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# SpeakUp

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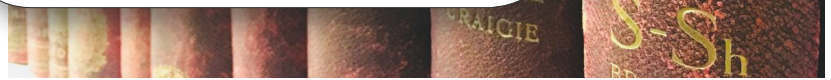
ISSN 1120-4583



As a historical and descriptive dictionary, the OED aims to track and record all adaptations of the English language, including a wide range of colloquial words.

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È possibile che la terza edizione dell'Oxford English Dictionary non venga stampata, ma il suo intenso lavoro continua in versione digitale. Pagina 28

## ENGLISH IN 2034

**L'**ultimo volume della prima edizione dell'Oxford English Dictionary (OED) apparve nel 1928. I venti volumi della seconda furono pubblicati nel 1989. La terza edizione cartacea, completamente rivista e aggiornata, è prevista per il 2034, con venti anni di ritardo, nonostante i dubbi sulla fattibilità economica del progetto. Chi ha, infatti, i soldi e lo spazio nella biblioteca di casa per un dizionario di quaranta tomi con copertina rigida? Eppure l'équipe di settanta filologi, lessicografi ed etimologi non smettono di lavorare e aggiornare il dizionario disponibile online. L'OED è un vocabolario descrittivo, dedicato a documentare l'uso reale e l'evoluzione geografica e temporale dell'inglese, senza stabilire norme né dare raccomandazioni. È un dizionario che non vuole ergersi ad autorità prescrittiva e imporre da una posizione di superiorità qual è l'inglese corretto. Ma esiste l'inglese corretto? Chi lo parla? A chi appartiene? Se è vero che la lingua è dei parlanti che l'hanno sempre modificata a loro piacimento nel corso dei secoli, adattandola alle loro necessità, aggiungendo alla combinazione di sassone e vichingo

parole normanne nel fango di un allevamento di maiali in un villaggio nelle Midlands dell'XI secolo o *chattando* con i pollici su uno *smartphone*, chi può dire come e quando usarla?

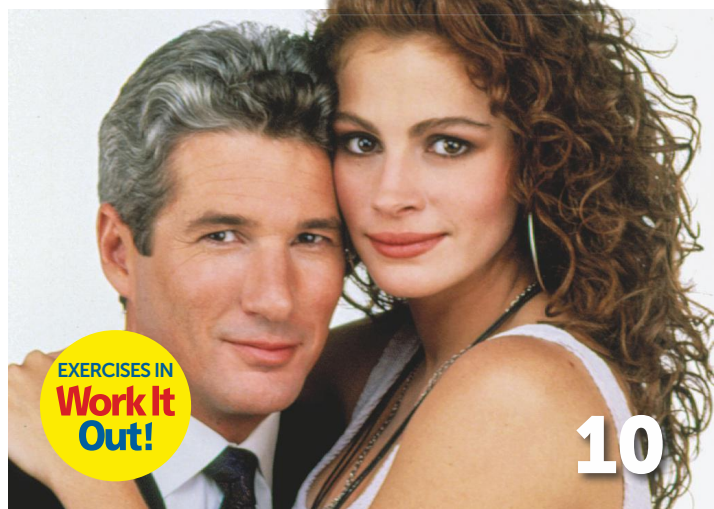
### L'OXFORD DICTIONARY NON VUOLE ERGERSI AD AUTORITÀ PRESCRITTIVA

Ci chiediamo, quindi, se un dizionario debba concedere legittimità a termini nati da una moda effimera, abbreviazioni figlie della pigrizia, acronimi criptici o grafie incorrette dovute alla pura negligenza? O forse dovrebbe ignorare questi usi 'anomali' e diventare una reliquia anchilosata e reazionaria, un ricordo ammuffito di un tempo-passato-sempre-migliore? L'OED sembra avere le idee chiare e nonostante l'ostinazione nel voler documentare la lingua inglese che appartiene ai libri, i giornali, la televisione, Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp e naturalmente alla strada, forse non riuscirà a stampare più di sessantamila pagine prima del 2034. Poco importa se quest'impresa verrà portata a termine o meno, basta che continui ad esistere l'*account* di Twitter @OED.





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## COME USARE SpeakUp

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senza leggere; poi ascoltare nuovamente abbinando la lettura del brano.

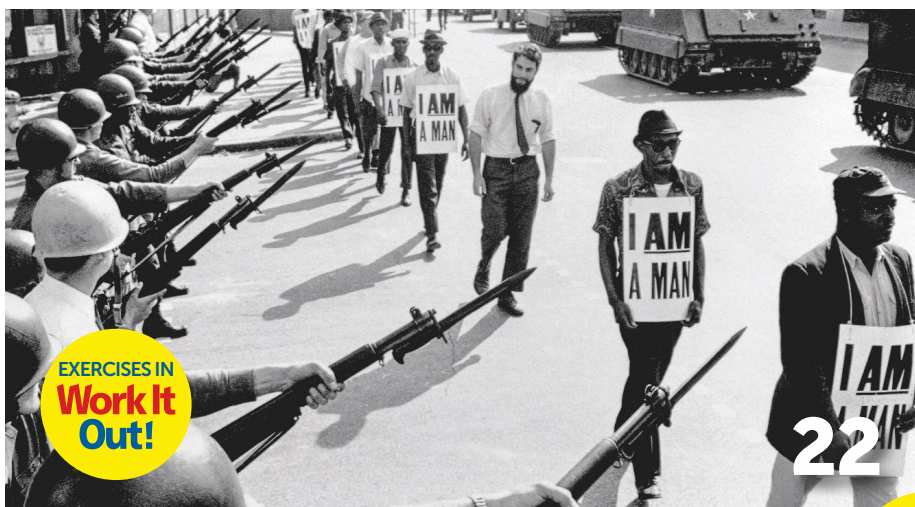
⊗ Per migliorare il modo di parlare l'inglese e la pronuncia, si consiglia di procedere al contrario: leggere e contemporaneamente

ascoltare il brano scelto, poi riascoltare e ripetere ad alta voce possibilmente senza leggere.

⊗ Oltre al CD è bene avere sempre a portata di mano un buon dizionario.

⊗ Queste sono solo indicazioni di massima. Poiché il processo di apprendimento/mantenimento è individuale, ogni altro sistema che abbiate elaborato col tempo è da ritenersi ugualmente valido.





EXERCISES IN  
**Work It Out!**

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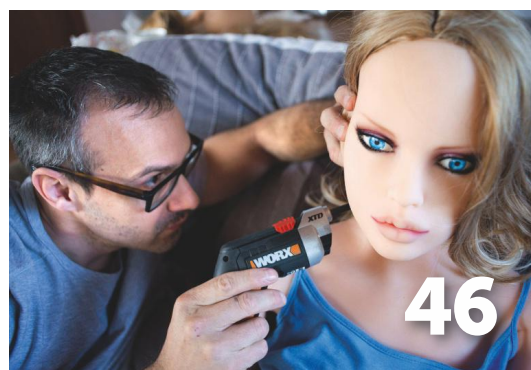
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EXERCISES IN  
**Work It Out!**



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EXERCISES IN  
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## SIMBOLI

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

SPEAKER  
SARAH DAVISON

TRACK 1

Il livello linguistico segue i criteri del Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (indicato a destra). La bandiera indica l'accento dello speaker. Il simbolo del cd, la presenza della traccia sul CD audio allegato.

- BEGINNER
- PRE-INTERMEDIATE
- LOWER INTERMEDIATE
- UPPER INTERMEDIATE
- ADVANCED
- PROFICIENCY

## Explains



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**GRAFIA** Sebbene nella rivista siano presenti articoli di autori sia inglesi sia americani, la grafia adottata è quella britannica. Fanno eccezione gli articoli tratti da giornali statunitensi, come il New York Times.





EXERCISES IN  
**Work It Out!**

The four surviving copies of the 1215 Magna Carta are held at Salisbury Cathedral, Lincoln Cathedral and two at the British Library (right).  
Opposite page: King John.

## A CELEBRATED DOCUMENT

# The Magna Carta

Questo documento del 1215 redatto nel latino medievale è uno dei più importanti che si conservano nella Biblioteca britannica. Nato dalla lotta contro il potere assolutista della monarchia, è uno dei precursori dell'attuale carta dei diritti umani.

PREINTERMEDIATE

A2

ON CD 1

6

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **charter**: capitolò
- 2 **rules**: regole
- 3 **to sign**: firmare

In 2015 the UK celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta, which means 'Big Charter'<sup>1</sup> or 'set of rules'<sup>2</sup>, was a document signed<sup>3</sup> by King John. At that time in England, the King had a lot of power, but he was very unfair<sup>4</sup>. He made people pay a lot of taxes, even when they didn't have any money. He took land<sup>5</sup> from people and stole<sup>6</sup> the food that they had grown<sup>7</sup>.

### FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

The barons of England were very angry and they wanted things to change. So they went to London and took control of the city until King John agreed<sup>8</sup> to meet with them. They made him sign a document with new rules about what the King could and couldn't do. It was the first document that clearly explained the idea that all men are equal. For the first time, ordinary peo-





ple<sup>9</sup> had freedom and could disagree<sup>10</sup> with the king. Also, it would be ordinary people, not the king, who decided when someone had broken the law<sup>11</sup>.

## AGAINST AN ABUSIVE KING

*John, by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine and Count of Anjou, to his archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justices, foresters, sheriffs, stewards, servants and to all his officials and loyal subjects, greeting.*

*Giovanni, per grazia di Dio re d'Inghilterra, signore d'Irlanda, duca di Normandia ed Aquitania, conte d'Angiò, saluta gli arcivescovi, i vescovi, gli abati, i conti, i baroni, i giudici, le guardie forestali, gli sceriffi, gli intendenti, i servi e tutti i suoi balivi e leali sudditi.*

So begins (in English translation) the text of the Magna Carta, as agreed upon by King John and the barons of England on 15 June 1215.

Although experts often talk about the sixty-three clauses<sup>14</sup> of the Magna Carta, this is a modern numbering system that was introduced in 1759; the original charter formed one long text without breaks<sup>15</sup>. One of its most important 'clauses' dealt with<sup>16</sup> the justice system of the time. King John regularly abused<sup>17</sup> his power in order to suppress<sup>18</sup> his opponents and to extort<sup>19</sup> money from the barons. Guaranteeing a justice system that put a stop to such abuses was one of the main<sup>20</sup> themes addressed in the Magna Carta:

*No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land.*

*Nessun uomo libero sarà arrestato, imprigionato, multato, messo fuori legge, esiliato o molestato in alcun modo, né noi useremo la forza nei suoi confronti o demanderemo di farlo ad altre persone, se non per giudizio legale dei suoi pari e per la legge del regno.*

## INFLUENCE TODAY

Many people think that the Magna Carta was the first time a country recognised human rights<sup>12</sup>. Some of its rules still exist in the UK. Eight hundred years later, these rules still protect us so that everyone can live freely<sup>13</sup>. ⊗

## GLOSSARY

- 4 unfair:** ingiusto
- 5 land:** terra
- 6 to steal:** rubare
- 7 to grow:** crescere
- 8 to agree:** essere d'accordo
- 9 ordinary people:** gente comune
- 10 to disagree:** dissentire
- 11 to break the law:** infrangere la legge
- 12 rights:** diritti
- 13 freely:** liberamente
- 14 clauses:** clausole
- 15 breaks:** interruzioni
- 16 to deal with:** affrontare
- 17 to abuse:** approfittarsi
- 18 to suppress:** eliminare
- 19 to extort:** estorcere
- 20 main:** principali





## 25TH ANNIVERSARY

## Riverdance

Quest'anno, lo spettacolo con danze e musiche popolari irlandesi compie un quarto di secolo e torna con una nuova veste per una tournée negli Stati Uniti e una serie di spettacoli speciali anche in Irlanda.

PREINTERMEDIATE A2

ON CD 2

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **years ago:** anni fa
- 2 **to bring:** portare
- 3 **rendition:** versione
- 4 **performances:** esibizioni
- 5 **contest:** concorso
- 6 **to hold:** tenersi
- 7 **to feature:** includere
- 8 **to introduce:** presentare
- 9 **less:** meno
- 10 **upper body:** busto
- 11 **live:** dal vivo
- 12 **interval act:** esibizione durante l'intervallo
- 13 **husband and wife:** marito e moglie
- 14 **full-length:** intero
- 15 **venues:** locali
- 16 **to begin:** iniziare
- 17 **powerful:** potente
- 18 **stirring:** entusiasmante
- 19 **thrilling:** emozionante
- 20 **not to be missed:** da non perdere
- 21 **however:** tuttavia
- 22 **to get into a dispute:** discutere
- 23 **regarding:** su, circa
- 24 **to leave:** lasciare
- 25 **to go on:** continuare
- 26 **own:** proprio
- 27 **namely:** chiamato
- 28 **flames:** fiamme
- 29 **tap dancing:** tip tap

**I**t was twenty-five years ago<sup>1</sup> that *Riverdance: The Show* brought<sup>2</sup> Irish dance to international attention. This year, the show is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a new rendition<sup>3</sup> and a series of special performances<sup>4</sup> in Ireland and the US.

## EUROVISION

The inspiration for the show was a performance in the seven-minute interval of the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest<sup>5</sup> held<sup>6</sup> in Dublin, Ireland. Featuring<sup>7</sup> dancing champions Michael Flatley and Jean Butler, and the vocal ensemble Anúna, it introduced<sup>8</sup> a new form of Irish dance to the world that was less<sup>9</sup> rigid than traditional forms, incorporating new rhythms and upper body<sup>10</sup> movements. About three hundred million people watched the live<sup>11</sup> performance, now considered to be the most famous interval act<sup>12</sup> in the history of the Eurovision Song Contest.

## REINVENTION

Irish husband and wife<sup>13</sup> production team Moya Doherty and John McColligan decided to expand the concept of *Riverdance* into a full-length<sup>14</sup> show. The show went on to become an immediate and enormous success. Since it debuted in 1995, it has been performed at more than 450 venues<sup>15</sup> all over the world, been seen by more than twenty-five million people and made more than \$1 billion, making it one of the most successful dance productions of all time. It has been reinvented many times, and a world tour incorporating forty-five cities



began<sup>16</sup> last month in Montreal, Canada to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

## IRISH PASSION

The new version of *Riverdance* is described on its website as "a powerful<sup>17</sup> and stirring<sup>18</sup> reinvention of the show, celebrated the world over for its Grammy Award-winning music and the thrilling<sup>19</sup> energy and passion of its Irish and international dance." This is something not to be missed<sup>20</sup>! ☺

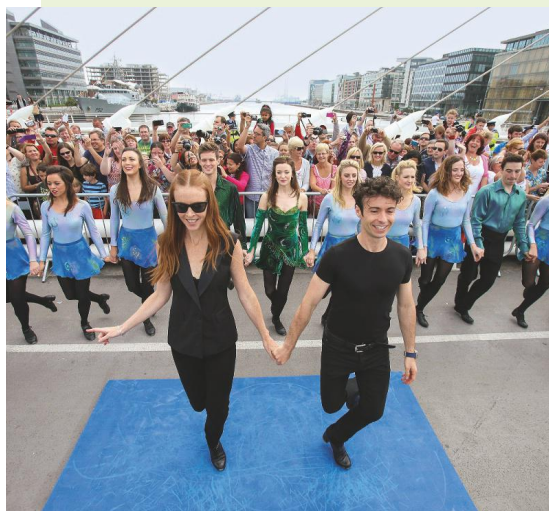
[www.riverdance.com](http://www.riverdance.com)



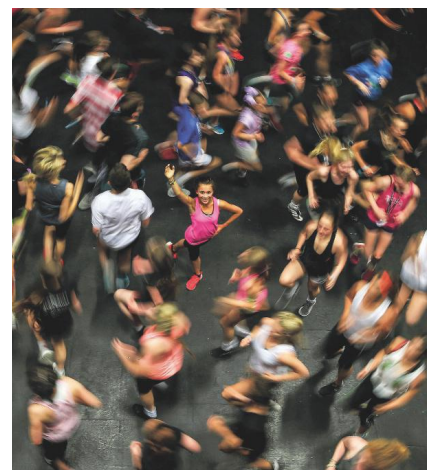


## THE MOST EXPENSIVE FEET IN THE WORLD

The original *Riverdance* show, starring Flatley and Butler, debuted at The Point Theatre in Dublin on February 9th 1995. However<sup>21</sup>, Flatley, an Irish-American dancer, choreographer and musician, got into a dispute<sup>22</sup> with the producers later that year regarding<sup>23</sup> payment, and he left<sup>24</sup> *Riverdance*. Flatley went on<sup>25</sup> to create three of his own<sup>26</sup> dance shows, namely<sup>27</sup> *Lord of the Dance*, *Feet of Flames*<sup>28</sup> and *Celtic Tiger Live*, which have been performed to more than sixty million people in sixty countries, and made more than \$1 billion. He is also in the Guinness Book of World Records for tap dancing<sup>29</sup> 35 times per second, and his feet were at one time insured<sup>30</sup> for \$57.6 million. Unfortunately, Flatley had to retire<sup>31</sup> in 2016 because of the strain<sup>32</sup> dance had put on his body.



Original *Riverdance* star Michael Flatley is named 'Entertainer of the Decade' in 2008. Left: Jean Butler performing on the Samuel Beckett Bridge, Dublin.



Top: promotional images of the new *Riverdance* show. Above: international students in Dublin learn Irish dance.

## GLOSSARY

- 30 to insure:**  
assicurare
- 31 to retire:**  
dimettersi, andare in pensione
- 32 strain:** sforzo, stress



Top 5

# Rom-Coms

ESERCIZI SU  
**Work It  
Out!**

Il 14 febbraio è il giorno di San Valentino e quale occasione migliore per festeggiarlo abbracciati alla persona amata mentre guardate una commedia romantica? Ecco cinque tra i migliori film romantici di tutti i tempi.

