, but being thin and tall is not as great as they think! Do you have any advice for me?

Susan Williams

A:

Hello Susan!

One thing is certain and that is that there are many different shapes and sizes when it comes to people! It may feel as though you are too tall or too thin but you really should not worry about it. Your body will change and so will the boys'. Some of them grow taller much later than girls do. And don't forget that some guys like tall girls. But what is really important is that the guy you meet likes you for who you are inside.

A real boyfriend is someone who appreciates you for who you are. Have you ever thought that some guys in your class might think that you wouldn't like them because they are too short!?

Accept yourself for who you are and what you look like. You will meet someone who appreciates you as you are.

Sincerest Wishes,

Dr. Feelgood

Dizzy and Starving!

Q:

Dear Dr. Feelgood,

I have been doing everything I can to lose weight. Everyone tells me I am not overweight but I don't feel this way. When I look at myself in the mirror I really don't see a thin body! It is a bit confusing as I feel fat even though nobody says I am. I exercise every day, starve myself as much as I can, and so far I lost about three kilos. But it has taken me three weeks to do this and I am always hungry. Sometimes I can't focus on school because I feel dizzy. Isn't there a better way to lose weight? I am often tired and now I really don't know what to do. I felt so bad I just ate three hamburgers and a slice of pizza too.

Charlene Winters

A:

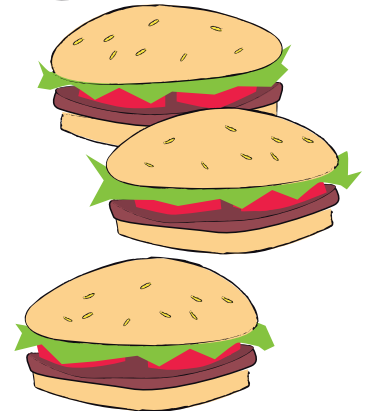
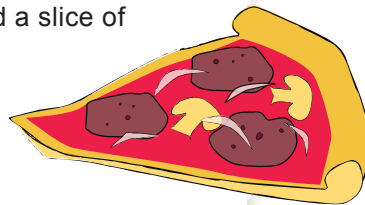
Hi Charlene!

It sounds to me like you don't need to lose weight. If everyone around you is saying you're not overweight chances are they are correct. Go and speak with the school nurse or a doctor. More importantly you must never starve yourself! The reason you feel dizzy and can't focus on school is because you don't eat. This is unhealthy and dangerous. If you don't stop you will end up binge eating. That is why you eat so many hamburgers and a slice of pizza at once. If you are tired all the time you may need iron supplements or multi vitamins. Eat healthy food and exercise but make sure you take time to rest, have fun and enjoy other things too!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Feelgood

dizzy
starve
confusing
slice
be correct
binge eating
iron supplements



Clara's Day

When Clara Tilling was fifteen and a half she took off all her clothes one morning in school assembly.

She walked naked through the lines of girls, past the headmistress at her lectern and the other staff ranged behind her, and out into the entrance lobby. She had left off her bra and pants already, so that all she had to do was unbutton her blouse, remove it and drop it to the floor, and then undo the zipper of her skirt and let that fall. She slipped her feet out of her shoes at the same time and so walked barefoot as well as naked. It all happened very quickly. One or two people giggled and a sort of rustling noise ran through the assembly hall, like a sudden wind among trees. The Head hesitated for a moment – she was reading out the tennis team list – and then went on again, firmly. Clara opened the big glass doors and let herself out.

The entrance lobby was empty. The floor was highly polished and she could see her own reflection, a foreshortened pink blur. There was a big bright modern painting on one wall and several comfortable chairs for waiting parents, arranged round an enormous rubber plant and ashtrays on chrome stalks. Clara had sat there herself once, with her mother, waiting for an interview with the Head.

She walked along the corridor to her form-room, which was also quite empty, with thick gold bars of sunlight falling on the desks and a peaceful feeling, as though no one had been here for a long time nor ever would come. Clara opened the cupboard in the corner, took out one of the science overalls and put it on, and then sat down at her desk. After about a minute Mrs Mayhew came in carrying her clothes and her shoes. She said, 'I should put these on now, Clara,' and stood beside her while she did so. 'Would you like to go home?' she asked, and when Clara said that she wouldn't, thank you, Mrs Mayhew went on briskly. 'Right you are, then, Clara. You'd better get on with some prep, then, till the first period.'

All morning people kept coming up to her to say, 'Well

assembly
headmistress
lectern
staff
ranged
leave off
bra
pants
unbutton
zipper
giggle
rustle
hesitate
firmly
reflection
foreshortened
blur
comfortable
rubber plant
ashtray
chrome stalk
form-room
bar
cupboard
briskly
prep
period



done!’ or just to pat her on the back. She was a celebrity right up till dinner-time but after that it tailed off a bit. Half-way through the morning one of the prefects came in and told her the Head wanted to see her straight after school.

The Head’s study was more like a sitting-room, except for the big paper-strewn desk that she sat behind. There were squashy chairs and nice pictures on the walls and photos of the Head’s husband and her children on the mantelpiece and a Marks & Spencer carrier bag dumped down in one corner. The window was open on to the playing-fields from which came the cheerful incomprehensible noise, like birds singing, of people calling to each other. Except for the distant rumble of traffic you wouldn’t think you were in London.

pat
celebrity
tail off
prefect
paper-strewn
squashy
mantelpiece
Marks & Spencer a British
retail chain
carrier bag
cheerful
incomprehensible
distant
rumble

The Head was busy writing when Clara came in; she just looked up to say, 'Hello, Clara. Sit down. Do you mind if I just finish these reports off? I won't be a minute.' She went on writing and Clara sat and looked at the photo of her husband, who had square sensible-looking glasses and her three boys who were all the same but different sizes. Then the Head slapped the pile of reports together and pushed her chair back. 'There ... Well now ... So what was all that about, this morning?'

'I don't know,' said Clara.

The Head looked at her, thoughtfully, and Clara looked back. Just before the silence became really embarrassing the Head pushed a hand through her short untidy fair hair, making it even untidier, and said, 'I daresay you don't. Were you trying to attract attention?'

Clara considered. 'Well, I would, wouldn't I? Doing a thing like that. I mean – you'd be bound to.'

The Head nodded. 'Quite. Silly question.'

'Oh no,' said Clara hastily. 'I meant you'd be bound to attract attention, Not be bound to be trying to.'

The Head, a linguist, also considered. 'Well ... That's a fine point, I think. How do you feel about it now?'

Clara tried to examine her feelings, which slithered away like fish. In the end she said, 'I don't really feel anything,' which was, in a way, truthful.

The Head nodded again. She looked at her husband on the mantelpiece, almost as though asking for advice. 'Everything all right at home?'

'Oh fine,' Clara assured her. 'Absolutely fine.'

'Good,' said the Head. 'Of course ... I was just thinking, there are quite a lot of people in Four B with separated parents, aren't there? Bryony and Susie Tallance and Rachel.'

'And Midge,' said Clara. 'And Lucy Potter.'

'Yes. Five. Six, with you.'

'Twenty-five per cent,' said Clara. 'Just about.'

'Quite. As a matter of fact that's the national average, did you know? One marriage in four.'

'No, I didn't actually,' said Clara.

square

sensible

embarrassing

untidy

I daresay I dare say – used to say that you agree or think that something is true

attract

consider

be bound to

hastily

linguist

slither

assure

separated

average

‘Well, it is, I’m afraid. Anyway ...’ She looked over at her husband again. ‘You’re not fussing about O-levels, are you?’

‘Not really,’ said Clara. ‘I mean, I don’t like exams, but I don’t mind as much as some people.’

‘Your mocks were fine,’ said the Head ‘Physics and chemistry could have been a bit better. But there shouldn’t be any great problems there. So ... Are you still going around with Liz Raymond?’

‘Mostly,’ said Clara. ‘And Stephanie.’

‘I want people to come and talk to me if there’s anything they’re worried about,’ said the Head. ‘Even things that may seem silly. You know. It doesn’t have to be large obvious things. Exams and stuff. Anything.’

‘Yes,’ said Clara.

The phone rang. The Head picked it up and said no, she hadn’t, and yes, she’d be along as soon as she could and tell them to wait. She put the receiver down and said, ‘It wasn’t like you, Clara, was it? I mean – there are a few people one wouldn’t be all that surprised, if they suddenly did something idiotic or unexpected. But you aren’t really like that, are you?’

Clara agreed that she wasn’t, really.

‘I’ll be writing a note to your mother. And if you have an urge to do something like that again come and have a talk to me first, right?’ The Head smiled and Clara smiled back. That was all, evidently. Clara got up and left. As she was closing the door she saw the Head looking after her, not smiling now, her expression rather bleak.

fuss about
O-level
mocks
obvious
receiver
unexpected
urge
evidently
expression
bleak

● *To be continued on the CD.*

Unit 2

Ireland

Sanna's Backpacker's Blog

Hello! My name is Sanna and I am 19 years old. Last summer my boyfriend Omar and I went on an amazing backpacking trip for seven days to Ireland. We visited many great cities and places. And while I was there I kept an online blog about our trip to share with friends and family! It was so much fun. Read my blog here!

DAY 1: Dublin – Football and Irish Stew



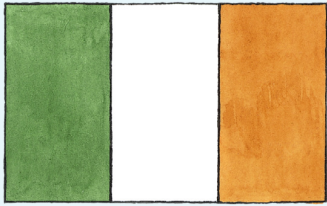
After we arrived at the airport we took a bus to our youth hostel in Dublin. Dublin is the capital city of The Republic of Ireland, so Omar and I naturally chose this as our first stop! After a night's rest we headed out to Croke Park to watch a Gaelic football match! This was great fun and a good way to spend our first day in Ireland. The game was so exciting that people were cheering like mad. Omar is a serious football fan and he was in heaven. Athenry of Galway played Cashel of Tipperary. In the end, the game was close with Athenry winning 2-1! After the game we went to an Irish pub and enjoyed a delicious pint of Guinness and ate some traditional Irish stew. It was made with lots of lamb, potatoes, onions and some carrots. Then we headed back to our hostel to watch some TV and rest for our second day in Dublin!

backpacker
share
youth hostel

head out
Gaelic football írskur boltaleikur
þar sem boltanum er sparkað
eða hann sleginn með höndum

cheer
delicious
close

stew



THE ATLANTIC



DAY 2: A visit to a castle and an old Viking fort



Omar and I were pretty tired from our flight and first day in Dublin so we woke up late and had coffee and breakfast at a nearby restaurant. We spent the day visiting The Dublin Castle! It is 700 years old and we learned that it represents England's oppression and rule in Ireland. The castle was built between 1208 and 1220 and is the most ancient architecture found in the city. On the site we also went to visit an area where an ancient Viking fort once stood. It was really interesting. Our next destination is Connemara.

DAY 3: Connemara's Horses and Scenery

We travelled by train to Connemara from Dublin. This area is famous for its ponies, beautiful scenery and sports fanatics! After we settled in we rode on horses on marked trails that took us through a beautiful landscape. We passed other people on horseback and everyone seemed to be having such a wonderful time. Later we decided to go hiking and noticed numerous trails to follow. While walking around and enjoying the seaside we saw many people swimming, scuba diving, fishing and sailing! We only stayed for a day but because the area is perfect for camping and is near wonderful islands and mountains – we thought we should come back sometime for a whole week!



oppression
rule
ancient
architecture
site

fort
destination
scenery
fanatic
trail

settle in
hike
numerous
scuba diving

DAY 4: Limerick by boat



After arriving by bus in Limerick the following afternoon, we took a short rest at our youth hostel. Then we headed out into one of Ireland's most popular city destinations and took a boat tour on the River Shannon. The boat tour was great fun because we learned about the city while we looked at some of its sites. A spectacular site is King John's Castle built in the year 1212. We also saw Ireland's tallest church spire St John's Cathedral at 94 metres. The tour guide taught us a limerick. A limerick is a type of poem that has 5 lines and has a special rhyming pattern. It went like this:

There once was a man from Wheeling
Who had such a peculiar feeling
Said the sign on the door
Please don't spit on the floor
So he jumped up and spat on the ceiling!

DAY 5: Kilkenny and Comedy

After we got off the early morning train to Kilkenny we went to see its 800-year-old castle dating back to when the Normans occupied this land. The Norman castle actually towers over Kilkenny's medieval streets. It was an amazing visit! After lunch we attended a festival called The Cat Laughs Comedy Festival. The festival is the biggest one of its kind in Ireland and lasts for five days. There are comedians here from all over the world. It was great fun and we laughed a lot. That evening we jumped on another train and took a nap on our way to Cork where we checked in late to a small bed and breakfast.



spectacular
spire
pattern
peculiar
ceiling

dating back
Norman
tower over
medieval
attend

kind
comedian
nap

DAY 6: Cork is a nice place to relax



We liked Cork a lot as it is a more relaxing city destination in Ireland. There are numerous things to do and see. We strolled through the city and visited The Shandon Bells that stand out as a landmark. We climbed all the way up the bell tower and actually rang the bells ourselves! Up top we enjoyed some of the best views of Cork. After this we simply walked around to do a bit of sightseeing and visit The English Market. A great place to buy fresh produce like fish, fruit and fresh bread! Omar and I bought some food for a picnic and sat in a park nearby. While we ate we planned our next and last stop: Belfast!

DAY 7: Belfast is home to The Titanic

We took a train back up north to the capital city of Belfast in Northern Ireland. Here we visited W5 which is the name of an incredible science centre. When you visit here there are many things to see and do because it is an interactive event. In other words we could actually touch things and do things instead of just looking. It is a fun place to learn about science too. After this we went to see where the famous ship the Titanic was built. We went on a tour of the shipyard where it was made and learned about the ship itself and some of the city's history.

Ireland was so much fun. Next year we may even come back. See you all soon and don't forget to look at the pictures I uploaded on this blog!



relaxing
stroll
simply

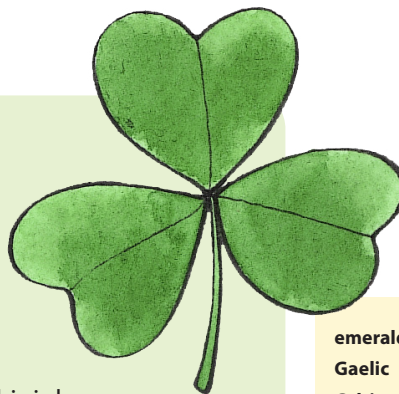
produce
incredible
event

shipyard

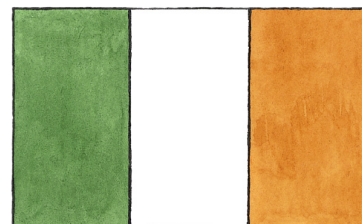
Irish Trivia

Here are some things to know about Ireland:

- ◆ Éire is the Irish name for Ireland.
- ◆ 'The Emerald Isle' is the poetic name for Ireland. This is because Ireland is very green due to a warm climate and lots and lots of rain!
- ◆ Irish, or Irish Gaelic, is one of two official languages in Ireland. The other language is English. Irish is a Celtic language very different from English. For example, the word 'English' in Irish is *Beurla*.
- ◆ The flag of Ireland has three coloured stripes of equal size: one green, one white and one orange. The green represents the native Irish Catholics, the orange represents the English Protestants who came to Ireland in support of William of Orange and the white represents the peace existing between the two peoples.
- ◆ The official emblem of Ireland is the harp. This handheld harp was played in ancient times.
- ◆ The Celtic cross is a symbol of the country. The cross has a circle in it and is often decorated with beautiful and intricate designs.
- ◆ The green shamrock, a type of clover, is often seen on Irish touristy t-shirts, mementos and always on St. Patrick's Day.
- ◆ The Irish are said to consume about 131 litres of beer per person each year! This is more than any other country except the Czech Republic. World famous Irish beers are Guinness, Kilkenny and Harp.
- ◆ Ireland is a world leader for modern rock music.
- ◆ The Republic of Ireland is 88% Roman Catholic and has one of the highest percentages of church attendance in the western world at about 45%.
- ◆ Ireland is the only member of the European Union where abortion is illegal. It is only legal if it must be performed to save the mother's life.



emerald
Gaelic
Celtic
equal
native
in support of
emblem
ancient
intricate
shamrock
mementos
consume
the Czech Republic
attendance
perform



A History of Conflict

The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have a long and blood soaked history of conflict. All of Ireland was part of the United Kingdom from 1801 to 1922 when the Irish War of Independence led to a split in the country. The 26 southern counties formed the Irish Free State, and in 1948 it became the Republic of Ireland. The six northern counties remained part of the UK and still are.

Here is a brief timeline and snapshots of some of the events that have taken place over the past 800 years.

1200–1800

Since 1171, when the King of England, Henry II set foot on Irish soil, the country has been dominated by the English.

In the 16th century a religious revolution called the Reformation swept through Europe. England accepted Protestantism but the Irish remained Catholic. When English Protestants were sent to colonize Ireland, a major conflict with the Irish Catholic people living there began. Several wars took place and the Irish lost most of them.



In 1592 the English besieged Enniskillen Castle.

blood soaked
independence
split
county
form
remain
brief
snapshot
set foot
soil
sweep (swept)
major
besiege

The wars were not really about religion but more about land and power. Because of this, a new group of wealthy and powerful Anglo-Irish landowners came to exist. A series of laws were introduced in favour of the Protestants and in 1792 Catholics were not allowed to vote, own any land or build churches. Irish children were forbidden to go to school.



wealthy
landowner
introduce
in favour of
famine
due to
blight
tenant farmer
wheat
sustenance
crop
fail
rule
anger
oppression
armed violence
ensue

1800–1900

In 1845–48 a terrible famine occurred due to potato blight. The Irish tenant farmers had to export their meat and wheat to England and had to eat mostly potatoes for sustenance. When the crops failed, about a million people died and another two million had to leave for North America and other English-speaking countries.

With England ruling Ireland as its colony and controlling the people's religion, many Irish people became angered. Some of them became nationalists; meaning that they wanted to be free from English oppression. They wanted to have their own country and practise their own religion.

1900–2010

In 1921 armed violence led to the Irish Free State and in 1948 the state was named the Republic of Ireland. The six counties of the north still remained a part of the UK. Even so, conflicts and quarrelling ensued. As there was much discontent about being governed from London, a Catholic nationalism grew and two main Irish groups became

discontent

govern

influential

civil rights the rights that
each person has in a society,
whatever their race, sex or
religion

arise (arose, arisen)

riot

separate

oppose

faction

agreement

sign

attempt

the Troubles

announce

intend

disarm

power-sharing

member

improve

considerably

boost

apparent

whereas

prior to

powerful and influential. One is called Sinn Féin and the other, the Irish Republican Army (IRA). These two groups began a long fight for independence from England.

In the 1960s many civil rights movements arose in Northern Ireland in order to protest the discrimination of Catholics. What started off as a civil rights movement soon became violent – especially in the capital city of Belfast.

During the 1960s and 70s there were bombings and riots in the streets of Belfast. England's government had to send British troops into Northern Ireland to separate opposing factions.

Fortunately, in 1998 a peace agreement was signed. It was an attempt to lead Northern Ireland out of the Troubles. This calmed things down a bit, but it was not until 2005, when the IRA announced that they intended to disarm, that people started hoping for peace. In 2007 a power-sharing agreement was signed and a government with members from both sides was formed.

Northern Ireland today

Things have improved and calmed down considerably since 2007. A boost in tourism to Belfast is apparent, whereas; prior to this agreement, almost no tourism existed here. It was far too dangerous. But still Protestants and Catholics usually live in separate neighbourhoods, attend separate schools, and go to different stores and pubs.



Guinness World Records

Cory and Melissa are working on a presentation about The Guinness World Records for their class. They are doing research on the Internet and talking about some interesting world records to include in their work.

Melissa Hey check this one out Cory! The most tattooed person in the world is this guy named Lucky Diamond Rich from New Zealand. Can you believe he spent over 1,000 hours of his life getting tattoos? It says here he got his whole body inked in black. And he has tattoos on his gums and eyelids. Wow that's crazy!

Cory Ha ha yeah, that is pretty nuts. I like this Internet site a lot; it has all the official categories listed from the actual book. They have the Human Body, Amazing Feats, Science and Technology, Arts and Media and so many more. Hey click on the Human Body section again ... Oh what about that world record! It says, "the stretchiest skin".

Melissa Ahh OK, yeah you mean this guy Garry Turner. That is a really weird looking picture of his face. He can really stretch his skin! It says here that he has a medical disorder called Elhers-Danlos Syndrome and that's why his skin can stretch so much. So his skin is different from ours and is more like an elastic or rubber band! He won this record by stretching his stomach out 15.8 cm. I wonder if it hurts the guy.

Cory It sure looks like it does. Look here in this section called Travel and Transport ... I like motorcycles. Maybe they have a world record about them. Hmmm, let's see ... Oh cool, here is one called The Longest Backwards Motorcycle Ride. A guy named Hou Xiaobin from China rode his motorcycle backwards for 150 km in a city called Binzhou on October 4th, 2006. I'm gonna print this one out and show the class when we do our

research
include
check out
tattoo
inked
gums
eyelid
pretty nuts
category
actual
feat
stretchy
weird
medical disorder
Elhers-Danlos Syndrome
inherited skin disorder that
can lead to extreme ability of
the skin to stretch
elastic
rubber band
backwards

presentation. Say, why not look for one you can show the class. Don't you like animals?

Melissa OK. Yeah I do. I think it will be in that section called Natural World. Give me the mouse please. OK. Yeah, here are some world records about animals. Look here, the world's largest monkey! I really like primates. It says that the largest monkey in the world is the male Mandrill from West Africa. Its body can be 61–76 cm long and it can weigh up to 25 kilos. Maybe I can find a picture of one with Google Images too. So do we need any more records? I think these are enough for the project and if we print out some pictures and have a good introduction about Guinness and how this famous book all started, I think it will be great.

Cory Yeah I think we have good information and I'm starving now anyway! Hey you want to go grab a burger before we head home?

Melissa Sure, I wonder what the record is for the shortest time to eat a burger?



Tiana Walton holds the record for having the most snails (25) on her face at once.

How the Guinness World Records began

- ◆ Guinness Breweries is Ireland's most famous producer of beer internationally. Their beers are sold throughout the world. In 1951 a man named Sir Hugh Beaver who was the managing director of Guinness at the time, went on a hunting trip in Ireland. It was on this trip that Beaver came up with the idea to create Guinness World Records, a book that lists world records of all types and is published once a year.
- ◆ Sir Hugh Beaver wanted to know which game bird in Europe was the fastest but he was not able to find a proper answer in any reference book. He believed that many people probably often wondered about world records. Three years later in 1954, the first edition was published.
- ◆ More than 50 years later Guinness World Records has grown into a huge success. The company has over 50 employees and has published the book over 100 million times. It is the most sold copyrighted book in the world and is actually a world record holder too!
- ◆ The book lists world records each year in the following official categories: Human Body, Amazing Feats, Natural World, Science & Technology, Arts & Media, Modern Society, Travel & Transport, and Sports & Games.
- ◆ Every year people apply to compete for records and the staff at Guinness World Records judges them according to specific rules. For the categories that do not involve people, the staff research and look for world records to verify them. Every year, the staff receive thousands of applications to break a world record. There are strict rules about what you must do to compete.

brewery
producer
throughout
managing director (MD)
hunting trip
come up with
game bird
proper
reference book
edition
huge
employee
copyright
apply
compete
staff
judge
specific
rule
involve
verify
application
strict

My Dog is Great!



Melissa's Irish Terrier

Send Chat Attach Address Fonts Colors Save As Draft

To: sandy@hotmail.com

Cc:

Subject: Melissa's Irish Terrier

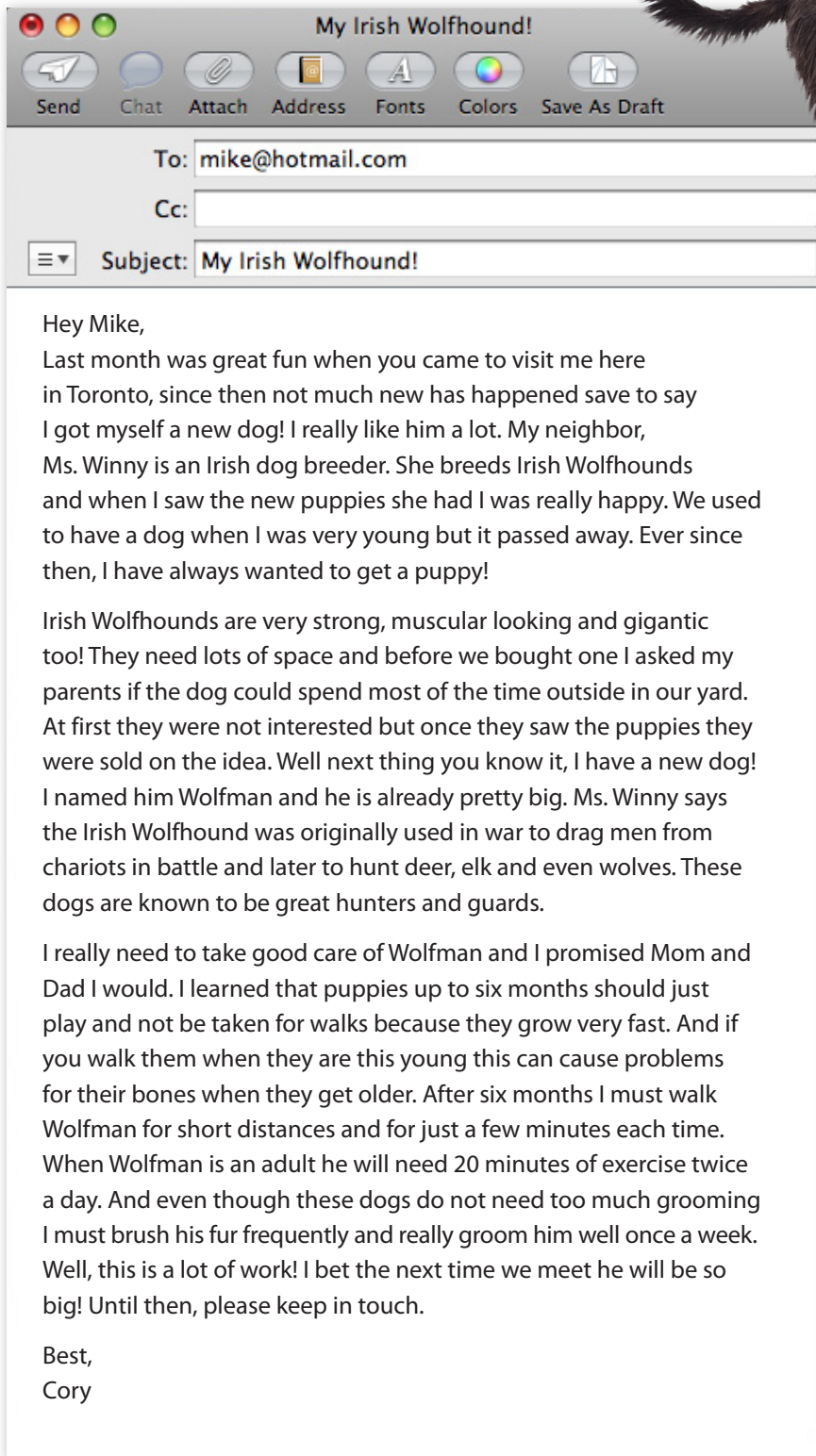
Dear Sandy,

Thanks for your last email, it sounds like you had a nice time on holiday in Switzerland! You will never believe what my parents bought me for my birthday, I was so surprised. As you know, last week I turned 16 and had a huge party. In the middle of it my mom and dad came out to the living room while we were all dancing. They had a puppy for me on a leash with a funny ribbon around its tail! When I saw my present I was overcome with happiness.

The puppy's name is Sushi and she is an Irish Terrier. This type of dog looks like a mix between an Airedale and a Wirehaired Fox Terrier. Her eyes are bushy and she has reddish fur. My dad knows lots about Irish dogs and he said that the Irish Terrier is a pure breed that has existed for over 2,000 years. This kind of dog is good with children, but if it must it will fight with other dogs. Irish Terriers make trustworthy friends and great watchdogs. Now I must housetrain her so she doesn't pee all over the house! She also always wants to come into my room at night and sleep in my bed so I must spend time teaching her to behave. I will send you some pictures soon. She's so cute! Keep in touch.

Your friend,
Melissa

turn
huge
tune
puppy
leash
ribbon
overcome
wirehaired
bushy
reddish
fur
pure breed
trustworthy
watchdog
housetrain
pee
behave



Wolfhound
breeder
breed
pass away
muscular
space
yard
originally
chariot
battle
deer
cause
grooming
frequently



Angela's Ashes

This story takes place in the 1930s when young Frank and his family move to Ireland and a life of poverty in Limerick City.

My father and mother should have stayed in New York where they met and married and where I was born. Instead, they returned to Ireland when I was four, my brother, Malachy, three, the twins, Oliver and Eugene, barely one, and my sister, Margaret, dead and gone.

When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I survived at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood.

People everywhere brag and whimper about the woes of their early years, but nothing can compare with the Irish version: the poverty; the shiftless loquacious alcoholic father; the pious defeated mother moaning by the fire; pompous priests; bullying schoolmasters; the English and the terrible things they did to us for eight hundred long years.

poverty
barely
survive
worth while
brag
whimper
woe
shiftless
loquacious
alcoholic
pious
defeated
moan
pompous
bully

Above all – we were wet.

Out in the Atlantic Ocean great sheets of rain gathered to drift slowly up the River Shannon and settle forever in Limerick. The rain dampened the city from the Feast of the Circumcision to New Year's Eve. It created a cacophony of hacking coughs, bronchial rattles, asthmatic wheezes, consumptive croaks. It turned noses into fountains, lungs into bacterial sponges. It provoked cures galore; to ease the catarrh you boiled onions in milk blackened with pepper; for the congested passages you made a paste of boiled flour and nettles, wrapped it in a rag, and slapped it, sizzling, on the chest.

From October to April the walls of Limerick glistened with the damp. Clothes never dried: tweed and woollen coats housed living things, sometimes sprouted mysterious vegetations. In pubs, steam rose from damp bodies and garments to be inhaled with cigarette and pipe smoke laced with the stale fumes of spilled stout and whiskey and tinged with the odour of piss wafting in from the outdoor jakes where many a man puked up his week's wages.

The rain drove us into the church – our refuge, our strength, our only dry place. At Mass, Benediction, novenas, we huddled in great damp clumps, dozing through priest drone, while steam rose again from our clothes to mingle with the sweetness of incense, flowers and candles.

Limerick gained a reputation for piety, but we knew it was only the rain.

My father, Malachy McCourt, was born on a farm in Toome, County Antrim. Like his father before, he grew up wild, in trouble with the English, or the Irish, or both. He fought with the Old IRA and for some desperate act he wound up a fugitive with a price on his head.

When I was a child I would look at my father, the thinning hair, the collapsing teeth, and wonder why anyone would give money for a head like that. When I was thirteen my father's mother told me a secret: as a wee lad your poor father was dropped on his head. It was an accident, he was never the same after, and you must remember that people dropped on their heads can be a bit peculiar.

sheet of rain
dampen
The Feast of the Circumcision
a celebration of the
circumcision of Jesus
cacophony
cough
bronchial rattles
wheeze
consumptive
croak
bacterial
sponge
provoke
cure
galore
catarrh
boil
onion
congested
paste
nettle
rag
slap
sizzling
chest
sprout
steam
garments
inhale
laced with
stale
fume
stout
tinge
odour
waft
jakes
puke
wages
refuge
benediction
novena
huddle
clump
drone
mingle
incense
piety
wind up (wound)
fugitive
wee lad

spirited out

cargo

prohibition

speakeasy

rejoice

yearn for

declining years

erupt

A pox on all their houses a
plague (ísl. plága) on both
your houses

tempt

delicacy

stagger

lane

chowder

Mick

fella

whimper

heave

belly

hatchet

lunatic

Because of the price on the head he had been dropped on, he had to be spirited out of Ireland via cargo ship from Galway. In New York, with Prohibition in full swing, he thought he had died and gone to hell for his sins. Then he discovered speakeasies and he rejoiced.