PREINTERMEDIATE A2

ON CD 3

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **known as:** conosciute come
- 2 **relationship:** rapporto
- 3 **anything:** qualsiasi cosa
- 4 **in time:** con il tempo
- 5 **to overcome:** superare
- 6 **beginning:** inizio
- 7 **businessman:** uomo d'affari
- 8 **free-spirited:** spirito libero
- 9 **feelings:** sentimenti
- 10 **as it follows:** mentre segue
- 11 **to drive across:** attraversare in macchina
- 12 **to judge:** giudicare
- 13 **crown:** ereditaria
- 14 **to have a good time:** divertirsi
- 15 **to get engaged:** fidanzarsi
- 16 **to fall in love:** innamorarsi
- 17 **estranged:** separato, lontano
- 18 **driven by:** spinta da
- 19 **to challenge:** sfidare
- 20 **marriage:** matrimonio
- 21 **to lose weight:** dimagrire
- 22 **to give up:** smettere
- 23 **premise:** premessa
- 24 **unprincipled:** senza principi

Some films are romantic. Some films are comedies. And some films are romantic comedies, also known as<sup>1</sup> 'rom-coms'. Typically, rom-coms tell the story of two people who meet but can't form a romantic relationship<sup>2</sup> because of some obstacle or conflict. This can be anything<sup>3</sup> from a geographical distance to a cultural difference or to

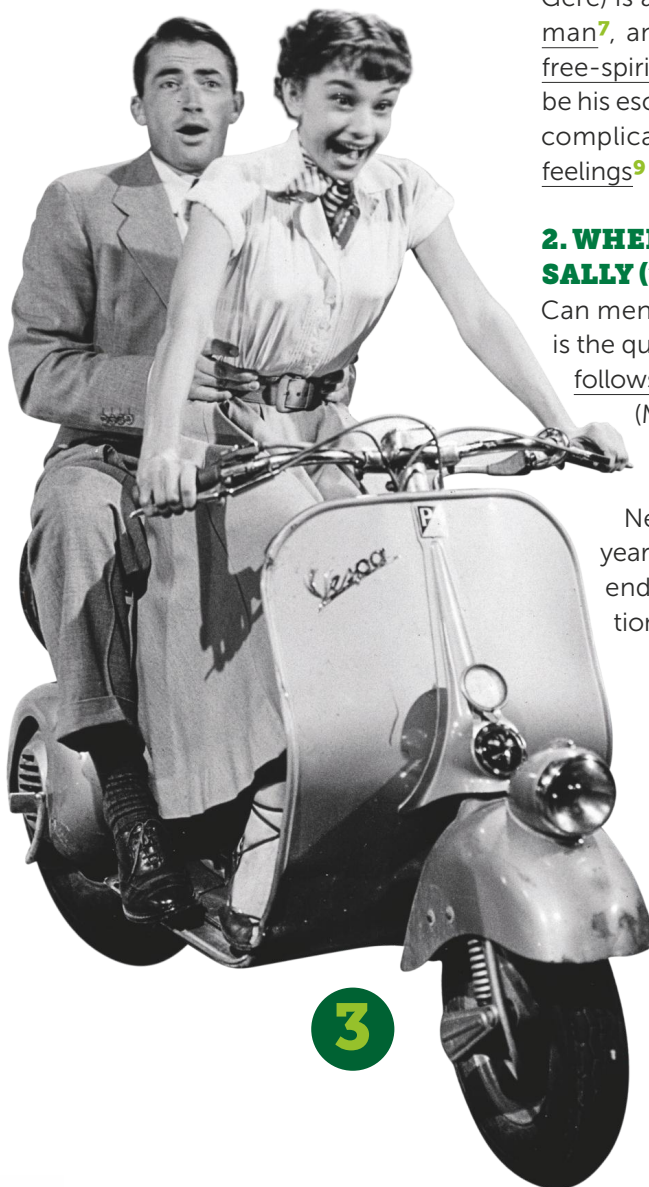
an already existing relationship. In time<sup>4</sup>, however, they find a way to overcome<sup>5</sup> the obstacle and begin their new life together. Here are five of the best rom-coms of all time.

### 1. PRETTY WOMAN (1990)

The obstacle in *Pretty Woman* is evident from the beginning<sup>6</sup>: Edward (Richard Gere) is a rich and important businessman<sup>7</sup>, and Vivian (Julia Roberts) is a free-spirited<sup>8</sup> prostitute who he pays to be his escort for a week. Things get very complicated when they begin to have feelings<sup>9</sup> for each other.

### 2. WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (1989)

Can men and women be friends? That is the question that this film poses as it follows<sup>10</sup> Harry (Billy Crystal) and Sally (Meg Ryan) as they drive across<sup>11</sup> the US together and then have a series of casual encounters in New York City over the next twelve years. Judging<sup>12</sup> by how the movie ends, the answer to the question is no!







### 3. ROMAN HOLIDAY (1953)

Just like Edward and Vivian in *Pretty Woman*, Joe (Gregory Peck) and Ann (Audrey Hepburn) come from very different worlds. He is a journalist with the American News Service, and she is a crown<sup>13</sup> princess. They meet in Rome and have a good time<sup>14</sup> together, but inevitably have to return to their separate lives.

### 4. MOONSTRUCK (1987)

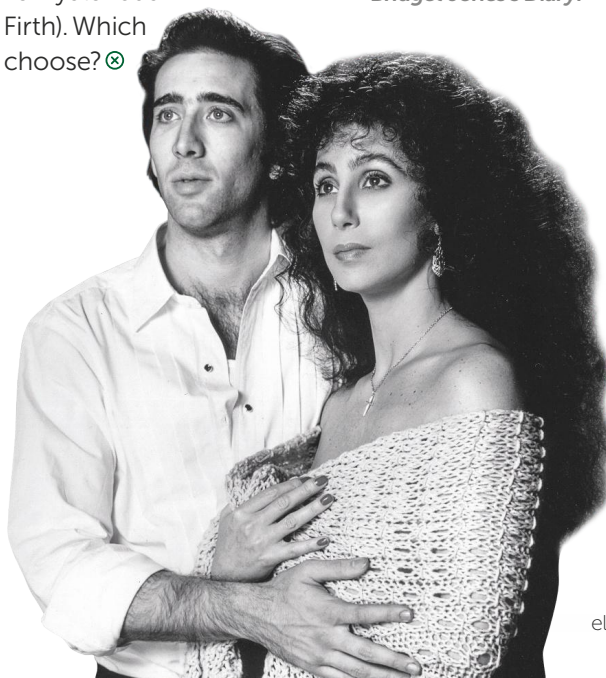
Sometimes love is inconvenient, and this is certainly true for the Italian-American Loretta (Cher) who gets engaged<sup>15</sup> to Johnny (Danny Aiello) but then falls in love<sup>16</sup> with his estranged<sup>17</sup> brother Ronny (Nicolas Cage). Driven by<sup>18</sup> real passion, Loretta challenges<sup>19</sup> the stereotypical female role and the concept of a traditional marriage<sup>20</sup>.



### 5. BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (2001)

As thirty-year-old Bridget Jones starts a new year in London, she promises to change her life by losing weight<sup>21</sup>, giving up<sup>22</sup> smoking and finding a boyfriend. That is the premise<sup>23</sup> of this film, which is based on a 1996 book by Helen Fielding. In time, Jones (Renée Zellweger) has to choose between two men, the unprincipled<sup>24</sup> Daniel (Hugh Grant) and the mysterious Mark (Colin Firth). Which one will she choose? ☒

Clockwise from left: Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday*; Richard Gere and Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*; Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan in *When Harry Met Sally*; Nicolas Cage and Cher in *Moonstruck*; Colin Firth, Renée Zellweger and Hugh Grant in *Bridget Jones's Diary*.





## AN ICY DEATH

## Zombie Diseases

L'uomo ha combattuto contro batteri e virus da quando è apparso per la prima volta sulla Terra. Con il tempo si è evoluto ed è diventato resistente ai virus, ma ora alcuni si stanno risvegliando e potrebbero attaccarci di nuovo.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE B1

ON CD 4

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **to complain:** lamentarsi
- 2 **might be:** sarebbe
- 3 **warnings:** avvisi
- 4 **warming:** riscaldamento
- 5 **drier:** più secco
- 6 **supplies:** rifornimenti
- 7 **icy wastes:** distese ghiacciate
- 8 **to melt:** sciogliere
- 9 **frozen:** congelato
- 10 **double the size:** il doppio delle dimensioni
- 11 **to rise:** aumentare
- 12 **layers:** strati
- 13 **diseases:** malattie
- 14 **to wake up:** svegliarsi
- 15 **to abuse:** rovinare, maltrattare
- 16 **revenge:** vendetta
- 17 **anthrax:** antrace
- 18 **reindeer:** renna
- 19 **heatwave:** ondata di calore
- 20 **food chain:** catena alimentare
- 21 **effective:** efficace
- 22 **the sooner the better:** prima è, meglio è

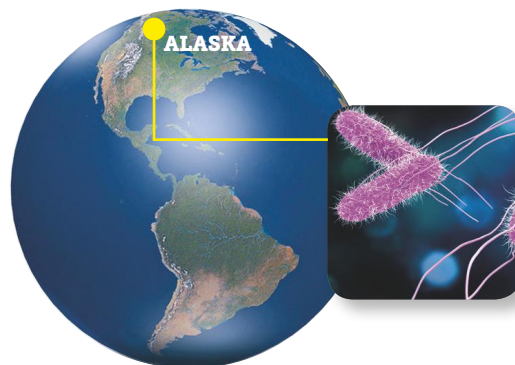
**A**t this time of the year, people are complaining<sup>1</sup> about the cold. However, it might be<sup>2</sup> better if the weather were actually colder... and continued to get colder every year! Warnings<sup>3</sup> about climate warming<sup>4</sup> tell us how coastal cities could disappear under water, and how drier<sup>5</sup> weather could affect food and water supplies<sup>6</sup>. However, experts are now warning about another possible danger, coming not from the air but from our planet's icy wastes<sup>7</sup>!

MELTING<sup>8</sup> ICE

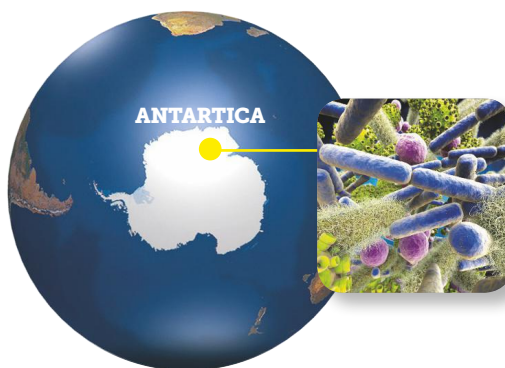
Climate change is melting permafrost around the world frozen<sup>9</sup> for thousands of years. The Arctic permafrost alone covers an area double the size<sup>10</sup> of the US. The temperature in the Arctic Circle is rising<sup>11</sup> three times faster than the rest of the world, exposing older and older layers<sup>12</sup> of permafrost.

## PERFECT FOR VIRUSES

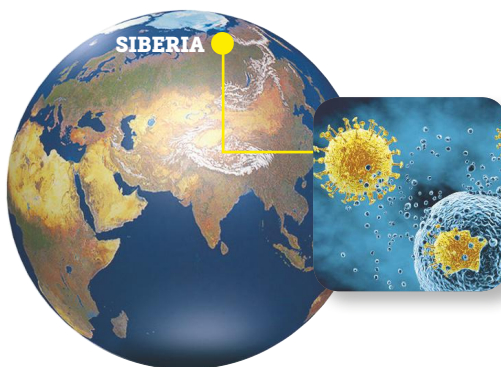
Permafrost is perfect for preserving microbes and viruses. It is cold and dark, with no oxygen. Bacteria can live for very long periods of time, even millions of years. Diseases<sup>13</sup> sleeping in the ice are now waking up<sup>14</sup>. Nature, abused<sup>15</sup> by man, and possibly looking for revenge<sup>16</sup>, is opening a Pandora's Box of zombie viruses. Permafrost could contain viruses, in frozen human bodies, that have caused global epidemics in the past. And some



**2005:** NASA scientists revived bacteria that had been trapped in a frozen pond in Alaska for 32,000 years – once the ice melted, the microbes began swimming around.



**2007:** Scientists revived an eight million-year-old bacteria that had been dormant in a glacier in Antarctica.



**2014:** Scientists revived two viruses trapped in Siberian permafrost for 30,000 years. The viruses quickly became infectious.

of those bodies go back to Neanderthal times, with viruses that we may never have seen before.

## ANTHRAX INFECTION

In August 2016, in Siberia in the Arctic Circle, a twelve-year-old boy died, and twenty people ended up in hospital, after an anthrax<sup>17</sup> infection. The anthrax came from a reindeer<sup>18</sup> which had died seventy-five





Thawing permafrost in Greenland where global warming is of increasing concern.



years before, and was then trapped in permafrost. In a [heatwave<sup>19</sup>](#), the reindeer was exposed, and the anthrax entered the soil and then the [food chain<sup>20</sup>](#). The danger is that this example may be repeated on a much greater scale.

### 'ZOMBIE' VIRUSES

Experts are worried. Will our antibiotics be effective<sup>21</sup> against these 'zombie' viruses from the past? In 2016, microbes from four million years ago were found in Lechuguilla Cave in New Mexico three hundred metres underground. The bacteria was resistant to 70 per cent of antibiotics. From 1300 to 1870, the world experienced a 'Little Ice Age'. The world may be in need of another mini-ice age. And [the sooner the better<sup>22</sup>](#) ... ☒



### **SPEAK UP Explains**

**Permafrost. Permagelo.** Il termine *permafrost* è formato dall'aggettivo *permanent* ("permanente") e il sostantivo *frost* ("gelo") e indica un terreno tipico delle regioni dell'estremo Nordeuropa, della Siberia e dell'America settentrionale dove il suolo è perennemente ghiacciato (non necessariamente con masse di acqua congelata).





## YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES

# Deepfakes

La tecnologia avanza a un ritmo superiore rispetto a ciò che la società è capace di assimilare. Le *fake news* ormai ci perseguitano ovunque e l'ultimo grande traguardo dell'intelligenza artificiale minaccia di farci dubitare anche di ciò che vediamo con i nostri occhi.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE **B1**

ON CD 5

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **former:** ex
- 2 **speech:** discorso
- 3 **dipshit:** idiota
- 4 **mainstream:** di massa
- 5 **has come to be known:** è stato definito
- 6 **to warn:** avvertire
- 7 **to alter:** modificare

In April 2018, a video was posted on the internet showing former<sup>1</sup> President Barack Obama insulting Donald Trump in a speech<sup>2</sup>: "President Trump is a total and complete dipshit<sup>3</sup>." The video was one of the first mainstream<sup>4</sup> demonstrations of what has come to be known<sup>5</sup> as 'deepfake'. It had been created by American actor and comedian Jordan Peele to warn<sup>6</sup> people about the dangers of believing that everything we see on the internet is real or true.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Deepfake uses new technology based on artificial intelligence (AI) to create or

alter<sup>7</sup> video content so that it presents something that didn't, in fact, occur<sup>8</sup>. It is becoming a phenomenon of great concern<sup>9</sup> over its potential abuse and damaging<sup>10</sup> impact. The internet is already full of manipulated videos that use digital impersonations showing people saying and doing things they never said or did. But even if some fake videos aren't very realistic, they could still influence many people's opinions and mislead<sup>11</sup> voters.

### HOW TO MAKE A DEEPPFAKE

Fake videos can be fabricated using a generative adversarial network<sup>12</sup> (GAN), which is a type of machine-learning<sup>13</sup>



**To watch** the Obama deepfake video by Jordan Peele scan this QR code with your smartphone



**or type** this url in your browser: **bit.ly/37IooNR**



system. The system analyses thousands of images of a person from multiple angles in order to<sup>14</sup> create a computer-generated image of the subject's face. It is then algorithmically able to transpose one face

onto the movements of another face, as if it were<sup>15</sup> a very fine mask.

### MORE DAMAGE: PORN

Although deepfakes could represent a threat<sup>16</sup> to democracy in the long run<sup>17</sup>, so far<sup>18</sup> women and vulnerable minorities are its main victims. Most manipulated videos found online are pornographic material; usually they feature a female actor or celebrity's face morphed<sup>19</sup> onto another's woman's body.

### BE VIGILANT

As with all manifestations of technology, deepfakes are here to stay. Questioning<sup>20</sup> everything we see and hear on the internet might be the best way to fight<sup>21</sup> them. As Peele said through Obama's mouth, "Moving forward<sup>22</sup>, we need to be more vigilant with what we trust<sup>23</sup> from the internet. It's a time when we need to rely on<sup>24</sup> trusted news sources<sup>25</sup> [...] How we move forward in the age of information is gonna be the difference between whether<sup>26</sup> we survive or whether we become some kind of fucked-up<sup>27</sup> dystopia." ☒



### GLOSSARY

- 8 to occur: accadere
- 9 concern: preoccupazione
- 10 to damage: danneggiare
- 11 to mislead: sviare, ingannare
- 12 generative adversarial network: rete generativa avversaria
- 13 machine-learning: apprendimento automatico
- 14 in order to: con il fine di
- 15 as if it were: come se fosse
- 16 threat: minaccia
- 17 in the long run: a lungo termine
- 18 so far: finora
- 19 to morph: trasformare
- 20 to question: mettere in discussione
- 21 to fight: combattere
- 22 moving forward: in futuro
- 23 to trust: fidarsi
- 24 to rely on: avere fiducia di
- 25 sources: fonti
- 26 whether... or whether: se ... o se
- 27 fucked-up: fottuta

Left: American actor, director and screenwriter Jordan Peele with the Oscar he won for Best Original Screenplay for the movie *Get Out* (2018).



EXERCISES IN  
**Work It  
Out!****FEBRUARY 29TH**

# Leap Year

La Terra impiega all'incirca 365,242 giorni per compiere il moto di rivoluzione intorno al Sole. Se non ci fossero gli anni bisestili, come il 2020, nell'emisfero settentrionale il mese di febbraio probabilmente sarebbe in estate.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE **B1**

ON CD 6

## GLOSSARY

- 1 least-favourite:** meno preferito
- 2 early:** primi
- 3 every second year:** ogni due anni
- 4 pharaoh:** faraone
- 5 to devise:** concepire
- 6 BCE:** a.e.v. (*Before the Common Era*)

**E**very four years, what is for many people their least-favourite<sup>1</sup> month gets longer. February 29th 2020 is the leap day of a leap year; a year in which an extra day is added to the calendar in order to synchronise it with the seasons.

### THE JULIAN CALENDAR

Egyptian, Hindu, Chinese and Hebrew calendars incorporated temporary months so that festivals would take place in the same season every year. The early<sup>2</sup> Romans, for example, created a twenty-two or twenty-three-day month every second year<sup>3</sup>. The Egyptian pharaoh<sup>4</sup> Ptolemy III devised<sup>5</sup> a leap year calendar as early as the 3rd century BCE<sup>6</sup>, but the

idea is more often associated with Roman emperor Julius Caesar. In 45 BCE, he simplified the previous system by adding one day every fourth year.

### THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR

Unfortunately, as Persian astronomer Omar Khayyam was to accurately<sup>7</sup> measure in the 11th century, the length of the year is slightly less than 365.25 days. Adding an extra day every four years results in about three surplus<sup>8</sup> days being added throughout four hundred years. So in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII established that every centennial year<sup>9</sup> would not be a leap year except if the centennial year could be divided by four hundred. This



## THE LEAP SECOND

Not many people notice, but occasionally a leap second is added to time. Unlike leap years, however, leap seconds are unpredictable. This is because Earth's rotation fluctuates irregularly in response to weather and the slow movement of hot rock<sup>19</sup> deep underground<sup>20</sup>. The last leap second occurred at midnight on December 31st, 2016. It brought the solar day back in alignment with Universal Time, the global standard clock used on the internet as well as in aviation. The next leap second might happen on June 30th, 2020.



is why the year 2000 was a leap year but 1800 and 1900 weren't.

## CATHOLIC MOTIVES

This reform became the canon law of the Catholic Church. However, other churches resented<sup>10</sup> that. Some Protestants were worried that the new calendar was a plot<sup>11</sup> to return them to Catholicism! Therefore, Britain and its colonies did

not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752, by which time it was necessary to delete<sup>12</sup> eleven days all at once<sup>13</sup>; so the 2nd of September 1752 was immediately followed by the 14th of September 1752. Today, the vast majority of countries use the Gregorian calendar as their civil calendar. Those that have not adopted it are Ethiopia, Nepal, Iran and Afghanistan.