After wandering and drinking in America and England he yearned for peace in his declining years. He returned to Belfast, which erupted all around him. He said, A pox on all their houses, and chatted with the ladies of Andersontown. They tempted him with delicacies but he waved them away and drank his tea. He no longer smoked or touched alcohol, so what was the use? It was time to go and he died in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

My mother, the former Angela Sheehan, grew up in a Limerick slum with her mother, two brothers, Thomas and Patrick, and a sister, Agnes. She never saw her father, who had run off to Australia weeks before her birth.

After a night of drinking porter in the pubs of Limerick he staggers down the lane singing his favourite song,

Who threw the overalls in Mrs. Murphy's chowder?
Nobody spoke so he said it all the louder
It's a dirty Irish trick and I can lick the Mick
Who threw the overalls in Murphy's chowder.

He's in great form altogether and he thinks he'll play
a while with little Patrick, one year old. Lovely little fella.
Loves his daddy. Laughs when Daddy throws him up in
the air. Upsy daisy, little Paddy, upsy daisy, up in the air in
the dark, so dark, oh, Jasus, you miss the child on the way
down and poor little Patrick lands on his head, gurgles
a bit, whimpers, goes quiet. Grandma heaves herself from
the bed, heavy with the child in her belly, my mother. She's
barely able to lift little Patrick from the floor. She moans
a long moan over the child and turns on Grandpa. Get out of
it. Out. If you stay here a minute longer I'll take the hatchet
to you, you drunken lunatic. By Jesus, I'll swing at the end
of a rope for you. Get out.

Grandpa stands his ground like a man. I have a right, he says, to stay in me own house.

She runs at him and he melts before this whirling dervish with a damaged child in her arms and a healthy one stirring inside. He stumbles from the house, up the lane, and doesn't stop till he reaches Melbourne in Australia.

Little Pat, my uncle, was never the same after. He grew up soft in the head with a left leg that went one way, his body the other. He never learned to read or write but God blessed him in another way. When he started to sell newspapers at the age of eight he could count money better than the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself. No one knew why he was called Ab Sheehan, The Abbot, but all Limerick loved him.

From 'Angelas Ashes' by Frank McCourt


stand one's ground
melt
whirling
dervish
damage
stir
the Chancellor of the
Exchequer
abbot





Unit 3

A Sense of Fear



Fear is an emotional response to a perceived threat. It is a basic survival mechanism occurring in response to a specific stimulus, such as pain or the threat of danger.

- * What does fear do to you?
- * Aliens and UFOs. Do they exist?
- * What methods can be used to make movies scary?
- * Do nightmares tell us something about real life?
- * Why do we need crime novels?

Read the following unit and discuss some of these questions.

emotional
response
perceive
threat
survival
occur
stimulus

TEXT A

Footsteps in the Night

It was late. It was dark. It was risky to move in the neighbourhood. The newspapers were warning women not to walk these streets after dark. But the young woman had to walk. Her boyfriend was waiting and he wouldn't wait forever ...

Tonight she was late coming home from work again. Eleven fifteen! And she had promised Gil she would meet him at eleven! She fled down the stairs and out onto the sidewalk, desperately hoping to see a cab. It was a dark, dreary neighbourhood, a dangerous one.

No cab. Angela stood in the doorway, biting her lips and wondering what she should do. Walk? The newspapers were warning women not to walk these streets after dark.

Please, Gil, don't be angry. But he would be. Only last night he had been furious. "Just don't think you're the only girl in the world," he had said. "Next time I might not wait."

She stepped out of the dark doorway and began walking. She was not fooling herself about Gil. When he said he could have other girls, he was only telling the truth. As for herself, she was no catch for any man.

What was that behind her? Footsteps? She turned her head. A tall man with long arms dangling at his side seemed to flow toward her. Dear God! Those stories in the papers! Those two girls who had been strangled!

A man came limping around the corner and she crashed into him.

"My goodness! Vot is the matter vith you?" He lifted her to her feet.

"Some... someone was following me!"

"Vere do you go, young lady?"

She told him and he frowned. He was fifty, perhaps, and wore a dark, expensive suit and soft leather slippers.

"Morton Street?" he said. "That is by the little park, no?"

"Yes, yes."

neighbourhood
flee (fled)
stairs
sidewalk
cab
dreary
furious
fool
catch
dangle
flow
strangled
limp
vot = what
vith = with
vere = where
frown
wear (wore, worn)
suit

"Come. I'll take you home. It is not good for a beautiful young woman to be walking alone in this neighbourhood."

He walked along beside her, talking. "I think you have not read the papers lately. You are too beautiful. He waits for beautiful girls, this man."

"Beautiful?" Angela said. "Me?"

"You think you are not?" He smiled at her. "I tell you so, then."

The park was just ahead. His fingers lay gently on her arm as he crossed the street with her. She would have dreaded the park without him; it was small but very dark.

Almost at once she saw Gil's car standing in front of the house. Her companion saw it, too, and halted.

"Someone is waiting for you?" he asked.

"Yes. A ... a friend."

"Then I'll say good night. You will be safe now."

"Thank you," Angela said. "Oh, thank you."

lately
ahead
lie (lay, lain)
gently
dread
companion
halt
his eyes shut
drive off (drove, driven)
ought to do
actually
step back
insist
roar
edge
elderly
idly
caress
noose of wire

Gil was sitting in the car, his eyes shut. She opened the door. "Gil," she said. "Gil."

His eyes opened. He looked at his watch. "Let me tell you something. If I hadn't fallen asleep, I wouldn't be here. What I ought to do is to drive off and ..."

"Then drive off," she said.

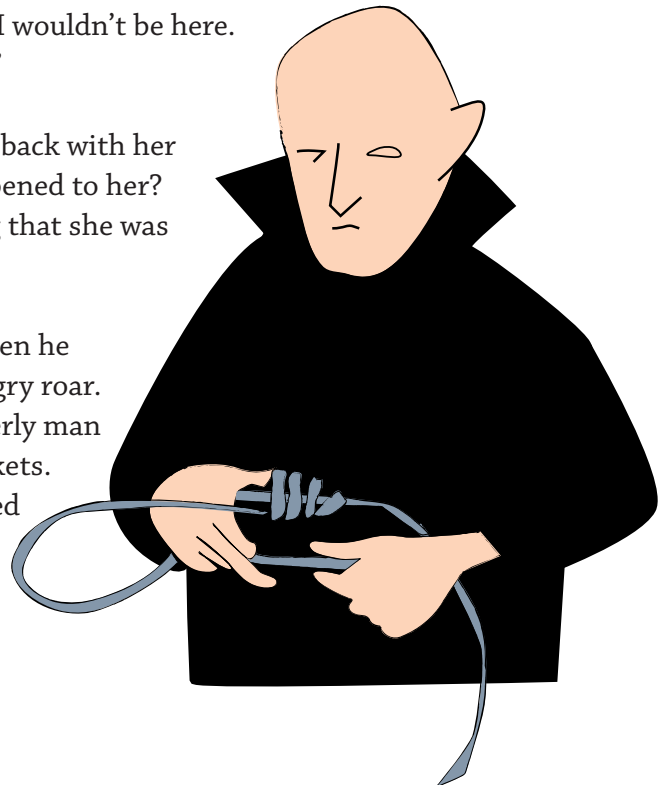
Had she actually said it? She stepped back with her hand against her mouth. What had happened to her? Was it the old man helping her, insisting that she was beautiful?

"Take out one of your other girls."

For a minute he just stared at her. Then he turned the key and drove off with an angry roar.

At the edge of the little park, the elderly man in the dark suit put his hands in his pockets. The long fingers of one hand idly caressed a noose of wire.

By Hugh B. Cave





TEXT B

Abducted by Aliens

Mark just read an article about a man who claims that he was abducted by aliens. He figures the man's story is a hoax, but Mark's friend Sarah has an abduction story of her own to tell, which supposedly happened to someone close to her ...

claim
abduct
alien
hoax
supposedly
crap
make up
buddy
flashing
UFO = Unidentified Flying
Object
beam up
craft

Mark Look at this article on alien abduction. Can you believe the crap people make up?

Anna What does it say?

Mark Well, this man was out camping with his buddies. During the night they saw flashing lights. They believe it was a UFO. The man went to take a closer look and he was suddenly beamed up by the alien craft. His friends got scared and ran away. A couple of days later the man was found wandering on the

freeway. He didn't know where he was or how long he had been gone, and he had strange marks on his body. He then remembered that he has been aboard a spacecraft and was shown around by two aliens. Now his abduction story is in every newspaper. What a nut!

Anna I bet he just made the story up to get attention. And his friends are in on it.

Sarah Whoa guys, don't be so sure of that. I have an aunt who claims to have been abducted.

Anna What? Like abducted by an alien? For real?

Mark Is that the aunt who is mentally unstable?

Sarah No! She's perfectly normal. She works as a third grade teacher and she has a normal family. She's just had this ... extraterrestrial experience.

Mark OK, so tell us. What was she abducted by ... a green alien?

Sarah I'm serious, so give it a rest. I won't tell you if you aren't going to be open-minded.

Mark OK, sorry. We're listening.

Sarah Well, one night about ten years ago, my aunt goes to bed like normal, but she wakes up in the middle of the night in a field outside her house. She has this immediate, very vivid recollection of some creatures. It was much more than a dream, she actually felt them touch her and sort of ... smell her.

Anna But wait, wasn't she just sleepwalking?

Sarah She had never sleepwalked before in her life, that's what was so weird. Plus when she returned to her house again, all the doors were locked, like she had left her house and locked the doors behind her. But she didn't have any keys with her!

Anna There must have been some other explanation. But I agree, that is strange.

freeway
strange
aboard
nut
attention
be in on
claim
for real
grade
extraterrestrial
experience
give it a rest
open-minded
immediate
vivid
recollection
creature
sleepwalk
weird
explanation

insomnia
therapist
root
hypnosis
common
study
describe
emotionless
being
conduct
medical
human
objective
examine
certain
figure
recall
loss
account for
in general

Sarah Well, the story continues. Afterwards she had trouble sleeping, insomnia. She turned to a therapist for help, and her experience came up of course. My aunt saw it as the root of her sleeping problems. Well, under hypnosis she came to describe meeting typical “Greys”, which is the most common abductor type of alien, according to those who have been abducted. She began reading studies on these Greys, and found out that they are typically described as emotionless beings that conduct medical experiments on humans. Their objective is to take over Earth and make us their slaves. My aunt felt that that’s exactly what they did to her ... examine her.

Anna But I mean there is a possibility that it was just a dream, right?

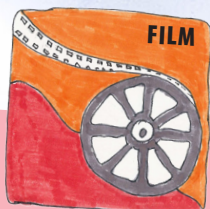
Sarah Sure. But she is certain it’s not. Her husband woke up at 3:00 am and she wasn’t in bed. He just figured she’d gone to the bathroom and went back to sleep. When she returned to the house her husband heard her. They both recall the time was 6:15 in the morning. What was she doing for more than three hours?

Mark Yeah, I’ve heard that’s common for abductions ... loss of time which can’t be accounted for. And I mean ... why shouldn’t there be life and life forms out there?

Anna When I hear this I want to meet your aunt, that’s for sure! But when it comes to alien abductions in general I’ll say this: I’ll believe it when I see it.

COOL READS

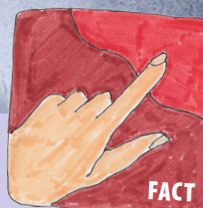
– *A Sense of Fear*



True Terror

The film *Paranormal Activity* from 2007 is an example of a movie that makes people afraid to go to sleep. Filmmaker Oren Peli tried to make the film seem as realistic and authentic as possible to make people frightened. This is how he worked to reach his goal.

Page 56



Nightmares

This is a presentation of our most common nightmares and what they might mean.

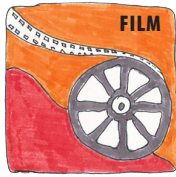
Page 58



It's Not a Safe Place for Little Girls

This story is an extract from the crime novel *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves. The story takes place in the Shetland Islands where two young women, Catherine Ross and Sally Henry, are on their way home late at night from New Year's Eve celebrations.

Page 60



True Terror

The Blair Witch Project from 1999 was groundbreaking for the horror film genre. The realistic tone made it scarier than regular horror films. In 2007 *Paranormal Activity*, another movie, almost scared people to death.

If you don't want to be afraid to go to sleep, don't watch *Paranormal Activity*. When planning the film, filmmaker Oren Peli tried to come up with the most frightening thing people could imagine happening to them. His gut feeling was that it would be a demonic spirit taking over our body when we sleep. What if some invisible, inexplicable being is just waiting for us to go to sleep in the one place we should feel safe at night – our own bed? That's exactly what happens in *Paranormal Activity*.

But how do you go about creating the most terrifying film of all time? Peli wanted his film to be as realistic as a documentary. The film was going to be subtle, with no exaggerated scenes of gore and blood. With no script and a hand-held camera, he set about creating this effect.

In *Paranormal Activity* a young couple sets up a camera in their bedroom because they suspect that something is going on in their house when they are asleep. The viewers first see the young couple with the hand-held camera and then what happens through this camera. It creates a very personal feeling, like the viewer is actually in the room.

The intention of not having a script was to make the actors react on their own. This was another way to make everything seem natural, and not just actors 'playing a part'. If anything seemed theatrical, they would change the dialogue. Peli decided against music in the film, which otherwise plays a crucial part in the horror genre. Imagine the movie *Jaws* without the "du-du-du-du-du" when the shark is about to attack. But in this case, adding music would only detract from the realism of the film. In reality when you go to drink a glass of water in the middle of the

groundbreaking
paranormal
audience
filmmaker
imagine
gut feeling
demonic
spirit
invisible
inexplicable
go about
terrifying
subtle
exaggerated
gore
script
hand-held
viewer
intention
seem
theatrical
decide against
crucial
Jaws
shark
detract from

night, and the dark makes you a little anxious, there is no music playing in the background. That's what Peli wanted to stay loyal to.

Paranormal Activity combines calm moments between the couple during the daytime with terrifying evil at night. As the film progresses the serene days become shorter while the horrifying nighttimes last longer. This is a deliberate move, making the audience become more tense and the feelings of discomfort grow.

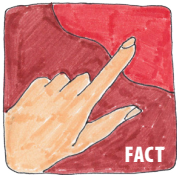
During screenings of *Paranormal Activity*, many people got up and left the theater. Not because it was a bad film, but because they didn't dare to keep watching. The film has been referred to as mental hell and made people afraid to go to sleep afterwards.

Now that you know what tools are used to create "the scariest movie of all time", maybe you won't be as afraid?

anxious
evil
progress
serene
last
deliberate
tense
discomfort
screening
dare
refer to
mental
tools

Filmmaker Oren Peli tried to come up with the most frightening ever, when he planned 'Paranormal Activity'.





Nightmares

Everyone has nightmares – but they are most common among children and young adults. What frightens us in our dreams might seem silly when we're awake. But is our subconscious trying to tell us something? Let's have a look at some of the most common nightmares.

Dream: Being chased

Being chased by someone is the most frequent dream of all. The thing chasing you can vary – it could be a monster or an intimidating person. Running away from danger can be traced back to our caveman ancestry. Our ancestors really were chased by beasts. The “beasts” of today are more often emotional ones – fear, anxiety, envy etc. This kind of dream is a natural response to stress. The question to ask is whether you are running away from something in your waking life as well? Maybe there is a problem you'd rather not face? Deal with the problem as soon as possible and you may get rid of the nightmare.

nightmare
subconscious
chase
frequent
vary
intimidating
trace
caveman
ancestry
ancestor
beast
emotional
anxiety
envy
waking
rather
deal with
get rid of

Henri Fuseli painted
'The Nightmare' in 1790.



Dream: Falling

Falling, just like being chased, is a life-and-death situation that can be traced back to prehistoric origins, when our ancestors climbed trees. Falling dreams in modern times often take place from high buildings and rooftops. They imply a lack of support or solid grounding. These dreams reflect feelings of being insecure, anxious and helpless. Is there anything in your life that makes you feel this way?

Dream: Being late or unprepared

You have an important test in school and you need to get there on time, but in your dream you never get there. One thing after another seem to go wrong – you can't locate the correct classroom or you rush to catch a bus or train, only to have it leave without you. These nightmares leave you with a feeling of frustration rather than fear. Ask yourself if there is an opportunity in your waking life that you are worried you're going to miss out on. It can also symbolize that you need to make a decision about something before it's too late.

Dream: Teeth fall out

Teeth are permanent parts of your body and removing them is painful. So if your teeth fall out in your dream it may suggest that you are afraid of losing some permanent part of your life. It could mean that you have recently ended a relationship, lost a good friend or moved. Maybe you are going through a change in your life that is affecting you more than you realized?

Teeth are also used to communicate, so they can symbolize words. Maybe there is something you need to say? This nightmare implies that you are not able to express yourself properly.

Next time you have a spine-chilling dream, try to figure out what is actually troubling you. But remember, as Freud said, sometimes a dream is just a dream.

prehistoric
origin
climb
rooftop
imply
support
solid grounding
reflect
insecure
unprepared
locate
rush
opportunity
miss out on
symbolize
decision
fall out
remove
suggest
relationship
affect
communicate
express oneself
properly
spine-chilling
figure out

Freud Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) a psychologist and the father of psychoanalysis. Wrote a book about the meaning of dreams



It's Not a Safe Place for Little Girls



It is New Year's Day, twenty past one in the morning, when Catherine Ross and her friend Sally Henry are on their way home from Hogmanay celebrations in Lerwick, Shetland. They get a lift as far as the Ravenswick turning and then continue on foot.

'Bastards,' Catherine said, with so much venom that Sally wondered if something had gone on between her and the driver. 'They could have given us a lift.' She felt in her pocket, brought out a thin torch and shone it on the path ahead of them. That was Catherine for you. Always prepared.

'Still,' Sally felt a soppy smile spread over her face, 'it was a good night. A fucking good night.' As she slung her bag over her shoulder something heavy banged against her hip. She brought out a bottle of wine, opened, with a cork stuck in the top. Where had that come from? She didn't even have a fuzzy memory. She showed it to Catherine in an attempt to lift her gloom. 'Look. Something to keep us going on the way home.'

They giggled and stumbled down the icy road.

The square of light seemed to come from nowhere and surprised them. 'Where the shit are we? We can't be back yet.' For the first time Catherine seemed anxious, less sure of herself, disorientated.

'It's Hillhead. The house at the top of the bank.'

'Does anyone live there? I thought it was empty.'

'It belongs to an old man,' Sally said. 'Magnus Tait. He's daft in the head, so they say. A recluse. We were always taught to stay away from him.'

Catherine wasn't frightened now. Or perhaps it was just bravado. 'But he's there, all alone. We should go in and wish him happy new year.'

'I've told you. He's soft in the head.'

'You're scared,' Catherine said, almost a whisper.

I am, shit-scared, and I don't know why. 'Don't be dumb.'

Hogmanay
bastard
venom
torch
shine (shone)
path
prepared
soppy
sling (slung)
stick (stuck)
fuzzy
attempt
gloom
giggle
stumble
anxious
disorientated
bank
daft
recluse
bravado
dumb

'I dare you.' Catherine reached into Sally's bag for the bottle. She took a swig, replaced the cork and handed it back.

Sally stamped her feet to show how ridiculous this was, standing out in the cold. 'We should get back. Like you said, my folks will be waiting.'

'We can just say we've been first-footing the neighbours. Go on. I dare you.'

'Not on my own.'

'All right. We'll both go.' Sally couldn't tell if this was what Catherine had intended from the beginning, or if she'd boxed herself into a position she couldn't escape from with her pride intact.

The house was set back from the road. There was no real path. As they approached Catherine shone her torch towards it and the beam hit the grey slate roof, then the pile of peats to one side of the porch. They could smell the smoke coming out of the chimney. The green paint on the porch door rose in scabs over bare wood.

'Go on then,' Catherine said. 'Knock.'

Sally knocked tentatively. 'Perhaps he's in bed, just left the light on.'

'He's not. I can see him in there.' Catherine went into the porch and thumped with her fist on the inner door. She's wild, Sally thought. She doesn't know what she's messing with. This whole thing's crazy. She wanted to run away, back to her boring and sensible parents, but before she could move there was a sound from inside and Catherine had the door open and they stumbled together into the room, blinking and blind in the sudden light.

The old man was coming towards them and Sally stared at him. She knew she was doing it but couldn't stop herself. She'd only seen him before at a distance. Her mother, usually so charitable in her dealings with the elderly neighbours, usually so Christian in her offers to go shopping, to provide broth and baking, had avoided any contact with Magnus Tait. Sally had been hurried past the house when he was outside. 'You must never go there,' her



I dare you
swig
first-footing
intend
box oneself into a position
escape
pride
approach
beam
slate roof
pile of peats
porch
scabs
bare wood
tentatively
thump
fist
mess with
sensible
stumble
at a distance
charitable
dealings
the elderly
Christian
offer
provide broth and baking
give soup and bread



mother had said when she was a child. 'He's a nasty man. It's not a safe place for little girls.' So the croft had held a fascination for her. She had looked across at it on her way to and from the town. She had glimpsed his back bent over the sheep he was clipping, seen his silhouette against the sun as he stood outside the house looking down to the road. Now, this close, it was like coming face to face with a character from a fairy tale.

He stared back at her and she thought he really was like something from a picture book. A troll, she thought suddenly. That's what he looked like, with his stumpy legs and his short, thick body, slightly hunchbacked, his slot-shaped mouth with the teeth jumbled and yellow inside. She'd never liked the story of the Billy Goats Gruff. When she was very small she'd been terrified to cross the bridge across the burn to get to her house. She'd imagined the troll living underneath, his eyes fiery red, his back bent as he prepared to charge her. Now she wondered if Catherine still had her camera with her. The old man would make some picture.

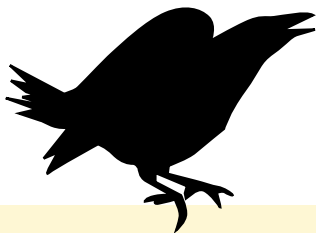
Magnus looked at the girls with rheumy eyes which seemed not quite to focus. 'Come in,' he said. 'Come in.' And he pulled his lips away from his teeth to smile.

Sally found herself chattering. That was what happened when she was nervous. The words spilled out of her mouth and she didn't have an idea what she was saying. Magnus shut the door behind them, then stood in front of it, blocking the only way out. He offered them whisky but she knew better than to accept that. What might he have put into it? She pulled the bottle of wine from her bag, smiled to appease him and carried on talking.

She made a move to stand up, but the man had a knife, long and pointed with a black handle. He was using it to cut a cake which had been standing on the table.

'We should go,' she said. 'Really, my parents will be wondering.'

But they seemed not to hear her and she watched in horror as Catherine reached out and took a piece of cake



nasty
croft
glimpse
stumpy
hunchbacked
slot-shaped
jumbled
the Billy Goats Gruff sagan um
geiturnar þrjár
burn
underneath
fiery
charge
rheumy
chatter
spill out
appease
carry on

and slipped it into her mouth. Sally could see the crumbs on her friend's lips and between her teeth. The old man stood above them with the knife in his hand.

Sally saw the bird in the cage when she was looking round for a way out.

'What's that?' she asked abruptly. The words came out of her mouth before she could stop them.

'It's a raven.' He stood quite still, watching her, then he set the knife carefully on the table.

'Isn't it cruel, keeping it locked up like that?'

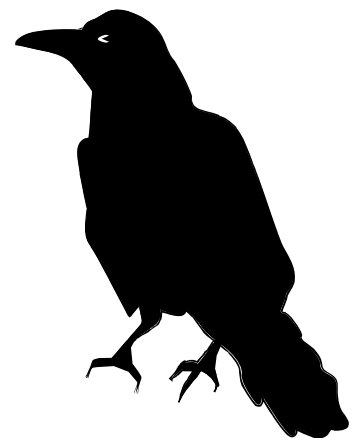
'It had a broken wing. It wouldn't fly even if I let it go.'

But Sally didn't listen to the old man's explanations. She thought he meant to keep them in the house, to lock them in like the black bird with its cruel beak and its injured wing.

And then Catherine was on her feet, dusting the cake crumbs from her hands. Sally followed her. Catherine walked up to the old man so she was close enough to touch him. She was taller than him and looked down on him. For an awful moment Sally was afraid that she intended to kiss his cheek. If Catherine did that she would be obliged to do it too. Because this was all part of the same dare, wasn't it? At least that was how it seemed to Sally. Since they had come to the house, everything had been a challenge. Magnus hadn't shaved properly. Hard, grey spines grew in the creases in his cheeks. His teeth were yellow and covered in saliva. Sally thought she would rather die than touch him.

But the moment passed and they were outside, laughing so loud that Sally thought she would piss herself, or that they would collapse together into a heap of snow. When their eyes got used to the dark again they didn't need the torch to show them down the road. There was a near-full moon now and they knew the way home.

crumbs
abruptly
raven
cruel
explanation
beak
injured
dust
be obliged to
dare
challenge
properly
spines
crease
cheek
piss herself
collapse
near-full moon



Unit 4

Voices of English

Where Did the English Language Come from?

Today English is a global language and – a link language – which means that English is used to communicate with people all over the world.

But it was not until the nineteenth century that English spread globally and became accepted as a language for international communication.

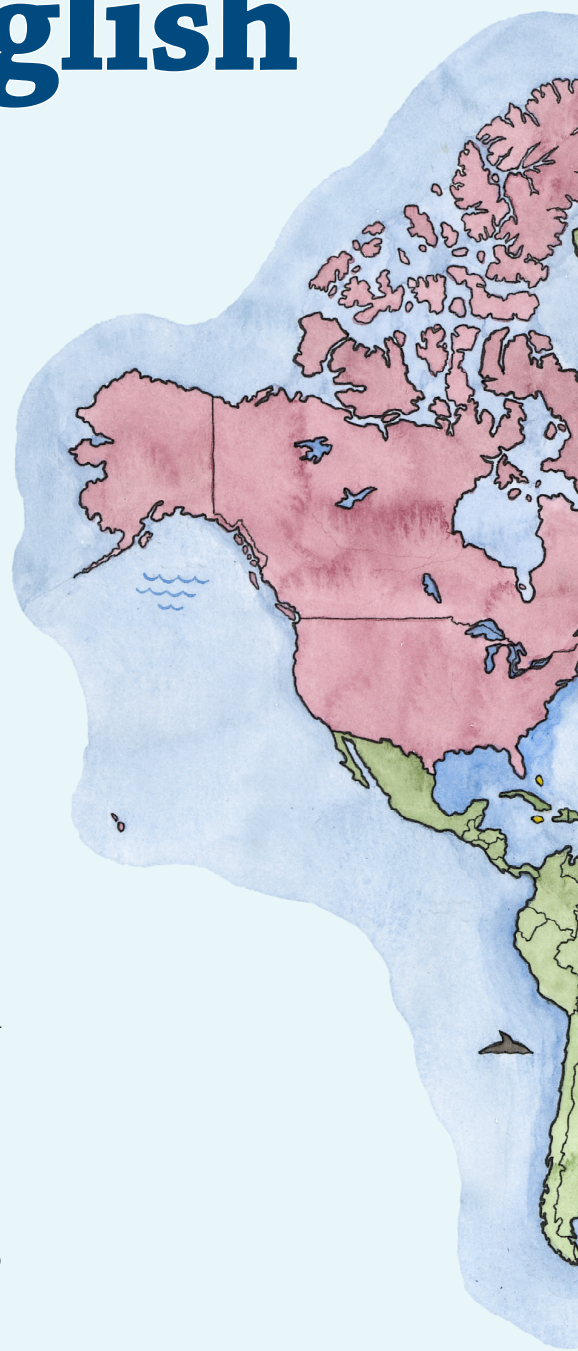
Where did the English language come from and what caused its spread?

Today's English is a mixture of older languages – some no longer spoken. If we study the English language we can identify words that originate from ancient cultures.

Two thousand years ago, before English existed, England was occupied by Celts. There are few traces of Celtic words in today's English apart from some names of towns and rivers such as: London, Leeds and Avon.

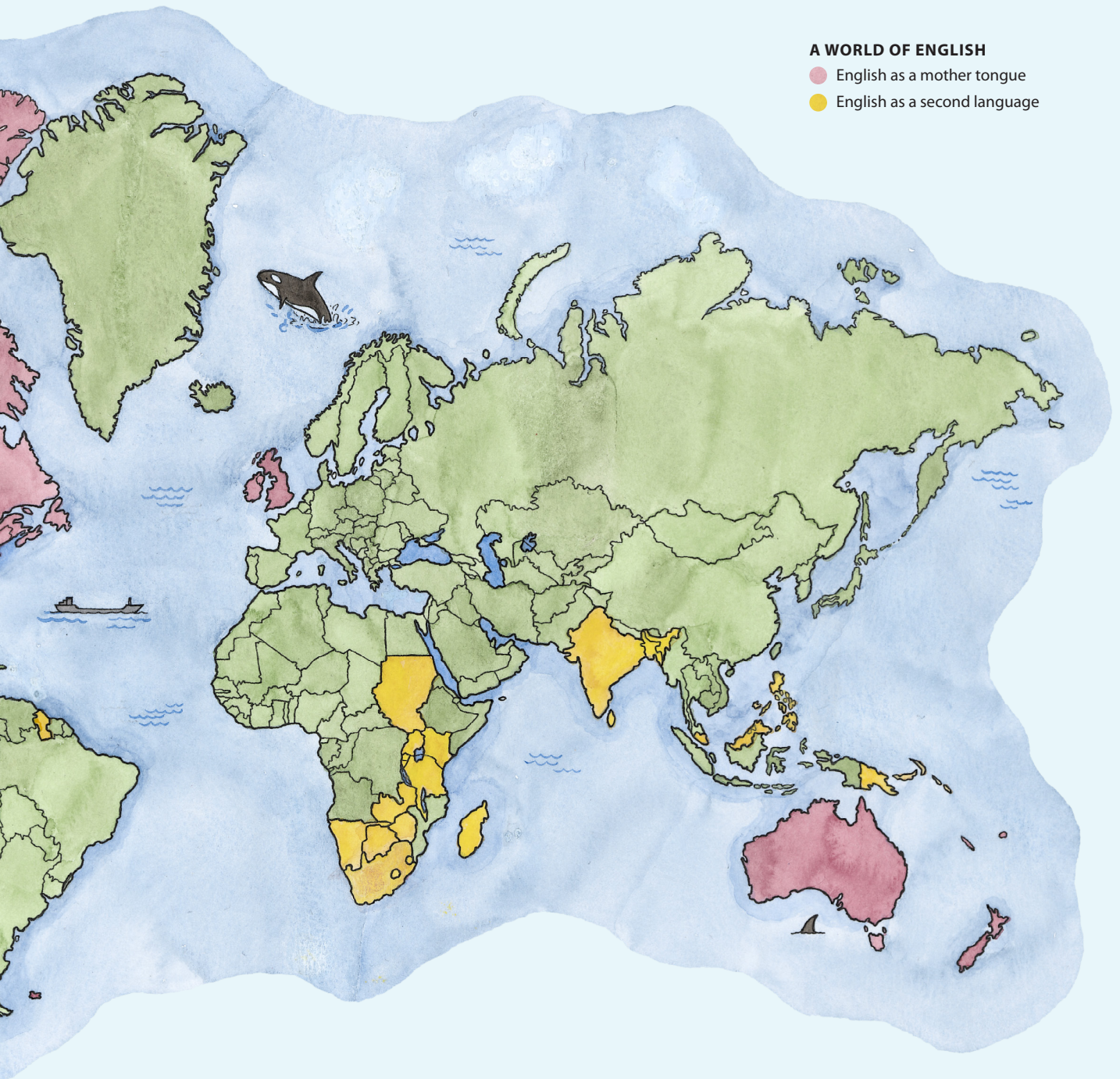
In 43 AD the Romans conquered the Celts and named the place Britannia. Not until the Roman army left by 410 AD and the whole country was invaded by the Angles, Saxons and Jutes did English start developing as a language. These tribes named the country “the land of Angles” – England – and their languages mixed into a new one called “Old English”!

The English language then developed over a long period of time – changing and growing as new peoples arrived. English is therefore a mix of the languages of the peoples who occupied the country, and it took hundreds of years for it to grow into Modern English.



A WORLD OF ENGLISH

- English as a mother tongue
- English as a second language



Here is a time line showing when and how some of the peoples and cultures helped to create a now global language.

1 2,000 Years Ago: Celtic Peoples

Before England was a country, the Celts lived there. Celtic languages are still spoken in Wales, Ireland and Scotland but there are few Celtic words left in today's English: *bard, bog, cairn, clan, whiskey* and some place names.



In Bath you can still see the baths that were built by the Romans.

2 43 AD: Romans

When the Romans occupied the country, Latin words entered into the language. There are still many words with a Latin base in English. Some examples are: *animal, civil, pedestrian, peninsula, rural, rustic* and *village*.

3 410 AD: Angles, Saxons and Jutes

The Anglo-Saxons invaded the country and brought their Germanic dialects. At this point in time Celtic, Latin and Germanic dialects all mixed together to later become what is today called "Old English". We still use words like: *sheep, ox, earth* and *field* from this time.

4 793 AD: Vikings

In the late 8th century, when the Vikings landed in England, their language "Old Norse" left its mark on place names ending in *-by* and *-thorp*. Old Norse and Old English were similar languages and people could probably understand each other. Mixing took place and Old Norse added many everyday words to English that are still used today. Some examples are: *anger, bag, church, cut, egg, freckle, ill, knife, law, take, their, them, they, window, wrong* and *ugly*.



The Norman invasion in 1066 is shown on the embroidery called the Bayeux Tapestry.

5 1066 AD: Norman Invasion by William the Conqueror

When the Normans invaded England, English ceased to be the language of the ruling class and French was spoken by the aristocracy during the next two centuries. Because of this there was a large influx of French words such as: *cuisine, déjà vu, genre, honest, curious* and *strange*. Ordinary people continued to speak English but their language was influenced by French. This is why there are lots of synonyms in English. For example, the domestic animals kept their English names but when they ended up on the table they became French: *pig – pork, sheep – mutton, calf – veal, ox – beef*.

6 Late 15th Century: Native American Languages

In the 15th century English ships sailed to the New World and colonized what is now America and Canada. A number of new words were borrowed from the native languages of the indigenous peoples: *potato, tomato, barbecue* and *tobacco*.



East Indiamen sailing.



A poster for weekly service between Africa, India, Egypt and England in the 1930s.

7 18th–19th Century: British Colonies

In the 18th and 19th centuries when the British colonized countries on every continent the English language was spread and adopted. But English also adopted words from other languages: *pyjamas* (India), *budgerigar* (Australia) and *tea* (China). Through colonizing parts of Africa, English accepted *warthog* and *wildebeest* to name two. As you can see, wherever the British travelled, native words from these countries found their way into English while at the same time, English spread on every continent.

8 Today: North American English

Since the 18th century, North American English has had its effect on adding new words. And after World War II, the US became the new world power. Some basic additions are: *teen*, *teenager*, *OK* and *movie*.

As society changes, there is a constant demand for new words and the growth of the vocabulary has been great during the past centuries. The words: *cola*, *Internet*, *email* and the expression *Google it* have found their way into English's lexicon. English continues to grow every day!

To sum up, English is used everywhere and is a link language for many people. It dominates the world in business, diplomacy, science, medicine and technology and is used for travel. American media, the Internet and global mass media in English have also made the language the most commonly used second language on the planet.

Today English is spoken by approximately 1.5 billion people all over the world. About 350 million of these people have English as their mother tongue. More than 50 countries still have English as an official language.

The global spread of English can be divided into three circles: the inner circle, the outer circle and the expanding circle.

The inner circle consists of countries where English is the mother tongue: Great Britain, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The outer circle consists of countries where English is a second language: India, Kenya, South Africa and other former colonies.

The expanding circle which is constantly growing includes countries where English is used as a foreign language.

The word list for translations is on page 144 in this book.



Will Smith, rapper and actor.



English is a Weird Language

There is no egg in the eggplant,
No ham in the hamburger
And neither pine nor apple in the pineapple.
English muffins were not invented in England,
French fries were not invented in France.

eggplant
pine

We sometimes take English for granted, but if we examine
its paradoxes we find that:

Quicksand takes you down slowly,
Boxing rings are square,
And a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

If writers write, how come fingers don't fing?
If the plural of tooth is teeth,
Shouldn't the plural of phone booth be phone beeth?
If the teacher taught,
Why hasn't the preacher praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables,
What the heck does a humanitarian eat?
Why do people recite at a play,
Yet play at a recital?
Park on driveways and
Drive on parkways?
How can the weather be as hot as hell on one day
And as cold as hell on another?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language
where a house can burn up as it burns down,
And in which you fill in a form
By filling it out
And a bell is only heard once it goes!

English was invented by people, not computers,
And it reflects the creativity of the human race
(Which of course isn't a race at all.)

That is why
When the stars are out they are visible,
But when the lights are out they are invisible.
And why it is that when I wind up my watch
It starts,
But when I wind up this poem
It ends.

Anonymous

take sth for granted
examine
paradox
guinea pig
phone booth
preacher
humanitarian
recite
recital
driveway
parkway
marvel
lunacy
form
visible
invisible
wind up (wound)

nonreader
tram
influence
vulnerable
state
reserved
bother to
come to a halt
matter-of-fact
behavior
illiterate
conceal
at all costs
be ashamed
despite
engage
throughout

The Nonreader

In the film The Reader we meet fifteen-year-old Michael Berg when he gets off the tram on his way home in the town of Neustadt, Germany in 1958. He is feeling ill and thirty-six-year-old Hanna helps him home. This is the beginning of a relationship that will influence the rest of Michael's life.

Michael is in a vulnerable state the first time he meets the reserved Hanna Schmitz. When Michael is better, he goes to her home to thank her for helping him and tells her “he had been so sick that he couldn’t even bother to read”. Hanna comes to a halt in her otherwise very matter-of-factly behavior when she hears this. There is something Hanna hasn’t told anybody: she is illiterate. And this she conceals at all costs because she is ashamed.

Despite the difference in age, they engage in a sexual relationship and Hanna soon asks Michael to read to her from what he is studying at school. Throughout the summer, he continues reading to her and after reading they usually have sex.

Kate Winslet and David Kross as
Hanna and Michael in *The Reader*.



Together they devour one book after the other – classics like Homeros' *The Odyssey*, adventure novels like Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* and even comic books like *Tintin*. However, their relationship ends when Hanna abruptly moves away.

Years pass and Michael continues on to law school. As part of a class he is taking, he attends a hearing in court. The case involves a couple of women who are accused of letting 300 Jews burn to death in a church during World War II. One of the accused is his Hanna who turns out to have been an SS guard at Auschwitz during the war. Michael learns that she took part in selecting which people would die in the death camps.

During the trial, a death camp survivor recalls how Hanna had favorites in the camp – often young girls. She gave them extra food and protection in exchange for them reading to her. Michael realizes that she had done the same to him – but he was given something else in exchange.

At a crucial moment in the trial the judge decides that the person who should be held responsible for the terrible event at the church, is the one who wrote the report afterwards. Hanna is accused and to determine whether she is guilty or not they ask for a handwriting sample to compare with the report. She is given a paper and a pencil. It suddenly dawns on Michael that she cannot write or read. But rather than admitting that she couldn't have written the report because she is illiterate, Hanna says that she wrote it. She is sentenced to a lifetime in jail.

As an adult, Michael is still troubled by what happened to Hanna and the role he played in her life. He starts to record himself reading every book he owns. One by one he sends the tapes to Hanna in prison. One day Hanna goes to the prison library to borrow a book that she also has on tape. As a grey-haired old woman, she finally teaches herself how to read and write. Had she done this sooner her life might have turned out very differently. She went to any lengths to conceal the fact that she was illiterate.

devour

The Odyssey Óðysseifskviða
eftir Hómer sem var fæddur á
7. eða 8. öld f.Kr.

comic book

abruptly

continue

attend

hearing

court

accused of

select

death camp

trial

survivor

recall

protection

in exchange for

realize

crucial

moment

event

determine

sample

dawn on

rather than

admit

lifetime

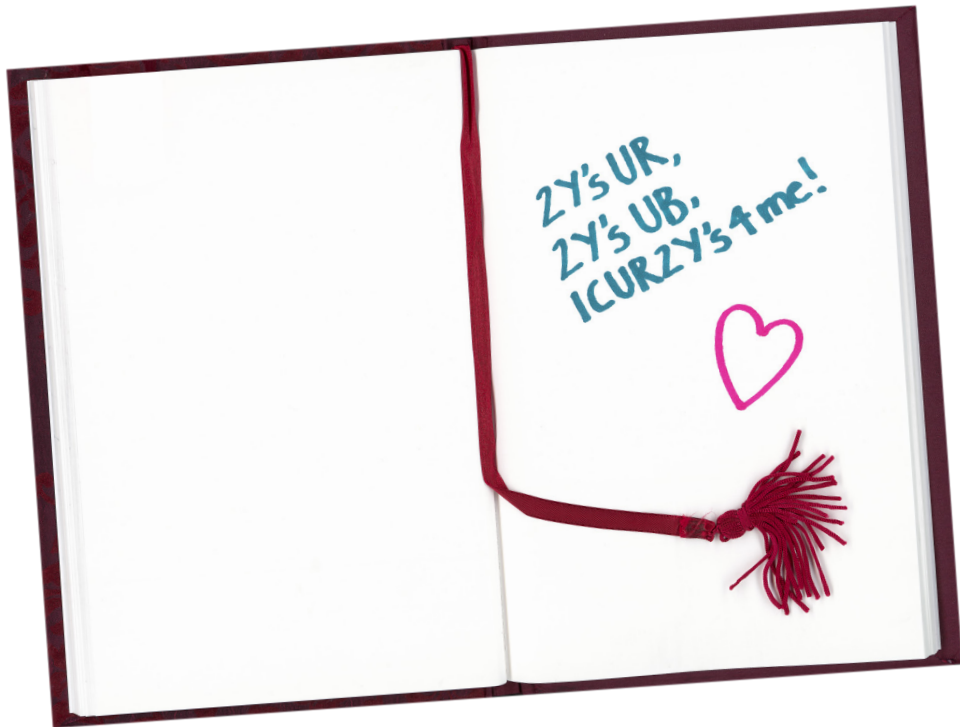
turn out

go to any lengths to do
whatever is necessary

conceal

OMG, What is Happening to the English Language?

Text messaging is a 21st-century phenomenon that has changed how we express ourselves. Some people claim that electronic communication has influenced the English language in a negative way – people are becoming lazy and can't spell correctly anymore.



OMG = Oh my god!
text messaging
phenomenon
express
claim
influence
recognize
type
at the time
trace
abbreviation
evidently

The above text was found in a high-school yearbook from the 1980s. We all recognize the idea of typing *U* instead of *you* when we send a text to a friend. It's quicker and it doesn't take up as much space. At the time it was probably written to be funny and clever, not because it was shorter to spell out. These kinds of rebuses, or word plays, can be traced all the way back to the 19th century. Many abbreviations we use today are evidently not new. However, they are no longer only used for fun, but for practical reasons.

There is however a popular belief that “kids today” are inventing and using incorrect English when they communicate electronically. Many articles have been written on how text messaging is ruining young people’s vocabulary and grammar; they can’t spell, they’re incapable of using standard words and so on. Pretty tiring, and also false according to acclaimed British linguist David Crystal.

David Crystal has written over a hundred books and even more articles on language. He is a diligent linguist fascinated by the English language. And one thing is certain – the man knows what he’s talking about.

Crystal believes that texting is a new form of expression that has combined elements of writing and speaking to fit its purpose. That’s why it doesn’t always follow the rules of Standard English. He calls the new form of language “Textspeak”. The limited amount of space in a message, 160 characters, forces us to become creative. That involves abbreviations (LOL = laughing out loud), omitting letters (THNX = thanks), rebus-like creations (2day = today, B4 = before) and smileys. We are thus adapting our language to fit the medium. We reconstruct, to save space and time.

Crystal disagrees with the idea that the electronic revolution is making young people illiterate, he maintains that it’s the other way around – it can actually improve our writing skills. With the emergence of the Internet, there is more text out there than ever before! All of a sudden we write emails and text messages on an hourly basis. It is quite unfair that “kids today” are accused of not being able to spell due to all the texting they are doing, when in fact 80% of all texts are sent by adults.

But are we worse at spelling today because of all the speedy messaging? Crystal’s strongest argument is that people wouldn’t be able to text and use irregular forms of language if they didn’t know what the ‘correct’ Standard English word was in the first place. No one can understand B4 if they don’t know the word ‘before’. Even if grammatical

invent
incorrect
ruin
vocabulary
incapable
tiring
according to
acclaimed
linguist
diligent
expression
purpose
limited
amount
character
force
involve
omit
creation
adapt
reconstruct
disagree
illiterate
maintain
improve
skills
emergence
on an hourly basis
unfair
due to
speedy
irregular

make sense
pointless
eventually
assign
consider
foreign
hieroglyphics

rules are being broken in texting, the message still needs to make sense. If no one understands it, it is pointless.

The question is whether abbreviations like LOL, OMG, L8R will stay with us in the future or if they will go out of fashion? Maybe the abbreviations will eventually be assigned as correct Standard English. Or maybe we will look back on the many smileys and abbreviations we used and consider them as foreign as hieroglyphics. ;-)

Psst! Did you understand the poem at the beginning?

If not, here is a translation in Standard English:

Too wise you are, too wise you be,

I see you are too wise for me!



A Chinese-English Dictionary

Twenty-three-year-old Zhuang arrives in London to spend a year learning English. She is struggling hard to find her way in the city.

progressive tenses (Also called 'Continuous Tenses') Progressive tenses are made with TO BE + -ING. The most common use of the progressive form is to talk about an action or situation that is already going on at a particular moment we are thinking about. But the 'going to' structure and the present progressive can also be used to talk about the future.

People say 'I'm going to go to the cinema...'

Why there two go for one sentence? Why not enough to say one go to go?

I am going to go to the supermarket to buy some porks?

You are going to go to the Oxford circus to buy clothes?

He is going to go to the park for a walk?

'I go' is enough to expressing 'I am going to go...' Really.

This afternoon, I am going to go to cinema watch double bill – *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Some Like it Hot*. Double bill, they letting people pay one time but twice of the bill, how clever business here! Cinema is my paradise. When a person not having any idea about real life, just walk into cinema choosing a film to see. In China, I seeing some American films, like *Titanic*, and *Rush Hours*, but of course Hollywood stars speaking Mandarin to us, and I can sing soundtrack from *Titanic*, 'My heart goes on and on', only in Chinese translation.

American films strange in London. People at Language School tell me use student card, I can have cheap cinema ticket. Last week I go Prince Charles in Chinatown. They say cheapest cinema in London. Two films screening: *Moholland Driver*, and *Blue Velvet*. All together is more than 4 hours. Perfect for my lonely night. So I buy tickets and get in.

Gosh what crazy films. I not understanding very much the English speakings, but I understand I must never walk

progressive tense
continuous
particular
pork
express
double bill two films
clever
Mandarin
soundtrack
screening
gosh

highway

tremble

mean

tease

tube

W.H.Smith a chain of book shops

Marks & Spencer a British retail chain

Tesco a British multinational grocery and general merchandise retailer

ale

posh

pee

Cantonese

one child policy a governmental policy that allows couples to have only one child

concrete

immediately

lush

rusty

labour

chopsticks

Mah Jong a special game

rough

KFC = Kentucky Fried Chicken

shiver

in highway at night alone. The world scary and strange like deep dark dream. Leaving cinema, trembling, I try find bus to home, but some mean kids teasing at each other on bus stop. Shouting and swearing bit like terrorist. Old man drunk in street and walk to me saying words I not understanding. Maybe he think I prostitute. England is hopeless country, but people having everything here: Queen, Buckingham Place, Loyal Family, oldest and slowest tube, BBC, Channel 4, W.H. Smith, Marx & Spencer, Tesco, Soho, millennium bridge, Tate Modern, Oxford Circus, London Tower, Cider and ale, even Chinatown.

Anyway, after *Breakfast at Tiffany* where posh woman dressing like prostitute and *Some Like It Hot* where mans dressing like womans, I go back my new home which have cheap renting 65 pounds per week. It is ugly place. It smelling pee in every corner of street. Nearby tube station called Tottenham Hale.

House is two floors, lived by Cantonese family: housewife, husband who work as chief in Chinatown, and 16-year-old British-accent son. Is like one child policy still carried on here. The garden is concrete, no any green things. Very often little wild grass growing and come out between the concretes, but housewife pull and kill grass immediately. She is grass killer. The lush next doors trees trying come through rusty iron fence, but nothing getting in this concrete family. This house like factory place in China, just for cheap labours earning money, no life, no green, and no love.

Family speaks Cantonese so I not understanding them. Chinese moon calendar is on wall. Wok, chopsticks, Mah Jong, Chinese cable TV programmes ... everything inside house is traditional. Not much fun. Outside, view is rough. Old rusty railway leading to maybe more interesting place. Walking along railway I see nearby shopping centre, a McDonalds, a KFC, a Burger King, a petrol station called 'Shell', a sad looking Tottenham Hale tube station.

Every night I coming out Tottenham Hale tube station and walking home shivering. I scared to pass each single dark corner. In this place, crazy mans or sporty kids

throwing stones to you or shouting to you without reasons. Also, the robbers robbing peoples even poorer than them. In China we believe 'rob the rich to feed the poor'. But robbers here have no poetry.

'Dare to struggle and dare to win.' Chairman Mao's words like long time no see friend coming to me. I need somebody protect me, accompany me, but not staring at me in darkness. I longing for smile from man, longing for smile even only remaining several seconds.

From A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers by Xiaolu Guo

robber

dare to

struggle

chairman

Mao Zedong the leader of
China from 1949 to 1976

long time no see

protect

accompany

long for

remain

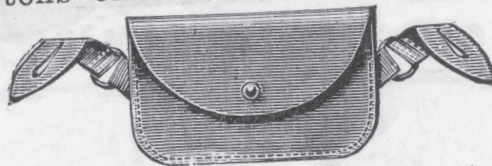


THE "ANTI-PICKPOCKET" PURSE

FOR NOTES AND GOLD.

Absolutely safe. Easily accessible to the wearer without removal.

Buttons on the two Brace Buttons.



Worn inside the waistband of Trousers. A pickpocket cannot tell whether you wear it or not; and even if he knew you would feel the slightest attempt to touch it. (See *Cassell's Magazine*, Sept. 1889.)

In Solid Leather, post-free, **1s. 1d.**, from

HERBERT ANDERSON,
16, HAMMERSMITH-TERRACE, LONDON, W.
THE TRADE SUPPLIED. Patent applied for.

A newspaper ad from 1889

The Hyphen

It's a funny old mark, the hyphen. Always has been. People have argued for its abolition for years: Woodrow Wilson said the hyphen was "the most un-American thing in the world" (note the hyphen required in "un-American"); Churchill said hyphens were "a blemish, to be avoided wherever possible". Yet there will always be a problem about getting rid of the hyphen ...

- 1 Many words require hyphens to avoid ambiguity: words such as "co-respondent", "re-formed", "re-mark". A re-formed rock band is quite different from a reformed one. Likewise, a long-standing friend is different from a long standing one. A cross-section of the public is quite different from a cross section of the public. And one could go on.
...
- 2 It is still necessary to use hyphens when spelling out numbers, such as thirty-two, forty-nine.
- 3 When linking nouns with nouns, such as the London-Brighton train; also adjectives with adjectives: American-French relations. Typesetters and publishers use a short dash, known as an en-rule for this function.

ad
pickpocket
purse
hyphen
abolition
require
blemish
ambiguity
link
typesetter
dash

- 4 Though it is less rigorously applied than it used to be, there is a rule that when a noun phrase such as “stainless steel” is used to qualify another noun, it is hyphenated, as “stainless-steel kitchen”. Thus you have corrugated iron, but a corrugated-iron roof. The match has a second half, but lots of second-half excitement. Tom Jones was written in the 18th century, but is an 18th-century novel. The train leaves at seven o’clock; it is the seven-o’clock train.
- 5 Certain prefixes traditionally require hyphens: un-American, anti-Apartheid, pro-hyphens, quasi-grammatical.
- 6 When certain words are to be spelled out, it is customary to use hyphens to indicate that you want the letters enunciated (or pictured) separately: “K-E-Y-N-S-H-A-M”.
- 7 Purely for expediency, the hyphen is used to avoid an unpleasant linguistic condition called “letter collision”. However much you might want to create compound words, there will always be some ghastly results, such as “deice” (de-ice) or “shelllike” (shell-like).
- 8 One of the main uses of the hyphen, of course, is to indicate that a word is unfinished and continues on the next line. Ignorance about where to split words has reached quite scary proportions, but thankfully this isn’t the place to go into it. I’ll just say that it’s “pains-]taking” not “pain-]staking”.
- 9 Hesitation and stammering are indicated by hyphens: “I reached for the w-w-w-watering can.”
- 10 When a hyphenated phrase is coming up, and you are qualifying it beforehand, it is necessary to write, “He was a two- or three-year-old.”

Even bearing all these rules in mind, however, one can’t help feeling that the hyphen is for the chop. Fowler’s *Modern English Usage* as far back as 1930 was advising that, “whenever reasonable”, the hyphen should be dropped, and the 2003 edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of English* suggests that it is heading for extinction.

By Lynne Truss

rigorously
apply
qualify
corrugated
pro-
quasi-
customary
indicate
enunciate
expediency
linguistic condition
letter collision
compound
ghastly
ignorance
split
painstaking
hesitation
beforehand
bear in mind
is for the chop
advise
edition
extinction

Unit 5

Fame – A Treacherous Thing



Fame is a bee.
It has a song–
It has a sting–
Ah, too, it has a wing.

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)



- * Would you do anything to reach stardom?
- * What does it take to become The King of Pop?
- * The life of a superstar – who wants it?
- * Can a music event change a country?
- * What is a fan?

Read the following unit and discuss some of these questions.

treacherous
stardom
event



Zlatan Ibrahimović became a football star through hard work and talent.

TEXT A

Dreaming of Stardom

Do you want to be a star? Think again.

Fame used to be about having a special talent, but also about a whole lot of hard work. You had to devote your entire life to becoming what you wanted to be.

Malcolm Gladwell, a Canadian journalist, has listed things that all successful people have in common. One of them is that their road to fame required 10,000 hours of hard work. That equals about 3 hours a day for 10 years! This is true of Bill Gates, for example, and the time he spent in front of a computer as a boy. The Beatles also spent that amount of time playing at clubs during the 60s.

According to Malcolm Gladwell, to become a football star, you have to spend that much time practising football. If you want to become a singer, your time will be spent between vocal classes, media training and rehearsals. Very few young people have the persistence needed to reach their goal.

Today there are other ways of becoming famous – simpler ways that don't require hours of hard, gruelling work. You really don't have to have any talent at all to become famous. Being noticed and being seen are the key ingredients – and that can be achieved in many ways. The only question is: How far you are willing to go?

Reality shows is one way to go. People see programmes such as *Survivor* and *Big Brother* as their chance for the world to take notice of them. Ever since *The Real World* aired in 1992, reality shows have become more and more popular. And this, in turn, means more opportunities for people to be on TV for no special reason other than showing themselves off.

But how far would you go to be rich and famous? Take Jade Goody for example. Jade was a participant on

talent
devote
entire
in common
fame
require
equal
amount
vocal class
rehearsal
persistence
gruelling
achieve
willing
reality show
opportunity
show off
participant
limelight

Big Brother in the UK in 2002. After the show, she stayed in the limelight by hosting television shows and launching her own perfumes. She loved the attention and understood that being in front of the camera could change her life. She continued to let the cameras document her life, even after she was thrown off *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2007 because of racist bullying of another competitor (who was Indian). She even went so far as to document her own death when she found out she had cancer in 2008. She died in 2009, only 27 years old.

host
launch
attention
document
throw off (threw, thrown)
racist
bullying
competitor
controversial
eventually
mean-spirited
see to it

Jade Goody may not have been the nicest person, but she was a huge national celebrity. If you're on TV long enough, and are a bit controversial, you will eventually become a "star".

Not many people are willing to document their own deaths, but some people start blogs and write controversial or mean-spirited things, hoping to get attention. That is another way to go.

Malcolm Gladwell may be right – to become a star may require hard work. But becoming simply famous is rather easy. Just see to it that you get on TV and do something crazy.



When Jade Goody died mourners gathered outside her home.



Michael Jackson performing in California in 1993.

TEXT B

MJ – The King of Pop

When Michael Jackson unexpectedly passed away on June 25, 2009 the world mourned. People all over the globe united and chanted, “We want you back”. But people’s feelings towards Michael were much more complicated during his lifetime. Maybe just as complicated as Michael himself.

This conversation took place after watching “This Is It”, a documentary about the rehearsals for the show that Michael Jackson never got to perform.

unexpectedly
pass away
mourn
unite
chant
towards
perform
fragile
fall apart (fell, fallen)

Isabella I just have one thing to say about it: I didn’t like it.

Eric What?! Are you crazy?

Isabella Well, I didn’t. I couldn’t stop thinking about how skinny and fragile he looked. Like he was going to fall apart.

Sam I loved it. But I'm a serious MJ fan. Did you see his dance moves? Who can move like that at the age of 50? He was still an incredible dancer and singer, just like he was when he was younger.

Isabella Well, I don't know. I've always thought he was kind of creepy. He changed his appearance from black to white, he had surgery on his nose so that it fell apart ... and on his chin and his lips and god knows where else. Plus all the rumors ... the child molesting and that.

Eric In his defense, we don't know what's true and what's just outright lies. I mean he was a little odd. Not only were there rumors that he shared a bed with young boys, but also that he slept in an oxygen chamber. And how he as an adult still loved merry-go-rounds and acted like a child. And there is the question of whether his children really are his children ... The list goes on. Everyone started calling him "Jacko" because he was a bit wacko.

Sam All the rumors made people forget the superstar he really was.

Eric Who can blame him for becoming a bit strange? He'd been in the spotlight since he was eight years old, from his time with the Jackson 5.

Isabella What do you mean?

Eric Well, he must have had a tough childhood. Michael and his brothers had a father who demanded hard work 24/7. Plus he was very cruel, often teasing Michael about the way he looked and hitting him with belts and stuff. Maybe that's why he was so self-conscious about the way he looked. Their success definitely didn't come for free. Michael later said he was lonely and sad as a child. Maybe he just tried to make up for the childhood he missed out on when he was older.

incredible
creepy
appearance
surgery
chin
rumor
molest
defense
outright
odd
oxygen chamber
merry-go-round
whether
wacko
blame
demand
24/7 24 hours 7 days of the week
cruel
tease
self-conscious
make up (made)
miss out on
explanation
constant

grocery store
insane
pedestal
extraordinary
grab
phenomenon
invent
experience
memorial
speech
endure
gift
curse

Isabella That's one explanation I guess.

Sam I think the reason he became the person he did was the constant spotlight put on him. He couldn't do anything like a normal person ... go to the grocery store, take a walk, go to a restaurant ... nothing. And that's the way his life had been since he was a kid! Forty years of never being able to leave your house on your own. Wouldn't that drive any one of us insane?

Eric Yeah, he'd been put on a pedestal since he was a kid because of his extraordinary talent.

Isabella Well there's one thing I did like about *This Is It*. He actually looks happy, especially when the music and dancing grabs him and carries him away. And he does things with his body and voice that most of us can only dream of doing.

Eric Exactly! That's what he should be remembered for! His singing, his dancing and all the incredible music he gave to the world! Like the songs 'Bad' or 'Human Nature' or 'Man in the Mirror'. He's a true phenomenon. I mean he invented the moonwalk for god's sake! We probably won't get to experience anyone else like him in our lifetime.

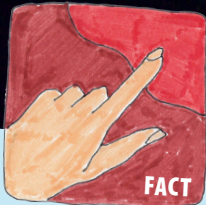
Sam Did you see his memorial by the way?

Eric Nope, I missed it.

Sam In his speech, his brother Marlon Jackson explained that we don't understand what Michael endured. Then he turned to the sky and said, "Maybe now Michael, they will leave you alone". Maybe that's just what Michael wanted all along ... to be left alone. I can't help wondering whether his incredible talent was a gift or a curse?

COOL READS –

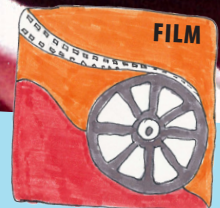
Fame – A Treacherous Thing



Too Famous Too Young?

Britney Spears was still a young girl when she became a star. This is a short presentation of her tumultuous life so far.

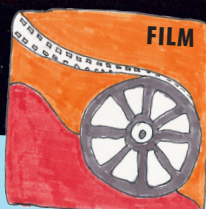
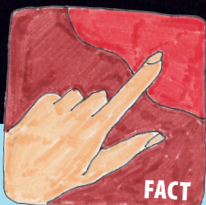
Page 88



Woodstock – An Unforgettable Event in Music History

The Woodstock Festival was one of the greatest events in music history in the last century. This text describes what happened during three days of August 1969 when half a million people got together.

Page 90



When Do You Go from Fan to Fanatic?

This is a short text about having passionate feelings for your idol and the difference between a fan and a fanatic.

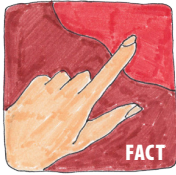
Page 92



The Blond Actress

This excerpt from Joyce Carol Oates' bestselling novel *Blonde* depicts a celebrated actress and her life. The book is not a biography but the author's image of the life of actress Marilyn Monroe.

Page 95



Too Famous Too Young?

Like all superstars Britney Spears has had her fair share of ups and downs. At the age of 16 she became an international pop icon with "...Baby One More Time". Since then she has married and divorced twice, had drug problems and a mental collapse. But she hasn't given up.

Britney Jean Spears was born on December 2, 1981. She was raised in Kentwood, Louisiana. Britney and her family were determined that she would become a star, so Britney and her mother moved to New York to try to get her discovered. For years she went from one audition to the next. Her career began when she was eleven and she became a cast member on the show *The New Mickey Mouse Club*, along with other future pop celebrities such as Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera.

Two years later, the show was cancelled, and Britney decided to focus on her singing career. This was probably the right decision, because not too long after that came her big breakthrough. Her first single "...Baby One More Time" reached number one on charts all over the world.

divorce
have one's fair share of
ups and downs
icon
mental collapse
raise
determined
discover
cast member
celebrity
cancel
charts



From the video "...Baby One More Time".

Britney's persona off stage fascinated people. She claimed to be innocent and wholesome – saving her virginity for marriage – but when the break up with her boyfriend Justin Timberlake came, he claimed otherwise. A picture of Britney on the cover of the magazine *Rolling Stone* made people raise their eyebrows even more. Her innocent girl-next-door image diminished altogether. And the paparazzi and media followed her every move.

Britney became the world's most celebrated pop star. Her second record, "Oops!...I Did It Again", was an even greater success than her first. In the years that followed she released two more albums, and starred in the movie *Crossroads*. In 2002, Britney was ranked the world's most powerful celebrity. She had \$39.2 million to her name.

During the next five years Britney's life seemed to go downhill. She married and divorced a childhood friend in Las Vegas, all within 55 hours. Then she married her background dancer Kevin Federline. They had two sons but their marriage ended after two turbulent years. Their divorce was just one of the things that lead up to her breakdown on February 17, 2007. Britney had her head shaved in a hair salon in Los Angeles, and the day after that she was admitted to a drug rehabilitation clinic. Britney lost control of her life.