## TRADITIONS

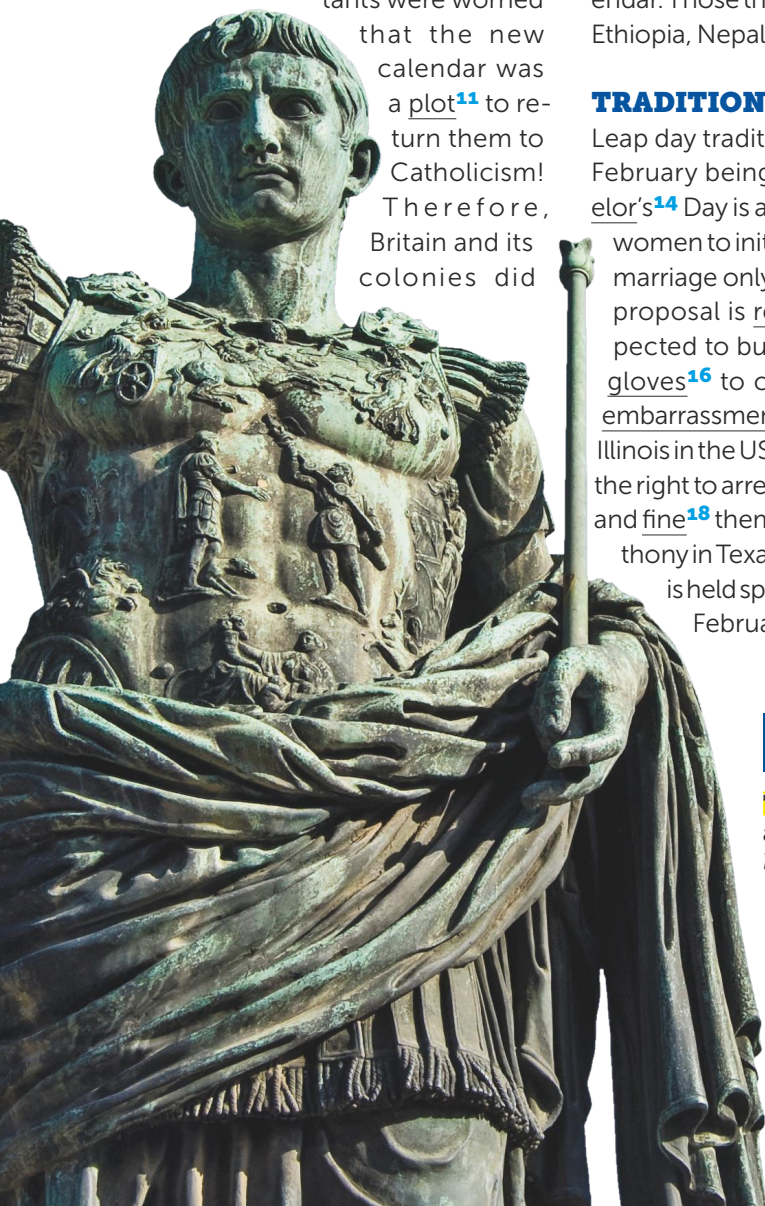
Leap day traditions are associated with February being a month of love. Bachelor's<sup>14</sup> Day is an Irish tradition 'allowing' women to initiate dances and propose marriage only on February 29th. If the proposal is refused<sup>15</sup>, the man is expected to buy the woman a dress or gloves<sup>16</sup> to compensate her for the embarrassment<sup>17</sup>. In the town of Aurora, Illinois in the US, single women are given the right to arrest single men on leap day and fine<sup>18</sup> them four dollars, while in Anthony in Texas, a huge birthday festival is held specially for people born on February 29th. ☺

## GLOSSARY

- 7 accurately: con cura
- 8 surplus: in eccesso
- 9 centennial year: centenario
- 10 to resent: risentirsi
- 11 plot: complotto
- 12 to delete: cancellare
- 13 at once: di colpo
- 14 bachelor: scapolo
- 15 to refuse: rifiutare
- 16 gloves: guanti
- 17 embarrassment: imbarazzo
- 18 to fine: multare
- 19 hot rock: roccia bollente
- 20 underground: sottoterra



Clockwise from opposite page top: the four closest planets to the sun (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars); the medieval Prague Orloj or Astronomical Clock in the city's Old Town; a leap year calendar; a statue of Julius Caesar in Rome, Italy.



## SPEAK UP Explains

**The leap day of a leap year. Il 29 febbraio di un anno bisestile.** Il termine *leap* ('balzo') viene dal verbo *to leap*, che vuol dire 'saltare', 'balzare'. Infatti negli anni bisestili, per le date dopo il 29 febbraio, si fa un salto in avanti di due giorni, invece di uno solo come succede negli anni comuni, rispetto all'anno precedente. Nell'inglese antico veniva usato *bissextile*, parola che deriva dal latino 'bissexthus', che significa il "secondo sesto giorno" o il "doppio sesto giorno".



## HOT TOPIC

# The Green New Deal

Il cambiamento climatico non può essere contrastato senza un insieme di politiche globali che affrontano questioni non solo ambientali, ma anche economiche e sociali. Ecco cos'è esattamente il Green New Deal.

PREINTERMEDIATE A2

ON CD 7

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **headline:** titolo
- 2 **hurricanes:** uragani
- 3 **floods:** inondazioni
- 4 **droughts:** siccità
- 5 **slow:** lenti
- 6 **to deny:** negare
- 7 **pollution:** inquinamento
- 8 **worse:** peggiore
- 9 **offenders:** contravventori
- 10 **to rely on:** contare su
- 11 **to burn:** bruciare
- 12 **fuels:** carburanti
- 13 **therefore:** quindi
- 14 **disruptive:** che disturba
- 15 **deal:** accordo
- 16 **to outline:** delineare
- 17 **to deal with:** affrontare
- 18 **to tackle:** contrastare
- 19 **to recover:** recuperarsi
- 20 **renewable:** rinnovabile
- 21 **to switch:** passare a
- 22 **gap:** divario
- 23 **ultimate:** definitivo
- 24 **to pay for itself:** ammortizzarsi

Climate change is headline<sup>1</sup> news these days. Reports of hurricanes<sup>2</sup>, floods<sup>3</sup> and droughts<sup>4</sup> are increasingly frequent. The effects of these natural disasters are devastating but, individually, their causes can be ambiguous. As a result, governments are slow<sup>5</sup> to act. Some politicians choose to deny<sup>6</sup> that it is a problem. What is certain is that pollution<sup>7</sup> is worse<sup>8</sup> than ever. One of the greatest offenders<sup>9</sup> is the United States. Its carbon dioxide emissions are the second-highest in the world, after China. The country's entire economy relies on<sup>10</sup> the burning<sup>11</sup> of fossil fuels<sup>12</sup>. Any solution, therefore<sup>13</sup>, will have to be complex, disruptive<sup>14</sup> and very expensive.

## PLAN FOR A FAIRER WORLD

Enter the Green New Deal<sup>15</sup>. Presented by Congresswoman Alexandria Oca-



sio-Cortez and Senator Edward Markey (both Democrats), it outlines<sup>16</sup> a ten-year plan to deal with<sup>17</sup> not only climate change, but also economic inequality. According to the plan, a scientific solution is not enough: it must also tackle<sup>18</sup> poverty and social injustice.

The Green New Deal takes its name from a programme of social and economic reforms introduced in the 1930s; President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal helped the country recover<sup>19</sup> from the Great Depression. The Green New Deal proposes doing the same, with an emphasis on renewable<sup>20</sup> energy.

The aim is to gradually reduce US dependency on fossil fuels and switch<sup>21</sup> to renewable





## GLOSSARY

- 25 **former:** ex
- 26 **laureate:** vincitore
- 27 **plenty:** numerosi
- 28 **to tweet:** twittare (scrivere su Twitter)
- 29 **to press forward:** avanzare
- 30 **so-called:** cosiddetto
- 31 **footprint:** orma
- 32 **planes:** aerei
- 33 **cows:** mucche
- 34 **nevertheless:** tuttavia
- 35 **to point out:** indicare
- 36 **no longer:** non più



**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump

I think it is very important for the Democrats to press forward with their Green New Deal. It would be great for the so-called “Carbon Footprint” to permanently eliminate all Planes, Cars, Cows, Oil, Gas & the Military - even if no other country would do the same. Brilliant!

12:21 AM · Feb 10, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)  
36.7K Retweets 165.2K Likes



**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**   
@AOC

The Green New Deal decarbonizes our economy while ensuring we leave no community behind, including job transitions for miners, labor rights, healthcare & wages. Calling the consideration of working people in climate policy a “distraction” is what is truly unsustainable + unrealistic.

3:39 AM · Jul 31, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)  
4.9K Retweets 24.3K Likes

energy, like solar or wind power. By focusing initially on public transport and poorer areas, the most disadvantaged people would benefit first. While closing the gap<sup>22</sup> between rich and poor, the ultimate<sup>23</sup> objective is a zero-carbon economy. It is an ambitious plan with a high cost. However, supporters say that it would pay for itself<sup>24</sup> by creating new jobs in a growing industry.

## SUPPORTERS

The Green New Deal has many supporters in high places, including former<sup>25</sup> Vice-President Al Gore, presidential candidate Joe Biden, former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the economist and Nobel Laureate<sup>26</sup> Joseph Stiglitz.

## DETRACTORS

It has plenty<sup>27</sup> of detractors, too. Many Republicans believe that it is unrealistic. The biggest critic is President Donald Trump. He tweeted<sup>28</sup> with characteristic sarcasm: “I think it is very important for the Democrats to press forward<sup>29</sup> with their Green New Deal. It would be great for the so-called<sup>30</sup> “Carbon Footprint<sup>31</sup>” to permanently eliminate all planes<sup>32</sup>, cars, cows<sup>33</sup>, oil, gas and the military — even if no other country would do the same. Brilliant!” Nevertheless<sup>34</sup>, the Green New Deal is now at the centre of the 2020 US presidential campaign. As Ocasio-Cortez pointed out<sup>35</sup>, “climate change is no longer<sup>36</sup> a scientific question; it is a political one.” ⊗

Clockwise from top photo: parent-activists in Washington D.C. call on Congress to support a plan limiting carbon emissions from power plants; actor Jane Fonda calls for action to address climate change; climate activists in New York.





## INTERVIEW

### THE FIGHT OF THE REST OF OUR LIVES

Green New Deal is an ambitious plan with a short time frame<sup>1</sup>. If it is going to work, it needs to focus<sup>2</sup> on realistic actions. A new book entitled *A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal* offers concrete proposals to trigger<sup>3</sup> radical change; from dismantling<sup>4</sup> the fossil fuel industry to advancing renewable energy alternatives, such as no-carbon housing and free public transit. According to Thea Riofrancos, political scientist and one of the book's four authors, one of the first measures should be to target<sup>5</sup> the worst polluters, as she explained:



**Thea Riofrancos  
(American accent):**

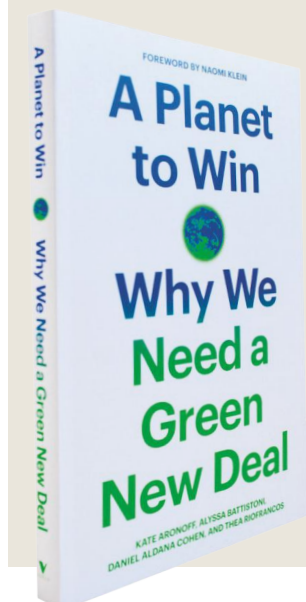
We open the book by arguing<sup>6</sup> that the first task of a radical Green New Deal is dismantling<sup>7</sup> fossil capitalism, and you do that in a variety of ways. First and foremost<sup>7</sup>, we kind of take up the climate justice call that we need to keep it in the ground<sup>8</sup>. We need to keep the oil and the coal and the gas in the ground and we need to do this because the climate science clearly says that we need to do this. But this is not just about the climate science or climate experts. It's also about what makes things politically possible. And our belief is that

ADVANCED **C1**

ON CD 8

#### GLOSSARY

- 1 **time frame:** periodo di tempo
- 2 **to focus:** centrarsi
- 3 **to trigger:** scatenare
- 4 **to dismantling:** smantellare
- 5 **to target:** prendere di mira
- 6 **to argue:** argomentare
- 7 **first and foremost:** in primo luogo
- 8 **keep it in the ground:** mantenere i combustibili nella terra (cessare l'estrazione di combustibili fossili)



we make things politically possible by having clear, kind of positive visions, but also by targeting clear enemies that everyone loves to hate, like fossil fuel executives, right? Using the repressive arm of the State and the prosecutorial arm of the State<sup>9</sup> and the regulatory arm of the State to keep that in the ground, to tax them out of existence<sup>10</sup> and to regulate them out of existence.

#### ALL POLITICS ARE CLIMATE POLITICS

However<sup>11</sup> the Deal gets off the ground<sup>12</sup>, co-author and political theorist Alyssa Battistoni says that everyone needs to be involved in making it happen.



**Alyssa Battistoni  
(American accent):**

We're trying to outline a vision of things that we think are possible, to begin building in the short term<sup>13</sup>, but that's also part of a real reconfiguration of what our economy and society looks like. As we argue, we think all politics are climate politics in the 21st century, so we really do need to be thinking about how all of our other... really all of our political issues, all of our political projects are connected to and part of thinking about climate politics and about something like the Green New Deal. It is a short-term vision but it is also a long-term one. I mean climate change is sort of the fight of the rest of our lives, I think. ☒



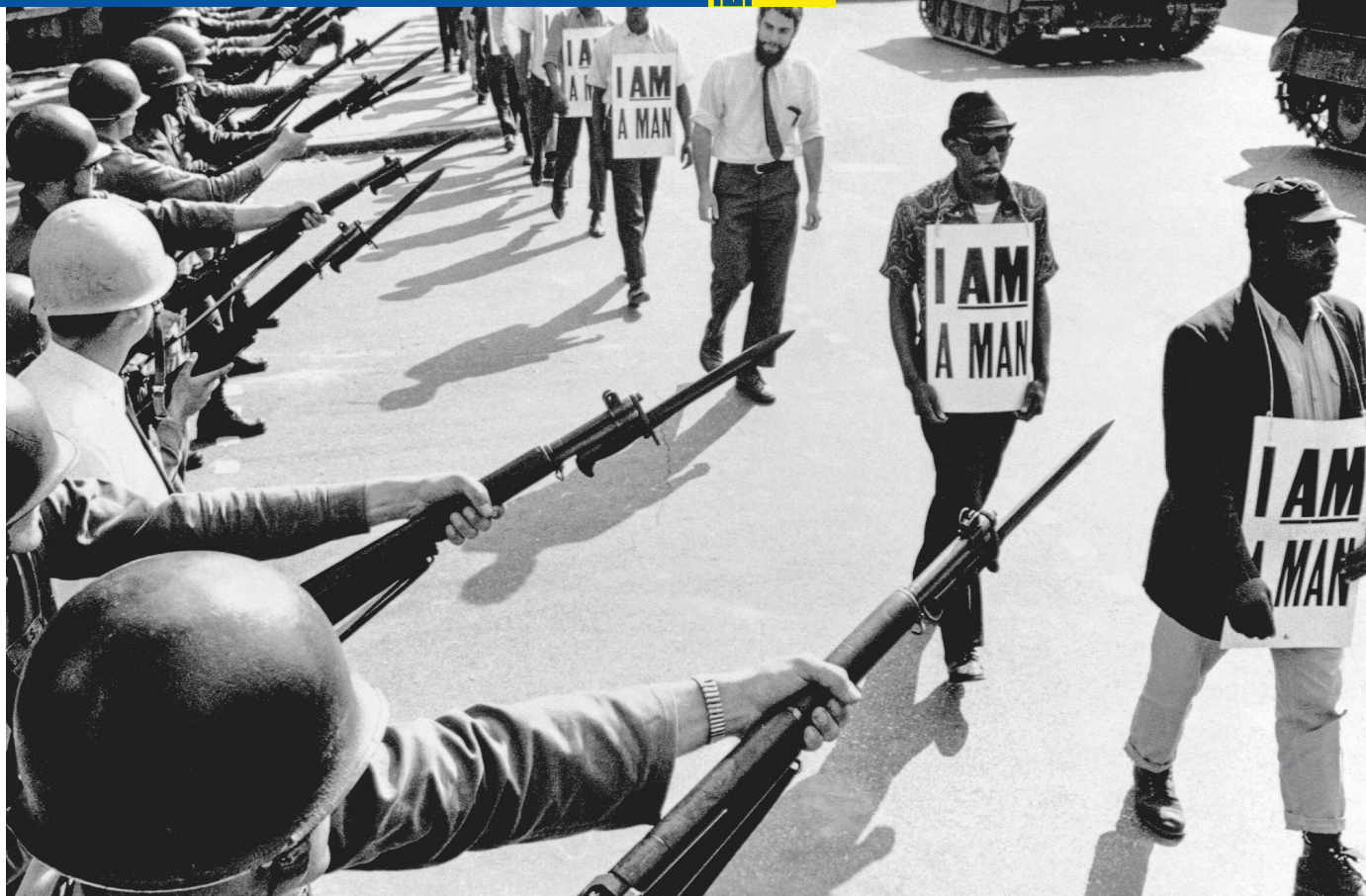


Clockwise from opposite page left: a turtle among plastic bags; a starfish in an oil spill in South Korea; a pumpjack in Calgary, Canada; Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez speak about the importance of a Green New Deal at an event in Washington last May.

## ↳ GLOSSARY

- 9 prosecutorial arm of the State:** il braccio persecutore dello Stato
- 10 to tax them out of existence:** tassarli fino a farli scomparire
- 11 however:** per quanto
- 12 to get off the ground:** decollare, spiccare il volo
- 13 in the short term:** a breve termine





## The African-American Narrative

# Black History Month

Ogni anno durante il mese di febbraio, negli Stati Uniti viene reso omaggio alla cultura e alla storia afroamericana con una serie di atti per celebrare i cittadini di razza nera che hanno contribuito in modo decisivo alla nascita e lo sviluppo della nazione.

UPPER INTERMEDIATE **B2**

ON CD 9

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **is no different:** non c'è alcuna differenza
- 2 **to aim:** avere come obiettivo
- 3 **to highlight:** sottolineare
- 4 **shortcomings:** difetti
- 5 **to grow out of:** sorgere da

**B**lack History Month is a US celebration of African-American culture and history that officially takes place in February. While black history is no different<sup>1</sup> to American history, the month aims<sup>2</sup>, among other things, to highlight<sup>3</sup> the shortcomings<sup>4</sup> of the US education system that still teaches a primarily Caucasian narrative of history.

### A WEEK IN FEBRUARY

Inaugurated in 1976, the event grew out of<sup>5</sup> Negro History Week, the idea of the early 20th-century historian Carter G. Woodson, a co-founder of the Associ-

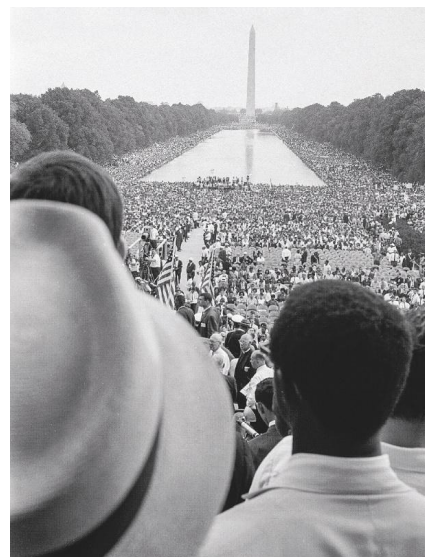
ation for the Study of African-American Life and History. In 1926 Woodson selected February as an appropriate month as it contained the birthdays of two important figures: US President Abraham Lincoln, who brought about<sup>6</sup> the emancipation of slaves, and African-American abolitionist, author and orator Frederick Douglass.

### MAKE IT OFFICIAL

Black communities had in fact celebrated these dates since the late 19th century, and an unofficial black history month as early as the 1940s. It was only with the ascendance of the American civil rights movement in



## EXERCISES IN Work It Out!



Opposite page and above: civil rights activists in Memphis, in 1968. Left: children in 2018 commemorate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination.

the 1960s that Black History Month became established; Gerald Ford was the first US president to urge<sup>7</sup> all Americans to participate in its observance<sup>8</sup>.

### A SEGREGATED HISTORY

This year, the special focus of the month is on the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment<sup>9</sup> to the US Constitution, which gave non-white men and freed<sup>10</sup> male slaves the right to vote. No women of any colour were allowed<sup>11</sup> to vote in the US until 1920, however. Again, reality clashed<sup>12</sup> with legality; although ratified in February 1870, in practice it took a century for the amendment to take effect, since in Southern states the use of poll taxes<sup>13</sup>, literacy tests<sup>14</sup> and intimidation disenfranchised<sup>15</sup> African-Americans. It would take the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed<sup>16</sup> such practices, for the majority of African-Americans to register.

### CLOSING THE GAP

Today, while one in eight US citizens are black, African-Americans make up<sup>17</sup> more than

one-fourth of the nation's poor, and face a range<sup>18</sup> of institutional obstacles that make earning<sup>19</sup> a liveable income<sup>20</sup> extremely difficult. Advocates<sup>21</sup> say that Black History Month creates a positive environment where American teachers gain confidence in imparting a more complete US history. Critics say that this should occur all year round<sup>22</sup>.

### EVENTS

Black History Month features<sup>23</sup> book presentations, talks, performances<sup>24</sup>, exhibitions and tours across the country. Great figures that were airbrushed<sup>25</sup> from American history are honoured, as well as ordinary African-Americans that have distinguished themselves in their communities. Aimed at all US citizens, Black History Month highlights the contribution that black Americans have made in the United States' past and present,

empowering them to act in the service of its future. ☒

[www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov](http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov)



## GLOSSARY

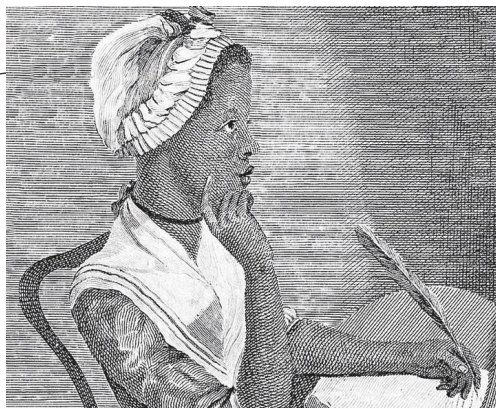
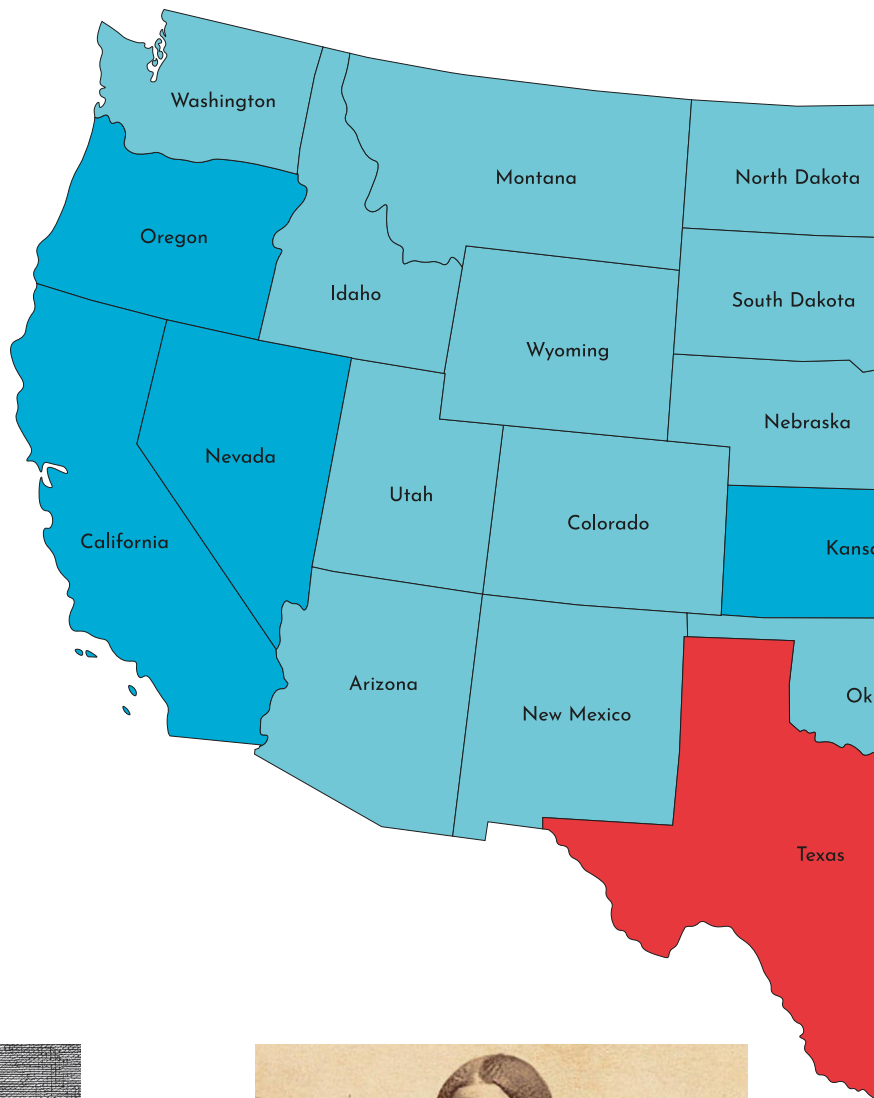
- 6 to bring about:** condurre
- 7 to urge:** incoraggiare
- 8 observance:** festeggiamento
- 9 amendment:** emendamento
- 10 to free:** liberare
- 11 to allow:** permettere
- 12 to clash:** scontrarsi
- 13 poll taxes:** imposta pro-capite
- 14 literacy tests:** test di alfabetizzazione
- 15 to disenfranchise:** privare del diritto di voto
- 16 to outlaw:** illegalizzare
- 17 to make up:** formare
- 18 range:** gamma
- 19 to earn:** guadagnare
- 20 liveable income:** reddito di sussistenza
- 21 advocates:** difensori
- 22 all year round:** tutto l'anno
- 23 to feature:** includere
- 24 performances:** esibizioni
- 25 to airbrush:** ritoccare





## THE WAR TO END SLAVERY

This is a map of the United States at the time of the American Civil War (1861-1865). Blue represents Union states, or free states, in which slavery was prohibited; light blue<sup>1</sup> indicates territories that were not yet incorporated as states at the time of the war. Red represents Confederate states, in which the practice of slavery was legal according to<sup>2</sup> its 1861 Constitution. Yellow represents border<sup>3</sup> states, that were slave-holding<sup>4</sup> states but that did not leave the Union during the American Civil War. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 did not immediately grant<sup>5</sup> freedom to slaves in the ten Confederate states, as those areas were still controlled by the Confederacy. The Confederate surrender<sup>6</sup> in 1865 marked the end of the Civil War. Nearly four million slaves were freed as the Union claimed victory<sup>7</sup>. ☒



### Phillis Wheatley

(Senegal, 1753-1784) The first African-American woman to publish a book of poetry, Wheatley transformed perceptions on what a non-white woman could achieve<sup>8</sup>. Born in Africa, she was sold into slavery and transported to America. Her *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* made her famous in England and the American colonies. Figures such as Voltaire and George Washington admired her work.



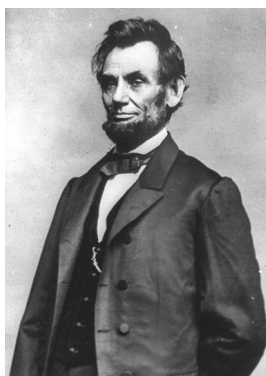
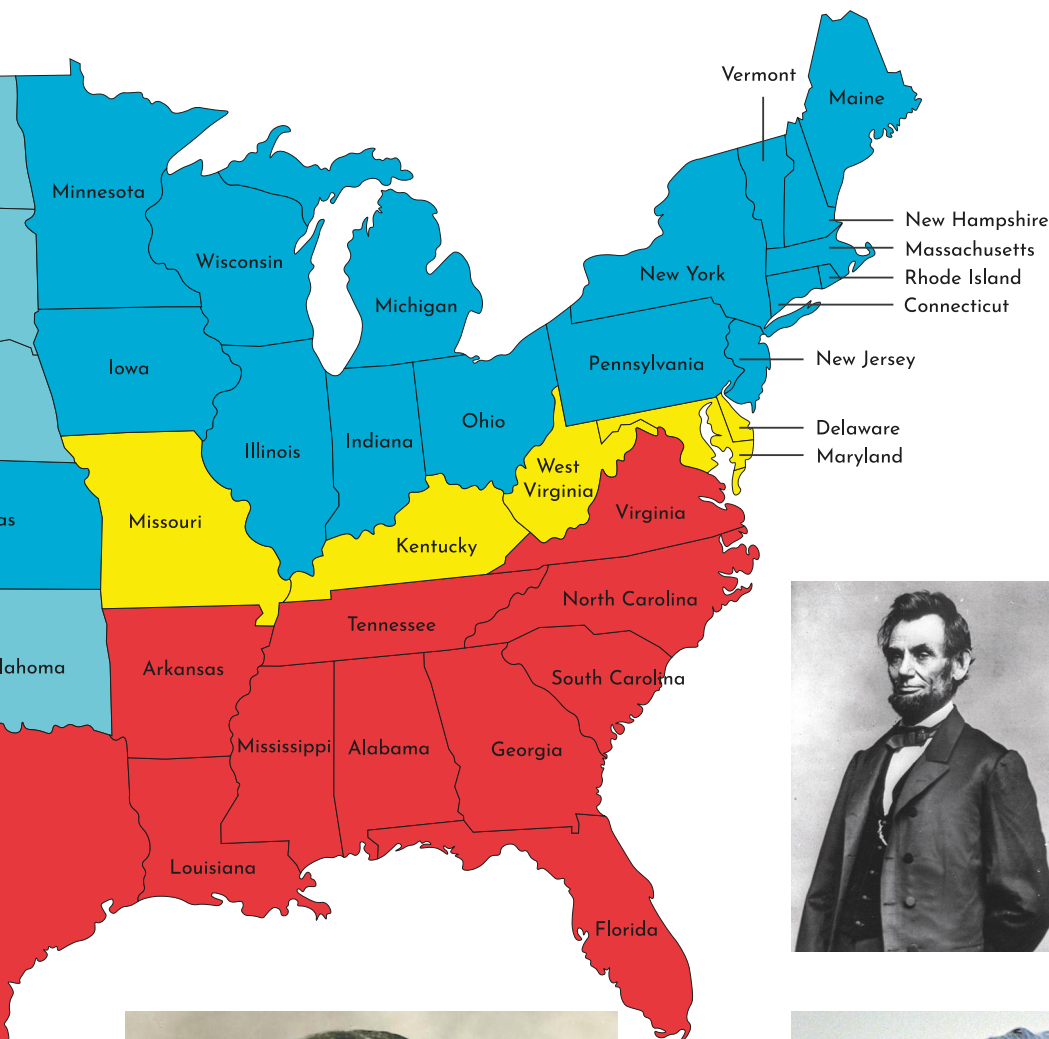
### Harriet Tubman

(Maryland, 1822-1913) An American abolitionist and political activist. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and then made around thirteen missions to rescue some seventy enslaved people, including family and friends, using a network of anti-slavery activists and safe houses<sup>9</sup> known as the Underground Railroad<sup>10</sup>.



## GLOSSARY

- 1 light blue:** azzurro
- 2 according to:** secondo
- 3 border:** frontiera
- 4 slave-holding:** schiavisti
- 5 to grant:** concedere
- 6 to surrender:** arrendersi
- 7 to claim victory:** proclamarsi vincitore
- 8 to achieve:** raggiungere
- 9 safe houses:** rifugi
- 10 railroad:** ferrovia
- 11 hair care:** cura dei capelli
- 12 self-made woman:** donna che si è fatta da sola
- 13 Supreme Court:** Corte suprema



Left: Abraham Lincoln was US President from 1861 until his assassination in 1865.



### Madam C.J. Walker

(Louisiana, 1867-1919) Born Sarah Breedlove, Madam C.J. Walker was an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and political and social activist. Her line of cosmetics and hair care<sup>11</sup> products for black women made her rich and powerful. At the time of her death, Walker was considered the wealthiest self-made woman<sup>12</sup> in America.



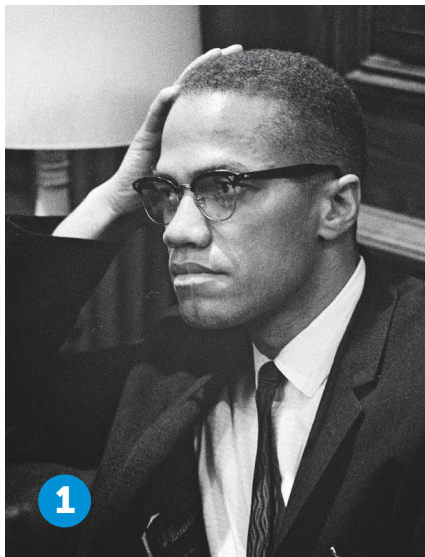
### Thurgood Marshall

(Maryland, 1908-1993) A lawyer who graduated first in his class and joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he used the constitution to argue for equal rights and forced the University of Maryland Law School to admit its first black student. In 1967, Marshall became the first African-American to serve on the US Supreme Court<sup>13</sup>.



## 1. Malcolm X

(Nebraska, 1925-1965) A hugely influential figure, Malcolm X was the public face of the black separatist organisation Nation of Islam, before leaving to seek<sup>14</sup> a more inclusive approach. Fifty-five years on<sup>15</sup> and questions surrounding<sup>16</sup> the American Muslim minister's assassination still contribute to the atmosphere of suspicion<sup>17</sup> and distrust<sup>18</sup> between law enforcement<sup>19</sup> and the black community.



1



## 2. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Atlanta, 1929-1968) This American Christian minister<sup>20</sup> and activist preached<sup>21</sup> non-violent civil disobedience; yet<sup>22</sup> he was a radical dissenter<sup>23</sup> who challenged the political, economic and military status quo, so much so that the FBI were obsessed with discrediting him. He opposed the Vietnam war, supported striking<sup>24</sup> workers and demanded economic justice for all poor Americans.



2



## 3. Maya Angelou

(North Carolina, 1928-2014) Angelou worked as a cook<sup>25</sup>, sex worker and a nightclub dancer before becoming one of America's most acclaimed writers and poets. A civil rights activist, she transformed the art of the autobiography with seven of her own<sup>26</sup>, centring on themes such as racism, identity and family.



3



## 4. Muhammad Ali

(Kentucky, 1942-2016) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., this professional boxer, activist, philanthropist and musician is considered one of the greatest athletes of all time. A world heavyweight<sup>27</sup> champion, he converted to Islam and took the name Muhammad Ali. His refusal<sup>28</sup> to be inducted<sup>29</sup> into the US armed forces and opposition to the Vietnam War lose his boxing licence for four crucial years.



5

## 5. Oprah Winfrey

(Mississippi, 1954) North America's first black multi-billionaire, Winfrey rose<sup>30</sup> from poverty in rural Mississippi to become one of the most influential people on the planet. She popularised and revolutionised the talk show genre<sup>31</sup>, opening TV up to diversity by encouraging LG-BT people to take part in her shows. A dedicated philanthropist, she has donated hundreds of millions to educational causes around the world.



4



8

## 8. Beyoncé

(Houston, 1981) Born and raised in Texas, the singer-songwriter<sup>34</sup>, and actress Beyoncé is an American icon and one of the best-selling musical artists of all time. Her 2016 album *Lemonade* rewrote the rules of popular art and culture in its defiant exploration of feminist blackness, at a politically sensitive moment. She was the first black woman to headline<sup>35</sup> the Coachella music festival in 2018.



6

## 6. Barack Obama

(Honolulu, 1961) The first African-American to be elected to the presidency. During his two terms in office, Obama faced the biggest economic crisis since the 1930s while reaching historic agreements with Iran and Cuba. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 for services to international diplomacy. He and his wife Michelle inspired (in particular) a generation of young black Americans from all walks of life<sup>32</sup>.



7

## 7. Ta-Nehisi Coates

(Baltimore, 1975) A national correspondent at *The Atlantic* magazine, this journalist and author has been called the voice of a new generation. He has written on cultural, social and political issues, particularly regarding African-Americans and white supremacy and won the 2015 National Book Award for his non-fiction<sup>33</sup> book *Between the World and Me*.

### GLOSSARY

- 14 **to seek:** cercare
- 15 **fifty-five years on:** cinquantacinque anni più tardi
- 16 **surrounding:** circa, riguardo
- 17 **suspicion:** sospetto
- 18 **distrust:** sfiducia
- 19 **law enforcement:** forze dell'ordine
- 20 **minister:** sacerdote
- 21 **to preach:** predicare
- 22 **yet:** sebbene
- 23 **dissenter:** dissidente
- 24 **striking:** in sciopero
- 25 **cook:** cuoca
- 26 **of her own:** proprie
- 27 **heavyweight:** pesi massimi
- 28 **refusal:** rifiuto
- 29 **to induct:** reclutare
- 30 **to rise:** emergere
- 31 **genre:** genere
- 32 **from all walks of life:** di tutti gli ambiti
- 33 **non-fiction:** di saggistica
- 34 **singer-songwriter:** cantautrice
- 35 **to headline:** essere l'attrazione principale



### HOW DO YOU SAY...

Dare un'occhiataccia.  
To give someone a black look.



**OED** The OED   
@OED

'chillax', v.  
Etymology: Blend of 'chill' v. and 'relax' v.  
To calm down and relax, to take it easy, to chill.