Even though her troubles have not completely subsided, Britney is back. Her career is as successful now as ever and people can't seem to get enough of her.

Britney Spears has made her childhood dreams come true, but she's had her share of nightmares. She experienced more in her first 28 years than most people do in an entire lifetime. You have to respect her for getting up and "doing it again".

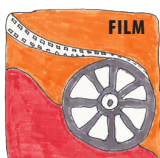
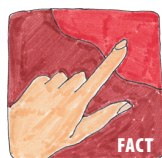


Britney accepts the award for best video of the year for 'Piece of Me' at the 2008 MTV Music Awards.

persona
 claim
 wholesome
 virginity
 otherwise
 diminish
 paparazzi
 release
 star
 rank
 downhill
 divorce
 turbulent
 admitted
 rehabilitation clinic
 subside
 come true (came, come)
 experience
 entire
 lifetime



Traffic jam on the road to the Woodstock Festival.



Woodstock – An Unforgettable Event in Music History

Peace, love and understanding. But also drugs and rock 'n' roll.

Half a million people attended the Woodstock Festival in August 1969.

In 1969 the Vietnam War was raging, and the United States had no plans to withdraw from Vietnam and stop fighting there. But the American people protested the war and wanted their soldiers to retreat. At that time, Michael Lang, a young New Yorker, started planning a music and art festival – Woodstock – to promote peace and love. It would be a three-day event which would take place on a farm outside of New York. The flyers that were handed out advertised in bold letters: **3 DAYS OF PEACE & MUSIC.**

The background story of how the gigantic festival happened to take place in the small town of Bethel, New York is told in the film *Taking Woodstock* (released in 2009 in time for Woodstock's 40th anniversary). The film is about the young man, Elliot Tiber, who, not realizing how large the festival would be, offered to host the event at his parents' motel and a neighbor's dairy farm. The plans to

traffic jam
unforgettable
rage
retreat
promote
flyer
hand out
advertise
gigantic
release
anniversary
offer
host
dairy farm

have the festival at another location had fallen through at the last minute and Elliot felt that his town needed a music and art festival.

However, the people in Bethel did not approve. They had been told by the organizers that 50,000 tickets had been sold, and they considered that way too many. They didn't want a "hippie invasion" to ruin their town. And they worried about what would happen if many more people came – people that hadn't bought tickets.

Well, they'd been right to be worried – more people than expected did show up. The freeway was blocked all the way from New York to Bethel as 500,000 (half a million!) people made their way to the festival. No longer did it matter if you had a ticket or not – the organizers had turned it into a free concert.

Needless to say, there weren't enough toilets or food for half a million people. On top of that the rain poured for three days, making the field where the event was held a muddy mess. But none of these things is what made Woodstock a memorable moment in history.

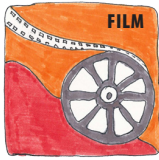
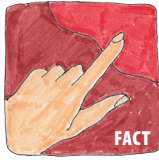
fall through (fell, fallen)
approve
consider
ruin
show up
freeway
make one's way
matter
turn into
pour
muddy
mess
memorable
celebrated
performer
on stage
given
quantity
mythical
miss out
envious



Jimi Hendrix

It was an event of great importance, not only for the quality of the music but as a demonstration against the war. Thirty-two bands played, while people slept, danced and sang. Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane were just some of the celebrated performers on stage. Drugs were easily available and freely used. Given the large number of guests and the quantity of drugs used, the festival was still quite peaceful and accident-free.

People who were there say it was a mythical experience, and people who missed out are still envious.



When Do You Go from Fan to Fanatic?

As long as there have been celebrities, there have been fans. And the fans, just like the stars themselves, can be a little crazy at times.

fan an enthusiastic devotee, follower, or admirer of a sport, celebrity, etc.

fanatic a person with an obsessive interest in and enthusiasm for something



devotee

obsessive

faint

yearn

split up

helpline

distressed

breakup

recognize

devotion

approval

disapproval

particular

come to mind (came, come)

trekkie/trekker

During the 1990's boy bands were very popular. First came NKOTB (New Kids On The Block), then came Take That and East 17, then Backstreet Boys, N*Sync, Boyzone and so on and so on ... Girls (the majority of fans were girls) waited for their idols to appear and tried to get close to their favorite whenever they got the chance. At concerts they cried, fainted and yearned, all the while singing along to the songs they had listened to over and over again.

This was not a new phenomenon. In the sixties the same yearning took place for bands like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Monkees. Something new did however happen in the nineties – people began to understand how serious this love for an idol really was. When Take That split up in February 1996 a helpline was set up for distressed fans – a number they could call if they needed to talk to someone about their feelings as a result of the breakup of the group. The experience was recognized as being similar to that of losing a loved one.

Teenage girls are not the only ones to behave this way. There are many types of fans. All they have in common is their intense devotion to something special. A more “male” version of this kind of behavior is men at football games. Football supporters scream, swear, cry, hug and sing. Not only do they express their devotion to “their” team this way, but also their approval or disapproval of a particular player.

Another group that comes to mind when one thinks of “fans” are those of sci-fi and fantasy. Trekkies/Trekkers have been around for decades. A newcomer to the fantasy is



British actor Robert Pattinson from the *Twilight* series, surrounded by fans.

Harry Potter, a success story with many devoted followers. Before its release the last book of the *Harry Potter* series was expected to be the best-selling *Harry Potter* book, the best-selling book in history. The author JK Rowling had warned that two important characters would die. So the UK book chain Waterstone set up a helpline because they thought the story could upset many dedicated fans.

But someone else has broken JK Rowling's record on the bestseller lists – and her books have even more dedicated fans than Rowling's. Stephenie Meyer published her first

expect
chain
set up (set)
dedicated
break *hér: to beat*

at first glance
appear
phenomenon
following
cult-like
obsession
diagnose
OCD (ísl. árátu-
þráhyggjuröskun)
involve
site
convention
happening
declare
stalk

Twilight book in 2005. The story – about the relationship between the quiet girl Bella Swan and the passionate vampire Edward Cullen – may at first glance appear quite odd, but it has set hearts on fire around the world. It might actually be the phenomenon with the biggest following in the 21st century so far. Ever since its release, a cult-like obsession has been going on. Meyer's books have also been made into films, which has resulted in even greater success for the *Twilight* saga.

Many devotees diagnose themselves as having “Obsessive *Twilight* Disorder” (making a play on the term OCD: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). The *Twilight* craze has hundreds of fan sites, conventions and other happenings organized by and for the fans. Not only does the story itself have fans but the actors in the films probably have more followers than they ever thought possible – especially British actor Robert Pattinson, who plays the vampire.

But where does the line go between “fan” and “fanatic”? Sending letters to your idol declaring your love might make you a big fan, but stalking your idol definitely crosses that line.



The Blond Actress

In January 1954, actress Marilyn Monroe married baseball superstar Joe DiMaggio. They went to Tokyo for their honeymoon. Her presence caused a near-riot among the crowds.

It was the Ex-Athlete who'd been officially invited to Japan, to launch the 1954 Japanese baseball season, but it was the Blond Actress whom reporters, photographers, and TV people were wild to see. It was the Blond Actress whom large crowds were wild to glimpse. At the Tokyo airport, security police held back hundreds of staring yet strangely expressionless and silent Japanese. Only a few called to the Blond Actress, in an eerie, near-uniform chant – “Monchan! Monchan!” Some of the younger fans dared to throw flowers, which dropped to the soiled concrete pavement like shot songbirds. The Blond Actress, who'd never been in a foreign country, still less on the far side of earth from her home, gripped the arm of the Ex-Athlete.



honeymoon
presence
riot
launch
glimpse
eerie
near-uniform
chant
soil
concrete
pavement
still less
grip

escort
 brisk
 dawn on
 insulting
 uneasy
 shiver
 giggle
 incensed
 on his behalf
 indignant
 access
 stiff
 in the rear
 tinted
 protective
 vigorously
 toss
 splatter
 thump
 windshield
 drone
 clamorous
 restrained
 exquisite
 recall
 P.O.W. (prisoner-of-war)
 Jap
 atrocity
 ol' Hirohito
 skull
 radio cabinet
 socket eye
 bore
 careless
 thunderous
 visible
 swarm

Security guards escorted them briskly to their limousine. It had not yet dawned on the Blond Actress, though it was insultingly clear to the Ex-Athlete, that the crowds had come out for her and not him. "What is 'mon-chan'?" the Blond Actress asked uneasily and was told by their escort, with a shivery giggle, "You." "Me? But my husband's the one your country has invited, not me." She was incensed on his behalf; she gripped his hand indignantly. Outside the limo, on either side of the airport access road, more Japanese crowded to see the monchan seated stiffly in the rear of the limo behind tinted protective glass. They were waving more vigorously than those inside the terminal had dared to wave, and tossing flowers more vigorously, more flowers, and larger flowers, landing with soft splattering thumps on the roof and windshield of the limo. In eerie near-unison like robots they chanted "Mon-chan! Mon-chan! Mon-chan!"

The Blond Actress laughed nervously. Were they trying to say "Marilyn"? This was how "Marilyn" sounded, in Japanese?

At the elegant Imperial Hotel, more crowds waited in the street. Traffic had been blocked off. A police helicopter droned overhead. "Oh! What do they want?" the Blond Actress whispered. This was a mad scene out of a Charlie Chaplin film. A silent-film comedy. Except the crowd here wasn't silent but impatient, clamorous. The Blond Actress wanted to protest; weren't the Japanese supposed to be a restrained people? Bound by tradition, exquisitely polite? Except in wartime, the Blond Actress recalled with horror, oh, remember Pearl Harbor! remember the Japanese P.O.W. camps! Jap atrocities! She was thinking, too, of ol' Hirohito's skull on the radio cabinet. Those empty socket eyes boring into her own eyes if she grew careless. "Mon-CHAN! Mon-CHAN!" came the thunderous chant. The Blond Actress and the Ex-Athlete, both visibly shaken, were escorted into the hotel while hundreds of Tokyo police struggled to hold back the swarming crowd. "Oh, what do these people want with me? I thought this civilization was

superior to ours. I was hoping.” The Blond Actress spoke earnestly but no one heard. No one was listening. The Ex-Athlete’s face was heavy and grim with blood. They’d been traveling for so long, his jaws were shaded with stubble.

There were hurried formalities, in the hotel lobby and in the luxury suite on the eighth floor reserved for the Ex-Athlete and his wife. There was a ceremonial greeting by one set of hosts and there was a second ceremonial greeting by another set of hosts. All the while, outside the windows, the chant Mon-chan! Mon-chan! Mon-chan! rose from the street below. It had become more demanding, like lapping waves stirred by a sudden wind. The Blond Actress tried to speak to one of their Japanese hosts about Zen poetry and the “stillness at the core of agitation” but the man smiled and nodded so eagerly, making little bows with his head, murmuring agreement, she soon gave up. She was tempted to peer out the window but dared not. The Ex-Athlete, ignoring the crowd on the street below, ignored her as well. Were they trapped in the hotel? How could they venture out onto the street?

superior
earnest
grim
jaw
stubble
ceremonial
greeting
set
host
demanding
lap
wave
stir
sudden
Zen
stillness at the core of
agitation motionlessness in
the centre of an emotion
tempt
peer out
ignore
trap
venture



The actress starring in ‘The Prince and the Showgirl’ in 1957.

Unit 6

South Africa

A Country of Contrasts

What comes to mind when you hear the words South Africa? Sunshine, beaches, wild animals and safaris? Or Nelson Mandela, apartheid, Aids and crime?

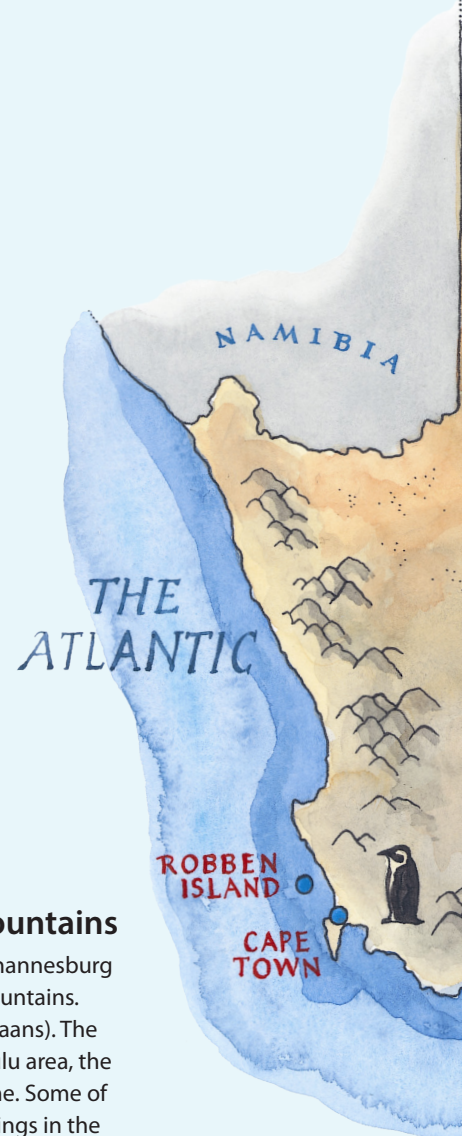
It is hard to speak about South Africa without mentioning all of these things. South Africa is a very beautiful country by any standards; it has everything from mountains to semi-deserts, from grasslands to endless beaches. It is also a rich country with huge mineral wealth, industry and large, modern cities. But it has a sad past and faces many of the problems that other African countries face. South Africa is a country of contrasts.

1 Johannesburg

Johannesburg is called Egoi in Zulu, which means “the place of gold”. It is South Africa’s largest city with around three million residents. It is also the richest, producing 40% of the world’s gold. Most visitors flying in to South Africa land at the Johannesburg International Airport, Africa’s busiest airport. Some well-known tourist attractions in this area are Gold Reef City where you can see African dancing and go down a mine and the famous Apartheid Museum that tells the sad history of apartheid.

2 The Drakensberg Mountains

About three hours south of Johannesburg by car are the Drakensberg Mountains. (Draken means dragon in Afrikaans). The Drakensberg are in the Kwa-Zulu area, the area from which the Zulus come. Some of the oldest Bushmen/San paintings in the world can also be found in the caves of the Drakensberg. People go to the Drakensberg to walk, hike, climb, do white-water rafting and ski. There are waterfalls and the scenery is breathtaking!





Johannesburg is called Egoli in Zulu, which means "the place of gold".



Rock art on a cliff in the Drakensberg province.

3 Oudtshoorn

The biggest town in the Karoo, only a couple of hours outside Cape Town, is Oudtshoorn. It is famous for its ostrich farms where you can have a ride on an ostrich, and for the spectacular Cango Caves which are underground caves with large halls and towering formations beautifully illuminated.





A family in township Soweto.

4 Soweto

The name is an acronym for South Western Township and is a famous part of Johannesburg. It was originally established as a shantytown for the black workers who came to work in the mines. There are over one million people living there now. Parts of Soweto are modern but a lot of it is still very basic.

5 The Karoo

The Karoo is a large, flat semi-desert area that you will have to travel through if you decide to drive to Cape Town from Johannesburg. But make sure your car has air conditioning! The trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town takes about fourteen hours so you will need to take a break somewhere.



Karoo farm.

6 The Kruger National Park

About four hours north east of Johannesburg by car is the Kruger National Park. It is one of the world's most famous wildlife parks. It is larger in area than many small countries and is home to thousands of African animals. Many people come here hoping to see The Big Five. There are several camps within the Kruger Park and each camp has very high fences to keep out the wildlife! The camps have restaurants, pools and shops, and of course, chalets, which you can rent for as many nights as you wish. A special treat is to sit on a veranda at sunset and watch the hippos splashing in the river!



A hippo in the Kruger National Park.



Durban beach.

7 Durban

Durban is on the coast, about 550 km from Johannesburg. It is almost always hot and humid there. Bananas, pineapples, paw paws and other tropical fruit grow here. Many people from India have settled in this area and there are many restaurants and markets that specialise in spicy food. It is a very popular holiday spot and the endless beaches, which are popular with surfers, are lined with palm trees and hotels.

8 Cape Town

Cape Town's most famous landmark is Table Mountain, a flat mountain which can be climbed, or reached by cable car. Off the coast of Cape Town, the famous Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent eighteen years in prison is now a favourite tourist attraction. The dominant African language in the Cape is Xhosa.

The area around Cape Town is famous for its wine lands and for its beautiful coastline. Cape Town is probably South Africa's most beautiful city, it is green, hilly and surrounded on two sides by ocean: the warm Indian Ocean and the cold, dark Atlantic.

The word list for translations is on page 144 in this book.



Table Mountain, Cape Town.



Elephants – Breeders and Demolishers

breeder
demolisher
destructive
strip
uproot
flatten
dung
tusk
trunk
blunt
sensitive
tip
snap
reed
thorn
fence

Elephants are the most destructive animals in the Kruger Park. The big animals strip trees, break them and uproot them. An adult elephant eats between 150 and 270 kg of leaves, bark and grass each day! Elephants are always on the move, looking for fresh vegetation and flattening everything in their path. They also produce an amazing 150 kg of dung every day! Elephants use their tusks and trunks to push over trees and get hold of branches. Just as humans are left or right handed, so elephants are left or right tusked. The tusk that is used most becomes shorter and blunter than the other. An elephant uses the sensitive tip of its trunk for picking flowers, snapping young reeds and taking a thorn out of its foot!

But it is not only flora that is destroyed. Fences are also

at risk. Fences are used to keep elephants out of the rest camps and inside the park. If an elephant encounters a fence he simply walks along it until he comes to the end of the fence, and then continues in the direction he wishes to go. He doesn't turn around and go back the way he came as some other animals do. This means that property and vegetation at the end of the fences could still be destroyed. Because of this, fences need to encircle the area that is to be kept elephant-free.

The Kruger Park can only sustain 8,000 elephants but the elephant population has been higher than that for decades. The park has tried various methods of keeping the numbers down. Culling was common at first: professional hunters were brought in who shot hundreds of elephants from a helicopter each year. (They were always careful to kill entire families, as elephants are highly social and they mourn the death of family members.) That method was abandoned in 1995.

Then the park tried translocating the large mammals to other parks in Africa. But it is not easy to move a herd of elephant 100 km away! Following that, the park tried sterilising the animals, but that proved too difficult for many reasons. Firstly, it was difficult to get close to the elephant cows without upsetting the herd. Secondly, a cow needs two injections given two weeks apart and it is not always possible to find the cow when the time comes for the second injection. As for the males, it takes a whole day to sedate and perform a vasectomy on a bull elephant! Scientists are working on developing methods of sterilisation that are easier and quicker to administer.

The South African government is now considering reintroducing culling as a method of keeping the numbers down. It is estimated that there will be 34,000 elephants in the park by 2020 if nothing is done to reduce their numbers. But Animal Rights Activists across the globe are threatening to demonstrate, and to boycott the park if culling is reintroduced. It is a very heated debate. In the meantime, the giant animals continue to breed and demolish without restriction.

encounter
property
encircle
sustain
decade
various
culling
entire
mourn
abandon
translocate
mammal
herd
sterilise
upset
sedate
perform
vasectomy
develop
administer
consider
reintroduce
heated
demolish
restriction

preservation
concerned
flood
deplete
enlarge
by comparison
roughly
impala

Facts and Figures

When? In 1898 Paul Kruger, president of the Afrikaner part of South Africa, set aside a large area of land for wildlife preservation. He was concerned that all the people flooding in to South Africa after the discovery of gold would deplete the wildlife numbers. The area was later enlarged.

How big? The Kruger Park is about 19,000 square km. It is 350 km long and about 60 km wide.

The Big Five: There are about 11,500 elephants in the park, 1,500 lions, 2,000 leopards, 5,000 rhinos and 27,000 African buffalo. (Figures from 2009.) These five are called The Big Five because they are considered the five most difficult animals to hunt on foot in Africa. Tourists try to “shoot” these animals with their camera.

More figures: There are roughly 5,000 giraffes, 3,000 hippos, 2,000 hyenas, 18,000 zebras, 200 cheetahs and 20 000 impalas in the park, to name some.





◀ Mandoza is a wellknown Kwaito musician.

Kwaito

Kwaito is a music style that originated in the early 1990s in Johannesburg. It is the musical voice of young black South Africans who have grown up in the ghettos of Johannesburg. Kwaito is to South Africans what hiphop is to Americans. The music reflects a particular culture and lifestyle.

Rage, a South African magazine, describes kwaito as “a mixture of South African disco music, hiphop, R&B, Reggae and house music.”

Kwaito is not played live on musical instruments, but is mixed in a studio and played as a back-up tape for the artists when they perform live.

Well known Kwaito artists include Arthur Mafokate, Zola and Mandoza.

originate
reflect
particular
mixture
perform

Sowetan
matric
Wits
folks
fail
engineering degree
fancy
Pick n Pay
off the ground
handcraft
display
percentage
profit
Gogo
beadwork
pottery
ornaments
posh
suburb

Pick Up a Piece

Two Sowetan girls talk about the future.

Lungile I can't believe we're doing matric next year! We've nearly finished school.

Grace I know! And then it's Business College for me – hopefully. And Wits for you!

Lungile If I get into Wits. My folks have been saving for years to pay for the fees, imagine if I don't get in!

Grace Ah, you will, the way you work. I've known you since I was ten and you've never failed anything. You'll have your engineering degree and be working in high-heeled shoes in some fancy office, before you're twenty-five. And I'll still be working at the *Pick n Pay* in my spare time, trying to get my business off the ground!

Lungile Ha ha! Rubbish! So, what's your latest business idea?

Grace I want to open a coffee shop that also sells art and handcraft produced by local artists. Artists can display their work in my coffee shop for three months and I'll take a percentage of their profits.

Lungile Sounds great! What kind of food will you serve?

Grace I thought I'd get Gogo to bake her famous chocolate cake for my shop. That way people could enjoy a good cup of coffee, a slice of Gogo's cake and look at the artwork all at the same time.

Lungile And the handcraft?

Grace I was thinking I might even have a stand where people can sell beadwork, pottery, tools, ornaments and clothes that they have made themselves. I'm going to call it *Pick up a Piece*. What do you think?

Lungile I think it's brilliant! I'd come just for a slice of Gogo's cake. But you need to be in a posh suburb



like Sandton or Rosebank, where people have more money.

Grace Rosebank? Sandton? Are you mad? I'll never be able to afford the rent there.

Lungile Hey, if I get a job in some zooty office complex, I'll organize a good deal for you with the landlord.

Grace Isn't that called nepotism?

Lungile No, it's called you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours! I want a free cup of coffee and a piece of Gogo's cake whenever I visit! Alternatively you could find yourself a sugar daddy who can pay for everything.

Grace I wouldn't go near a sugar daddy! He might give me a whole lot more than money.

Lungile I was joking! I'm not sure whether I want a man at all, but I do want kids.

Grace I want kids too, but you know what's ironic? I was brought up by Gogo after my mother and father passed away right? But if something happens to me, who is going to look after my kids?

Lungile That's a tough one. Your sweet grandmother is a saint, looking after you and your cousins all these years and never complaining.

Grace She's an angel. One thing I know is that I want to take care of Gogo when she is old. I want to buy her one of those reclining easy chairs so she can relax with her feet up in front of TV and have a good laugh.

Lungile That'll make the neighbours jealous!

afford
zooty
complex
deal
landlord
nepotism
scratch
sugar daddy
pass away
complain
reclining easy chair



A rainbow over the Kruger National Park.

The Rainbow Nation

When the new South Africa was founded in 1994, the phrase “Rainbow Nation” was coined as a celebration of the cultural diversity of the country. For decades, South Africa had been known (and hated) by the rest of the world for its racial policies. The rainbow seemed appropriate because it is neither black nor white. There are 11 official languages in South Africa: English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa and 7 other African languages. But South Africa has a violent and bloody past in which different groups have tried to take power and control the land and its people.

The history of the Rainbow Nation in a nutshell

South Africa’s first inhabitants were the San and Khoi people. Later other African people, including the Zulu and Xhosa, moved down from the north. In the 1600s the first white people arrived in Cape Town. They spoke Dutch but their language came to be called Afrikaans. Soon, more and more Europeans arrived by ship from Germany, Holland and France. Slaves were brought in from India, Madagascar and Malaysia to work on the farms, adding their own cultural flavour to the country.

Then in 1800s, the British arrived in their thousands. There were conflicts between the British and Afrikaners (Dutch) over government and territory, so many Afrikaners headed northeast to look for new land. On their journey they encountered the powerful Xhosa and Zulu tribes and many bloody battles were fought. But the Afrikaner kept heading north and eventually settled in the northern half of South Africa. Then, in 1886, gold was discovered in that area.

Two wars broke out between the British and the Afrikaner for control of the country. Britain sent nearly half a million soldiers to fight in these wars called the Boer Wars. The British army treated the Afrikaner prisoners very badly

found
was coined
diversity
policies
appropriate
nutshell
inhabitant
Dutch
add
flavour
head
encounter
tribe
eventually

and placed Afrikaner women and children in concentration camps. Black South Africans fought on both sides. The British won the war in 1902.

In 1948 the Afrikaners came to power in an election for white people only. They made laws to keep themselves in power and introduced the law of apartheid that meant that people of different colour should live apart from one another.

In 1980 it was estimated that there were about 5 million whites and 21 million black people in South Africa. But how could so few control so many? With military power, police force, strict laws and control of the media. Anything that was anti-government was illegal and could lead to imprisonment. The black people protested and called for negotiations for decades. Finally, the white government started listening and in 1994 the first election for people of all colour was held. The Rainbow Nation is not a very old nation at all.

treat
election
make laws
introduce
estimate
strict
illegal
imprisonment
negotiation

Under apartheid:
A sign on Durban beach in English, Afrikaans and Zulu from 1989 saying the beach is for white people only and a bench showing it is for Europeans only.





Nelson Mandela as a young man around 1937.

From Prisoner to President

On 11 February 1990 millions of television viewers across the globe watched as Nelson Mandela took his first steps out of prison. He was 71 years old. But how did he go from prisoner to president?

Rolihlahla Mandela was born in a simple mud hut in 1918 in the Transkei, the region from which the Xhosas come. He was sent to a mission school and was given the name Nelson by a teacher there. Later, he went on to study at the only university open to black South Africans at that time. It was here that he first heard about the African National Congress (ANC) and their goal of making South Africa a country where all people are equal.

He moved to Johannesburg and an opportunity opened up for him to work at a law firm by day and to study law by night. Mandela describes this as one of the hardest times in his life. He was constantly tired, penniless and hungry. It was during this period that anger began to grow within him over the racial injustices he witnessed daily in the country. The lawyers he worked for saw his growing dissatisfaction and ironically warned him: “Stay out of politics!” He graduated as a lawyer and opened a law firm.

The 1950s were difficult times for black people in South Africa. The white government passed laws forbidding “mixed” marriages and “mixed” residential areas. Mandela and the ANC began discussing whether they should start using violent methods to get the government to listen.

In 1960 the government banned the ANC and all anti-apartheid organisations. The ANC continued to meet in secret, organising strikes and making plans to disrupt life in South Africa. In 1964 Mandela was arrested. In court he made a famous speech that included: “I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic society ... and it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

mud hut
equal
opportunity
constantly
penniless
anger
injustice
dissatisfaction
graduate
pass laws
mixed
residential area
whether
ban
in secret
disrupt
in court
domination
cherish
be prepared to

Mandela spent 27 years in prison, 18 of them on Robben Island.

Violent upheavals and rioting were so prevalent during the 1970s and 1980s that the government began considering the possibility that releasing Mandela might help to settle the situation. But Mandela would not accept his freedom until the government agreed to unban the ANC and begin negotiating with them. Finally the government agreed and Mandela was released on that historic day in 1990. Negotiations between the government and the ANC continued for four more years. When elections were held in April 1994, the ANC won.

Nelson Mandela became president of South Africa at the age of 75. Since then, he has won over one hundred awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize and has met hundreds of famous people from around the world. He now spends his time raising money for Aids victims and meeting people who want to talk to him about peaceful change in a country. He says: "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."



A pre-election rally in Durban in April 1994. The historic democratic election made Nelson Mandela the first black democratically elected president in South Africa.

violent
upheaval
riot
be prevalent
consider
release
settle
unban
negotiate
raise

Making Headlines

Three South African athletes have succeeded in making the sport headlines overseas. And all for unusual reasons.



Zola Budd during a world-record race.

athlete
overseas
ban
approach
application
process
amidst
take the lead (took, taken)
blame
boo
prove
trip
blade
paraplegic
prosthesis
partly
artificial

Zola Budd

The year was 1984 and South Africa was banned from all international sporting events because of apartheid. But a thin, barefoot 18-year-old began breaking records all over South Africa. The Olympics of 1984 were approaching and the idea was born that perhaps Zola could run for Britain, as her grandfather was British. Passport applications were processed in record time and Zola flew to Los Angeles, amidst international protests, to compete for Britain.

Zola's main event was the 3,000m. Zola took the lead. The favourite, American Mary Decker, tried to stay as close to Zola as possible. She ran too close and collided with Zola twice. The third time it happened Mary fell holding her hip in pain. The crowd blamed Zola and began booing her for the rest of the race. Zola finished seventh.

It was later proved that the fault was Mary Decker's but the world remembered Zola as the barefoot South African girl who tripped the favourite.

Oscar Pistorius

He is called "the fastest man on no legs" and the "Blade Runner" and holds the 100m, 200m and 400m paraplegic world records. Running on prostheses especially designed for paraplegic runners, Pistorius ran 100m in 10.91 sec in 2007. (Usain Bolt ran 100m in 9.58 sec in Aug 2009.)

Oscar Pistorius was born with partly formed feet and ankles and his legs were amputated below the knee when he was 11 months old. He learned to walk on artificial legs and has been an active sportsman all his life.

But Oscar was not satisfied with only being allowed in the Paralympics; it became his dream to be allowed to compete in the Olympics. The IAAF paid for intensive tests to be carried out on Oscar and his “blades”. These showed that Pistorius has an unfair advantage over other runners because the prostheses give extra bounce and grip.

Perhaps prosthetic legs will be developed that will allow him and others to compete in all athletic competitions.



Oscar Pistorius – the ‘Blade Runner’.

Caster Semenya

Like a bolt out of the blue Caster arrived on the athletics scene. No one had heard of her before 2008 when she won a junior championship. Naturally she was selected to run for South Africa at the World Championships in Berlin in 2009. She won the 800m so convincingly that people started asking: Who is she? She has a deep voice and runs faster than other women. Is she a man? Or has she taken steroids? (The fact that Semenya’s coach had worked in former East Germany and had tested the effect of drugs on other athletes decades earlier didn’t help.)

Tests were carried out and the results were surprising – Caster may be both male and female. Details were in the world’s newspapers for all to read the next day. The South African press was outraged, everyone who had ever known her vouched for the fact that she was a girl.

One has to ask – is it right that a person’s most personal information be made available for all to read?



Caster Semenya winning the women’s 800m final of the 2009 IAAF Athletics World Championships in Berlin.

Paralympics
compete
IAAF
carry out
advantage
bounce

grip
prosthetic legs
develop
a bolt out of the blue
select
convincingly

outraged
vouch for
available

Honest Gladys

This story by Mothobi Mutloatse was inspired by an incident in the life of the author's grand-mother. She knew that humour can be a way to express serious things.

My granny was a person who detested bullies – even if they were her employers. She was that rare kind of woman who valued nothing better than the truth. All of it.

During my last visit to her house in Daveyton – where nearly every resident knows her all too well, and she has earned her nickname by finishing every sentence with the words, 'Ek lag' [I laugh] – granny recalled her brief period of service as a nanny.

She had been asked by her friend, Emma, to take over her job for a short while. Why?

For the first time in 14 years of employment with the Hectors, Emma was going on leave. For two weeks. Would Gladys be so kind as to substitute for her?