2:00 PM · Oct 11, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

4 Retweets 19 Likes

**OED** The OED   
@OED

As a historical and descriptive dictionary, the OED aims to track and record all adaptations of the English language, including a wide range of colloquial words.

2:00 PM · Oct 11, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

46 Retweets 104 Likes

UPPER INTERMEDIATE **B2**

ON CD 10 

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **for short:** abbreviato
- 2 **entries:** voci
- 3 **to add:** aggiungere
- 4 **to take it easy:** prendersela con calma
- 5 **researchers:** ricercatori
- 6 **to keep up to date:** tenersi aggiornati
- 7 **useful:** utile
- 8 **to take out:** togliere
- 9 **to establish:** stabilire
- 10 **evidence:** prova
- 11 **at least:** almeno
- 12 **brand:** marchio
- 13 **paste:** pasta, crema
- 14 **to spread:** spalmare
- 15 **either ... or:** o ... o
- 16 **taste:** sapore
- 17 **issue:** questione
- 18 **to win:** vincere
- 19 **whatever:** qualunque cosa, vabbé
- 20 **disrespectful:** scortese
- 21 **widely:** ampiamente
- 22 **speech:** discorso
- 23 **to argue:** sostenere
- 24 **guiding principle:** principio guida

## Keeping Track of English

# HOW A DICTIONARY WORKS

Per 170 anni ha definito e documentato l'uso di più di 600.000 parole, ma il lavoro dell'Oxford English Dictionary non si ferma qui e rimane sempre attento all'attualità. Ti raccontiamo come lavora il dizionario di riferimento della lingua più parlata al mondo.

**T**here's no time to 'chillax' at the offices of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED for short<sup>1</sup>). Over 170 years after the massive English dictionary project began, entries<sup>2</sup> are constantly being revised and new words add-<sup>3</sup>, like, for example, 'chillax'. This slang

word, which means "to calm down and relax; to take it easy<sup>4</sup>, to chill," was one of around three thousand additions made to the OED in 2019. As the English language keeps on growing, so does the dictionary. How does the OED's team of seventy lexicographers, researchers<sup>5</sup> and etymolo-





'marmite', n. and adj.

1. A proprietary name for: a savoury paste made from yeast extract and vegetable extract.

2. British colloquial. In allusive use, with reference to someone of something that polarizes opinions by provoking either strongly positive or strongly negative reactions, rather than indifference.

2:00 PM · Oct 11, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

8 Retweets 25 Likes



'whatevs', int. and pron.

Used (usually in response to a question or statement) to indicate that the speaker is disinclined to engage with the matter in hand.

2:00 PM · Oct 11, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

4 Retweets 16 Likes

word just because they see that people have started using it. Once a word enters the OED it's never taken out<sup>8</sup>, so the editors have to be sure a word really has become established<sup>9</sup> in the language before they add it. They look for written evidence<sup>10</sup> — books, newspapers, and online communications — showing that the word has been used for some years, usually at least<sup>11</sup> ten, before it gets a place in the dictionary.

## RECENT UPDATES

Every three months, the editors publish a list of the updates they've made to the dictionary. Some of these updates are revisions or additions to existing entries. For example, the first recorded use of the brand<sup>12</sup> name Marmite, referring to the dark, salty paste<sup>13</sup> that some people like to spread<sup>14</sup> on their toast, goes way back to 1902. But 2019 saw the addition of 'marmite' as an adjective. Because people tend to either love or<sup>15</sup> hate the taste<sup>16</sup> of Marmite, a 'marmite' issue<sup>17</sup> or person is one that divides opinion into two extremes.

The word 'whatevs', which is popular with teenagers, also won<sup>18</sup> a place in 2019. This slang form of the word 'whatever'<sup>19</sup> is a disrespectful<sup>20</sup> way to demonstrate that you have no interest in what has just been said to you. For example, Parent: "Have you got any homework?" Teenager: "Yeah. Whatevs."

## CONTROVERSY

One particularly marmite issue in 2019 was the inclusion of 'sumthin', 'sumptin', 'sumfin', and 'summink' as regional variants of the existing entry 'something'. It's true that these four pronunciations are widely<sup>21</sup> used in speech<sup>22</sup> but should they really be included in written form in the dictionary? Comments on social media were polarised. The editors argued<sup>23</sup> that including these variants helped to record the English language as it's actually used, something — or even sumthin — that has always been the guiding principle<sup>24</sup> of the OED. ☒

gists keep up to date<sup>6</sup> with such a quickly evolving, global language as English?

## ADDING NEW WORDS

Analysing social media has been a particularly useful<sup>7</sup> approach for editors, but they don't automatically include a new



OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

[www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com)





OED

The OED  
@OED

A notable entry in the October update to the OED is the term 'fake news'.

Although it was popularized in 2016 during the US presidential election campaign, did you know that 'fake news' can be dated back to 1890?

7:55 PM · Oct 9, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

77 Retweets 104 Likes

OED

The OED  
@OED

nomophobia, n.

Origin: Formed within English, by compounding.

Etymons: 'no' adj., 'mobile' n., '-phobia'

Anxiety about not having access to a mobile phone or mobile phone services.

8:00 AM · Oct 22, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

45 Retweets 102 Likes

OED

The OED  
@OED

'Emoji' officially entered the OED in 2013. Our first recorded evidence for the word currently dates from 1997 📱 #WorldEmojiDay

5:02 PM · Oct 17, 2015 · [Hootsuite](#)

60 Retweets 31 Likes

OED

The OED  
@OED

'O', n.

Used to symbolize a hug, esp. at the end of the letter, greetings card, or the like.

2:00 PM · Oct 11, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

2 Retweets 15 Likes

OED

The OED  
@OED

The June update to the OED includes numerous new entries and senses surrounding the word 'bastard'.

From 'bastard sword' to 'bastarding', here we explore the word's etymology to examine how 'bastard' has developed to form the range of terms we know today.

12:30 PM · Jun 20, 2019 · [TweetDeck](#)

20 Retweets 31 Likes



## ADDING NEW WORDS TO ENGLISH

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) project began in 1857 with the goal<sup>1</sup> of reflecting changes in how English is used. It was ambitious back then<sup>2</sup>, but today must work at breakneck speed<sup>3</sup> to keep up with a rapidly-expanding vocabulary fomented by technological advancement and exchanged over the internet. Fiona McPherson is a senior editor at the OED. She gave *Speak Up* a behind-the-scenes<sup>4</sup> view of how the modern dictionary project works, beginning by describing the process of developing a new entry:



**Fiona McPherson (Scottish accent):** My job is as a new words editor, so I am responsible for putting brand new<sup>5</sup> words into the

dictionary. And I will start with a suggestion that somebody has made for a word that's not yet in the OED. So, I will take my suggestion, I'll make sure that I can find that there is evidence that this word is being used, because again, if it isn't, we wouldn't include it. And then I try to find the very first example that has been published in English. And I'll define the word and I'll try to find examples from published works which show the typical ways that this word is used. And I just carry on<sup>6</sup> from there, really. It's a bit of detective work really.

### ENGLISH, JUST AS IT IS

The OED is a descriptive, not prescriptive<sup>7</sup> dictionary. That means it doesn't establish how English 'should' be used but rather<sup>8</sup> records how it 'is' used, as McPherson explains.

**Fiona McPherson:** One question I get asked a lot is whether or not slang and offensive language has any place in a dictionary. And really, to take slang, slang is part of what makes any language much more rich and varied. And because a word is in the OED, or indeed<sup>9</sup> any dic-

tionary, it doesn't mean that you have to use it. We're not telling people what words to use, we're just really recording the language that people are using. So slang words are definitely, completely legitimate for inclusion in the OED.

### BAD LANGUAGE

That also means including vulgar or even racist and sexist words, says McPherson, with appropriate labelling<sup>10</sup>.

**Fiona McPherson:** Offensive words, because they also form part of the language, we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't include these words as well. But what we always make sure we do is use any appropriate labelling, so that we'll say that a word is slang, we'll say that it's colloquial, we'll say that it's offensive, if indeed it is offensive. So that people know when they see these words, 'OK you maybe want to be careful about using this word in certain contexts or if you use this word you actually might be being quite offensive.'

### SOCIAL MEDIA SPEECH

In last month's *Speak Up*, the writer Simon Winchester described how contributions sent through the post by thousands of ordinary people formed the basis of the dictionary's first edition, completed in 1928. McPherson talked about how suggestions from the public are still very much part of the OED process, although these days they're usually submitted<sup>11</sup> via Twitter or email.

**Fiona McPherson:** We always love when people contact us with suggestions for words that we maybe haven't yet included in the dictionary, or also suggestions for already existing entries. It goes back to the very foundation<sup>12</sup> of what the OED was built upon, when people would send examples of words that they had come across<sup>13</sup> in their everyday reading to the first editors. We very much value the public's input because without the public and people using language, there would be no reason for a dictionary, so it's a real cornerstone<sup>14</sup> of what we do. ☒

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **goal:** scopo
- 2 **back then:** all'epoca
- 3 **at breakneck speed:** a una velocità folle (lett. da rompersi il collo)
- 4 **behind-the-scenes:** dietro le quinte
- 5 **brand new:** nuove di zecca
- 6 **to carry on:** continuare
- 7 **prescriptive:** normativo
- 8 **rather:** piuttosto
- 9 **indeed:** anzi
- 10 **to label:** etichettare
- 11 **to submit:** mandare
- 12 **the very foundation:** le fondamenta stesse
- 13 **to come across:** incontrare
- 14 **cornerstone:** pietra angolare, base

the Oxford  
English  
dictionary

SECOND EDITION

Volume I  
A–Bazouki

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS · OXFORD





## ANGLOPOLIS

# THE WORDS OF THE YEAR

In quanto strumento fondamentale per la comunicazione e il pensiero, il linguaggio è il riflesso più fedele dei cambiamenti che succedono nella società. La scelta della parola dell'anno serve come spunto di riflessione sui fatti che determinano il presente e il futuro.

PROFICIENCY **C2**

ON CD 12

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **to sum up:** riassumere
- 2 **to track:** tenere traccia
- 3 **billion:** miliardo
- 4 **shortlist:** selezione
- 5 **to trend:** andare di moda
- 6 **newish:** quasi nuova
- 7 **to rise:** aumentare
- 8 **disagreement:** disaccordo
- 9 **no-brainer:** ovvio
- 10 **workout:** allenamento

**T**hink of a word that sums up<sup>1</sup> 2019 for you — your 'word of the year' (WOTY). What would it be? Every year the editors at Oxford Dictionaries select a word of the year for the English-speaking world. By analysing large corpuses of text in English, the editors can track<sup>2</sup> how many times per billion<sup>3</sup> words a particular word is being used. From this information they make a shortlist<sup>4</sup> of the words that have been trending<sup>5</sup> before choosing the word that best reflects the feel of the whole year.

### SELFIE

Sometimes the chosen word of the year is a new or newish<sup>6</sup> word; in 2013, for ex-

ample, it was 'selfie'. The first recorded use of the word 'selfie' was back in 2002, but it wasn't until 2013 that the selfie became a phenomenon. The data analysed showed that the word 'selfie' was being used around four hundred times per billion words in January 2013, but by December 2013 this frequency had risen<sup>7</sup> to an incredible 5,500 times! Although most years there's some disagreement<sup>8</sup> about which word from the shortlist should be the final winner, in the case of 'selfie' it was a no-brainer<sup>9</sup>. Often two words of the year are chosen, to reflect differences in British and American usage, but in 2015 'selfie' was the winner on both sides of the Atlantic. Some English speakers have





Fridays for Future climate emergency activists, including Greta Thunberg, outside the UN (above) and in Rome (left) in 2019. Right: Paris Hilton takes a selfie in 2014.





already got creative with the word 'selfie', inventing the terms 'welfie' — a selfie taken while doing a workout<sup>10</sup> —, and 'drelfie' — a selfie taken while drunk<sup>11</sup>!

## TOXIC

The word of the year could also be an old word used in a new way, like in 2017 when the chosen word was 'toxic'. Although 'toxic', meaning 'poisoned'<sup>12</sup>, first appeared in English in the mid-17th century, in 2018 the editors saw a spike<sup>13</sup> in the number of times it was being used. As well as familiar collocations like 'toxic chemical' and 'toxic gas', there were some new figurative collocations, for example: 'toxic masculinity' and 'toxic relationship'. A similar repurposing<sup>14</sup> of words happened with the 2016 word of the year, 'post-truth'. The words 'post-' and 'truth' have been used in English for centuries but following the Trump presidential campaign, a lot of people were suddenly<sup>15</sup> putting them together!

## REALLY?!

The word of the year for 2015 was a particularly controversial choice as the editors selected the pictograph<sup>16</sup> known as 'tears<sup>17</sup> of joy emoji' 😂 as the word of the year for both the UK and the US. Many people were horrified. Is an emoji even a word? Well, although it doesn't have an entry in the Oxford English Dictionary (yet), the editors saw from the data in 2015 that there had been a huge increase in the use of emojis in general and the 'tears of joy emoji' in particular. As digital communication develops, perhaps our idea of what a word is will have to change, too.

## CHANGE, CRISIS, EMERGENCY

So, what is the word of the year for 2019 — the word that best sums up the "ethos, mood<sup>18</sup> and preoccupations" of the past year? Well, it's scary<sup>19</sup> but surely not surprising that Oxford Dictionaries have



## GLOSSARY

- 11 drunk:** ubriaco
- 12 to poison:** avvelenare
- 13 spike:** impennata
- 14 to repurpose:** convertire
- 15 suddenly:** improvvisamente
- 16 pictograph:** pittogramma
- 17 tears:** lacrime
- 18 mood:** stato d'animo
- 19 scary:** spaventoso
- 20 health:** salute
- 21 shift:** cambiamento
- 22 to spike:** culminare

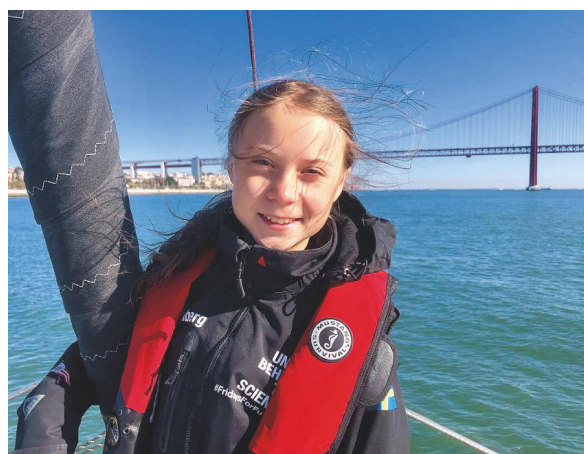
chosen the word 'climate emergency'. The data analysed showed that the word 'climate emergency' was used around a hundred times more often in 2019 than in 2018. In fact, the word 'emergency' is now being collocated with 'climate' far more than with any other word. In 2019, climate 'emergency' was used three times more often than 'health<sup>20</sup> emergency', the next most common collocation. Looking at the data for the last ten years, the editors also saw a progressive shift<sup>21</sup> from the use of the neutral term 'climate change', to the more urgent term 'climate crisis' and most recently 'climate emergency'.

## WORDS AND ACTIONS

Other words connected with the environment appeared on the 2019 word







of the year shortlist, including ‘climate action’ and ‘eco-anxiety’, both of which spiked<sup>22</sup> in September 2019, coinciding with the week of international protests known as the Global Climate Strikes<sup>23</sup>. The word ‘extinction’, also on the shortlist, spiked in April 2019, when protests by the climate action movement Extinction Rebellion were taking place.

### THE GRETA EFFECT

The actions of Greta Thunberg, the seventeen-year-old Swedish student who inspired the Global Climate Strikes, have undoubtedly played an important part in boosting<sup>24</sup> the usage of all the climate-related words already mentioned. But there’s one word on the word of the year shortlist for 2019 that’s derived from

Opposite page: US President Trump (top); climate activists belonging to the organisation Extinction Rebellion in San Francisco. Above: Greta Thunberg refuses to fly and makes carbon neutral journeys by sea instead.

### ↘ GLOSSARY

- 23 strikes:** scioperi
- 24 to boost:** potenziare
- 25 crystal-clear:** cristallino
- 26 flight shame:** vergogna di viaggiare in aereo
- 27 reluctance:** riluttanza

Swedish and for which the ‘Greta effect’ is crystal-clear<sup>25</sup> — ‘flight shame’<sup>26</sup>. Photos showing Greta leading by example and crossing the Atlantic by boat instead of by plane have shamed many air travellers into reconsidering their travel habits. According to Reuters, one in five air travellers is now choosing to fly less often because of the high carbon emissions generated by air travel. ‘Flight shame’, meaning reluctance<sup>27</sup> to travel by plane because of the polluting effects, comes directly from the Swedish word ‘flygskam’ which first appeared at the start of last year. ☒





EXPERIENCES

# "My face became a meme"



Dieci anni fa ho fatto una sessione fotografica che mi ha cambiato la vita: da quel momento la mia faccia ha fatto il giro del mondo ed è diventata un meme, offrendomi opportunità di lavoro inaspettate.

UPPER INTERMEDIATE **B2**

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **search:** ricerca
- 2 **hide the pain:** nasconde il dolore
- 3 **shoot:** sessione fotografica
- 4 **to seek:** cercare
- 5 **stock images:** foto d'archivio
- 6 **vain:** vanitoso
- 7 **settings:** ambientazioni

**N**ine years ago, I did an image search<sup>1</sup> on a photograph of me and was shocked to discover it had become a **meme**. People online thought my smile, combined with the look in my eyes, seemed terribly sad. They were calling me "Hide the Pain<sup>2</sup> Harold".

**The photo came** from a shoot<sup>3</sup> I'd done a year earlier, when I was still working as an electrical engineer. A professional photographer had got in touch after seeing my holiday photographs on Facebook. He said he was seeking<sup>4</sup> someone like me to be in some stock im-

ages<sup>5</sup>. Everyone is a little vain<sup>6</sup> inside, myself included, so I was happy that he wanted me. He invited me to a photoshoot near my home in Budapest and we took shots in different locations and settings<sup>7</sup>. Over the course<sup>8</sup> of two years he took hundreds of pictures of me for photo libraries.

**I thought** the pictures would just be used by businesses and websites, but I wasn't expecting the memes. People overlaid<sup>9</sup> text on my pictures, talking about their wives leaving them, or saying their identity had been stolen and their bank account emptied<sup>10</sup>. They used my



image because it looked as if I was smiling through the pain<sup>11</sup>.

**Once the memes** were out in the world, journalists began to contact me, and wanted to come to my home to interview me. My wife hated it. People thought I wasn't a real person, that I was a Photoshop creation — someone even got in contact asking for proof<sup>12</sup> that I existed.

**I knew that** it was impossible to stop people making memes, but it still annoyed me that Facebook pages, some with hundreds of thousands of followers, were using my photograph as their profile picture, and pretending to be me. Some kind of brand had been made out of me<sup>13</sup> and I would have been a fool<sup>14</sup> not to make use of it. So, in 2017, I created my own Facebook fan page and updated it with videos and stories from my travels.