My granny Gladys, being the curious type (she had never worked for Whites before), jumped at the opportunity

But, it was not as she had expected. Gladys found that she was not the only Black employee on the Hectors' premises. There were three other workers. All Black, and all men.

And all three from Zimbabwe. With little education. To them, Gladys – who had seen very little of the classroom, and taught herself English and Afrikaans through contact – sounded like a university graduate.

Gladys was shocked, the first day, to find that one of the men had to polish the floors twice daily. Another had to tend the garden every four hours and the third spent his days painting and re-painting the glossy walls.

Worse, their meals were 'servants' meals'. Servants' meat (or 'boys' meat'), 'servants' bread', 'servants' stew' and so forth.

Being a Disciple of Truth, Gladys went into action.

incident
detest
bully
employer
rare
value
resident
earn
nickname
recall
brief
on leave
substitute
curious
jump at an opportunity
on the premises
tend
glossy
stew
and so forth

Pronto. She felt so humiliated. She felt the pains more than the real victims – the three frightened men.

It also happened that that day – Gladys’s debut – was a special day for Mrs Hector. She was going to entertain two overseas visitors, another rich couple from England who intended making South Africa home ‘because, my, aren’t the taxes back home crippling?’

And, for supper, Mrs Hector had bought two frozen chickens. For the servants, their usual. You know what: Servants’ Meat.

But the advent of Gladys was soon to change all that. Cheeky but honest Gladys. No-nonsense – straight-forward-ek-lag Gladys.

She took her time cooking and preparing both meals. At five o’clock that afternoon, she called the men into the kitchen while the Hectors were away.

When they entered the kitchen, Gladys wasted no time in telling them to sit down on the cushioned bar-stools. It was an order and sounded almost like a threat. It was the tone in her voice that shook the men. They all sat down.

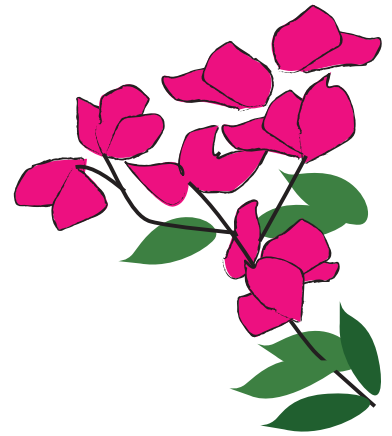
One man, the gardener, vainly objected. One fierce look from Gladys quietened him down immediately.

The painter said, ‘Gladys, you’ll get us all into nyakanyaka [trouble]. The Missus is going to fire us and we’ll be sent back home. We never eat together. I eat in the garage, Vambe eats in the garden and Chimurenga has his meal in the storeroom. You are the only one who’s allowed to eat in the kitchen. Please Gladys, we do not want trouble. Please.’

Gladys, meanwhile, had already taken four plates from the oven.

‘Look here,’ she shrieked at them, ‘I am not asking you a favour. I am not pleading either. We are all going to have a ball right here in the kitchen. Now! And, what’s more, it’s going to be chicken. Now, be quiet before I throw you out!’

Just when Vambe was about to mouth another plea, Gladys swiftly shut him up with a curt ‘Ek lag!’



disciple
pronto
humiliated
overseas
intend
tax
crippling
advent
cheeky
straight-forward
cushioned
threat
shake (shook, shaken)
vainly
object
fierce
quieten down
Missus
storeroom
shriek
ask a favour
plead
have a ball
mouth
plea
swiftly
curt



And in shivering silence, the men joined her at the table and attacked the appetizing chicken.

That evening, the Hectors arrived with their important guests. Meal time. Lo and behold!

The Missus could not believe her heavily-made-up eyes when she saw what was for supper. The meat she so detested – servants' meat.

'Gladys!' she shouted. 'How could you?' and then dashed to the bedroom, weeping like a spoilt child amid bewilderment on the faces of her husband and the guests.

Then a grinning Gladys was confronted by the Master – right there in front of the guests, who by then, had decided not to go ahead with their meal.

Gladys, being what she is, gave the Master what was coming to him. She didn't mince her words.

'What's good for the "boys" is also good for you. We ate the chicken and left the meat for you. So, what's wrong with that? Ek lag!' Triumphantly she walked back to the kitchen where she caught her three 'brothers' eavesdropping.

By next morning, the Missus still hadn't recovered from the previous night's shock. But instead of being rapped on the knuckles, Gladys got praises.

From both Mr and Mrs WE Hector.

Surprisingly, they wanted her – permanently. They would discharge Emma when she returned from leave.

'No,' she replied. 'It's not my job. Emma is used to dancing to your funny music. It is a pity I can't dance.'

Said a tearful Mr Hector: 'You know what, Gladys, you have exposed us so subtly. And quite rightly so. From now onwards, there will be chicken for the boys – excuse me, the men – every weekend.'

Mrs Hector hugged Gladys and kissed her on both cheeks.

And what did she say? 'Ek lag!'

shiver

appetizing

lo and behold

heavily-made wearing a lot of
make-up

dash

spoilt

amid

bewilderment

grin

confront

go ahead with

not mince one's words not
to soften the effect of one's
words (ísl. segja það óþvegið)

eavesdrop

previous

rap on the knuckles

praise

permanently

discharge

expose

subtly



Fear of the Country

Tension is rapidly growing between the black and white people when David Lurie, a middle-aged white man, decides to go stay with his grown-up daughter Lucy. Lucy owns a farm in an isolated area in the Eastern Cape and lives alone with her watchdogs and a man that occasionally helps her out.

Three men are coming toward them on the path, or two men and a boy. They are walking fast, with countrymen's long strides. The dog at Lucy's side slows down, bristles.

'Should we be nervous?' he murmurs.

'I don't know.'

She shortens the Dobermanns' leashes. The men are upon them. A nod, a greeting, and they have passed.

'Who are they?' he asks.

'I've never laid eyes on them before.'

They reach the plantation boundary and turn back. The strangers are out of sight.

As they near the house they hear the caged dogs in an uproar. Lucy quickens her pace.

tension
occasionally
stride
bristle
leash
lay eyes on
boundary
in an uproar
quicken
pace

The three are there, waiting for them. The two men stand at a remove while the boy, beside the cages, hisses at the dogs and makes sudden, threatening gestures. The dogs, in a rage, bark and snap. The dog at Lucy's side tries to tug loose. Even the old bulldog bitch, whom he seems to have adopted as his own, is growling softly.

'Petrus!' calls Lucy. But there is no sign of Petrus. 'Get away from the dogs!' she shouts. '*Hamba!*'

The boy saunters off and rejoins his companions. He has a flat, expressionless face and piggish eyes; he wears a flowered shirt, baggy trousers, a little yellow sunhat. His companions are both in overalls. The taller of them is handsome, strikingly handsome, with a high forehead, sculpted cheekbones, wide, flaring nostrils.

At Lucy's approach the dogs calm down. She opens the third cage and releases the two Dobermanns into it. A brave gesture, he thinks to himself; but is it wise?

To the men she says: 'What do you want?'

The young one speaks. 'We must telephone.'

'Why must you telephone?'

'His sister' – he gestures vaguely behind him – 'is having an accident.'

'An accident?'

'Yes, very bad.'

'What kind of accident?'

'A baby.'

'His sister is having a baby?'

'Yes.'

'Where are you from?'

'From Erasmuskraal.'

He and Lucy exchange glances. Erasmuskraal, inside the forestry concession, is a hamlet with no electricity, no telephone. The story makes sense.

'Why didn't you phone from the forestry station?'

'Is no one there.'

'Stay out here,' Lucy murmurs to him; and then, to the boy: 'Who is it who wants to telephone?'

He indicates the tall, handsome man.

at a remove
hiss
sudden
threatening
gesture
tug loose
growl
no sign of
saunter off
rejoin
piggish eyes
strikingly
flaring
nostril
approach
release
vaguely
exchange glances
forestry concession
hamlet
indicate

trot
bean-stake
at bay
pant
thrust
abandon
bolted
the crown of the head
conscious
limb
crumple
tile
lavatory
dizzily
recover
in duty
in frenzy
croak
cramped
fanfare

‘Come in,’ she says. She unlocks the back door and enters. The tall man follows. After a moment the second man pushes past him and enters the house too.

Something is wrong, he knows at once. ‘Lucy, come out here!’ he calls, unsure for the moment whether to follow or wait where he can keep an eye on the boy.

From the house there is silence. ‘Lucy!’ he calls again, and is about to go in when the door-latch clicks shut.

‘Petrus!’ he shouts as loudly as he can.

The boy turns and sprints, heading for the front door. He lets go the bulldog’s leash. ‘Get him!’ he shouts. The dog trots heavily after the boy.

In front of the house he catches up with them. The boy has picked up a bean-stake and is using it to keep the dog at bay. ‘Shu ... shu ... shu!’ he pants, thrusting with the stick. Growling softly, the dog circles left and right.

Abandoning them, he rushes back to the kitchen door. The bottom leaf is not bolted: a few heavy kicks and it swings open. On all fours he creeps into the kitchen.

A blow catches him on the crown of the head. He has time to think, *If I am still conscious then I am all right*, before his limbs turn to water and he crumples.

He is aware of being dragged across the kitchen floor. Then he blacks out.

He is lying face down on cold tiles. He tries to stand up but his legs are somehow blocked from moving. He closes his eyes again.

He is in the lavatory; the lavatory of Lucy’s house. Dizzily he gets to his feet. The door is locked, the key is gone.

He sits down on the toilet seat and tries to recover. The house is still; the dogs are barking, but more in duty, it seems, than in frenzy.

‘Lucy!’ he croaks, and then, louder: ‘Lucy!’

He tries to kick at the door, but he is not himself, and the space too cramped anyway, the door too old and solid.

So it has come, the day of testing. Without warning, without fanfare, it is here, and he is in the middle of it.



In his chest his heart hammers so hard that it too, in its dumb way, must know. How will they stand up to the testing, he and his heart?

His child is in the hands of strangers. In a minute, in an hour, it will be too late; whatever is happening to her will be set in stone, will belong to the past. But *now* it is not too late. *Now* he must do something.

Though he strains to hear, he can make out no sound from the house. Yet if his child were calling, however mutely, surely he would hear!

He batters the door. 'Lucy!' he shouts. 'Lucy! Speak to me!'

The door opens, knocking him off balance. Before him stands the second man, the shorter one, holding an empty one-litre bottle by the neck. 'The keys,' says the man.

'No.'

The man gives him a push. He stumbles back, sits down heavily. The man raises the bottle. His face is placid, without trace of anger. It is merely a job he is doing: getting someone to hand over an article. If it entails hitting him with a bottle, he will hit him, hit him as many times as is necessary, if necessary break the bottle too.

'Take them,' he says. 'Take everything. Just leave my daughter alone.'

dumb hér: with no senses (ísl. skynlaus)

set in stone

strain

mutely

placid

trace

merely

entail

Without a word the man takes the keys, locks him in again.

He shivers. A dangerous trio. Why did he not recognise it in time? But they are not harming him, not yet. Is it possible that what the house has to offer will be enough for them? Is it possible they will leave Lucy unharmed too?

From behind the house comes the sound of voices. The barking of the dogs grows louder again, more excited. He stands on the toilet seat and peers through the bars of the window.

Carrying Lucy's rifle and a bulging garbage bag, the second man is just disappearing around the corner of the house. A car door slams. He recognizes the sound: his car. The man reappears empty-handed. For a moment the two of them look straight into each other's eyes. 'Hai!' says the man, and smiles grimly, and calls out some words. There is a burst of laughter. A moment later the boy joins him, and they stand beneath the window, inspecting their prisoner, discussing his fate.

He speaks Italian, he speaks French, but Italian and French will not save him here in darkest Africa. He is helpless, an Aunt Sally, a figure from a cartoon, a missionary in cassock and topi waiting with clasped hands and upcast eyes while the savages jaw away in their own lingo preparatory to plunging him into their boiling cauldron. Mission work: what has it left behind, that huge enterprise of upliftment? Nothing that he can see.

Now the tall man appears from around the front, carrying the rifle. With practised ease he brings a cartridge up into the breech, thrusts the muzzle into the dogs' cage. The biggest of the German Shepherds, slaving with rage, snaps at it. There is a heavy report; blood and brains splatter the cage. For a moment the barking ceases.

The man fires twice more. One dog, shot through the chest, dies at once; another, with a gaping throat-wound, sits down heavily, flattens its ears, following with its gaze the movements of this being who does not even bother to administer a *coup de grâce*.

shiver
recognise
harm
peer
bulge
reappear
a burst of laughter
grimly
fate
cassock
topi
clasp
upcast
savage
jaw away
lingo
preparatory
plunge
cauldron
enterprise of upliftment an
upbuilding business
rifle
practised ease
cartridge
breech
thrust
muzzle
slaver
cease
throat-wound
gaze
coup de grâce

A hush falls. The remaining three dogs, with nowhere to hide, retreat to the back of the pen, milling about, whining softly. Taking his time between shots, the man picks them off.

Footfalls along the passage, and the door to the toilet swings open again. The second man stands before him; behind him he glimpses the boy in the flowered shirt, eating from a tub of ice-cream. He tries to shoulder his way out, gets past the man, then falls heavily. Some kind of trip: they must practise it in soccer.

As he lies sprawled he is splashed from head to foot with liquid. His eyes burn, he tries to wipe them. He recognizes the smell: methylated spirits. Struggling to get up, he is pushed back into the lavatory. The scrape of a match, and at once he is bathed in cool blue flame.

So he was wrong! He and his daughter are not being let off lightly after all! He can burn, he can die; and if he can die, then so can Lucy, above all Lucy!

hush
pen
mill about
whine
footfall
glimpse
tub
sprawled
is splashed
liquid
wipe
methylated spirits
scrape
is bathed

J.M.Coetzee

John Maxwell Coetzee, Professor of Literature and author, was born in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1940 but he has lived in Australia since 2002. Though Coetzee's parents were not of British descent, the language spoken at home was English. He is said to be a very private person and avoids the media and doing interviews.

Coetzee began writing fiction in 1969. He became the first writer to win two Booker Prizes. He won the first in 1983 and the second in 1999 for "Disgrace". In 2003 he won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

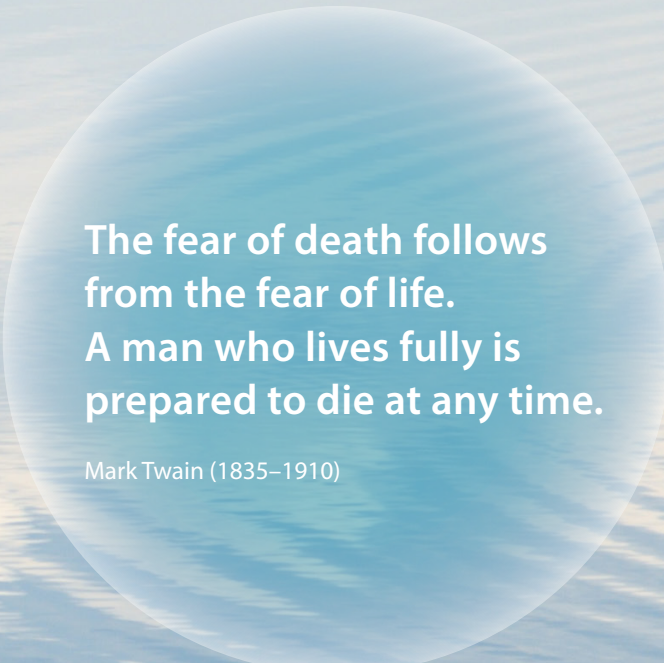
Unit 7

Dead or Alive?

Inside Our Dreams

Where do people go to when they die?
Somewhere down below or in the sky?
'I can't be sure,' said Granddad, 'but it seems
They simply set up home inside our dreams.'

Jeanne Willis



The fear of death follows
from the fear of life.
A man who lives fully is
prepared to die at any time.

Mark Twain (1835–1910)

- * What would you wish for if you knew that your days were numbered?
- * Does our throw-away society threaten life on our planet?
- * Could you go on with your life after being wrongfully convicted?
- * What becomes important when life is put at risk?
- * Being on death row – what feelings does it awaken?

Read the following unit and discuss some of these questions.

prepared
threaten
convict
put at stake
death row

Before I Die

Sixteen-year-old Tessa lives together with her dad and younger brother Cal. Two things make her different from other teenagers – she has cancer and she only has a few months left. Tessa has stopped going out of her room and stopped talking to her dad. But she has made a list of ten things she wants to do before she dies. And she has written her first wish on the wall: “I want to feel the weight of a boy on top of me”.

Zoey doesn’t even knock, just comes in and plonks herself down on the end of the bed. She looks at me strangely, as if she hadn’t expected to find me here.

‘What’re you doing?’ she says.

‘Why?’

‘Don’t you go downstairs anymore?’

‘Did my dad phone you up?’

‘Are you in pain?’

‘No.’

She gives me a suspicious look, then stands up and takes off her coat. She’s wearing a very short red dress. It matches the handbag she’s dumped on my floor.

‘Are you going out?’ I ask her. ‘Have you got a date?’

She shrugs, goes over to the window and looks down at the garden. She circles a finger on the glass, then she says, ‘Maybe you should try and believe in God.’

‘Should I?’

‘Yeah, maybe we all should. The whole human race.’

‘I don’t think so. I think he might be dead.’

She turns round to look at me. Her face is pale, like winter. Behind her shoulder, an aeroplane winks its way across the sky.

She says, ‘What’s that you’ve written on the wall?’

I don’t know why I let her read it. I guess I want something to happen. It’s in black ink. With Zoey looking, all the words writhe like spiders. She reads it over and over. I hate it how sorry she can be for me.

weight

knock

plonk oneself down

expect

be in pain

suspicious

wear (wore, worn)

shrug

circle

the human race all people,
considered as a species
(isl. mannkynið)

pale

shoulder

wink

ink

writhe

She speaks very softly. 'It's not exactly Disneyland, is it?'

'Did I say it was?'

'I thought that was the idea.'

'Not mine.'

'I think your dad's expecting you to ask for a pony, not a boyfriend.'

It's amazing, the sound of us laughing. Even though it hurts, I love it. Laughing with Zoey is absolutely one of my favourite things, because I know we've both got the same stupid pictures in our heads. She only has to say, 'Maybe a stud farm might be the answer,' and we're both in hysterics.

Zoey says, 'Are you crying?'

I'm not sure. I think I am. I sound like those women on the telly when their entire family gets wiped out. I sound like an animal gnawing its own foot off. Everything just floods in all at once – like how my fingers are just bones and my skin is practically see-through. Inside my left lung I can feel cells multiplying, stacking up, like ash slowly filling a vase. Soon I won't be able to breathe.

'It's OK if you're afraid,' Zoey says.

'It's not.'

'Of course it is. Whatever you feel is fine.'

'Imagine it, Zoey – being terrified all the time.'

'I can.'

But she can't. How can she possibly, when she has her whole life left? I hide under my hat again, just for a bit, because I'm going to miss breathing. And talking. And windows. I'm going to miss cake. And fish. I like fish. I like their little mouths going, open, shut, open.

And where I'm going, you can't take anything with you.

I WANT TO FEEL
THE WEIGHT
OF A BOY
ON TOP OF ME.

stud farm
be in hysterics
entire
get wiped out (got)
gnaw
flood in
multiplying
stack up
breathe

● *To be continued on the CD.*

From 'Before I Die' by Jenny Downham

Talk About a Dump!

Some scientists estimate that plastic in the oceans causes the death of 100,000 marine animals, each year. Greenpeace believes that over one million sea birds die annually as a result of ingesting plastic that has been carelessly discarded by humans. We need to become better at disposing of all the plastic we produce.

Andrea Your room's a tip, Steven! It's like an obstacle course in here.

Steven Yeah, I know. I'm supposed to be sorting through all my stuff. That box is for old toys, that one's for old clothes and that one's for books and games. Mum wants to take everything down to some charity shop.

Louise You haven't got very far, have you?

Steven Nah, I can't be bothered. I just step around it all.

Andrea There's nowhere to sit here. Can I put these clothes in the box?

Steven No! Don't touch that pile. That's my dirty laundry.

Andrea Hell! You move it then.

Louise Talking about a dump ... have you heard about the World's Biggest Rubbish Dump in the Pacific Ocean?

Andrea I don't think Steve's been to the Pacific. Have you Steve?

Steven Shut it! What are you talking about, Louise?

Louise Have you heard about the Plastic Vortex in the Pacific?

Steven The plastic what?

Louise The North Pacific Vortex, the World's Biggest Garbage Patch as the Americans call it? Millions of tons of plastic circling around in the Pacific.

dump
estimate
cause
annually
ingest
carelessly
discard
dispose of
tip
obstacle course
charity
I can't be bothered I'm too lazy
or tired to do it
pile
laundry
rubbish
the Pacific Ocean
vortex
garbage
patch

Andrea Nah, you're having us on.

Louise I am not! Google it! Google: Plastic Vortex! The currents in the Pacific flow in such a way that masses of plastic debris have been trapped in the centre, swirling in a circle forever.

Steven OK, I will Google it. ... Pacific Plastic Vortex ... Here's a map ... Is that the vortex there between California and Japan? That's an enormous area.

Louise Yes, that's the biggest one. Some people say it's half the size of the US, others say it's much larger. There are smaller ones too.

Andrea But how did the plastic get there?

Louise Most of it comes from land, things that have come down rivers into the sea, things that have been lost on beaches and junk that people have thrown into rivers and seas. But some of it comes from ships that still dump their waste into the oceans every day.

Andrea Pardon my ignorance, but is there only plastic in the vortex?

Louise Most of it is plastic because plastic isn't biodegradable, it never breaks down. It just breaks

you're having us on
current
debris
swirl
junk
waste
ignorance
biodegradable



fingernail

decade

surface

visible

creepy

floating

syringe

turtle

recycle

fuel

environment

involved

responsibility

turn a blind eye to sth pretend
that you don't see sth

into smaller and smaller pieces. Most of the plastic is the size of a fingernail or smaller, and some of it has been there for decades.

Andrea I'm surprised there aren't more pictures of it.

Louise It's hard to take good pictures of it because most of these small pieces are below the surface of the water and only visible from a boat.

Steven It says here that there are larger pieces of plastic in the vortex too – things like toothbrushes, Lego, sandals, balls, plastic bottles and millions of plastic bags. Look at this picture: you can see a doll's head!

Louise That's creepy, looks like something from a horror movie.

Steven They say that birds and sea animals mistake the floating plastic for bits of food and swallow them. They've even found lighters, balloons and syringes inside the stomachs of dolphins and turtles! But why don't people just catch all the rubbish with nets?

Louise And who's going to pay for it? Scientists from the States have been looking into ways to recycle the plastic pieces and use them to produce fuel. Others are doing research into the effects on the environment.

Andrea It would be great if they could produce fuel from plastic, people might want to get involved in cleaning up the oceans then. And make money at the same time. But I guess it's so far away from any country that no one wants to take responsibility for it.

Louise Out of sight, out of mind.

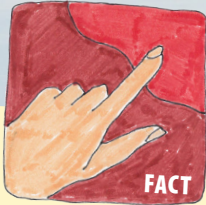
Andrea But what about the mess in Steve's room? In sight, but still out of mind.

Steven Nah, that's called turning a blind eye.

Andrea There's a lot of that going on.

COOL READS

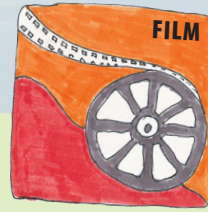
– *Dead or Alive?*



Kerry Max Cook, Execution # 600

Read about Kerry Max Cook who was sentenced to death and spent 22 years in prison for rape and murder. DNA evidence finally cleared his name and today he is a free man.

Page 132



The Road ... to what?

The earth is burned to ashes and there are few survivors. The everyday struggle for food and shelter becomes the main concern for a man and his son. Cormac McCarthy's book *The Road* was made into a film in 2009.

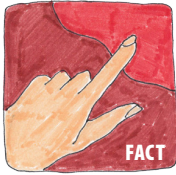
Page 134



Where is Your Brother?

Australian author Sonya Hartnett wrote the story *Surrender* about a young boy that once made a horrific mistake.

Page 136



Kerry Max Cook, Execution # 600

In 1977 Kerry Max Cook was wrongly arrested for the brutal rape and murder of 21-year-old Linda Jo Edwards. He was sentenced to death and spent 22 years in Texas' notorious death house, enduring the most inhumane conditions imaginable. On April 16, 1999, DNA evidence cleared his name. He is one of the longest tenured death row prisoners in US history to be released.

Kerry Max Cook worked in a bar at the time he was arrested for the murder of Linda Jo Edwards. They had met only once at the pool of the apartment complex where they lived in Tyler, Texas. After some flirting she had invited him over to her apartment. Three days later she was raped and stabbed to death.

Cook was 20 years old at the time, and had a history of running away from home and stealing cars. So when the police found Cook's fingerprints on Linda Jo Edwards' patio door, he was convicted of the crime without any hesitation. After being arrested, Cook was put in a cell at Tyler City Jail. His trial didn't begin until a year after his arrest; but during the entire time Cook was imprisoned.

It was an unfair trial from the start. Although there was no real evidence to convict Cook, the prosecutors made witnesses lie on the stand to make Cook seem like the most sick and twisted man on the planet. The only piece of evidence they had was his fingerprint on Linda's door. The prosecutor made a "fingerprint expert" claim that he could tell that the fingerprint had been left on the door on the very night Linda had been killed. Since there is no scientific way to age a fingerprint, neither in 1977 nor today, this was just another lie.

On June 28, 1978 Cook was found guilty of the rape and murder of Linda Jo Edwards and was sentenced to death. He was given execution number 600, meaning he would be the 600th prisoner to be executed.

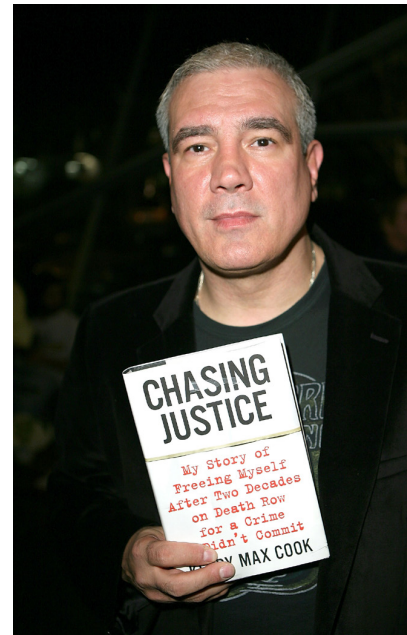
execution
rape
sentenced
notoriou
endure
inhumane
conditions
imaginable
evidence
clear
tenure
death row
release
complex
stabbed
fingerprint
patio
convict
hesitation
trial
imprisoned
unfair
prosecutor
witness
lie
on the stand
twisted
claim
scientific
age
guilty

While waiting for his execution, Cook was put on death row – in a prison where gang violence, rapes and stabbings were part of everyday life. The only way to gain power on death row was by murdering whoever hurt you. Since all Cook ever wanted was to prove his innocence, this wasn't an option for him. Instead he had to suffer the assaults. In order to survive, Cook had to cling to his hope that he would one day be freed.

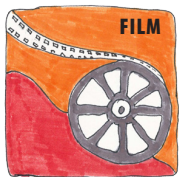
However many people did believe he was innocent and fought for him. On November 11, 1997 he was finally released from prison because the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals judged Cook's conviction to have been based on false evidence. But he had to wait for another trial. Would new "evidence" be found that would put him back on death row?

In 1999 his suffering finally came to an end: a crime lab had compared the DNA from semen found on the murder scene with Cook's own and there was no match. It did however match the DNA of one of the earlier suspects from 1977: James Mayfield, a married man who had had an affair with Linda. Previously, the prosecutors had claimed that Mayfield had an alibi. That was another lie.

Kerry Max Cook was 43 years old when he was finally freed. Not only did he manage to survive 22 years of hell, but he has also had the strength to share his story with the world in his book *Chasing Justice* and he continues fighting for a just legal system for all. As Cook puts it himself: "I am *not* here today as proof that our legal system worked, as some would argue; my presence today is the evidence of how it failed, horribly so".



gain
option
prove
innocence
suffer
assault
survive
cling to (clung)
appeal
judge
false
compare
semen
murder scene
no match
suspect
previously
manage
share
justice
just
legal system
proof
argue
presence
fail



The Road ... to what?

*Imagine the Earth burned to ashes and you among the few survivors.
What would you do for food? What would you do for shelter?*

A boy and his sick father are on a journey through the desolate, grey landscape that is left after the world as we know it has been destroyed. They're heading toward the south coast of the country, hoping it will be warmer there and easier to survive. Desperation has taken over, and the only people they meet along the road are murderers and cannibals. Every day is about survival – searching for food, trying to stay warm, keeping off the roads to avoid being seen and hiding when danger is close.

The only things the man and his son have are the clothes on their backs, which are in rags, and a cart with goods that they need in order to survive. When they're lucky they find something to eat and plastic containers of water. The father is also carrying a pistol which he protects at all costs. It contains two bullets, one for each of them, just in case something goes wrong. If the "bad men" find them the

survivor
shelter
desolate
survival
keep off (kept)
rag
cart

decision is easy – kill yourself rather than be taken captive and eaten.

Although hopelessness surrounds them, the father inspires hope in his boy; he will be OK since he is one of the good guys “carrying the fire” within him. The boy doesn’t exactly understand what his father means, but knows he has to keep on struggling.

But what if eventually the road they’re traveling won’t take them anywhere nice at all? If this bleak, cold land is all there is, would they still go on fighting for survival?

Cormac McCarthy’s novel *The Road* is a heartbreaking book that gives the reader an idea of what could happen if we don’t start taking care of our environment. It was praised for its wonderful description of the relationship between the boy and his father. The idea came to McCarthy when he was traveling with his young son, to whom the book is also dedicated. Many of the conversations between the man and the boy were inspired by McCarthy’s own conversations with his son.

The Road was made into a film in 2009. Faithful to the book, it depicts a bleak and barren world where a post-apocalyptic journey is taking place.

decision
captive
surround
struggle
bleak
faithful
depict
barren
post-apocalyptic



Kodi Smit-McPhee and Viggo Mortensen as son and father in *The Road*.



Where is Your Brother?

Anwell and his mentally retarded brother Vernon live with their parents in Mulyan, a small town in Australia. Anwell loves his brother and takes care of him but is constantly worrying about him. Being ashamed he feels as if Vernon is a curse to his and his parents' lives.

The last day was a Sunday, and Mother too ill to go to church. She was frequently the victim of migraines that could shatter her for days. The curtains would be drawn in her bedroom, the sheets of the big bed turned back, water brought for the cooling of her forehead, and the door inflexibly closed. I imagined her lying in dimness, motionless as an effigy, and the shape of her pain was the shape of a shut door, its color ivory.

My father, dressed for church, told me I must stay home with Vernon. Experience told me what he meant. I was to keep my brother quiet. Were his fussing to invade the sickroom, my mother's head would cave in or explode. I went to my room and shed my Sunday-best gladly – I did not enjoy church. My father departed and I was left with the door-of-pain and Vernon, who was cooing peacefully.

Another thing I understood: that Father, unusually free, would not come directly home from church, that he would find time-consuming distractions between there and here. When the gate clicked shut behind him I wandered the hall aimlessly, savoring this rare chance to reign. It must not, I knew, be wasted.

I decided to give Vernon his lunch early – food sometimes made him sleepy. Once he was asleep, I would be more at liberty than I'd ever been. I could hang over the side fence and watch our neighbor Cuttle's television. There was no television in our house, but Mr. Cuttle didn't mind me peering through his window. Occasionally he was kind enough to crank the volume so I could hear. We shared a taste for cartoons.