**That started** everything going. People noticed that I had taken ownership<sup>15</sup> of the meme and got in contact to offer me work. I was given a role in a television commercial for a Hungarian car dealer<sup>16</sup>. In one of the adverts, I travelled to Germany to buy a used car and it broke down<sup>17</sup> halfway home<sup>18</sup>; if I had bought the same car through their company, the brand claimed<sup>19</sup>, it wouldn't have happened. The fee<sup>20</sup> for that commercial changed my wife's mind<sup>21</sup> about the meme.

**Now my life** has changed dramatically. People ask me to talk about my story, to demonstrate the power of memes. A football website flew me<sup>22</sup> to England to

make a video about Manchester City; I got to tour the ground<sup>23</sup> and watch them play a Champions League game. The German e-commerce giant Otto flew me out to make commercials for them. The Hungarian hard rock band Cloud 9+ have a song called *Hide The Pain*, with me in the video.

**Last year**, I took twenty flights from Budapest to destinations all over the world: Europe, Russia and, increasingly, South America. Last month, I travelled to Chile and Colombia for some TV appearances; that was the first time I felt like a real celebrity. Every time I walked down the street a crowd<sup>24</sup> would gather<sup>25</sup>, so they gave me bodyguards<sup>26</sup>. I've never enjoyed fame like that before; sometimes it was frightening<sup>27</sup>.

**We're also** using the meme for good. We want it to be more than just a sad smile. I am the face of a campaign for a mental health service in Hungary. I'm proud<sup>28</sup> that something more has come out of the last ten years than just an idiotic smile.

**I'm seventy-four** now. I spent forty years as an engineer. I did a bit of public speaking then, at conferences and lectures<sup>29</sup>, but that was very different from appearing on television talkshows and YouTube videos. As an engineer, it was really me. Now, it's role play<sup>30</sup>: I'm Hide the Pain Harold. But I'm not actually a sad guy — I think I'm rather<sup>31</sup> a happy one. ☺

• As told to Chris Stokel-Walker

## ↘ GLOSSARY

- 8 **over the course:** nel corso
- 9 **to overlay:** sovrapporre
- 10 **to empty:** vuotare
- 11 **to smile through the pain:** sorridere nonostante il dolore
- 12 **proof:** prova
- 13 **out of me:** con la mia faccia
- 14 **fool:** pazzo
- 15 **to take ownership:** appropriarsi
- 16 **car dealer:** concessionaria
- 17 **to break down:** rompersi
- 18 **halfway home:** a metà strada da casa
- 19 **to claim:** sostenere
- 20 **fee:** tariffa
- 21 **to change someone's mind:** far cambiare idea
- 22 **to fly someone:** mandare qualcuno in aereo
- 23 **ground:** campo
- 24 **crowd:** massa
- 25 **to gather:** raggrupparsi
- 26 **bodyguards:** guardie del corpo
- 27 **frightening:** spaventoso
- 28 **proud:** orgoglioso
- 29 **lectures:** conferenze
- 30 **role play:** interpretare un ruolo
- 31 **rather:** piuttosto



## SPEAK UP Explains

**Meme.** Questo termine ormai entrato nella lingua di tutti i giorni è apparso per la prima volta nel 1976 nel libro *The Selfish Gene* del biologo britannico Richard Dawkins. Meme è l'abbreviazione di mimeme, che viene dal greco antico mīmēma ('imitazione', 'copia'). Solo più tardi il termine è stato trasportato da Mike Godwin al linguaggio di internet per indicare delle immagini ironiche che ritraggono un personaggio e vi associano delle scritte, con la volontà di farne la parodia.

MY WIFE JUST TEXTED ME



WHILE SHE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE CEMETERY



EXERCISES IN  
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# THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Con circa 200 milioni di libri, pubblicazioni e documenti di ogni tipo, è considerata la biblioteca più grande del mondo in quanto a fondo. Eppure oltre al suo monumentale catalogo, la Biblioteca britannica custodisce anche veri e propri gioielli di un valore storico e artistico incalcolabile.





Opposite page: a Reading Room in the British Library; the exterior patio featuring the 1995 sculpture *Newton* by Eduardo Paolozzi. Bottom page: a booklet containing the text of Nelson Mandela's speech in his defence delivered at his trial that ended in 1964.

**T**he British Library is, without a doubt, one of the country's most incredible institutions, but one that many visitors to London miss out<sup>1</sup> on visiting. It holds<sup>2</sup> an astonishing<sup>3</sup> treasure trove<sup>4</sup> of well over<sup>5</sup> one hundred and fifty million collection items<sup>6</sup>, including manuscripts, maps, newspapers, magazines, prints<sup>7</sup> and drawings<sup>8</sup>, music scores<sup>9</sup>, and sound recordings. And that collection is growing<sup>10</sup> fast. The library has its main headquarters<sup>11</sup> at St. Pancras, London, just down the road from Kings Cross station (famous for its magic platform<sup>12</sup> 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, where Harry Potter boarded<sup>13</sup> his train to Hogwarts.)

## GLOBAL AND HISTORIC

The huge purpose-built<sup>14</sup> library receives a copy of every publication produced in the UK and Ireland. Three million new items are added every year. But although<sup>15</sup> it's called the 'British Library', it collects items from all over the world, in almost every language under the sun<sup>16</sup>. Of course, much of the material is stored<sup>17</sup> in archives, and some items are too fragile to be handled<sup>18</sup> by the public, but a lot of it can be accessed by readers, either in person or<sup>19</sup> online. You can find items as new as today's newspaper and as old as a Chinese oracle bone<sup>20</sup> (engraved<sup>21</sup> animal bone used for divination), dating all the way back to<sup>22</sup> 1600 BCE.

## ACCESS FOR ALL

There's space for 1,200 readers to read and work at desks in the Library's reading rooms and many thousands more access the online collections every day. A real highlight<sup>23</sup> is the Treasures of the British Library exhibition. This is a free,



permanent exhibition that gives visitors a chance<sup>24</sup> to see some of the most fascinating items held by the library. These include historical items, such as a recording of Nelson Mandela's famous trial speech<sup>25</sup>.

## SACRED AND LITERARY

There are artistic treasures too, such as Leonardo da Vinci's notebook and beautifully illustrated sacred texts, from the Christian, Muslim<sup>26</sup>, Jewish<sup>27</sup>, Buddhist and other traditions. There are letters from famous people, including Queen Victoria and Oscar Wilde, and early versions of literary works, handwritten by the authors, for example *Alice in Wonderland* (originally called 'Alice in the Underground'<sup>28</sup>.) You can see how maps have changed down the ages<sup>29</sup>, and much more. Of course, it's a delight<sup>30</sup> to see the exhibits for real in the gallery at the library, but if you can't visit in person, you can find photos and explanations of key exhibits online. ☒

[www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)



UPPER INTERMEDIATE **B2**

ON CD 13 **6**

## GLOSSARY

- 1 to miss out:** perdere
- 2 to hold:** contenere
- 3 astonishing:** incredibile
- 4 treasure trove:** tesoro nascosto
- 5 well over:** ben oltre
- 6 items:** oggetti
- 7 prints:** stampe
- 8 drawings:** disegni
- 9 music scores:** partiture
- 10 to grow:** crescere
- 11 headquarters:** quartier generali
- 12 platform:** binario
- 13 to board:** salire a bordo
- 14 purpose built:** costruita appositamente
- 15 although:** nonostante
- 16 under the sun:** nell'universo
- 17 to store:** conservare
- 18 to handle:** maneggiare
- 19 either... or:** sia ... sia
- 20 bone:** osso
- 21 to engrave:** incidere
- 22 to date back to:** risalire
- 23 highlight:** piatto forte
- 24 chance:** possibilità
- 25 trial speech:** discorso durante un processo
- 26 Muslim:** musulmana
- 27 Jewish:** ebrea
- 28 underground:** sotto terra
- 29 down the ages:** nei secoli
- 30 delight:** delizia



## INTERVIEW

THE TREASURE  
GALLERY

In its Treasures Gallery, the British Library holds some of the greatest and most significant books and manuscripts from across the world. Here you can see everything from Shakespeare's first folio<sup>1</sup> to Leonardo's notebook, to the oldest Bible in the world. The collection also includes the 13th-century Magna Carta, a document of huge historical importance. *Speak Up* met with Julian Harrison, a curator at the British Library. We asked him to tell us more about the manuscript.

**Julian Harrison (English accent):** The British library holds not one but two of the original manuscripts of Magna Carta, which is one of the most significant constitutional documents in the world. It was originally issued<sup>2</sup> in the year 1215 by the king of England named King John. And that document sets out<sup>3</sup> essentially the liberties of the English people.

## RARE MATERIALS

And, said Harrison, sometimes the Library holds the world's last surviving<sup>4</sup> copy of a literary work.



**Julian Harrison:** At the British Library we hold many literary treasures; many of them date from the Middle Ages<sup>5</sup>. And one of the most important is a poem known as *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*<sup>6</sup>. Now this poem was written... probably at the end of the 14th century, just around the year 1400. It comes from the time of Chaucer but we don't actually know who wrote *Sir Gawain*. Quite curiously, the poem was completely unknown until the middle of the 19th century when somebody going through<sup>7</sup> the archives, going through the manuscripts at the British Library, discovered

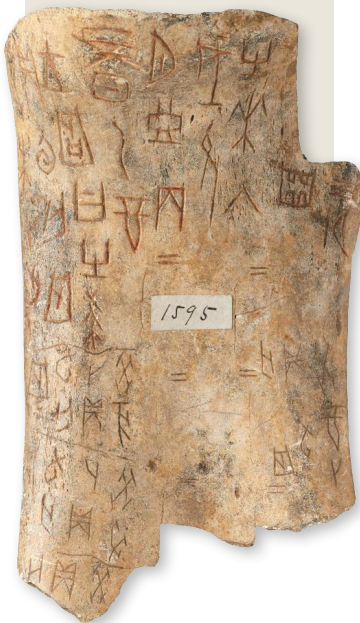


ADVANCED C1

ON CD 14

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **folio:** pagina
- 2 **to issue:** emettere
- 3 **to set out:** stabilire
- 4 **to survive:** sopravvivere
- 5 **Middle Ages:** Medioevo



it for the first time. But it's one of the greatest English treasures from the 14th century. The style of writing is completely unique, and it introduced a whole new poetic style to England.

## EPIC POEM

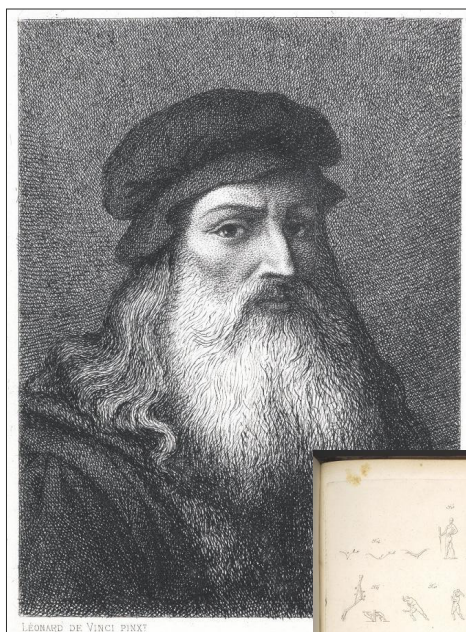
And he went on to talk about other profoundly important texts.

**Julian Harrison:** There are no other surviving manuscripts of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, so [if] that one manuscript hadn't survived we would be completely in the dark about it and that's true of other literary treasures. For example, the British Library holds the only mediaeval manuscript of the Anglo-Saxon epic poem known as *Beowulf*, which is an incredible artistic, poetic work. [It] dates from round about<sup>8</sup> the year 1000; again survives in just one manuscript held at the British Library in London.

## BY HAND

Authors' handwritten manuscripts and notebooks give an insight<sup>9</sup> into the writing process behind some of our great literary works, as Harrison explained.





**Julian Harrison:** Also, at the British Library we hold many other 19th century literary texts by the original authors. For example, we have the original manuscript of *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens and one of the other great treasures that we hold is one of the original copies of *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. And what's always really fasci-



nating when you get to see an original manuscript [is,] you can actually see the changes and alterations in the text. You know, nobody who's actually handwritten a manuscript of their own text gets it right<sup>10</sup> the first time and actually seeing how they change things and alter things and how they've pondered<sup>11</sup> and thought about a phrase and reworked it. That's always a fascination for me about looking at a literary manuscript like *Jane Eyre*.

### WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

So, are there any exhibits that visitors should look out for in particular? Harrison picks a few that span the ages<sup>12</sup>.

**Julian Harrison:** We have so many weird<sup>13</sup> and wonderful treasures in the Treasures Gallery at the Library, everything from postcards showing the original lyrics of The Beatles to early printed texts, things like the Gutenberg Bible and even things much earlier than that from Asia, things like the *Diamond Sutra* which is the oldest printed text from China. ☒

Clockwise from opposite page: the Codex Amiatinus, the earliest complete manuscript of the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible in a special exhibition; the Library's newspaper archive in Boston Spa, Yorkshire; sketches of limbs and optics by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519); a Chinese oracle bone (1600-1050 BCE).

### GLOSSARY

- 6 knight:** cavaliere
- 7 to go through:** passare in rassegna, cercare
- 8 to date from round about:** risalire a circa
- 9 insight:** idea
- 10 to get it right:** riuscire bene
- 11 to ponder:** valutare
- 12 to span the ages:** abbracciare diverse epoche
- 13 weird:** strani



### HOW DO YOU SAY...

L'apparenza inganna.  
Don't judge a book by its cover.



# The Sunshine State on Two Wheels

# CALIFORNIA ON A HARLEY

Per visitare la California in modo alternativo, ed evitare il traffico delle grandi città, si può salire a bordo di una delle moto più famose al mondo e ammirare i meravigliosi paesaggi che offre lo "Stato del Sole". Potrai scoprire le spiagge e i parchi nazionali californiani cavalcando una Harley, proprio come nei film.

ADVANCED **C1**

ON CD 15

## GLOSSARY

- 1 sunshine:** luce del sole
- 2 ten miles:** 10 miglia (16 km)
- 3 gridlock:** ingorgo
- 4 to ride:** guidare una moto
- 5 in between lanes:** tra le corsie
- 6 to pass by:** superare
- 7 stuck:** intrappolato
- 8 traffic jam:** ingorgo

**I**magine arriving in Los Angeles, excited to explore the Sunshine<sup>1</sup> State. But then you get into a car and spend an hour driving ten miles<sup>2</sup> in gridlock<sup>3</sup> traffic, while motorcyclists, permitted to ride<sup>4</sup> in between lanes<sup>5</sup>, pass you by<sup>6</sup>. People say that in LA the car is king, but there's nothing regal about being stuck<sup>7</sup> in a traffic jam<sup>8</sup>, something almost impossible to avoid in a city of almost four million people. Fortunately, though<sup>9</sup>, there is an alternative: motorcycle tours of the most popular destinations in the city and state.

### PARIS TO LOS ANGELES

Bruno Rony is the founder and owner of Los Angeles Bikers<sup>10</sup>. Originally from Paris, France, he got the idea for the company

after he took some friends from Europe on a motorcycle tour of Southern California in the summer of 2014. Since then, he has taken people from all over the world and from all different professions on all types of tours.

### INCREDIBLE TOURS

Rony says that his most popular tour is his one-day tour 'From Los Angeles and back'; for \$260 you can choose to explore anywhere from the dramatic<sup>11</sup> Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu Hills to the beautiful beaches of Orange County, to the historical sites of Downtown LA.

There are also longer tours of two days or more, he says. You can visit the state's national parks, which include Joshua Tree



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Clockwise from above: an aerial view of a massive highway intersection in Los Angeles, California; the 2018 Harley-Davidson motorcycle model; the Hells Angels' emblem of a winged skull wearing a helmet.



National Park, Sequoia National Forest and Death Valley. You can travel south to the city of San Diego or north along the Pacific Coast Highway<sup>12</sup> (PCH), considered one of the most scenic<sup>13</sup> routes in all of the US. *Speak Up* met with Rony in LA. We began by asking him about the stereotypical image of bikers as tough<sup>14</sup> and macho.

**Bruno Rony (mild French-American accent):** It's a bit overrated<sup>15</sup> I would say. I mean, the motorcycle crowd<sup>16</sup> is actually very diverse now. You have different tribes, just like in music or in many other cultural fields<sup>17</sup> or sports. So, yeah, you do have the bad guys. You still have the gangs,

## GLOSSARY

- 9 **though:** tuttavia
- 10 **bikers:** motociclisti
- 11 **dramatic:** mozzafiato
- 12 **highway:** autostrada
- 13 **scenic:** panoramiche
- 14 **tough:** duri
- 15 **overrated:** sopravvalutato
- 16 **crowd:** folla, massa
- 17 **fields:** campi, settori
- 18 **so forth:** e così via
- 19 **as far as:** per quanto

Hells Angels and so forth<sup>18</sup>. Mostly it's a crowd... I would say around forty [years old] and up, because those bikes are expensive. Harleys are expensive. And then you have... people like me, who don't really look like anything but they enjoy just riding, the freedom of it... So yeah, different tribes.

## SKILLED AND FAST

We then asked Rony whether his tours were popular with women bikers.

**Bruno Rony:** Women are coming to the riding things, but they're still a minority, as far as<sup>19</sup> I can tell. We're starting to see clubs, online forums





for women motorcycle riders. They do their thing... You will rarely<sup>20</sup> see a mixed group of riders, maybe a couple of women, and usually those who ride with guys... they are really skilled<sup>21</sup> and fast.

## WHAT TO WEAR

And is there a certain dress code<sup>22</sup> that bikers adhere to?

**Bruno Rony:** Well, it's kind of like, you know, those different tribes we were talking about earlier. So every tribe has its own style, and now with the revival of the neo-classic, you see people dressed more like early motorcycle riders from the 50s and the 60s, even the 70s. It's an environment<sup>23</sup> where there are trends and evolution in the trends, and that goes with the bike and that goes with the era that we're living in.

## A BIKE FOR PATRIOTS

We hear a lot about Harley-Davidson bikes. We asked Rony about their appeal.

**Bruno Rony:** They're special. It's the oldest brand. I mean, they started in 1903. They've always had, at least since the Second World War, they've had excellent marketing. Any movie made in Hollywood that needs a motorcycle, it's going to be a Harley-Davidson. So that built up the brand during all these years. They are beautiful, beautiful bikes, all the chrome<sup>24</sup>, the shiny<sup>25</sup> style, they're comfortable, and they are really the American patriotic bike.

## JUST RIDING

And biking in California includes one special benefit, said Rony.

**Bruno Rony:** One particularity about California is that we are allowed to do lane-splitting<sup>26</sup> on freeways<sup>27</sup>, and it's very important because our freeways are congested, as you know. And so being able to go through, pass cars in the middle, it's very important. California



## GLOSSARY

- 20 rarely:** raramente
- 21 skilled:** abili
- 22 dress code:** abbigliamento richiesto
- 23 environment:** ambiente
- 24 all the chrome:** tutta la cromatura
- 25 shiny:** scintillante
- 26 to do lane-splitting:** tagliare la strada, sorpassare cambiando corsia
- 27 freeways:** superstrade
- 28 otherwise:** altrimenti
- 29 to fill up the tank:** riempire il serbatoio
- 30 tires:** gomme
- 31 scared:** impaurito
- 32 respectful:** rispettoso
- 33 to take chances:** rischiare
- 34 to apply:** riguardare



is the only state where this is allowed. Otherwise<sup>28</sup>, it's just riding. Fill up the tank<sup>29</sup>, two tires<sup>30</sup> and you're good!

## DANGER

Biking is considered dangerous. We asked Rony whether this worried his customers.

**Bruno Rony:** I don't think so. I think if you're scared<sup>31</sup>, you don't like motorcycles. If you keep imagining accidents, you stay home or you ride your



## **SPEAK UP** Explains

**Hells Angels.** È un club di motociclisti nato negli Stati Uniti e ora presente in tutto il mondo, i cui membri utilizzano moto Harley-Davidson. È considerata un'organizzazione criminale dal Dipartimento di Giustizia statunitense, infatti alcuni membri sono stati accusati in numerose occasioni di traffico di droga, estorsione e perfino omicidio.

**Pickup truck. Pick-up.** È un tipo di *truck* ('furgoncino'), molto diffuso negli Stati Uniti, la cui caratteristica principale è la presenza di un cassone aperto al posto del bagagliaio. Questo spazio posteriore è separato dalla cabina con i sedili. Il nome di questo veicolo viene dal verbo *to pick up* ('raccogliere', 'sollevare'), in quanto permette di caricare e trasportare merci.



Above: the Harley-Davidson Milwaukee-Eight motorbike, first introduced in 2016. Right: a Los Angeles city freeway. Below right: the new 2020 Milwaukee-Eight model.



**pickup truck**... Danger exists. We know we need to be really as skilled as possible, in control of the motorcycle, respectful<sup>32</sup> of the rules. There's a way to be safe. There's a way to be crazy, too. You know, some guys take chances<sup>33</sup>. They go fast and they push the limits, like everywhere. But again, the whole thing about being afraid of motorcycles... it doesn't apply<sup>34</sup> to us. ☒

[www.losangelesmotorcycleguidedtours.com](http://www.losangelesmotorcycleguidedtours.com)





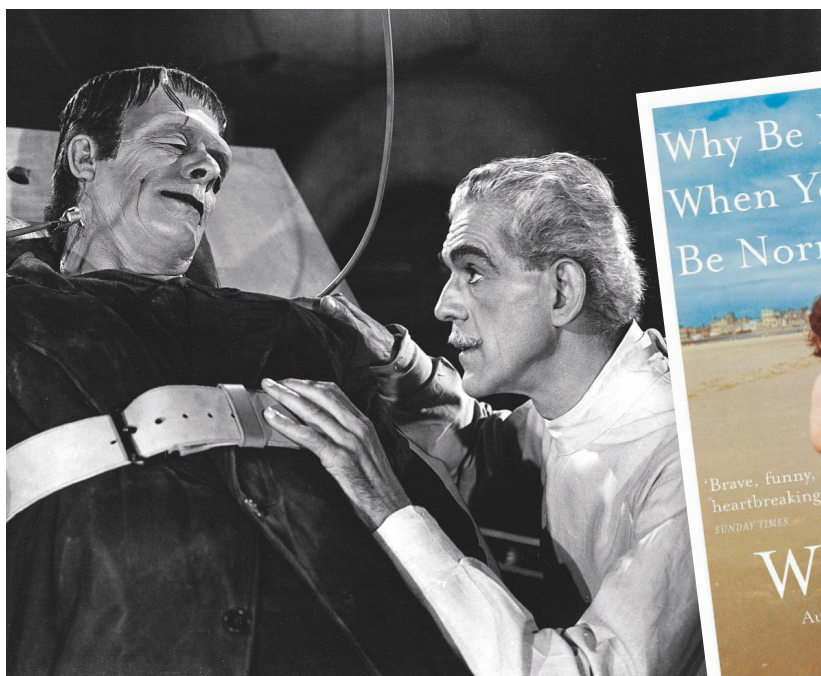
A portrait of Jeanette Winterson, a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and a silver necklace. She is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a blurred brick wall.

Love in the Age of AI

# JEANETTE WINTERSON

L'acclamata scrittrice britannica è una delle voci più importanti della letteratura femminista. Il suo nuovo romanzo *Frankissstein. Una storia d'amore* paragona la creazione del famoso mostro di Mary Shelley dell'inizio del XIX secolo con gli attuali sviluppi nel mondo della robotica e dell'intelligenza artificiale.





Clockwise from far left: a scene from the 1944 film *The House of Frankenstein* starring Boris Karloff as the monster; Jeanette Winterson's 2011 memoir; Winterson's recent novel; part of an 1840 portrait of Mary Shelley by Robert Rothwell.



**M**ultiple award-winning English writer Jeanette Winterson shot to fame<sup>1</sup> with her first book *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, published in 1985 when she was in her twenties<sup>2</sup>. Set in Manchester in a working-class community, the semi-autobiographical novel described a teenager's rebellion from her conventional religious upbringing<sup>3</sup> and her discovery of love through a same-sex relationship.

A theme of love runs through all Winterson's books, which include short story collections, books for children and a memoir entitled *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* — a quote<sup>4</sup> attributed to her adoptive mother. In her recent novel *Frankissstein: A Love Story* Winterson imagines the creation of Mary Shelley's extraordinary horror story, published in 1818, juxtaposing<sup>5</sup> that story with a reflection on the present and future of artificial intelligence. In a presentation for her book, long-listed<sup>6</sup> for the 2019 Booker Prize, Winterson began by talking about why Shelley's novel is particularly relevant today:

**Jeanette Winterson (English accent):** Mary Shelley was only eighteen when she wrote *Frankenstein* and invented the world's most famous

ADVANCED **C1**

ON CD 16

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **to shoot to fame:** arrivare alla fama
- 2 **in her twenties:** quando era ventenne
- 3 **upbringing:** educazione
- 4 **quote:** citazione
- 5 **to juxtapose:** giustapporre, affiancare
- 6 **long-listed:** finalista
- 7 **machine age:** era della macchina
- 8 **to join up:** unire
- 9 **warning:** avviso
- 10 **to land:** atterrare



monster. I wanted to take us back in time to the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, when the modern world as we know it really begins in terms of invention, technology, the machine age<sup>7</sup>. And to join up<sup>8</sup> the story of that young woman's vision of the future with the present that we are actually living in now. Mary Shelley's novel is prophetic and it's a warning<sup>9</sup> in so many ways: we have landed<sup>10</sup> in the moment of her vision. We are the first generation to read this novel in a completely new way, because we are the first generation who will also share the planet with non-biological life-forms. And we will form relationships with them. It will be impossible to have something in your house that's running around and talking to you that you don't form a relationship with.





## WOMEN AND TECH

An early novel by a woman, *Frankenstein* brought science fiction<sup>11</sup> and feminism together, says Winterson. And the absence of female characters in the book is significant.

**Jeanette Winterson:** It's a novel where the influence of women, where the feminine element is really absent. And I'm interested in that because now where we are... think of machine learning<sup>12</sup>, computer programming... women are not going into those disciplines. Of all the people who are working in artificial intelligence now, only 20 per cent are women. I find this rather frightening<sup>13</sup>. The future could be a new exclusion zone for women because we are not building this future.

## ARTIFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS

One consequence of a male-dominated tech world is the sexbot: robots for sex, costing between \$5,000 and \$15,000, created for a particular type of male market. To women, sexbots are a joke<sup>14</sup>, says Winterson, but to the author, who satirises them in her book, they have sinister implications.

**Jeanette Winterson:** You could think of sexbots as a logical extension of

Clockwise from above: Dr. Sergi Santos and Samantha, a sexbot doted with AI; sexbots on the production line; Facebook, implicated in voter manipulation; male sexbot Henry, created by American company Realbotix.

## GLOSSARY

- 11 science fiction:** fantascienza
- 12 machine learning:** apprendimento automatico
- 13 frightening:** spaventoso
- 14 joke:** scherzo, barzelletta
- 15 blow-up:** gonfiabili
- 16 to improve:** migliorare
- 17 to argue:** litigare
- 18 rough:** duro
- 19 consent:** consenso
- 20 to bash in:** sfondare
- 21 breakdown:** degrado
- 22 to afford:** permettersi
- 23 disruptive:** dirompenti
- 24 to pick off:** eliminare
- 25 overwhelmingly:** in modo schiacciante
- 26 to rig:** truccare, manipolare

blow-up<sup>15</sup> dolls; but they're not. This is about creating a new way of having a relationship with a version of a female who never says 'no'. Sexbots talk to you, they are improving<sup>16</sup> all the time in terms of response, so the plan is to make it really feel like a relationship except it's not a relationship where your bot will ever argue<sup>17</sup>. You can program your sexbot to say 'no' if you are too rough<sup>18</sup> with her; this is to help men understand consent<sup>19</sup>. So if you bash her face in<sup>20</sup> she might not have sex with you.

## DIVIDE AND RULE

The successful marketing of artificial relationships is a cause and a consequence of the breakdown<sup>21</sup> of communities, as people are forced to move away to areas they can afford<sup>22</sup> and jobs for life become a thing of the past.

**Jeanette Winterson:** That working-class solidarity, that's gone everywhere. The big heavy industry jobs have gone, and they're not coming back – not in the West. So, one of the big questions for all of us is what happens when disruptive<sup>23</sup> technologies alter communities so that there are no longer those stabilising forces that





**"I REALLY BELIEVE IN THE  
POWER OF STORIES TO  
influence our thinking and  
to affect the way that we  
conduct our lives."**

[our] parents or grandparents understood. In some ways the internet has looked like it's offered a new community. It is altering the way people have relationships with one another. Maybe we are not asking enough questions about how we preserve relationships and, more importantly, communities within this rapidly-changing world. We still need communities, we still need connection, and I think that's why so many people are really unhappy. When you break communities and you break connection it's easier to pick people off<sup>24</sup> one by one.

### BAD DATA

Technology is not objective, says Winterson. Data, for example, is overwhelmingly<sup>25</sup> collected from men and used by men to program technology designed for men. And tech is used by the few to manipulate isolated members of the masses.

**Jeanette Winterson:** Tech is not neutral. The flow of information is not neutral, data is not neutral and it's not being used to help the many, it's being used to secure the privilege of the few. I come from a country where my referendum was

rigged<sup>26</sup>: a small group of people decided to use tech to hijack<sup>27</sup>

politics. And that will go on happening all over the world unless<sup>28</sup> all of us say 'no' and really fight for this. Tech can be very easily used against us.

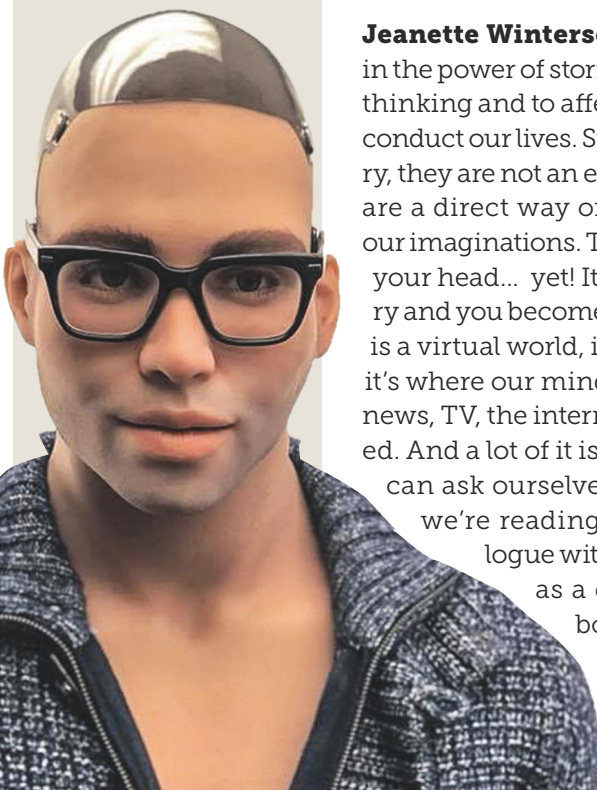
### FREE YOUR MIND

Yet in a world of hyper-surveillance<sup>29</sup>, there is one place where we can be free, believes the author.

**Jeanette Winterson:** I really believe in the power of stories to influence our thinking and to affect the way that we conduct our lives. Stories aren't a luxury, they are not an entertainment, they are a direct way of engaging<sup>30</sup> with our imaginations. There is no CCTV in your head... yet! It's you and the story and you become part of the story. It is a virtual world, it is interactive and it's where our minds open up. All our news, TV, the internet... it's all mediated. And a lot of it is just bullshit<sup>31</sup>. We can ask ourselves questions when we're reading. We begin a dialogue with ourselves, as well as a dialogue with the book. And that's very valuable<sup>32</sup>. ⊗

### ▷ GLOSSARY

- <sup>27</sup> to hijack: sabotare
- <sup>28</sup> unless: a meno che
- <sup>29</sup> hyper-surveillance: iper-sorveglianza
- <sup>30</sup> to engage: coinvolgere
- <sup>31</sup> bullshit: cazzate
- <sup>32</sup> valuable: prezioso







EXERCISES IN  
**Work It  
Out!**

# Lady Chatterley

by D.H. Lawrence

ADVANCED **C1**

ON CD 17 **6**

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **mining town:** città mineraria
- 2 **coal:** carbone
- 3 **to pass on:** trasmettere
- 4 **to rise above:** elevarsi al di sopra
- 5 **infamous:** infame
- 6 **to put forth:** esprimere
- 7 **despite:** nonostante
- 8 **account:** racconto
- 9 **to ban:** proibire
- 10 **graphic:** esplicito
- 11 **sexual intercourse:** rapporto sessuale
- 12 **in print:** pubblicato
- 13 **notorious:** tristemente celebre
- 14 **trial:** processo
- 15 **to acquit:** esonerare
- 16 **landowner:** proprietario terriero
- 17 **from the waist down:** dalla vita in giù
- 18 **estate:** tenuta
- 19 **unappreciated:** ignorata
- 20 **upbringing:** educazione
- 21 **gamekeeper:** guardacaccia

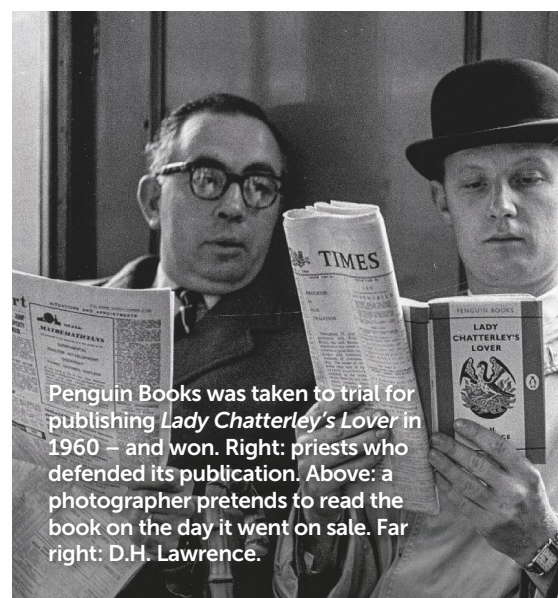
**D**avid Herbert Lawrence, known as D. H. Lawrence, is considered to be one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. Born in a mining town<sup>1</sup> in Nottinghamshire, England in 1885, his father was a coal<sup>2</sup> miner, but his mother was from a middle-class family that had suffered economic difficulties. She was well-educated and had a love of literature that she passed on<sup>3</sup> to her son. She also gave him a strong desire to rise above<sup>4</sup> his working-class background, and class difference is a strong theme in many of Lawrence's works.

### PASSIONATE LOVE

Lawrence published many novels and poems during his lifetime, including *Sons and Lovers* (1913) and *Women in Love* (1920), but is best known for his infamous<sup>5</sup> *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. The last of his novels, this book clearly illustrates the writer's belief that men and women must free themselves from the limits of industrialised society and follow their natural instincts towards passionate love. As Lawrence himself said of the novel: "I put forth<sup>6</sup> this novel as an honest, healthy book, necessary for us today."

### A 'DIRTY' BOOK

In fact, despite<sup>7</sup> its reputation as a 'dirty book', *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is actually a sincere account<sup>8</sup> of passionate, sexual love. It first appeared in Italy in 1928, but was banned<sup>9</sup> in the UK until 1960 because of its graphic<sup>10</sup> depictions of sexual inter-



Penguin Books was taken to trial for publishing *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in 1960 – and won. Right: priests who defended its publication. Above: a photographer pretends to read the book on the day it went on sale. Far right: D.H. Lawrence.

course<sup>11</sup> and its use of sexual terms that society was not yet ready to accept. When it finally appeared in print<sup>12</sup>, it became the subject of a notorious<sup>13</sup> obscenity trial<sup>14</sup> against the publishers, Penguin Books Ltd. Many eminent authors of the day appeared as witnesses for the defence, including E. M. Forster, and Penguin was acquitted<sup>15</sup>.

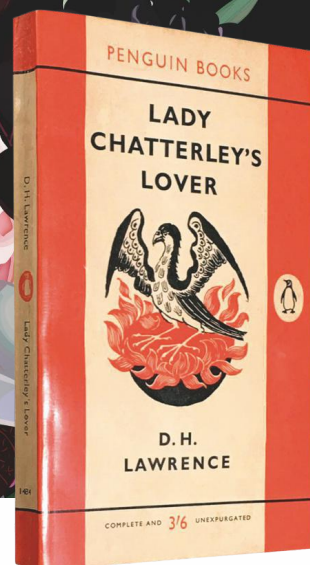
### AN UNHAPPY MARRIAGE

In the novel, Connie Chatterley is married to Sir Clifford, a wealthy landowner<sup>16</sup> who is paralysed from the waist down<sup>17</sup> as a result of war injuries. He dedicates himself to writing books and looking after his family estate<sup>18</sup>. Lonely and unappreciated<sup>19</sup>, Connie, who has had a very liberal upbringing<sup>20</sup> by her artist father, begins a passionate love



# Chatterley's Lover

Nel Regno Unito questo romanzo sul piacere femminile fu proibito per più di trent'anni per oscenità, per poi diventare un vero e proprio fenomeno sociale durante la rivoluzione sessuale che scosse un ambiente fortentemente represso.



PUBLICATION DATE: 1928  
GENRE: ROMANCE, EROTICISM

\*Traduzione di Silvia Rota Sperti,  
Feltrinelli Editore, Milano 2013.

*D.H. Lawrence*

## GLOSSARY

- 22 **sensitive:** sensibile
- 23 **unlike:** al contrario di
- 24 **later:** posteriore
- 25 **disappointment:** delusione



affair with the estate's gamekeeper<sup>21</sup>, Oliver Mellors. Mellors is everything Sir Clifford is not: passionate, natural and sensitive<sup>22</sup>. Here is the exact moment when a mixture of compassion and desire makes Mellors move towards Connie:

*"He glanced apprehensively at her. Her face was averted, and she was crying blindly, in all the anguish of her generation's forlornness. His heart melted suddenly, like a drop of fire, and he put out his hand and laid his fingers on her knee. 'You shouldn't cry,' he said softly."*

"La guardò con timore. Connie nascondeva il volto e piangeva sommessamente,

con tutta l'angoscia tipica della sua generazione. Il cuore di lui si sciolse all'improvviso, come una goccia di fuoco. Allungò una mano e le posò le dita sulle ginocchia.