I mashed a banana for Vernon and warmed it on the stove, adding milk and a little sugar. I carried the meal and a cloth to his bedroom, where he lay in a tangle in the cot.

mentally retarded

curse

victim

shatter

inflexibly

dimness

motionless

effigy

ivory

experience

fussing

cave in

shed (shed)

depart

coo

time-consuming

distraction

aimlessly

savor

reign

liberty

peer

occasionally

crank

taste

cartoon

tangle

cloth

cot



He grinned and snuffled to see me. I maneuvered his limbs until he was propped upright, then waved the bowl under his nose. “Look, Vernon! Banana!”

He seemed eager, smacking his lips. When I brought the spoon to his mouth, however, he jerked his head away. “Banana!” I reminded him. “You like banana.”

He gazed at me with watery eyes, flapping his hands in a fret. I knew what the problem was. Vernon couldn’t tell

snuffle
prop
jerk
flap
in a fret

addled
 mainstay
 steelishly determined wanting
 to do something very much
 dunderhead
 refusal
 adapt
 dollop
 squeeze
 whimper
 flutily
 bat
 rubber
 comply
 thrash
 harm
 haul up
 make for (made)
 whine
 hesitate
 jammed
 entertain
 quill
 spike
 shrill
 browse
 burst (burst)
 quieten
 theme song
 was brewing
 bloodcurdling
 howl
 ruin

the time, he didn't even know what a clock was, but he knew it wasn't lunchtime. His life ran to a routine that never varied, and he liked it that way. Routine gave his addled existence some order, and by bringing his lunch early I was undermining the mainstay of his world. I'd known he wouldn't like it, and I'd expected him to fight. But this was a morning unlike others for me, and I was steelishly determined to make it different for Vernon, too. In his dunderheaded refusal to adapt, he was standing between myself and happiness. I hardly ever got the chance to watch cartoons. "Just eat it," I begged. "Banana, Vernon, look!"

I zoomed the spoon into my own mouth, ate a dollop of the creamy mess. Vernon squeezed his eyes shut, whimpered flutily. I put the spoon to his lips and he batted it blindly away. Banana splattered the rubber sheet. I felt time getting away. "Please, Vernon?"

Sometimes he could be asked nicely, and he would comply. Not this morning; he thrashed his head. I thought perhaps he wanted to be left alone. That was allowed, he could be alone. In his cot he'd come to no harm, and I could make regular rushes from the fence to his window to check that he was indeed all right. I wiped the banana off the sheet, hauled up the cot wall, and made for the door. I was almost through it when Vernon whined. I hesitated, looking back. He had his face jammed between the bars. He wanted me to stay. He would not eat or sleep or entertain himself; he'd decided I must stay. A quill of hatred spiked in me. "No. Anwell's busy, Vernon."

He stared at me with eyes like blue stones and gave a short, shrill shriek; the sparrows browsing on the lawn burst into the sky. I shut the door quickly and waved my hands to quieten him. "Anwell's busy!" I could hear the theme song of the cartoons. "Vernon, be a good boy!"

He curled his lip and I knew he didn't agree, I knew he was brewing a bloodcurdling howl that would wake my mother and ruin the day. I thought fast. Maybe I could take him outside and let him lie in the grass. I could carry him easily, although he was bigger than me. He wasn't allowed

in the front garden, but the rear yard was private – only the birds would see him there. It wasn't the best solution – he'd eat the grass, get covered in dirt – but at least he would be quiet, and far from the door-of-pain. I was instantly decided: time was getting away. I lowered the wall of the cot and slid my hands under his arms. "Vernon come outside!" I enthused. "See the flowers? See the clouds?"

But he looked at me uncivilly, and twisted himself away. I grappled for him, he kicked at me, he threw himself back like a mule. His head hit a post of the cot and he yelled with outrage, his face instantly awash with tears. He wasn't crying, he wasn't hurt: he was Vernon at his worst. I clapped my hands, bounced on my toes, knotted in brittle frustration. Today Mr. Cuttle might open the window, might let me choose a chocolate from the selection he kept on a tray. "Birdies!" I sang madly. "Come see the birds, Vernon!"

I reached out again, and he lashed at me. His fingernails, kept square and short, were nonetheless sharp as kitten claws, and shaved strips of skin from my cheek. The pain of it rocked through me, chased by revulsion and hatred. My hand came up and slapped him hard across the face.

Vernon gasped – he sucked in all the air in the room. He straightened his shoulders with dignity, and filled the house with his scream. With one palm pressed to my wounded face, I could only block one ear. He arched his back and screamed again, purple and green with rage. I put my hand over his mouth and he jerked away, threshing his legs, sucking in air, screaming again.

I was only seven and they would say I wasn't thinking, but that is not true. In those moments, though I was dazed, I considered many things. I felt a plasma wetness between the fingers at my face. I knew I wasn't going to be watching any cartoons. I felt sad enough to cry over this rare day destroyed. I felt bad for hating Vernon, yet the sight of him – his tongue wobbling like a fish, his nappy working loose at the waist, bubbles erupting out of his nose – made me despise him all the more. I had lost my pity for him,

rear yard
solution
get covered
instantly
enthuse
uncivilly
twist away
grapple
mule
outrage
awash
knot
brittle
selection
lash
nonetheless
shave
rock
revulsion
gasp
dignity
palm
arch one's back
dazed
rare
wobble
nappy
working loose
erupt
despise
pity

plateau
commotion
be lectured
be whipped (to whip)
comfort
moan
tide
mousy
roar
jaundice
shatter
force
grobe
jam
muffle
fate
contain
mayhem
frail
rib cage
heave
waist
stunned
hoist
unsteady
patched
laundry
unused
refrigerator
off its latch
bundle
dislodge
clang
shovel
fold
tucked
swing (swung)
slab
seal
slump
pant
gather
fridge
mercifully

I'd joined my parents on their icy plateau. And my mother would surely be woken by the commotion, and when my father came home I would be lectured and whipped.

I thought I heard mutterings from her room already.

I told them later I'd tried to comfort him, but that isn't really true. "Shh, shh," I moaned, but the great tide of noise that Vernon made drowned out these mousy sounds.

He simply roared.

His mouth was stretched as wide as it would go. His lips were jaundice-yellow. I imagined his skull shattering beneath the force of his scream. My hand groped for the cloth, and jammed it into his mouth.

Immediately the scream was muffled. His eyes flew open in surprise. From the room-of-pain along the hall, I heard sounds. My only thought now was to hide – to hide myself from my fate and to hide the monster I'd made of my brother. I needed to put him somewhere that would contain his noise and keep him safe, and hide him until this mayhem went away. He was breathing like a blown horse, his frail rib cage heaving. I wrapped my arms around his waist and dragged him from the cot. He was light and stunned, and he did not struggle. I hoisted him up and opened the door and made my way through the house, unsteady but desperate, determined. Vernon lay like a dog in my arms, his face patched rosy, his hands moving lostly in the air. The door to the laundry was open and the door of the unused refrigerator kept there was likewise off its latch. I bundled Vernon to my chest and used a knee to dislodge the refrigerator's metal racks, which clanged one after another to the floor. In their place I shoveled Vernon, who fitted the space easily. He folded onto the refrigerator floor, his hands tucked in his lap. I shut the door before he could escape. It swung, a great slab, and the rubber seal stuck tight.

I slumped against it, panting.

When I gathered myself and stepped back to look, there was no sign of him. The fridge stood silent and white as a secret. And the house was mercifully quiet. Only my ears were ringing.

● *To be continued on the CD.*

Irregular Verbs

Infinitive		Past simple	Past participle
arise	koma upp, stíga upp	arose	arisen
awake	vakna	awoke	awoken
be	vera	was, were	been
bear	bera; fæða	bore	born, borne
beat	slá, sigra	beat	beaten
become	verða	became	become
begin	byrja	began	begun
bend	beygja, sveigja	bent	bent
bet	veðja	bet	bet
bite	bíta	bit	bitten
bleed	blæða	bled	bled
blow	blása	blew	blown
break	brjóta	broke	broken
bring	hafa með sér	brought	brought
build	byggja	built	built
burn	brenna	burnt	burnt
burst	springa	burst	burst
buy	kaupa	bought	bought
cast	kasta	cast	cast
catch	grípa	caught	caught
choose	velja	chose	chosen
cling	halda sér fast, grípa í	clung	clung
come	koma	came	come
cost	kosta	cost	cost
creep	skríða; smjúga	crept	crept
cut	höggva; klippa, skera	cut	cut
deal	eiga viðskipti við; dreifa	delt	delt
dig	grafa	dug	dug
do	gera	did	done
draw	teikna	drew	drawn
dream	dreyma	dreamt	dreamt
drink	drekka	drank	drunk
drive	aka, keyra	drove	driven
eat	borða	ate	eaten
fall	detta, falla	fell	fallen
feed	ala, fóðra; mata	fed	fed
feel	finna fyrir; snerta	felt	felt
fight	berjast, slást	fought	fought
find	finna	found	found
flee	flýja	fled	fled

Infinitive		Past simple	Past participle
fly	fljúga	flew	flown
forbid	banna	forbade	forbidden
forget	gleyma	forgot	forgotten
forgive	fyrirgefa	forgave	forgiven
freeze	frysta	froze	frozen
get	fá; verða	got	got
give	gefa	gave	given
go	fara	went	gone
grind	mala, mylja	ground	ground
grow	vaxa	grew	grown
hang	hengja	hung	hung
have	hafa; eiga	had	had
hear	heyra	heard	heard
hide	fela	hid	hidden
hit	slá	hit	hit
hold	halda	held	held
hurt	meiða; særa	hurt	hurt
keep	halda; geyma	kept	kept
kneel	krjúpa	knelt	knelt
know	vita; kunna; þekkja	knew	known
lay	leggja	laid	laid
lead	leiða; stjórna	led	led
leap	stökkva	leapt	leapt
learn	læra	learnt	learnt
leave	fara	left	left
lend	lána	lent	lent
let	láta; leyfa	let	let
lie	liggja	lay	lain
light	kveikja; lýsa	lit	lit
lose	týna; tapa	lost	lost
make	gera; búa til	made	made
mean	meina; þýða	meant	meant
meet	mæta; hitta	met	met
pay	borga	paid	paid
put	láta, setja	put	put
quit	hætta	quit	quit
read	lesa	read	read
ride	ríða, aka	rode	ridden
ring	hringja; klingja	rang	rung
rise	rísa, standa upp	rose	risen
run	hlaupa	ran	run

Infinitive		Past simple	Past participle
say	sagja	said	said
see	sjá; skilja	saw	seen
sell	selja	sold	sold
send	senda	sent	sent
set	setja	set	set
shake	hrista	shook	shaken
shine	skína	shone	shone
shoot	skjóta	shot	shot
show	sýna	showed	shown
shut	loka	shut	shut
sing	syngja	sang	sung
sink	sökkva	sank	sunk
sit	sitja; setjast	sat	sat
sleep	sofa	slept	slept
slide	renna	slid	slid
sling	sveifla; slöngva	slung	slung
smell	lykta	smelt	smelt
speak	tala	spoke	spoken
spell	stafa	spelt	spelt
spend	eyða	spent	spent
spin	spinna; snúa	spun	spun
spit	spýta, hrækja	spat	spat
spread	breiða; dreifa	spread	spread
stand	standa	stood	stood
steal	stela	stole	stolen
stick	stinga; líma	stuck	stuck
strew	strá, sáldra	strewed	strewed
stride	stika stórum skrefum	strode	strode
strike	slá	struck	struck
string	strengja; spenna	strung	strung
sweep	sópa; æða, geisa	swept	swept
swim	synda	swam	swum
swing	sveifla; róla	swung	swung
take	taka	took	taken
teach	kenna	taught	taught
tear	rífa	tore	torn
tell	segja	told	told
think	hugsa; halda; finnast	thought	thought
throw	kasta, henda	threw	thrown
thrust	þrýsta, troða; stinga	thrust	thrust
understand	skilja	understood	understood
wake (up)	vakna; vekja	woke	woken
wear	vera í, bera	wore	worn
weave	vefa	wove	woven
win	vinna	won	won
wind	hlykkjast, flétta, vinda	wound	wound
write	skrifa	wrote	written

Word Lists for:

Unit 4: Where Did the English Language Come from?

p. 64

link
spread
cause
originate
ancient
Celts
AD
conquer
Angles
Saxons
Jutes
tribe
develop

p. 66

time line
bard
bog
cairn
clan
pedestrian
peninsula
rural
ox
anger
freckle
embroidery
Normans

influx
cuisine
curious
pork
mutton
veal
beef
indigenous

p. 67

poster
budgerigar
warthog
wildebeest
native
demand
diplomacy
mother tongue
inner
outer
expand
foreign

Unit 6: A Country of Contrasts

p. 98

come to mind
apartheid
by any standards
semi-desert
wealth
Zulu *mál sem talað er í Suður-Afriku*
resident
mine
Afrikaans *mál sem talað er í Suður-Afriku*
white-water rafting
scenery
breathtaking

p. 99

ostrich
towering
illuminated

p. 100

acronym
establish
shantytown
semi-desert
participate
the Big Five *hinir fimm stóru*
(sjá textann um Kruger-garðinn)

fence
chalet
treat
splash
hippo

p. 101

humid
pawpaw
spicy
cable car
flat

Word List in Alphabetical Order

The irregular verbs are coloured. You can find their principal parts on pages 141–143. (*Am.*) means American spelling.

A

- abandon** to leave a place, thing or person forever
- abbot** a man who is in charge of a monastery
- abbreviation** a short form of a word or phrase
- abduct** to force someone to go somewhere with you, often using threats or violence
- aboard** used when talking about getting onto a ship, aircraft, bus or train
- abolition** to abolish means to end an activity or custom officially
- abruptly** suddenly and unexpectedly
- access** the way of getting near to a place or person
- acclaim** public approval and praise
- accompany** to go with someone
- according to** as said or told by
- account for** to explain
- accuse** to say that someone has done something wrong or illegal
- achieve** to succeed in finishing something or reaching an aim
- acronym** a word formed from the initial letters of the several words in the name
- actual** real; existing in fact
- actually** really
- ad** an advertisement
- AD** Anno Domini: used in the Christian calendar when referring to a year after Jesus Christ was born
- adapt** to change something to suit different conditions or uses
- add** to put something with something else
- addled** to make or become confused; to make or become rotten
- administer** to govern or manage
- admit** to agree that something is true
- admitted** to allow someone to enter a hospital because they need medical care
- advantage** a condition giving a greater chance of success
- advent** the arrival of an event, invention or person
- advertise** to make something known generally or in public, especially in order to sell it
- advertisement** a picture, short film, song, etc. which tries to persuade people to buy a product or service
- advice** suggestions to a person about what he should do
- advisor** someone whose job is to give advice about a subject
- aesthetic** relating to the enjoyment or study of beauty (isl. fagurfræðilegur)
- affect** to have an influence on someone or something, or to cause them to change
- afford** to be able to buy or do something because you have enough money or time
- age** to find out the age of something
- agreement** a decision or arrangement, often formal and written, between two or more groups or people
- ahead** in front
- aimlessly** aimless: without any clear intentions, purpose or direction
- alcoholic** a person who is unable to give up the habit of drinking alcohol very often and in large amounts
- ale** a certain kind of beer
- alien** relating to creatures from another planet, not familiar, coming from another country, group, etc.
- allow** to make it possible for someone to do something, give permission
- ambiguity** when something has more than one possible meaning and may therefore cause confusion (isl. tvíræðni)
- amid** in the middle of; among
- amidst** in the middle of; among
- amount** a collection or mass especially of something which cannot be counted
- amount to** to be the same as something, or to have the same effect as something
- ancestor** a person related to you who lived a long time ago
- ancestry** your ancestors who lived a long time ago, or the origin of your family
- ancient** very old, of or from a long time ago
- and so forth** continuing in the same way, etcetera (etc.)
- anger** a strong feeling which makes you want to hurt someone or be unpleasant
- Angles** members of the West Germanic people that migrated from Sleswick to Britain in the 5th century A.D.
- angular** having or relating to one or more angles; having a clear shape with sharp points
- anniversary** the day on which an important event happened in a previous year
- announce** to make known publicly
- annually** once every year
- antisocial** not wanting to spend time with or be friendly with other people
- anxiety** an uncomfortable feeling of nervousness or worry
- anxious** worried and nervous
- apartheid** a political system in which people of different races were separated
- apparent** seeming to exist or be true
- appeal** a request especially to a court of law to change a previous decision
- appear** to seem
- appearance** the way a person or thing looks to other people
- appease** to calm or satisfy (a person) usually by giving what was asked for or is needed
- appetizing** describes food or smells that make you want to eat
- appliance** a device, machine or piece of equipment, especially an electrical one that is used in the house, such as a cooker or washing machine
- apply** to request something, usually officially, especially by writing or sending in a form; to use
- apply to** to concern, relate to
- appreciate** used when you are thanking someone or showing that you are grateful
- appreciation** when you recognize or understand that something is valuable or important
- approach** to come near; the act of coming near; a road or path leading to a place
- appropriate** suitable or right for a particular situation or occasion
- approval** when you have a positive opinion of someone or something

approve to agree
arch one's back to form a curve with your back
argue to give the reasons for your opinion, idea, belief, etc.
arid very dry
arise develop, happen
armed using or carrying weapons
artificial made by people; not natural; not real
artistic able to create or enjoy art
ashamed feeling guilty or embarrassed about something you have done
ashtray a small dish or container in which people can leave cigarette ash and cigarette ends
assault a violent attack, a threat to attack someone
assembly a meeting in a school of several classes for a group activity such as singing, a theatrical performance or a film
assign give
assure to tell positively; to make sure
at all cost If something must be done or avoided at all costs, it must be done or avoided whatever happens
at bay to prevent someone or something unpleasant from harming you
at first glance when first looking
athlete a person who is very good at sports or physical exercise
athletic relating to athletes or the sport of athletics
atrocious when someone does something extremely violent and shocking
attempt a try
attend to go to an event, place, etc
attendance the number of people who go to an event, meeting, etc.
attention notice
attract to pull or draw someone or something towards them, by the qualities they have
attribute a quality or characteristic that someone or something has
audience the group of people together in one place to watch or listen to a play, film, someone speaking, etc.
authentic real
available able to be bought, used, or reached
average a standard or level which is considered to be typical or usual
award a prize

aware knowing that something exists, or having knowledge or experience of a particular thing
awash covered with a liquid, especially water

B

backpacker a person who travels with a backpack
backwards towards the direction which is opposite to the one in which you are facing or opposite to the usual direction
bacterial caused by, made from, or relating to bacteria
ban to forbid
bang to hit a part of the body against something by accident
banister the row of poles at the side of stairs and the wooden or metal bar on top of them
bank a hill, a slope
bar a stripe, a strip on the surface of something which is a different colour from the surrounding surface
bard a poet
bare not covered by anything
barely by the smallest amount; almost not
barge in to walk into a room quickly, without being invited
barren stony or rocky, unable to produce plants or fruit (ísl. hrjóstrugur, ófrjósamur)
base If you base something on facts or ideas, you use those facts or ideas to develop it
bastard an unpleasant person
bat to strike or hit
bathe to cover with; to swim, especially in the sea, a river or a lake
bauble a piece of bright but cheap jewellery (ísl. glingur)
baubled equipped with
be bound to something you have to do
be equal to the same in price, number, size, etc.:
be in on to agree
be obliged to to be or feel, etc. forced to do something or that you must do something
beadwork jewellery or something else made of pearls
beak the hard pointed part of a bird's mouth

beam to send out a beam of light, or an electrical or radio signal, etc; a line of light that shines from a bright object
bean-stake a pole, a wooden stick that supports a growing plant
bear in mind to remember a piece of information making a decision or thinking about a matter
beast an animal, especially a large or wild one
bedraggled wet, dirty and untidy
beef the flesh of cattle (cows) which is eaten
beforehand before the time when something else is done
behave to act in a particular way, to act in a suitable way
behavior (Am.) way of behaving
behaviour way of behaving
being a person or thing that exists
belly the stomach
benediction a prayer asking God for help and protection
bewilderment confusion
binge eating eating a lot of food, especially without being able to control yourself
biodegradable able to decay naturally and in a way that is not harmful to nature
biography the life story of a person written by someone else
blacken to become black or to make something become black
blade the flat part of a tool or weapon that (usually) has a cutting edge; a dashing young man
blame to say that someone did something wrong or is responsible for something bad happening
blaze to be brightly lit
bleak if a situation is bleak, there is little or no hope for the future; if weather or a place is bleak, it is cold, empty and not welcoming or attractive
blemish a defect, a mark on something that spoils its appearance
blight a disease that damages and kills plants
blinding headache extremely bad pain or ache in your head
bloke a man
blood soaked extremely wet with blood
bloodcurdling causing a feeling of extreme fear
blunt not sharp

blur something that you cannot see clearly
bog soft, wet ground, or an area of this
boil to reach, or cause something to reach, the temperature at which a liquid starts to turn into a gas
bolt out of the blue something completely unexpected that surprises you very much
bolted locked with a bolt
boo to make an expression of strong disapproval or disagreement
boost to improve or increase something
bore to make a hole in something using a tool, to drill
bother to worry; to annoy
bother to to make the effort to do something
bounce to (cause to) move up or away after hitting a surface
boundary a real or imagined line that marks the edge or limit of something
box oneself into a position to put yourself into a certain situation
bra a piece of women's underwear that supports the breasts
brag to speak too proudly about what you have done or what you own
brainy clever
brand a type of product made by a particular company
bravado a show of bravery to make people admire you (ísl. grobb)
breakup the end of a relationship or a cooperation
breathe to move air into and out of the lungs
brehtaking extremely exciting, beautiful or surprising
brech a chamber integral to the rear portion of a gun barrel that receives the shell, cartridge, or ammunition (ísl. hleðsluhólf á byssu)
breed to keep animals for the purpose of producing young animals in a controlled way; a group of animals or plants with similar appearance, behavior, and other characteristics
breeder someone who breeds animals; animals used for breeding
brewery a company that makes beer or a place where beer is made
brewing about to make; if an unpleasant situation or a storm is brewing, you feel that it is about to happen

brief short, or containing few words; lasting only a short time
bring up to care for a child until it is an adult
brisk quick, energetic and active
briskly in a quick and energetic way
bristle to react angrily
brittle very
bronchial of or being the pipes that carry air from the windpipe (tube in the throat) to the lungs
broth a thin soup
browse to look through a book or magazine without reading everything, or to walk around a shop looking at several things without intending to buy any of them
bruise an injury or mark on the skin, often as a result of being hit by something, to hurt
buckle to bend or become bent, often as a result of force, heat or weakness
buddy a friend
budgerigar a small, brightly coloured bird, often kept as a pet
bulge when something is so full so it is sticking out in a round shape
bully to hurt or frighten someone who is smaller or less powerful than you, often forcing them to do something they do not want to do; a person who does these things
bullying (noun), see bully
bum the part of the body that you sit on; bottom
bundle to push or put someone or something somewhere quickly and roughly
burn (Scottish) creek
burst to break open or apart suddenly, or to make something do this
burst of laughter a lot of loud laughter
bury to put a dead body into the ground, or to put something into a hole in the ground and cover it
bushy land or area covered with small tree-like plants
bust a woman's breasts
bustle about to hurry
buttock either side of a person's bottom
by any standards compared to

C

cab a taxi
cable car a vehicle which hangs from and is moved by a cable and transports people up steep slopes
cacophony an unpleasant mixture of loud sounds
cairn a small pile of stones
calm peaceful and quiet
calm down to stop feeling upset, angry or excited
cancel to decide that an organized event will not happen
Cantonese one of the two main types of the Chinese language, spoken in the south of China
captive to keep someone as a prisoner or make someone a prisoner
capture to take by force; if something captures your attention, you feel very interested and excited by it
careless not taking or showing enough care and attention
caress to touch or kiss someone in a gentle and loving way
cargo the goods carried by a ship, aircraft or other large vehicle
carrier bag a large plastic or paper bag with handles, used to put your shopping in
carry to transport or take something from one place to another, to have with you
carry on to continue doing something
carry out to do or complete something
cart a vehicle with either two or four wheels used for carrying goods
cartoon a film made using characters and images which are drawn rather than real
cartridge a small tube containing an explosive substance and a bullet for use in a gun
case a particular situation or example of something
cassock a long, loose, usually black piece of clothing worn especially by priests
cast member the actors in a film, play or show
catarrh a condition in which a lot of mucus (ísl. slím) is produced in the nose and throat, especially when a person has an infection

- catch** to take hold of something; to capture; to be in time for; the total amount caught
- category** a type, or a group of things having some features that are the same
- cauldron** a large deep pot for boiling things in
- cause** to make something happen
- cautious** someone who avoids risks
- cave in** to collapse, if a roof or other structure caves in, it breaks and falls into the space below
- caveman** someone who lived in a cave in the early stages of the development of human society
- cease** to stop
- ceiling** the inner roof
- celebrate** to take part in special enjoyable activities in order to show that a particular occasion is important
- celebrated** famous
- celebrity** someone who is famous, especially in the entertainment business
- Celtic** of an ancient European people who are related to the Irish, Scots, Welsh and Breton
- Celts** a member of a European people who once occupied Britain and more countries
- cemetery** an area of ground in which dead bodies are buried
- century** a period of 100 years
- ceremonial** formal or official acts, often traditional, performed on social occasions
- certain** sure, having no doubt
- chain** a group of shops which belong to a single company
- chairman** a person in charge of a meeting or organization
- chalet** a small wooden house found in mountain areas
- challenge** something needing great mental or physical effort in order to be done successfully and which therefore tests a person's ability
- Chancellor of the Exchequer** the person in the British Government who is responsible for deciding tax levels and how much money the Government can spend
- chant** to repeat or sing a word or phrase continuously; recite with musical intonation; recite as a chant or a psalm
- character** a letter, number or other mark or sign used in writing or printing
- characterize** something which characterizes another thing is typical of it
- charge** to ask an amount of money for something
- chariot** a two-wheeled vehicle that was used in ancient times for racing and fighting pulled by a horse
- charitable** kind, giving money, food or something else to those who are in need
- charity** a system of giving money, food or help free to those who are in need
- charts** the lists produced each week of the records with the highest sales
- chase** to hurry after someone or something in order to catch them
- chatter** to talk for a long time about things that are not important
- check out** to examine something in order to be certain that it is true, safe or suitable
- cheek** the soft part of your face which is below your eye and between your mouth and ear
- cheeky** slightly rude or showing no respect
- cheer** to give a loud shout of approval or encouragement
- cheerful** happy and positive
- cheerleader** a person who leads the crowd in shouting encouragement and supporting a team at a sports event
- cherish** to love, protect and care for someone or something that is important to you
- chest** the upper front part of the body of humans and some animals, between the stomach and the neck, containing the heart and lungs
- childhood** the time when someone is a child
- chin** the part of a person's face below their mouth
- chopsticks** a pair of narrow sticks that are used for eating East Asian food
- chowder** thick soup
- Christian** of or belonging to the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ
- chrome stalk** a narrow structure that supports something made of chrome steel
- circle** to make or draw a circle around something
- circumcision** to cut the protecting loose skin off a boy's penis, or to cut away a girl's clitoris and the skin around it, for medical, traditional or religious reasons
- claim** to say that something is a fact
- clamorous** making a lot of noise
- clan** a group of families, especially in Scotland, who originally came from the same family and have the same name
- clang** to make a loud deep ringing sound like that of metal being hit
- clasp** to hold or grasp firmly
- clear** without being or feeling guilty, claim to be not guilty
- cleft** an opening or crack, especially in a rock or the ground
- clever** quick to learn and understand, skilful
- climb** to go up, or to go towards the top of something
- cling** to stick to; to grip tightly; to stay close or near
- close** to be near in time, place etc.; having a narrow difference between winner and loser
- cloth** a piece of woven material
- clump** a whole lot of something
- clutch** to take or try to take hold of something tightly
- coffin** a long box in which a dead person is buried or burnt
- coin** a round piece of metal used as money
- collapse** to fall down suddenly because of pressure or having no strength or support
- collect** to bring or come together
- colonize** to send people to live in and govern another country
- come to a halt** to stop
- come to mind** to think about
- come true** if a hope comes true, it happens although it was unlikely that it would
- come up with** to suggest or think of an idea or plan
- comedian** a person whose job is to make people laugh by telling jokes and funny stories
- comfort** to make someone feel better when they are sad or worried; when you feel better after feeling sad or worried
- comfortable** producing a pleasant feeling and that do not give you any physical problems
- comic book** a magazine which contains a set of stories told in pictures with a small amount of writing
- coming-of-age** someone's coming of age is the time when they legally become an adult and are old enough to vote

common	seen or happening often; quite normal or usual	conquer	to take control or possession of foreign land, or a group of people, by force	cough	to force air out of your lungs through your throat with a short loud sound; when you cough
common sense	practical knowledge and judgment that we all need to help us live in a reasonable and safe way	conscience	the part of one's mind which holds one's knowledge or sense of right and wrong	counsellor	someone who is trained to give people advice about their problems
commotion	a sudden short period of noise, confusion or excited movement	conscious	awake, thinking and knowing what is happening around you	county	a large administrative unit of local government in England and Wales and in USA
communicate	to share information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body or using other signals	consent	permission or agreement	coup de grâce	a death blow intended to end the suffering of a wounded creature (isl. náðarskot)
companion	a person you spend a lot of time with either because you are friends or because you are travelling together	consider	to spend time thinking about a possibility or making a decision	couple	two or a few things that are similar or the same, or two or a few people who are in some way connected
compare	to look for the difference between two or more things	considerably	large or of noticeable importance	court	a room in a building where trials and other legal cases happen
comparison	when two or more people or things are compared	constant	happening all the time	cover	to put or spread something over something
compete	to take part in a race or competition	constantly	all the time	cracked	if something is cracked, it is damaged with one or more thin lines on its surface
competitor	a person, team or company that is competing against others	construct	to build something or put together different parts to form something whole	craft	a vehicle for travelling on water or through the air
complain	to say that something is wrong or not satisfactory	consume	to eat or drink, or to use fuel, energy etc.	cramped	not having enough space
completely	in every way or as much as possible	consumptive	a person suffering from tuberculosis (= a disease of the lungs) (isl. berklaiveikur)	crane	to stretch in order to look at something
complex	a large building with various connected rooms or a related group of buildings	contain	to have something inside or include something as a part; to keep something harmful within limits and not allow it to spread	crank	to increase something; a person who has strange or unusual ideas and beliefs
comply	to act according to an order, set of rules or request	content	the amount of a particular substance contained in something	crap	bullshit
compound	something consisting of two or more different parts	continue	to go on doing something	crease	a line on cloth or paper where it has been folded or crushed
conceal	to hide something	continuous	without a pause or interruption	creation	the act of creating something
concerned	worried	contorted	twisted or bent	creature	any large or small living thing which can move independently
conclusively	without any doubt	controversial	causing disagreement or discussion	creepy	strange or unnatural and making you feel frightened
concrete	a very hard building material made by mixing together cement, sand, small stones and water	convention	a large formal meeting of people	crippling	describes something which causes someone serious injuries or harm
condition	the particular state that something or someone is in	convict	to decide in a court of law that someone is guilty of a crime	criteria	plural of criterion: a standard by which you judge or deal with something
conduct	to organize and perform a particular activity	convincing	able to make you believe that something is true or right	croak	when animals such as frogs and ravens croak
confront	to face, meet or deal with a difficult situation or person	convulse	to shake violently	croft	a very small farm
confusing	describes something that makes you feel confused because it is difficult to understand	coo	when birds such as doves and pigeons coo, they make a low soft call	crop	a plant such as a grain, fruit or vegetable grown in large amount
congeal	to change from a liquid or soft state to a thick or solid state	copyright	the legal right to control the production and selling of a book, play, film, photograph or piece of music	crown of the head	the topmost part of the head or skull
congested	too blocked or crowded and causing difficulties; describes someone who cannot breathe through their nose because it is blocked, usually during an infection	corporal punishment	the physical punishment of people by hitting them	crucial	extremely important or necessary
		correct	right	cruel	extremely unkind and unpleasant and causing pain
		corrugated	shaped into alternating parallel grooves and ridges	crumb	a very small piece of bread, cake or biscuit
		cot	a small bed for a baby with high bars round the sides so that the child cannot fall out	crumple	if someone crumples, they fall to the ground suddenly
		couch	a type of high bed or sofa		

crunch to make a sound as if something is being crushed or broken
cuisine a style of cooking
culling when people cull animals, they kill them, especially the weaker members of a particular group of them, in order to reduce or limit their number (ísl. grisjun)
cult-like like a religious group, whose beliefs are considered strange by many people
cupboard a piece of furniture with a door or doors behind which there is space for storing things
cure something that makes someone with an illness healthy again
curious interested in learning about people or things around you
current a movement of water, air or electricity, in a particular direction
curse to say magic words which are intended to bring bad luck to someone
curt if someone's speech is curt, it is rude as a result of being very quick
cushion a bag filled with soft material and used especially on chairs for sitting or leaning on
cushioned a piece of furniture with soft surface like cushion (ísl. bólstrað)
customary usual
Czech Republic (ísl. Tékkland)

D

dab to touch something with quick light touches
daft silly, stupid, mad
dairy farm a farm which only produces milk and products made from milk
damage to harm or spoil something
dampen to make something slightly wet
damply moistly or slightly wet
dangle to hang loosely
dare to be brave enough to do something difficult or dangerous
dash to go somewhere quickly, to hit; a short line to show a break in a sentence
dating back being from a certain time in the past
dawn on if a fact dawns on you, you understand it after a period of not understanding it
dazed very confused and unable to think clearly because you are shocked or have hit your head
deal with to take action in order to achieve something or in order to solve a problem
dealings activities involving other people, especially in business
death camp a concentration camp where prisoners are likely to die or be killed
death row in prison and waiting to be killed as a punishment for a crime
debris the remains of something broken; rubbish
decade a period of ten years such as 1990 to 1999
deceive to persuade someone that something false is the truth
decide to make up one's mind
decision a choice that you make about something after making up your mind
declare to announce something clearly, firmly, publicly or officially
declining years the last years of someone's life
dedicated giving your energy, time, etc. completely to something
deer a quite large animal with four legs, the male has wide horns like branches
defeat when someone or something is made to fail
defend to protect someone or something against attack or criticism
defense (Am.) protection or support against attack or criticism
degrade to cause people to feel that they have no value and do not have the respect of others
deliberate intentional or planned
delicacy something especially rare or expensive that is good to eat
delicious having a very pleasant taste or smell
demand to ask for something forcefully; willingness to buy or get
demanding needing a lot of time, attention or energy
demolish to completely destroy
demolisher someone who destroys
demonic wild and evil
depart to go away or leave
depict to represent or show something
deplete to reduce something in size or amount, especially supplies of energy, money, etc.
depressed unhappy and without hope for the future

dervish a member of a Muslim religious group which has an energetic dance as part of its worship
describe to say or write what someone or something is like
desire a strong feeling that you want something
desolate describes a place that is empty and not attractive
despise to feel a strong dislike for someone
despite without taking any notice of or being influenced by
destination goal; the place where someone is going
destructive causing, or wanting to cause, damage
detect to notice something, to discover something
determine to decide; to settle
detest to hate someone or something very much
devastated completely destroyed
develop to (cause to) grow or change into a more advanced, bigger or stronger form
devote to give all of something (time, love etc.) to something you believe in or to a person
devotee a person who strongly admires a particular person or is extremely interested in a subject
devotion loyalty and love or care for someone or something; religious worship
devour to eat something eagerly and in large amounts so that nothing is left
diagnose to recognize and name the character of a disease or a problem, by examining it
differ to be not like something or someone else
difference the way in which two or more things are not the same
dig to break up and move soil sometimes to make a hole
dignity calm, serious and controlled behaviour that makes people respect you
diligent careful and using a lot of effort
diminish to reduce or be reduced in size or importance
dimness lacking in brightness
diplomacy the management of relationships between countries
direction the position towards which someone moves or faces
disagree to not have the same opinion or idea; to not agree

disapproval when you feel that something or someone is bad or wrong

disarm to take weapons away from someone, or to give up weapons or armies

discard to throw something away or get rid of it because you no longer want or need it

discharge to allow to leave; to fire from a job

disciple a person who believes in the ideas and principles of someone famous and tries to live the way they do or did

discomfort a feeling of being uncomfortable physically or mentally, or something that causes this

discontent a feeling of wanting a better situation

discover to find out or to find something for the first time

dislike to not like someone or something

dislodge to remove something or someone

disorientated confused and not knowing where to go or what to do

display to arrange something or a collection of things so that they can be seen by the public

dispose of to get rid of someone or something

dispute an argument or disagreement

disrupt to prevent something from continuing as usual or as expected

dissatisfaction not pleased with something; feeling that something is not as good as it should be

distance the amount of space between two places

distant far away

distinguish to notice or understand the difference between two things, or to make one person or thing seem different from another

distraction an entertainment that provokes pleased interest and distracts you from worries, something that prevents someone from concentrating on what they are doing

distress a feeling of extreme worry, sadness or pain

distressed upset or worried

diversity when many different types of things or people are included in something

divorce to end one's marriage; the legal ending of a marriage

dizzy feeling as if everything is turning round and being unable to balance and about to fall down

document to record the details of an event or a process

dollop a small amount of something soft, especially food

domination power or control over other people or things

dot a very small round mark

downhill to gradually become worse

doze to have a short sleep, especially during the day

drawer a box without a top which slides in and out and is part of a piece of furniture

dread to feel extremely worried or frightened about something that is going to happen or might happen

dreary dark, boring and making you feel unhappy

dressing table a piece of bedroom furniture like a table with a mirror and drawers

dressing-gown a long loose piece of clothing, like a coat, which you wear inside the house

drift to move slowly with no control over direction

drive off to leave in a car

driveway a short road which leads from a public road to a house

drone a deep humming sound; to speak in a dull boring voice

due to because of

dumb very stupid

dump to get rid of something; to end a romantic relationship; a place for leaving garbage

dunderhead a stupid person

dung solid waste from animals, especially cattle and horses

dust to use a cloth to remove dust from the surface of something

Dutch from, belonging to or relating to the Netherlands

duvet a large soft flat bag filled with feathers used on a bed

E

earn to receive money as payment for work; to get something that you deserve

earnest to be speaking honestly

eavesdrop to listen to someone's private conversation without them knowing

eccentric strange or unusual

edge the outer or furthest point of something

edge into to move or push into little by little

edition a particular form in which a book, magazine or newspaper is published

erie strange in a frightening and mysterious way

effigy a likeness or model of a person or animal

eggplant aubergine

elastic describes material that is able to stretch and be returned to its original shape or size

elbow the part in the middle of the arm where it bends

elderly old

election a time when people vote in order to choose someone for a political or official job

embarrassed feeling ashamed or shy

embarrassing making you feel ashamed or shy

emblem an object used to represent a particular person, group or idea

embroidery patterns or pictures that consist of stitches sewn directly onto cloth

emerald a bright green transparent precious stone which is often used in jewellery

emergence when something becomes known or starts to exist

emotional relating to the emotions; having and expressing strong feelings

emotionless not showing emotion

employee someone who is paid to work for someone else

employer a person or organization that employs people

encircle to surround something, forming a circle around it

encounter to meet someone unexpectedly

encourage to talk or behave in a way that gives someone confidence to do something

endure to suffer or bear something difficult, unpleasant or painful

engage to interest someone in something and keep them thinking about it

engineering degree when someone who has studied engineering has graduated from university (ísl. gráða í verkfræði)

enlarge to become bigger or to make something bigger

ensue to happen after something else, especially as a result of it

entail to make something necessary, or to involve something

enterprise an organization, especially a business

entertain to amuse

enthuse to express excitement about something or great interest in it

entire whole or complete, with nothing missing

enunciate to pronounce words or parts of words clearly

envious wishing you had what another person has

environment the air, water and land in or on which people, animals and plants live

envy to wish that you had something that another person has

equal the same in amount, number or size, or the same in importance

equivalent having the same amount, value, purpose, qualities, etc

erupt when a volcano erupts it explodes and flames and rocks come out of it

escape to get free from something, or to avoid something

escort to go with someone to make certain that they arrive safely or to show them a place

establish to start a company or organization that will continue for a long time

estimate to guess the cost, size, value, etc. of something

ethereal light and delicate

event anything that happens

eventually in the end

everlasting lasting forever or for a long time

evidence one or more reasons for believing that something is or is not true

evident easily seen or understood; obvious

evidently in a way that is easy to see

evil something that is very bad and harmful

exaggerate to make something seem larger, more important, better or worse than it really is

examine to look at a person or thing carefully in order to discover something about them

excerpt a short part taken from a speech, book, film, etc

exchange when you give something to someone and they give you something else

execution when someone is killed as a legal punishment

exercise physical activity that you do to make your body strong and healthy

exile the condition of someone being sent or kept away from their own country

expand to increase in size, number or importance

expect to think or believe something will happen

expected when something is believed to happen

expediency to suit a certain purpose

experience (the process of getting) knowledge or skill from doing, seeing or feeling things

explanation the details or reasons that someone gives to make something clear or easy to understand

expose to remove what is covering something so that it can be seen

exposed having no protection

express to show a feeling, opinion or fact

expression when you say what you think or show how you feel using words or actions; the look on someone's face, showing what they feel or think

exquisite very beautiful; delicate

extinction a situation in which something no longer exists

extraordinary very unusual, special, unexpected or strange

extraterrestrial (coming from) outside the planet Earth

eyelid the piece of skin which can close over each eye

F

façade the front of a building

face to deal with

faction a group within a larger group, especially one with slightly different ideas from the main group

fail to not succeed in what you are trying to achieve

faint to feel weak, as if you are about to become unconscious

faintly slightly or not strongly

faithfully in a loyal way or a way that can be trusted

fall apart to break into pieces

fall out if a tooth or your hair falls out, it becomes loose and separates from your mouth or head

fall through to fail to happen

false not real, but made to look or seem real; not correct

fame when you are known or recognized by many people because of your achievements, skills, etc

famine when there is not enough food for a great number of people, causing illness and death,

fanatic a person whose strong admiration for something is considered to be extreme or unreasonable

fancy classy, stylish

fanfare a loud short piece of music played usually on a trumpet and to introduce the arrival of someone important

fascinate to interest someone a lot

fast a period of time when you eat no food

fate destiny, a power that some people believe causes and controls all events

fatty containing a lot of fat

favour a kind action that you do for someone

feat something difficult needing a lot of skill, strength, bravery, etc. to achieve it

feature to include someone or something as an important part

fee an amount of money paid for a particular piece of work or service

fella a fellow, a man

fence a structure which divides two areas of land made of wood or wire

fiddle about to spend time doing small things which are not important or necessary

fierce physically violent and frightening

fiery bright red, like fire

figure to expect or think that something will happen

figure out to finally understand something, or find the solution to a problem after a lot of thought

filmmaker someone who controls the making of a movie, usually its director

fingernail the hard slightly curved part that covers and protects the top of the end of a finger

fingerprint the pattern on the end of a finger or thumb, which is different in every person

firmly in a way that is certain or definite

first-footing (Scottish) the first person to cross the threshold of a home on New Year's Day

fist a hand with the fingers and thumb held tightly in

flank the area of the body between the ribs and the hips of an animal or a person

flap to wave

flare to make wider

flash quick showing of a bright light

flat level and smooth, with no curved parts

flatly completely or in a very clear and definite way

flatten to become level or cause something to become level

flavour a particular quality or character

flee to escape

flesh the soft part of the body of a person or animal which is between the skin and the bones

flexible hours when an employer allows people to choose the times that they work so that they can do other things

flipside the back side

flood to flow

flood in to fill or enter a place in large numbers or amount

flop to fall, to hit, to fail

floppy soft and not able to keep a firm shape or position

flow to move along in the way that water does

flutily like a flute

flutter to make a series of quick delicate movements up and down or from side to side

flyer a small piece of paper with information on it

focus to direct attention to one point; you use a camera lens to focus to see a clear picture

fold to bend something or to wrap

folks people, such as a particular group or type or your family

follower someone who supports, admires or believes in a particular person, group or idea

following a group of people who admire something or someone

fool to deceive or trick someone

foolish unwise, stupid

football the sound of a person's foot hitting the ground as they walk

for real not pretended

force to make someone do something; strength or power

foreign belonging or connected to a country which is not your own

foreshortened to reduce or shorten

forestry concession a permission to use a certain forest

form to make something begin to exist; a paper or document to fill in with information

formality when something or someone is serious and correct

form-room a class room

fort a military building consisting of an area surrounded by a strong wall

fortunately happening because of good luck

found to bring something into existence

foundation a type of lotion which is spread on the face, usually before other make-up is put on

fragile easily damaged, broken or harmed

frail weak or unhealthy, or easily damaged, broken or harmed

frappuccino cold coffee with ice and whipped cream on top

freckle a small pale brown spot on the skin

freeway a wide road built for fast moving traffic travelling long distances

freeze to stop moving; to make into or become ice

French fries long thin pieces of fried potato

frequent common, usual

frequently often

fridge a piece of kitchen equipment to preserve food at a cold temperature

frightening making you feel fear

frown to bring your eyebrows together so that there are lines on your face above your eyes to show that you are annoyed or worried

frown upon to disapprove of something

fuel a substance which is used to provide heat or power, usually by being burned

fugitive a person who is running away or hiding from the police

fumble to do something awkwardly, especially when using your hands

fume smoke or steam

fur the thick hair that covers the bodies of some animals

furious extremely angry

fuss to fight

fussing to fight, fray, combat or quarrel

fuzzy not clear

G

Gaelic a language spoken in parts of Ireland and Scotland

gain to get something

galore in great amounts or numbers

game bird a wild bird that is hunted for sport

garbage rubbish, waste material or unwanted things that you throw away

garments clothes

gasp to take a short quick breath through the mouth, especially because of surprise

gather to collect

gaze a long look, usually of a particular kind

generate to cause or produce

gently calmly, kindly or softly

gesture a movement to express an idea or feeling

get back to do something unpleasant to someone because they have done something unpleasant to you

get laid to have sexual intercourse with

get rid of to remove or throw away something unwanted

ghastly horrible; shocking; dreadful

gift a present; a talent

gigantic very big

giggle to laugh repeatedly in a quiet but uncontrolled way; a nervous or silly laugh

giggly giggling a lot

give it a rest stop it or stop doing this

glance to give a quick short look

glee happiness, excitement or pleasure

glimpse to see briefly; a quick look or a brief or incomplete view

glisten to shine by reflecting light from as a wet surface

gloom feelings of great unhappiness and loss of hope

glossy shiny, reflecting light

gnaw to bite or chew something repeatedly

go about to begin to do something or deal with something

go ahead with to start to do something

gore blood that has come from an injury and become thick

gosh used to express surprise or strength of feeling

govern to rule, to control and direct the public business of a country, city, etc

grab to take hold of something or someone suddenly and roughly

grade a school class

gradually slowly over a period of time or a distance

graduate a person who has finished their school, college or university education

grapple to fight

greeting something friendly or polite that you say or do when you meet or welcome someone

grieve to feel or express great sadness, especially when someone dies

grim being harsh, cruel or rough

grimace to make an expression of pain, strong dislike, etc. in which the face twists in an ugly way

grin a wide smile

grind to make something into small pieces or a powder by pressing between hard surfaces

grip to hold very tightly; a tight hold on something

grocery store a store where you can buy food and other necessities

groom to clean an animal, often by brushing its fur

grooming the things that you do to keep an animal's hair or fur clean and tidy

grope search for something by feeling with one's hands

groundbreaking new and likely to have an effect on how things are done in the future

growl to make a low rough sound, usually in anger

gruelling extremely tiring and difficult, and demanding great effort and determination

guidance help and advice about how to do something or how to deal with problems

guinea pig a small animal covered in fur with short legs and no tail, often kept as a pet

gullible easily deceived or tricked

gums the two areas of firm flesh inside the mouth which cover the bones into which the teeth are fixed

gush about to flow or send out quickly and in large amounts

gut feeling a strong belief about something which cannot completely be explained and does not have to be decided by reasoning

H

half undone half open

half-decent quite good

halt to stop

hamlet a small village

hand out to give something to each person in a group or place

hand-held something that has been designed so that it can be held or used easily with one or two hands

handsome being beautiful or attractive

happening something that has happened

harass to continue to annoy or upset someone over a period of time

harm to hurt someone or damage something; physical or other injury or damage

hastily in a quick or hurried manner

hatchet a small axe

haul up to pull up

have a ball to enjoy oneself greatly

have one's fair share to have a lot or more than enough of something bad

head to go in a particular direction

headmistress a female headteacher

hearing an official meeting that is held to collect the facts about an event

heat wave a period of time when the weather is much hotter than usual

heated excited or angry

heave to lift or to pull with great effort

heavily to a great degree

helpline a telephone service providing advice and comfort to worried or unhappy people

hem the border of a piece of clothing, folded over and sewn

herd a large group of animals of the same type that live and feed together

hesitate to pause before you do or say something, often because you are uncertain or nervous about it

hesitation when you pause before doing something, especially because you are nervous or not certain

hieroglyphics a system of writing which uses pictures instead of words, especially as used in ancient Egypt

highway a road, especially a large main road

hike a long walk, especially in the countryside

hilarious extremely funny and causing a lot of laughter

hip the area below the waist and above the legs at either side of the body

hippo a very large animal with short legs and thick, grey skin which lives near water in Africa

hiss to make a sound like that of the letter s but which lasts a lot longer

hoax a trick made to deceive people

Hogmany New Years Eve in Scotland

hoist

honeymoon a holiday taken by a man and a woman immediately after their marriage

honor (Br. honour) a quality that combines respect, being proud, and honesty

host someone who has guests; a place or organization that provides the space and other necessary things for a special event

house to contain, to provide housing for

housetrain to teach a pet not to urinate or empty its bowels in your home

How's tricks? How are you?

however in spite of that

howl to make a loud sound, usually to express pain, sadness or another strong emotion

huddle to come close together, or to hold your arms and legs close to your body

huge extremely large in size or amount

hum to make a continuous low sound

human race all people, considered as a species

humanitarian involved in or connected with improving people's lives and reducing suffering

humans a man, woman or child

humid containing extremely small drops of water in the air

humiliate to make someone feel ashamed or lose their respect for themselves

hunchbacked a person who has a back with a large round lump
hunched up with one's back and shoulders bent forward
hunting trip a trip to go chasing and killing an animal or bird for food or sport
hush a sudden calm silence
hyphen the short mark that joins two words together (-)
hypnosis a mental state like sleep, in which a person's thoughts can be easily influenced by someone else
hysterics uncontrolled behaviour or crying, usually caused by extreme fear or sadness

I

icon a very famous person considered as representing a set of beliefs or a way of life
idly doing nothing, lazy
ignorance lack of knowledge or understanding about something
ignorant not having enough knowledge, understanding or information about something
ignore to intentionally not listen or give attention to
illegal not allowed by law
illiterate unable to read and write; knowing little or nothing about a particular subject
imaginable possible to think of
imagine to believe that something is true; to form or have a mental picture or idea of something
immediate happening or done without delay or very soon
immediately now, at once
impala African antelope with ridged curved horns
impatient annoyed by someone's mistakes or because you have to wait
imply to communicate an idea or feeling without saying it directly
importance the quality of being important
impossible something that cannot happen or be achieved
impression an idea or opinion of what something is like
imprison to put someone in prison/jail
imprisonment the state of being in prison

improve to cause something to get better
in a fret to be irritated
in addition to as well as
in advance before something or someone
in an uproar in a state when a lot of people complain about something angrily
in common to share interests, experiences or other characteristics with someone
in duty to be careful to do what one should (isl. skyldurækni)
in exchange for to give something to someone and receive something from them
in favour of in support of
in frenzy uncontrolled and excited behaviour or emotion, which is sometimes violent
in general usually
in public in a place where people can see you
in reality really, actually
in secret in a private place with no one else present and without other people knowing
in support of as a help in a situation
in the buff naked
in the long run at a time that is far away in the future
in the rear in the back seat
incapable unable to do something
incense a substance that is burnt to produce a sweet smell
incensed extremely angry
incident an event or happening
include to make something part of something else
incomprehensible impossible or extremely difficult to understand
incorrect not correct or not true
incredible difficult to believe
independence freedom from being governed or ruled by another country
indicate to show, point or make clear in another way
indigenous naturally existing in a place or country rather than arriving from another place
indignant angry because of something which is wrong or not fair
inescapable if a situation is inescapable, it cannot be ignored or avoided
inflexibly unable or unwilling to change
influence the power to have an effect on people or things

influential having a lot of influence on someone or something
influx the arrival of a large number of people or things at the same time
ingest to eat or drink something
inhabitant a person or animal that lives in a particular place
inhale to breathe air into your lungs
inhumane cruel and not finding the suffering of people or animals important
injure to hurt, harm or damage
injustice a situation in which there is no fairness and justice
ink coloured liquid used for writing, printing and drawing
inked something with ink on it
inner inside or contained within something else
innocence when someone is not guilty of a crime, or does not have much experience of life
innocent not guilty of a crime, or having no knowledge of the evil things in life
insane mentally ill
insecure having little confidence and be uncertain about one's own abilities
insist to state or demand forcefully
insomnia when someone is unable to sleep
instant happening immediately, without any delay
instantly immediately
insulting rude or offensive
intend to have as a plan or purpose
intention something that you plan to do
international involving more than one country
intimidating making you feel frightened or nervous
intricate complicated
introduce to put something into use
invent to design and/or create something which has never been made before
invisible impossible to see
involve to include someone or something in something, or to make them take part in it
involved to be included in something; complicated
IQ score intelligence quotient: a measure of someone's intelligence found from special tests
iron supplements extra portion of iron
irregular not according to usual rules or what is expected

is for the chop will be fired from a job
issue a subject or problem which people are thinking and talking about
ivory the hard yellowish-white substance that forms the tusks elephants

J

jakes a urinal, a device into which men/boys can urinate
jam to push
jammed unable to move
jampacked full of people or things that are pushed closely together
Jap Japanese/Japan (offensive)
jaundice a serious disease which causes your skin and the white part of your eyes to turn yellow
jaw the lower part of your face which moves when you open your mouth
jaw away chattering
jelly soft, slightly wet substance that shakes slightly when it is moved
jerk a quick sudden movement
jock a person who is extremely enthusiastic about sport
judge to form, give or have as an opinion, or to decide about something or someone, especially after thinking carefully
jumble an untidy and confused mixture of things, feelings or ideas
jumbled mixed together untidily
jump at an opportunity take the chance
junk rubbish, things of no use or value, or of low quality
just right and fair
justice fairness; the system of laws in a country which judges and punishes people
Jutes Germanic people who are believed to have originated from Jutland in Denmark

K

keep off to avoid
keep to oneself to be or stay alone or on your own
kind a group with similar characteristics, or a particular type
knickers pants, women's and girls' underwear

knock to repeatedly hit something, producing a noise
knot to bring your eyebrows together so that there are lines on your face above your eyes to show that you are annoyed or worried
knuckle one of the joints in the hand where your fingers bend

L

label a small written note fixed on or near anything to tell its contents, owner etc
labour work
lace to fasten or draw together
landing an area of floor joining two sets of stairs, or an area of floor or a passage at the top of a set of stairs which leads to bedrooms and other rooms
landlord a person that owns a building and is paid by other people for the use of it
landowner someone who owns land
lane a narrow road or street
lap (of waves) to hit something gently, producing quiet sounds; the top surface of the upper part of the legs of a person who is sitting down
lash a thin strip of leather at the end of a whip, or a hit with this
last to remain in good condition or supply
latch a device for keeping a door or gate closed that consists of a metal bar
lately recently
launch to begin something such as a plan or introduce something new such as a product
laundry the dirty clothes and sheets which need to be washed, a place where clothes, sheets etc are washed
lavatory a toilet
lay eyes on to see
lead a fast life living a disorderly life
leaf through to quickly turn the pages of a book or a magazine, reading only a little of it
lean to slope in one direction, or to move the top part of the body in a particular direction
leap to make a large jump or sudden movement
leash a strip of rope or chain tied to an animal, especially to a dog at its collar when taking it for a walk

leave off used to tell someone to stop being annoying
lectern a piece of furniture with a sloping part on which a book or paper is put to be read from
lecture to talk angrily to someone in order to criticize their behaviour
legal system a system for interpreting and enforcing the laws
legal allowed by the law
let oneself in for to become involved in a situation without intending to
letter collision when letters strike each other
liberty the freedom to live as you wish or go where you want
lie to be in or take a more or less flat position, to be situated
lie to say or write something which is not true
lifetime the period of time during which someone lives or something exists
limb an arm or leg of a person or animal
limelight a focus of public attention
limited not very great
limp to walk with difficulty because of having an injured or painful leg or foot
line make a mark on a surface, to form into a line; outlines of the lips
linger to take a long time to leave or disappear
lingo a foreign language
linguist a person who studies languages and/or is good at languages
linguistic condition a situation connected with language or the study of language
link to connect something together; a connection between two people, things or ideas
lino a stiff smooth material that is used for covering floors
liquid a substance, such as water, that is not solid or a gas and that can be poured easily
lo and behold something that you say when you tell someone about something surprising
loads of much or many
locate to find or discover the position of something
lone wolf a loner, a person who likes to do things on their own without others
long for to want something very much
long time no see said when you meet someone who you haven't seen for a long period of time

look flash to show off
loose not firmly fixed in place, or held together or to anything else
loquacious someone who talks a lot
loss when you no longer have something; when a business spends more money than it earns
loud making a lot of noise
lounge the room in a house or apartment that is used for relaxing, and entertaining guest
loyal firm and not changing in your friendship with or support for a person or an organization
lunacy stupid behaviour that will have bad results, madness
lunatic someone who behaves in a silly or dangerous way
lurch to move making sudden movements backwards or forwards or from side to side
lush an area with green, healthy plants, grass and trees; expensive and luxurious; attractive

M

main principal or most important
mainstay something providing support for everything else
maintain to continue to have; to keep in existence
major more important or bigger than others of the same type
make a fuss to fight
make for to go in the direction of a place
make one's own way rushing to
make sense be reasonable or logical or able to understood
make up to invent something, such as an excuse or a story, often in order to deceive; to pay someone money for something that has been lost or damaged or
male describes men or boys
mammal any animal of which the female gives birth to babies and feeds them on their own milk
manage to succeed in doing something
managing director (MD) the person in charge of the way a company operates
Mandarin one of the two main types of the Chinese language and the official language in China

mannerism a behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual (ísl. háttalag; tilgerð)
mantelpiece a shelf above a fireplace
marvel to show or experience great surprise or admiration; something that is very surprising or causes a lot of admiration
masterpiece a skilful or clever example of something
match equal; a short thin stick made of wood covered with a special chemical at one end which burns when rubbed firmly against a rough surface
matric a former school examination during the last year of school
matter to be important
matter of fact keeping to the actual facts
may might, used to express the possibility that something will happen
mayhem a situation in which there is little or no order or control, devastation
mean-spirited someone who is nasty or makes a fuss over little
medical disorder an illness or a disease
medical related to the treatment of illness and injuries
medieval related to the Middle Ages (from about 600 AD to 1500 AD)
melt to become soft
member someone who is part of a group
mementos objects that you keep to remember a person, place or event
memorable worth remembering
memorial an object or an event to remember or honour something or someone
memories something remembered
mental collapse a nervous breakdown
mental relating to the mind
mentally retarded having had a slower mental development than other people of the same age
mention to speak about something quickly, giving little detail or using few words
mercifully describes an event or situation which you are grateful for because it stops something unpleasant
merely simply, only
merry-go-round a roundabout, a carousel
mess with to treat someone in a bad, rude or annoying way, or to start an argument with them
mess something or someone that is a mess or is in a mess, looks dirty or untidy

methyated spirits a liquid made from alcohol and other chemicals (ísl. tréspíri)
Mick a person from Ireland
mill about to move about with no particular purpose or in no fixed direction
mine a hole or system of holes in the ground
mingle to mix or combine
miss out on to fail to use an opportunity to enjoy or get an advantage from something
Missus wife
mixed combining people of a different religion or race
mixture a combination
moan to make a long low sound of pain or suffering, to make a complaint in an unhappy voice
mocks an examination taken at school for practice before a real examination
modest not usually talking about or making obvious your own abilities and achievements
moment a very short period of time
monotone a sound which stays on the same note without going higher or lower
orgue a place where dead bodies are kept
mother tongue the first language that you learn when you are a baby
motionless without moving
mottled covered with areas of different colours which do not form a regular pattern
mourn to feel or express great sadness, especially because of someone's death
mousy shy and quiet
mouth to express
movement a change of position; a group of people
mud hut a small, simple building made of earth
muddy covered by or containing mud
muffle to make something less strong or clear
mule to be very stubborn
multiplying to increase very much in number
murder scene a place where a murder has taken place
muscular having well-developed muscles (muscle = vöðvi)
mutely silently
mutton the meat from an adult sheep

muzzle the mouth of an animal
mythical existing only in stories (ísl. goðsagnakenndur)

N

nap a short sleep
nappy a piece of cloth or paper put between baby's legs to soak up urine
nasty bad or very unpleasant
native relating to someone's country or place of birth or someone who was born in a particular country or place
nearby close at hand
near-full moon almost full moon
near-uniform almost the same
neat tidy, clean, with everything in its place
necessary needed
negotiate to have formal discussions with someone in order to reach an agreement with them
negotiation the process of discussing something in order to reach an agreement with them
nepotism using your power or influence to get good jobs or unfair advantages for members of your own family
nerd a person, especially a man, who is not attractive and awkward or socially embarrassing
nettle a wild plant with heart-shaped leaves that are covered in hairs which sting
nickname an informal name for someone, especially which you are called by your friends or family
nightmare a very upsetting or frightening dream
nod to move your head down and up, to show agreement, approval or greeting
noise a sound, especially when it is not wanted, unpleasant or loud
nonetheless despite what has just been said or done
nonreader a person unable to read
noose of wire a snare made of wire (snare = snara)
Norman belonging or relating to the people from northern France
Normans the people from northern France
nostril either of the two openings in the nose

not mince one's words to say what you mean clearly and directly, even if you upset people
notorious famous for something bad
novena a special prayer
nude naked
nudity when people are not wearing clothes
numerous many
nut a person who is mentally ill or who behaves in a very silly or stupid or strange way
nutshell using as few words as possible, (ísl. í hnotskurn)

O

object to protest or express disapproval of
objective something which you plan to do or achieve, a goal
obsession something or someone that you think about all the time
obsessive thinking about something or someone, or doing something, too much or all the time
obstacle course a race in which runners have to climb over, under or through a series of obstacles
obvious clear; easy to see, or understand
occasion a particular time, especially when something happens
occasionally sometimes
occur to happen
odd strange
odour a smell, often one that is unpleasant
off its latch unlocked
off the ground to start
offer to ask someone if they would like to have something; when someone asks if you would like to have something
official done by people in authority
O-level a public examination that was taken in the past in British schools by children aged 15 or 16
omit to leave out, not do
on an hourly basis one time each hour
on his behalf representing; instead of him
on leave to be away from work for holiday
on stage in the place in the theatre where the actors act
on the premises in the place
on the stand in the witness box, the place in which a person stands in a law court when they are being asked questions

onion a vegetable with a strong smell and flavour
open-minded willing to consider new ideas and opinions
opportunity a chance or the possibility of doing something
oppose to disagree with something or someone
oppression when people are governed in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom
option a choice
ordinary usual
organize to make arrangements for something to happen
origin the beginning or cause of something
originally first of all
originate to come from a particular place, time, situation, etc
ornaments an object which is beautiful rather than useful
ostrich a very large bird from Africa which cannot fly
otherwise in every other way except this
ought used to indicate duty; should
outer outside, far from the centre of something
outrage a feeling of anger and shock
outraged feeling very angry, shocked or upset
outright completely
outsmart to get an advantage over someone by acting more cleverly and often by using a trick
outwit to get an advantage over someone by acting more cleverly and often by using a trick
overcome to defeat or succeed in controlling or dealing with something
overseas in, from or to other countries
overweight too heavy; too fat
ox a bull which has had its reproductive organs removed
oxygen chamber a cell or a cabinet with oxygen (ísl. súrefni) in it

P

P.O.W. (prisoner-of-war) a member of the armed forces who has been caught by enemy forces during a war
pace step, speed
pain a feeling of physical suffering caused by injury or illness

painful	hurting, causing emotional or physical pain	peck	when a bird pecks, it bites, hits or picks up something small with its beak	plate	a flat piece of something that is hard and does not bend
painstaking	extremely careful and correct	peculiar	unusual and strange	plateau	a stable level or situation
pale	describes someone's face or skin if it has less colour than usual	pedestal	a long thin column which supports a statue, or a tall structure like a column on which something rests	playwright	a person who writes plays
palm	the inside part of your hand	pedestrian	a person who is walking	plea	an urgent and emotional request
pant	to breathe quickly and loudly through your mouth	pee	to pass urine from the body; urine	plead	to make an urgent, emotional statement or request for something
pants	a piece of underwear	peer	to look carefully or with difficulty	plonk oneself down	to sit down heavily and without taking care
paparazzi	the photographers who follow famous people everywhere they go	pen	a small area surrounded by a fence, especially one in which animals are kept	plot	the story of a book, film, play, etc; a secret plan made by several people to do something that is wrong
paper-strewn	to be spread untidily with paper	peninsula	a long piece of land which sticks out from a larger area of land into the sea	plunge	to dive
paradox	a statement which seems impossible or is difficult to understand because it contains two opposite facts or characteristics (ísl. þversögn)	penniless	having no money	pointless	something that is pointless has no purpose and it is a waste of time doing it
Paralympics	an international sports competition for people with physical disabilities	perceive	to see something or someone, or to notice something	policies	ideas or plans of what to do in particular situations that has been agreed officially by a group of people, a business organization, a government or a political party
paralyze	to make unable to move	percentage	an amount of something, often expressed as a number out of 100	polite	behaving in a way that is socially correct and shows respect for others
paranormal	impossible to explain by known natural forces or by science	perform	to entertain people by dancing, singing, acting or playing music; to do an action	pompous	too serious and full of importance
paraplegic	unable to move or feel the legs or lower part of the body	performer	a person who entertains people by acting, singing, dancing or playing music	ponderously	slow and awkward because of being very heavy or large
parkway	a wide road	period	in school, a division of time in the day when a subject is taught	popular vote	when the nation as a whole gets to vote (ísl. þjóðaratkvæðagreiðsla)
participant	a person who takes part in or becomes involved in a particular activity	permanent	lasting for a long time or forever	porch	a covered structure in front of the entrance to a building
participate	to take part in or become involved in an activity	permanently	always and forever	pork	meat from a pig
particular	special, or this and not any other	persistence	the act of keeping doing or thinking in spite of opposition or difficulty	porn	books, magazines, films, etc. which describe or show sexual acts and is considered offensive by many people
partly	to some extent, but not completely	persona	the particular type of character that a person seems to have	pose to be	pretend to be someone you are not
pass away	die	phenomenon	something that exists and can be seen	posh	expensive and of high quality
pass laws	make laws, the official rules in society	phone booth	a place in a public building where there is a public telephone	post-apocalyptic	after the total destruction and end of the world
paste	a thick soft sticky substance	physically	in a way that relates to the body or someone's appearance	poster	a large printed picture notice which you stick or pin to a wall or board
pat	to touch someone or something gently and usually repeatedly with the hand flat	pickpocket	a thief who steals things out of pockets or bags	pottery	objects that are made out of clay by hand
patch	a small area	piggish eyes	eyes like those of a pig	pour	to (cause to) flow quickly and in large amounts; poverty the condition of being extremely poor
patched	having spots	pile	a number of things lying on top of each other in a heap	powerhouse	a country, organization or person with a lot of influence, power or energy
path	a route or track between one place and another	pine	an evergreen tree with needlelike leaves	power-sharing	when two people or groups share responsibility for running a government, organization, etc
patio	an area outside a house	pious	strongly believing in religion, and living in a way which shows this belief (ísl. guðhræddur, guðrækin)	practice	when you do something regularly or repeatedly to improve your skill at doing it
pattern	any regularly repeated design made from repeated lines, shapes or colours on a surface	pissed off	annoyed		
pavement	a path with a hard surface on one or both sides of a road, that people walk on	pity	a feeling of sympathy and understanding		
pawpaw	a papaya fruit	placid	having a calm appearance or characteristics		
peace	calm, freedom from war and violence				
peat	a dark brown substance like soil which was formed by plants dying and becoming buried.				

praise when you say or show your admiration and approval for someone or something

preacher a person who gives a religious speech

predator an animal that hunts, kills and eats other animals

prefect an older student who is given some authority and helps to control the younger students

prehistoric describing the period before there were written records

prep school work that students do at home or not during school time

preparatory done in order to get ready for something

prepare to make or get something or someone ready for something

presence when someone or something is in a place

presently now; at the present time

preservation when you keep something the same or prevent it from being damaged

pretend to behave as if something is true when you know that it is not

pretty quite, but not extremely

prevalent existing very commonly or happening often

previous happening or existing before something or someone else

previously before the present time or the time referred to

pride a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction because you have done something good

primate a member of the most developed and intelligent group of mammals, including humans, monkeys and apes

prior to before a particular time or event

pro- supporting or approving of something

probably very likely

process to deal with

produce food or any other substance or material that is grown or obtained through farming

producer a company, country or person that makes and provides goods

profit money which is earned in trade or business

progress movement to an improved or more developed state, or to a forward position

progressive tense describes the form of a verb which is used to show that the action is continuing, (= -ing form of the verb)

prohibition when the production and sale of alcohol is forbidden

promote to encourage the popularity, sale, development or existence of something

pronto quickly and without delay

proof a fact or piece of information which shows that something exists or is true

prop to support something physically

proper real, satisfactory, suitable or correct

properly correctly, or in a satisfactory way

property an object or objects that belong to someone

prosecutor a legal representative who officially accuses someone of committing a crime

prosthesis an artificial body part, such as an arm, foot or tooth, which replaces a missing part

protect to keep someone or something safe from injury, damage or loss

protection the act of protecting or state of being protected

protective giving protection

prove to show that something is true

provoke to cause a reaction, especially a negative one

prude a person who is easily shocked by rude things, especially those of a sexual type

psychological relating to the human mind and feelings

puke to vomit, throw up

punish to cause someone who has committed a crime to suffer, by forcing them to pay money, sending them to prison, etc

puppy a young dog

pure breed (of an animal) with parents which are both of the same breed

purpose why you do something

purse a small container for money

pursue to try very hard

put at stake if something that is valuable is at stake, it is in a situation where it might be lost

puzzled confused because you do not understand something

Q

qualify in grammar, a word or phrase which qualifies another word or phrase limits its meaning and makes it less general

quantity the amount or number of something

quasi used to show that something is almost, but not completely, the thing described

quicken make or become more

quieten to become calmer or less noisy

quill a thorn or a spike

R

racist someone who believes that other races are not as good as their own and therefore treats them unfairly

radio cabinet a piece of electronic equipment used for listening to radio broadcasts

rag a torn piece of cloth

rage to speak very angrily to someone; to happen in a strong or violent way

raise to cause something to increase or become bigger, better, higher, etc; to take care of a person, or an animal, until they are completely grown

random without choosing intentionally; by chance

ranged being positioned together, especially in rows; to be arranged

rank to have a position higher or lower than others, or to be considered to have such a position

rap on the knuckles when you are spoken to severely or angrily because of something you have done or failed to do

rape to force someone to have sex when they are unwilling, using violence or threatening behaviour; the crime of forcefully having sex with someone against their wish

rare not common; very unusual

rather quite; to a slight degree

rather than in preference to; instead of

rattle a sound similar to a series of quickly repeated knocks

raven the largest bird in the crow family, with shiny black feathers

react	to act in a particular way as a direct result of something else	reflection	the image of something in a mirror or on any reflective surface	restrained	acting in a calm and controlled way
realistic	showing or accepting things as they are in fact	refrigerator	a piece of kitchen equipment to preserve food at a cold temperature	restriction	an official limit on something
reality show	television programmes about ordinary people who are filmed in real situations	refuge	a protection or shelter from danger, trouble, etc	retreat	a move back by soldiers or an army, either because they have been defeated or in order to avoid fighting
realize	to understand a situation	refusal	when someone refuses to do or accept something	return	to come or go back to a previous place
reappear	to appear again or return after a period of time	regular	usual or ordinary	reveal	to make known; to allow to be seen
rear yard	a garden at the back of a house	regularly	at regular times	revulsion	a strong feeling that something is extremely unpleasant
rear	to lift up	regulation	ordered by the rules	rheumy	moist, damp, wet
rebellious	to oppose the ideas of the people in authority or being difficult to control	rehabilitation clinic	a building people can go to for returning to a good or healthy condition	rib cage	the structure of ribs that protects your heart and lungs in your chest
recall	to remember	rehearsal	a time when all the people involved in a play, dance, etc. practise in order to prepare for a performance	ribbon	a long narrow strip of material used to tie things together or as a decoration
receiver	the part of the telephone that you hold to your ear and mouth	reign	to rule as a king or queen	ridiculous	very silly, deserving to be laughed at
recent	happening or starting from a short time ago	reintroduce	to put something into use, operation or a place again	rifle	a type of gun with a long barrel
recital	a performance of music or poetry, usually given by one person	rejoice	to feel or show great happiness about something	rigid	stiff or fixed; not able to be bent or moved
recite	to say a piece of writing aloud from memory, or to publicly state a list of things	rejoin	to return to someone or something	rigorously	strictly
reclining easy chair	if you recline a chair, you change the position of its back so that it is in a leaning position	relationship	a connection between two or more people	riot	a noisy, violent, and uncontrolled public meeting
recluse	a person who lives alone and avoids going outside or talking to other people	relaxed	feeling happy and comfortable because nothing is worrying you	roadmender	a worker who mends or repairs roads
recognize	to know someone or something because you have seen, heard or experienced them before	relaxing	making you feel relaxed	roar	to shout loudly; a loud deep sound
recollection	a memory of something	release	to give freedom; to allow something to be shown in public or to be available for use; when something is shown in public or made available for use	robber	someone who steals
reconstruct	to build or create again	relent	to become less severe or unkind	rock	to swing, to shake
recover	to get back something lost, especially health, ability, possessions, etc	remain	to stay in the same place or in the same condition	rooftop	the outside surface of the roof of a building
recur	to happen again	remove	to take away; degree of figurative distance or separation	root	the cause or origin of something bad
recycle	to collect and treat rubbish in order to produce useful materials which can be used again	repentant	feeling sorry for something that you have done	rosebud	the beginning stage of a rose flower
reddish	slightly red in colour	reputation	the opinion that people in general have about a person	rough	being in bad condition
reduce	to make something smaller in size, amount, degree, importance, etc	require	to need	roughly	approximately
reed	the hollow stem of any of various types of tall, stiff plants like grasses	research	to study a subject thoroughly; a detailed study of a subject	rubber band	a thin ring of rubber used for holding things together
refer to	if writing or information refers to someone or something, it relates to that person or thing	resemble	to look like or be like	rubber plant	a plant with dark green shiny leaves that comes originally from Asia
reference book	a book of facts, such as a dictionary or an encyclopedia, which you look at to discover particular information	reserved	describes people who do not often talk about or show their feelings or thoughts	rubbish	trash, waste material or things that are no longer wanted or needed
reflect	to give or throw back; to mirror	resident	a person who lives or has their home in a place	ruin	to spoil or destroy
		residential area	a residential area has only private houses, not offices and factories	rumble	to make a continuous low sound; a continuous low sound
		response	an answer	rumor	an unofficial story or piece of news that might be true or invented, which spreads from person to person
		responsibility	something that it is your job or duty to deal with	rural	in or of the countryside
				rush	to go or do something very quickly
				rustle	if you rustle things such as paper or leaves they make a soft, dry sound (isl. skrjáfa)
				rusty	covered with rust

S

sag to bend, hang down especially in the middle

sample a small amount of something that shows you what the rest is or should be like

saturated fats a type of fat found in meat, eggs, milk, cheese, etc., which is thought to be bad for your health because it has a chemical structure with no double bonds

saunter off to walk in a slow and relaxed way, often in no particular direction

savage a person whose way of life is at a very early stage of development

savor to enjoy food or an experience slowly, in order to enjoy it as much as possible

Saxons relating to or belonging to a people who were originally from Germany and who came to live in Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries

scab a rough surface made of dried blood which forms over a cut or broken skin while it is healing

scarlet bright red

scary frightening

scenery the general appearance of the natural environment

scholarship an amount of money given by a someone to pay for the studies of a person with great ability but little money

scientific relating to science, or using the organized methods of science

scrape a sound produced by rubbing against a surface

scratch to cut or damage a surface or your skin slightly; to rub your skin with your nails

scream a person, thing or situation which is very funny

screening a showing of a film

script the words of a film, play or speech

scuba diving the sport of swimming under water with special breathing equipment

scurry to move quickly, with small short steps

seal something fixed around the edge of an opening to prevent liquid or gas flowing through it

sedate to cause someone to be very calm or go to sleep by giving him/her a drug

see to it to deal with a person or task

seem to give the effect of being

select to choose

selection a choice, range, or different types of something

self-confident to believe in your power, ability or knowledge

self-conscious nervous or uncomfortable because you know what people think about you

self-esteem belief and confidence in your own ability and value

self-indulgent allowing yourself to have or do anything that you enjoy

semen a thick whitish liquid containing sperm

semi-desert a region somewhat like a desert, often located between a desert and grassland or woodland

sensible having or showing good judgement

sensitive easily upset by the things people say or do

sentence a punishment given by a judge in court

separate to divide into parts

separated split, moved apart

serene peaceful and calm

set in stone carved in stone; no longer changeable

set up to establish, to arrange for

settle to arrange something; to go and live somewhere

settle in to become familiar with somewhere new

severe causing very great pain, difficulty, worry, damage, etc; very serious

shade slight darkness

shag to have sex with someone

shake to move backwards and forwards or up and down in quick, short movements

shallow lacking depth of intellect or knowledge, silly

shamrock a plant which has three round leaves arranged in a triangular pattern on each stem

shantytown an area in or near a city in which poor people live in small, badly built houses

share to have or use something at the same time as someone else; to divide

shark a large fish that has sharp teeth and a triangular fin on its back

sharp having a thin edge or point which can cut something

shatter to break suddenly into very small pieces

shave to remove hair from the body

shed to cast off

sheet of rain a large quantity of rain

shelter protection from bad weather, danger or attack

shiftless lazy and not having much determination

shine to send out or reflect light

shipyard a place where ships are built or repaired

shiver to shake slightly because one feels cold, ill or frightened

shoulder one of the two parts of the body at each side of the neck which join the arms to the rest of the body

shove to push forcefully

shovel a tool like a spade, with a handle used for scooping up and moving sand, snow etc.

show off to behave in a way which is intended to attract attention or admiration

show up to arrive somewhere

shriek a short, loud, high cry

shrill having a loud and high sound that is unpleasant or painful to listen to

shrug to raise your shoulders and then lower them in order to say you do not know or are not interested

shuffle to walk by pulling your feet slowly along the ground rather than lifting them

sidewalk a path with a hard surface on one or both sides of a road, that people walk on

sigh to breathe out slowly and noisily, expressing tiredness, sadness, pleasure, etc

sign to write your name on a document; a notice; a mark

significance importance

simply completely or absolutely; only

sincere not pretending or lying; honest

sinful against the rules of a religion or morally wrong

site a place; a website on the Internet

sizzling very hot

skill an ability to do an activity or job well

skip to jump

skull the bones of the head, which surround the brain and give the head its shape

slab a bump, a sound when something hits a surface

slap to hit

slate roof	a roof covered with thin pieces of dark grey rock	spike	to push a sharp point into something or someone	starfish	a flat animal that lives in the sea and has a body in the shape of a star
slaver	to allow liquid to come out of the mouth	spill	to (cause to) fall	starkers	naked
sleepwalk	a person who gets out of bed and walks around while they are sleeping	spill out	to flow or fall out of a container	startle	to give a shock or surprise to
slice	a flat, often thin, piece of food that has been cut from a larger piece	spine	a long sharp point like a needle	starve	be hungry; die because there is not enough food
slightly	a little	spine-chilling	very frightening	state	to say something; a condition or way of being
sling	to throw or drop something	spire	a tall pointed structure on top of a building, especially on top of a church tower	statement	something that someone says or writes officially to express an opinion
slither	to move easily and quickly across a surface while twisting or curving	spirit	the characteristics of a person that are considered as being separate from the body, and which many believe continue to exist after the body dies	steam	the hot gas that is produced when water boils
slot	a long narrow hole or opening	spirited out	to move someone or something out of or away from a place secretly	steer	to control the direction of a vehicle
slump	to fall suddenly	splash	to make wet with drops of liquid	sterilize	to perform a medical operation on someone in order to make them unable to have children; to make something completely clean and free from bacteria
smack	to hit forcefully, to slap	splatter	to hit and cover a surface with small drops	stew	a type of food cooked slowly in a small amount of liquid
smear	to spread a liquid or a thick substance over a surface	split	to divide into two or more parts	stick	to push into or through something
smooth	to make flat with your hands	split up	when two people end their relationship	stiff	firm or hard, not easily bent or moved
snap	to move quickly to grab something	splutter	to speak in a quick and confused way	stimulus	something which causes part of the body to react
snapshot	a photograph	spoiled	to treat someone too well	stir	to mix; to cause emotion
snuffle	to breathe in quickly and repeatedly through the nose	sponge	a soft substance that is full of small holes and can absorb a lot of liquid	stocky	describes a person whose body is wide across the shoulders and chest and who is short
sociable	someone who likes to meet and spend time with other people	sprawl	to spread the arms and legs out carelessly and untidily while sitting or lying down	storeroom	a room for keeping things in while not in use
socket eye	one of the two round, low areas on each side of the nose which contain the eyes	spread	to cover, reach or have an effect on a wider or increasing area; area covered with something	stout	a dark bitter and slightly creamy type of beer
soil	to make dirty; the material on the surface of the ground in which plants grow	sprout	to produce leaves, hair and other new developing parts	stove	a piece of equipment used to cooking or to heat a place
solid	hard or firm, keeping a clear shape	square	a shape with four sides of equal length and four angles of 90°	straight-forward	honest and not likely to hide their opinions
solution	the answer to a problem	squashy	soft and easy to crush	strain	to become stretched or to experience pressure
somersault	a rolling movement or jump, either forwards or backwards, in which you turn over completely, with your body above your head, and finish with your head on top again	squeeze	to press something firmly	strangled	killed by pressing the throat so that he/she cannot breathe
soppy	silly	stabbed	injured with a knife	strength	the ability to do things that need a lot of physical or mental effort
soul	the spiritual part of a person	stack up	arrange into piles or stacks	stretchy	stretchy material stretches or can be stretched
soundtrack	the sounds, especially the music, of a film, or a separate recording of this	staff	the group of people who work for an organization	strew	to spread things untidily over a surface
Sowetan	a person from Soweto	stagger	to walk or move with difficulty as if you are going to fall	strict	hard and fast
space	room, an area which is available to be used	stairs	a set of steps which lead from one level of a building to another	stride	a long step
spank	to hit (on the bottom)	stale	no longer new or fresh	strikingly	easily noticed and attracting a lot of attention
speakeasy	a place where alcohol was illegally sold and drunk in the US in the 1920s and 1930s	stalk	to follow an animal or person as closely as possible without being seen or heard	strip	to pull or tear the covering or outer layer from something
specific	clear and exact; particular	stand one's ground	to maintain or stick by an opinion or position	stroll	to walk in a slow relaxed manner
spectacular	very exciting to look at; especially great	star	to play the main role in a movie	struggle	to make a very great effort in order to do something
speech	a formal talk	stardom	fame		
speechless	unable to speak				
speedy	quick				
spicy	with strong flavours from spices				

stubble the short hair which grows on a man's face if he has not cut it for a few days

stud farm a farm where high quality horses are kept for breeding

study when someone examines a subject in detail in order to discover new information

stuff used to refer to a substance or a group of things or ideas, etc.

stumble to walk in a way which does not seem controlled

stumpy short and thick

stunned very shocked or surprised

subconscious the part of your mind which notices and remembers information when you are not actively trying to do so, and which influences your behaviour although you do not realize it

subsequently happening after something else

subside to become less strong; to sink down or to a lower level

substitute to use something or someone instead of another thing or person

subtle small but important; clever or cunning (ísl. hárfinn; þaulhugsaður)

subtly in a clever manner

suburb an area on the edge of a large town or city where people who work in the town or city often live

sudden happening or done quickly

suddenly quickly and unexpectedly

suffer to experience or show the effects of something bad

sugar daddy a rich older man who buys presents for or gives money to a young person, especially a woman

suggest to mention an idea or action for others to consider

suit to be right for; a jacket and trousers that are made from the same material

summit meeting an important formal meeting between leaders of governments from two or more countries

superficial only on the surface of something

superior describes someone who believes that they are better than other people and acts in such a way

support emotional or practical help

supposedly probably

surface the outer or top part or layer of something

surgery the treatment of injuries or diseases by cutting open the body and repairing the damaged part

surround to be everywhere around something

survival when a person, organization, etc. continues to live or exist

survive to continue to live or exist, especially after coming close to dying

survivor a person who continues to live, despite nearly dying

suspect to think or believe something to be true; a person believed to have committed a crime

suspicious making you feel that something illegal is happening or that something is wrong

sustain to cause or allow something to continue for a period of time; to suffer or experience, especially damage or loss

sustenance food

swarm when insects swarm, they come together in a large group (ísl. mora af e-u)

sweep to quickly spread through and influence an area

sweets candy

swiftly quickly

swig to drink, especially by swallowing large amounts in a series of single actions

swirl to move quickly with a twisting circular movement

symbolize to represent something

syringe a medical instrument used to inject or withdraw fluids

T

tail off to reduce in amount or become lower in level

take for granted to believe something to be the truth without even thinking about it

take the lead to take control of

take turns when a number of people take turns, they do the same thing one after the other

talent a natural ability to be good at something, especially without being taught

talented with talent; able or skilful

talk of the devil (ísl. oft kemur illur þá um er rætt)

tangled in an untidy disorganized mass

taste a person's approval of and liking for particular things

tax money paid to the government based on your income

tax rebate money which is returned when you have paid too much tax

tease to laugh at someone or say unkind things about them, either because you are joking or because you want to upset them

temple the flat area on each side of your head in front of the top of your ear (ísl. gagnauga)

tempt to make someone want to have or do something

temptation the wish to do or have something which you know you should not do or have

tenant farmer a farmer who works land owned by someone else

tend to care for

tense nervous and worried and unable to relax

tension a feeling of fear or anger between two groups of people who do not trust each other

tentatively to do or say something in an uncertain way

tenure duration, the period of holding something

terrifying very frightening

text message sms

the Classics the most famous works of literature

the luck of the draw to be the result of chance and something that you have no control over

the Pacific Ocean (ísl. Kyrrahafið)

the point of it the importance of or the reason for something

theatrical belonging or relating to the theatre

theme song a piece of music from a television show, movie etc. that is remembered as the music that represents that show or movie

therapist someone whose job is to treat a particular type of mental or physical illness

thorn a small sharp pointed growth on the stem of a plant

thrash to hit

threat a suggestion that something unpleasant or violent will happen, especially if a particular action or order is not followed

threaten to tell someone that you will hurt them, or cause problems for them if they do not do what you want

threatening expressing a threat of something unpleasant or violent

throat-wound an injury to the throat

throughout in every part, or during the whole period of time

throw off cast, get rid of

thrust to stab, to throw

thump to hit someone with your fist; the sound when something falls heavily

thunderous extremely loud

tide a stream or a flow

tightly firmly

tile a thin piece of baked clay, plastic, etc. used for covering roofs, floors, walls, etc.

time line a line that shows the time and the order in which events have happened

time-consuming takes a lot of time

tinge to contain a slight amount of

tinged with a slight amount of

tinted with colour added

tip the pointed end of something which is long and thin

tiring making you feel tired

toddler a young child who has recently learned to walk

tools instruments for doing work especially by hand

topi a lightweight hat worn in tropical countries for protection from the sun

topic a subject which is discussed, written about or studied

torch a small light which is held in the hand

torment great mental suffering and unhappiness, or great physical pain

torturous extremely painful

toss to throw

touch to put your hand lightly onto something or someone

towards in the direction of, or closer to someone or something

towering very high

trace to find someone or something that was lost; a sign

traffic jam a large number of vehicles close together and unable to move or moving very slowly

trail marks left by a person, animal or thing; a path through the countryside

tram an electric vehicle that transports people and goes along metal tracks in the road

trample to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury

tranquillizing to make a person become calm with a drug

translocate to move from one place to another

trap to catch an animal in a trap

treacherous a person who is treacherous deceives someone who trusts them, or has no loyalty

treat to deal with something in a particular way; a special and enjoyable occasion or experience

trekker/trekkie a Star Trek fan

tremble to shake

trial a legal process by which a person is judged in a court of law

tribe a group of people who live together, sharing the same language, culture and history

trip to cause someone to fall

trot if a dog or a similar animal with four legs trots, it runs at its slowest speed

trouble to cause someone to be worried or nervous

trunk an elephant's nose

trustworthy able to be trusted

tub a cup or a beaker

tube an underground train system

tucked to draw fabric together and sew it tightly

tug to pull something quickly

tune a melody

turbulent turbulent air or water moves very strongly and suddenly

turn move in a circle round a fixed point or line; to change direction or position

turn into to change

turn out to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result

turtle an animal which lives in or near water and has a thick shell covering its body into which it can move its head and legs for protection

tusk a long pointed tooth which sticks out from the mouth of some animals such as elephants

twist to turn

type to write using a machine

typesetter a person who sets written material into type

U

UFO Unidentified Flying Object

ugliness unpleasant to look at; not attractive

unban to remove blockade

unbutton undo the buttons of

uncivilly not politely

underestimate to fail to guess the real cost, size, difficulty, etc. of something

underneath under or below

uneasy slightly worried or uncomfortable

unexpected not expected

unfair not treating people in an equal way

unforgettable something you cannot forget

unfortunately used to say that something is sad, disappointing or has a bad effect

unite to join together as a group; to combine

unprepared not prepared; not ready

unsteady moving slightly from side to side, as if you might fall

untidy not ordered and arranged

unused never having been used

upcast pointing or looking up

upheaval a great change, especially causing or involving much difficulty, activity or trouble

uproot to pull a plant including its roots out of the ground

ups and downs a mixture of good and bad things that happen to people

upset to make someone worried, unhappy or angry

upsetting making someone feel worried, unhappy or angry

urge a strong wish

V

vaguely not clearly expressed, known, described or decided; not clearly seen

vainly unsuccessfully

value to consider something important

vanity when you are too interested in your appearance or achievements

various many different

vary to be different

vasectomy the medical operation of cutting the tubes through which a man's sperm move, in order to make him unable to make a woman pregnant

veal meat from a very young cow
venom the expression of feelings of hatred or extreme anger
venture to risk or dare
verify to confirm that something is true or correct
vertical standing or pointing straight up or at an angle of 90° to a horizontal surface or line
vest a type of underwear for the upper part of your body
victim someone or something which has been hurt, damaged or killed or has suffered
viewer a person who watches something
vigorous very energetic
violence actions or words which are intended to hurt people
violent using force to hurt or attack
virgin someone who has never had sex
virginity never having had sex
visible able to be seen
vivid brilliant; very bright; active, lively
vocabulary all the words known and used by a particular person
vocal class a singing lesson
vortex a mass of air or water that spins around very fast and pulls objects into its empty centre
vouch for to say that you know from experience that something is true or good, or that someone is honest and has a good character
vow to make a determined decision or promise to do something
vulnerable able to be easily hurt, influenced or attacked

W

wacko a person whose behaviour is strange and different from that of most people
waft to move gently through the air
wages money that is paid, usually every week, to an employee for his work
waist the part of the body above and slightly narrower than the hips
waking when you are awake
warthog an African wild pig with a large head, tusks and little raised areas on the male's face that look like warts
waste garbage, unwanted matter or material of any type
watchdog a dog trained to protect a place

wave a raised line of water which moves across the surface of an area of water/ the sea
wealth a large amount of money or valuable possessions that someone has
wealthy rich
wear to have clothing, jewellery, etc. on your body
wee lad a little boy
weight the amount that something or someone weighs
weird very strange and unusual
well-behaved behaving in a way that is accepted as correct
wheat flour
heeze to make a high, rough noise while breathing because of some breathing difficulty
whereas compared with the fact that; but
whether if, or not
whiff a slight smell
whimper to make a series of small, weak sounds, expressing pain or unhappiness
whine to make a long, high, sad sound; to complain
whip to hit with a whip, to beat
whirl to turn around in circles
whirling turn in a twisting or spinning motion
whirlwind a tall column of spinning air which moves across the surface of the land or sea
white-water rafting the activity of being moved quickly in a raft (small boat filled with air) along rivers where the current is very strong
wholesome good for you, healthy
wildebeest a large, African animal with a long tail and horns that curve to the sides, and which lives in areas covered in grass
willing to be happy to do something if it is needed
wind up screw up; to end, or to make an activity end
windshield the window at the front of a car
wink to close one eye for a short time as a way of greeting someone or showing friendliness
wipe to slide something, especially a piece of cloth, over the surface of something else, in order to remove dirt, food or liquid
wipe out to destroy something completely
wirehaired having stiff, rough hair
wit the ability to use words in a clever and humorous way

within inside or not further than an area or period of time
witness a person who sees an event happening, especially a crime or an accident
Wits University of Witwatersrand
wobble to shake or move from side to side in a way that shows poor balance
woe great problems or troubles
Wolfhound a type of very large dog
wood a hard substance which forms the branches and trunks of trees and which can be used as a building material, for making things, or as a fuel
working loose to become loose or out of place
worth while to be an activity or action that you will get an advantage from or is of interest
wound a damaged area of the body, such as a cut or hole in the skin or flesh
wrap to cover or surround something
wrap-dress a dress with a front closure formed by wrapping one side across the other and knotting the attached ties that wrap around the back at the waist
writh to make large twisting movements with the body

Y

yard garden
yawn to open the mouth wide and take a lot of air into the lungs and out again, usually when tired
yearn to wish very strongly
yield to to agree to do something that you do not want to do or should not do; to stop
you're having us on to persuade someone that something is true when it is not, usually as a joke
youth hostel a place where people, especially young people, can stay cheaply for short periods when they are travelling

Z

Zen a form of Buddhism
zipper a fastener which is used for closing openings in especially clothing or bags
zooty stylish or modern
Zulu the language spoken by the Zulu people

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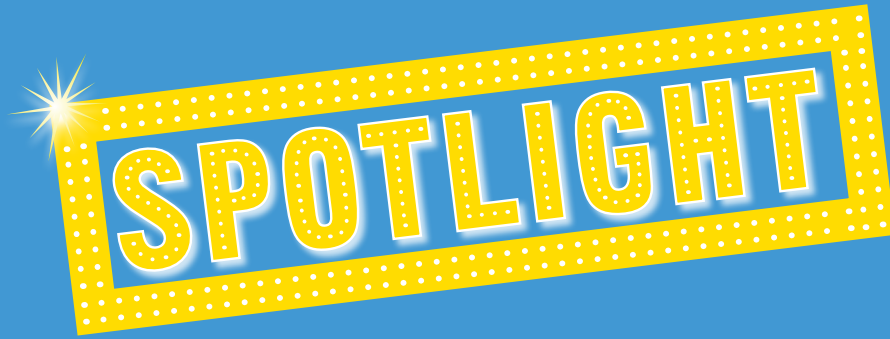
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