"Non dovrebbe piangere," disse dolcemente."

## FEMALE DESIRE

One of the most powerful and unusual aspects of this novel is the fact that, unlike<sup>23</sup> pornography, it celebrates female sexual desire, a theme that only really appears in much later<sup>24</sup> feminist literature. It describes a woman's experience of the pleasure of good sex and her disappointment<sup>25</sup> in bad sex. In an early part of the







novel, Connie has an affair with a writer called Michaelis, who, after making love, complains<sup>26</sup> that he has to 'go on for too long<sup>27</sup>' to satisfy her.

*"[Connie] was stunned by this unexpected piece of brutality, at the moment when she was glowing with a sort of pleasure beyond words, and a sort of love for him. Because, after all, like so many modern men, he was finished almost before he had begun. And that forced the woman to be active."*

*"Rimase sbigottita da quell'uscita brutale e inaspettata, mentre ancora ardeva di un piacere inesprimibile e di una sorta di amore per quell'uomo. Perché in fondo, come tanti uomini dei nostri giorni, Mick si sfinita ancora prima di cominciare. E questo costringeva la donna a essere attiva."*

### A MORAL ENDING

Connie eventually<sup>28</sup> becomes pregnant<sup>29</sup> by Mellors. She leaves her husband and the

A long queue to buy *Lady Chatterley's Lover* after the ban was lifted, 10 November 1960. Opposite page: scenes from the 1981 film starring Sylvia Kristel, and the 2015 film starring Holliday Grainger and Richard Madden.

### GLOSSARY

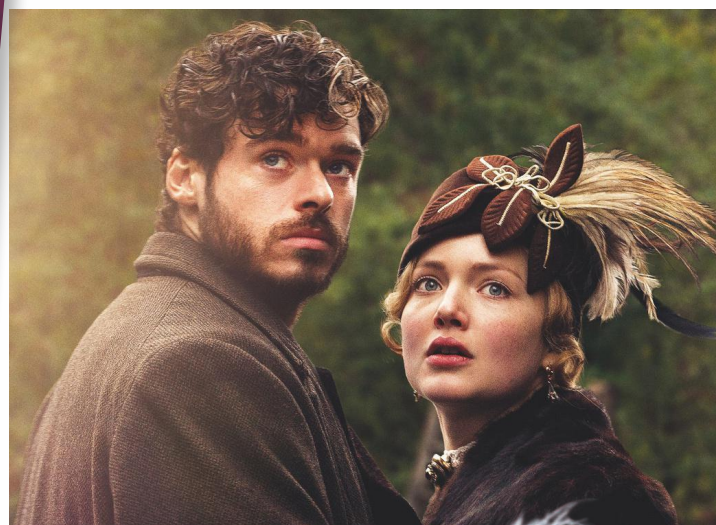
- 26 to complain:** lamentarsi
- 27 to go on for too long:** andare avanti per troppo tempo
- 28 eventually:** alla fine
- 29 to become pregnant:** rimanere incinta
- 30 in spite of:** nonostante
- 31 unborn child:** figlio non nato
- 32 surroundings:** ambiente
- 33 threat:** minaccia

novel ends with the two lovers temporarily separated in the hope of getting divorces so that they can start a new life together. In spite of<sup>30</sup> the love scenes, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is also about the importance of fidelity, as illustrated by the letter from Mellors to Lady Chatterley, which closes the book. He is far away from her but is waiting till he is free to join her and their unborn child<sup>31</sup>.

*"I love the chastity now that flows between us. It is like fresh water and rain. How can men want wearisomely to philander [...] But a great deal of us is together, and we can but abide by it, and steer our courses to meet soon."*

*"Amo la castità, adesso che scorre tra noi. È come acqua fresca come pioggia."*





Com'è possibile che gli uomini vogliano amareggiare a destra e a manca? [...] Ma tanta parte di noi resta unita, e non possiamo far altro che tener fede a questo e cercare di incontrarci presto."

### THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION

The publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was a significant event in the sexual revolution of the 1960s. British poet Philip Larkin begins his 'Annus Mirabilis' poem with the lines:

*"Sexual intercourse began  
In nineteen sixty-three  
(which was rather late  
for me)  
Between the end of the  
"Chatterley" ban  
And the Beatles' first LP."*

"La vita sessuale è cominciata nel millenovecentosessantatré (che era già piuttosto tardi per me) – tra la fine del bando a Lady Chatterley e i Beatles con il primo trentatré."

### NATURAL LOVE

Its themes of sincere human love in natural surroundings<sup>32</sup> and the threat<sup>33</sup> to culture and humanity of industrialisation are as important today as when the book was first written. Not surprisingly, it has been adapted for radio, television and film, with the most recent film version in 2015. ☒





## A SHORT STORY

EXERCISES IN  
**Work It  
Out!**

# Inner Ear

By Rachel Roberts

UPPER INTERMEDIATE

B2

ON CD 18



## GLOSSARY

- 1 **wax:** cera
- 2 **probe:** sonda
- 3 **tiny:** piccola
- 4 **to cycle:** andare in bicicletta
- 5 **to go deaf:** rimanere sordo
- 6 **to feel faint:** avere un mancamento
- 7 **crackling:** scoppiettii
- 8 **loud pop:** forte scoppio
- 9 **sharp pain:** dolore acuto
- 10 **to spin:** girare
- 11 **to black out:** svenire
- 12 **to hiss:** sibilare
- 13 **speakers:** altoparlanti
- 14 **narrow:** stretti
- 15 **to undergo:** sottomettersi
- 16 **to afford:** permettersi
- 17 **waterproofing:** impermeabilizzazione
- 18 **broadly:** ampiamente
- 19 **rubbish:** sciocchezze
- 20 **no one else:** nessun altro
- 21 **hesitantly:** con esitazione
- 22 **to book:** prenotare
- 23 **as soon as I can:** prima possibile
- 24 **to whisper:** sussurrare
- 25 **deafening:** assordante

'There's no water,' said the doctor. 'We evacuate all the wax<sup>1</sup> with suction. We place a probe<sup>2</sup> with a tiny<sup>3</sup> camera in your ear so we can explore the auditory canal. You can watch on the computer screen.'

The treatment was very expensive, but I was desperate. After going to the swimming pool and cycling<sup>4</sup> home in the cold with wet hair, I'd gone deaf<sup>5</sup> in my right ear. Two weeks later there was no improvement and, as waiting times at the National Health Service were so long, I opted for the private clinic.

Watching the procedure on the screen made me feel faint<sup>6</sup>. When the suction started I heard strange crackling<sup>7</sup> noises, then there was a sudden loud pop<sup>8</sup> and a sharp pain<sup>9</sup>. The room spun<sup>10</sup> and I think I blackened out<sup>11</sup> for a moment. When my vision cleared, I discovered my hearing had come back — strangely amplified.

When the doctor had finished both ears, they hissed<sup>12</sup> like the speakers<sup>13</sup> on a hi-fi system turned up to maximum.

'You have narrow<sup>14</sup> auditory canals,' he said. 'I recommend you undergo<sup>15</sup> this treatment once a month.'

'Once a month?' I couldn't afford<sup>16</sup> that. 'Is it OK to take all the wax out? Don't I need a bit for waterproofing<sup>17</sup>, or as a sort of filter or something?'

'No, no!' said the doctor, smiling broadly<sup>18</sup>. 'It's best to get it all out.'

As he spoke, I was sure I heard a quiet voice in the background say 'Absolute

rubbish<sup>19</sup>!'

'I'm sorry?' I looked at the doctor, perplexed. 'What was that?'

'I said you should repeat the treatment regularly,' he answered. 'Didn't you hear? Perhaps we should have another session next week.'

'Don't listen to him!' The voice was quiet but insistent. The doctor hadn't said those words and there was no one else<sup>20</sup> in the room.

I smiled hesitantly<sup>21</sup>. 'OK. I'll book<sup>22</sup> another appointment as soon as I can<sup>23</sup>.'

'Don't do it!' whispered<sup>24</sup> the voice. 'He only wants the money.'

Outside the clinic, the traffic was deafening<sup>25</sup> and I put my hands protectively over my ears. That night I didn't sleep. It wasn't just my husband Steve's heavy breathing that kept me awake<sup>26</sup>. It was the rumble<sup>27</sup> of the central heating<sup>28</sup> and the hum<sup>29</sup> of the fridge downstairs in the kitchen. They were all sounds I'd never noticed before.

But the worst<sup>30</sup> thing was the voices. Whenever<sup>31</sup> people spoke to me in the next few days, I seemed to hear their real thoughts. When I reminded Steve that we were going to my mum's<sup>32</sup> for the weekend, he smiled at me, but another voice groaned<sup>33</sup> and said, 'Oh God, not again!'

'What's wrong? Don't you want to go?'

'Of course I do!' Steve reassured<sup>34</sup> me, but the voice whispered, 'I can't stand<sup>35</sup> that old battle-axe<sup>36</sup>!'







It was worse at my mother's. Although she and Steve were polite to each other when they spoke, the disembodied<sup>37</sup> voices told a different story.

'Nice to see you Steve!' ('You boring idiot!')

'How are you, Marion?' ('Who cares?')

'Have you had enough to eat, Steve?' ('I hope so, you're putting on weight<sup>38</sup>.')

'I'm fine, thanks.' ('I've always hated your cooking.')

The crunch<sup>39</sup> came the night I actually heard Steve dreaming. I was lying awake as usual, when he turned over<sup>40</sup> in his sleep and I heard an echo of chattering<sup>41</sup> voices. Startled<sup>42</sup>, I got out of bed, and looked out of the window, thinking there were people talking in the street, or even in the house, but there was no one there. Steve moved again and I distinctly heard several voices talking at once. With a cold shock, I realised that one of the voices was mine. My husband was dreaming about me!

Quietly I moved closer and listened. This was a mistake. As I leaned over<sup>43</sup> him I heard my own voice moaning<sup>44</sup> and complaining<sup>45</sup>.

'Haven't you done that yet? I've asked you a hundred times. No, of course that's not what I said. Don't you ever listen?'

Horried, I sat on the edge<sup>46</sup> of the bed. Was that really how I sounded in Steve's dreams?

How I wished I'd never had the ear treatment done. Could I go back and ask the doctor to put my filtering wax back in?

There was only one solution. Somehow, I had to block my ears up<sup>47</sup> again. It took me three more trips to the swimming pool and three cycle rides home with wet hair, but on the morning after my last attempt, I woke up with a temperature<sup>48</sup>, a sore throat<sup>49</sup> and my head comfortably full of catarrh. I didn't hear my alarm clock and I woke up at 10 feeling ill but immensely relieved.

I got better, but, thank God the supernatural hearing didn't come back. I'm careful not to nag<sup>50</sup> Steve these days and we only go to my mother's for lunch once every two months. We're all a lot happier as a result and sometimes I think the ear treatment might have been worth the money. ☒

## GLOSSARY

- 26 to keep awake:** tenere sveglia
- 27 rumble:** rimbombo
- 28 heating:** riscaldamento
- 29 hum:** ronzio
- 30 worst:** peggiore
- 31 whenever:** ogni volta
- 32 my mum's:** a casa di mia madre
- 33 to groan:** gemere
- 34 to reassure:** tranquillizzare
- 35 I can't stand:** non sopporto
- 36 battle-axe:** despota (lett. ascia da guerra)
- 37 disembodied:** incorporea
- 38 to put on weight:** mettere su chili
- 39 the crunch:** il momento della verità (lett. scricchiolio)
- 40 to turn over:** girarsi
- 41 chattering:** parlottanti
- 42 startled:** spaventata
- 43 to lean over:** inclinarsi su
- 44 to moan:** frignare
- 45 to complain:** lamentarsi
- 46 edge:** bordo
- 47 to block up:** tappare
- 48 temperature:** febbre
- 49 sore throat:** mal di gola
- 50 to nag:** infastidire



## PRACTICAL ADVICE

# Studying at a British University

Se il tuo sogno è quello di studiare in un'università britannica, che vanta alcuni degli atenei più prestigiosi al mondo, ecco i consigli di un esperto sul livello linguistico da raggiungere per poter accedere alla facoltà prescelta o per specializzarti con un master.

ADVANCED C1

ON CD 19

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **renowned:** prestigiose
- 2 **to enroll:** iscriversi
- 3 **heads of state:** capi di Stato
- 4 **to rank:** classificare
- 5 **higher education:** istruzione superiore
- 6 **earning a place:** ottenere un posto
- 7 **undergraduate-level:** laurea di primo livello
- 8 **lecturer:** docente universitario
- 9 **admissions officer:** responsabile delle ammissioni
- 10 **requirements:** requisiti
- 11 **straightforward:** diretto
- 12 **résumé:** CV
- 13 **suitable:** adatto
- 14 **to filter down:** filtrare
- 15 **applicants:** candidati

The United Kingdom is home to some of the most renowned<sup>1</sup> universities in the world, and is second only to the US in the number of international students enrolling<sup>2</sup> each year. The country's global reputation for educational excellence has attracted some of the most prominent figures in history, including Nobel Prize winners and international heads of state<sup>3</sup>.

## TOP-RANKED

The University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, with some form of teaching going on here since 1096. It continues to be ranked<sup>4</sup> as the best university in the UK, taking fourth place in the QS World University Rankings, the reference index in higher education<sup>5</sup> in which the University of Cambridge is rated seventh. Earning a place<sup>6</sup> at Oxford or Cambridge is notoriously difficult. Luckily, there are more than 395 universities and colleges across the UK, offering over fifty thousand undergraduate-level<sup>7</sup> higher education courses.

## EXPERT ADVICE

Dr. Brian Kavanagh is Lecturer<sup>8</sup> in Digital Innovation at King's College London,

Italians  
in the  
UK



one of the top ten universities in the UK and the fourth oldest in England. As Dr. Kavanagh is also an Admissions Officer<sup>9</sup> at the university, when *Speak Up* met with him we began by asking about entry requirements<sup>10</sup>.



**Brian Kavanagh (Irish accent):** It's pretty straightforward<sup>11</sup> and similar I suspect to most universities. There's an

online application process; students submit a CV, a résumé<sup>12</sup>. As an admissions officer, we ask students to answer two questions: the first question is 'Why







## TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES IN THE UK

1. University of Oxford
2. University of Cambridge
3. Imperial College London
4. University College London
5. London School of Economics
6. University of Edinburgh
7. King's College London
8. University of Manchester
9. University of Warwick
10. University of Bristol

*According to Times Higher Education  
World University Ranking*

do you want to come and take this particular programme?' And the second question is 'How does your experience to date make you a suitable<sup>13</sup> candidate?' So we try to filter down<sup>14</sup> to really force the students to think about why they're coming here.

### ENGLISH LEVEL

A big concern of applicants<sup>15</sup> from abroad is whether their level of English is good enough to study in the UK. We asked Dr. Kavanagh about that.

**Brian Kavanagh:** We have an English test, and there are many standards in English tests out there, which we



Edinburgh University in Scotland. Top photo: celebrating Graduation Day.



accept as an entry requirement. But there is a minimum English language requirement which all students must meet in order to be made an offer. So, for example, when we're making offers, so we will like what we see in the student in terms of their grades<sup>16</sup> at undergrad level and we will look at their answers to the two questions that we set and we can maybe see that they have all the requirements, all the criteria, but they may not have yet achieved the minimum requirement for an English language certificate. So, what a lot of our students do, once we make the offers, they take a course here in the UK, two or three months prior to joining the university. So quite often here in the summer you will meet quite a lot of, for example, Chinese students, who are taking extra study courses, and then they will sit the exam<sup>17</sup> in August and meet if they pass the condition, so there is a whole system in place<sup>18</sup> to ensure that our students have a minimum English language requirement.

## STARTING OUT

We then asked Dr. Kavanagh what a student can expect in their first year of study.

**Brian Kavanagh:** For our undergraduate programmes, of course you are dealing typically with younger students, quite often very young, maybe seventeen or eighteen, they might have just graduated from high school or secondary school. So, what we try to do in the early stages of undergrad learning is to really expose the students to a whole wide range<sup>19</sup> of topics, but structured in a way that they get a really good overview<sup>20</sup> of the landscape in their first year and get to write some essays<sup>21</sup>, typically two thousand words, so not too overwhelming<sup>22</sup>, we hope, for the students.

## POST-GRADUATE STUDY

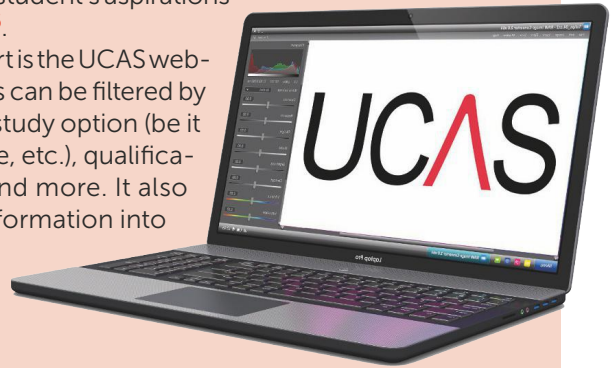
And Masters courses typically offer a more flexible approach to study, as Dr. Kavanagh explained.

## BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH

When selecting a university, there are different factors to take into account. Some institutions offer highly specialised education and accelerated degrees, or have modern innovative facilities<sup>25</sup> and pioneering research centres, so there are plenty of options depending on the student's aspirations and career goals<sup>26</sup>.

A good place to start is the UCAS website, where courses can be filtered by location, subject, study option (be it full-time, part-time, etc.), qualification outcome<sup>27</sup> and more. It also provides useful information into tuition fees<sup>28</sup> and student finance.

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)



Clockwise from top right:  
Balliol College, one of 39  
colleges belonging to the  
University of Oxford; students  
attend a university lecture;  
Coventry University in the  
English Midlands.



## GLOSSARY

- 16 grades:** voti
- 17 to sit an exam:** fare un esame
- 18 in place:** stabilito
- 19 wide range:** vasta gamma
- 20 overview:** visione generale
- 21 essays:** saggi, temi
- 22 overwhelming:** schiacciante
- 23 assignments:** compiti
- 24 to submit:** consegnare
- 25 facilities:** strutture
- 26 career goals:** obiettivi lavorativi
- 27 outcome:** risultato
- 28 tuition fees:** tassa di iscrizione
- 29 up to:** fino a
- 30 to come into force:** entrare in vigore
- 31 even though:** anche se

**Brian Kavanagh:** For our master degree program, which are twelve months in duration, students typically don't have to sit examinations as such. What they do is they work towards assignments<sup>23</sup> which typically take the form of a, for example, four thousand-word essay, but they may also get to do a project and submit<sup>24</sup> a project. So I think the system allow students to really find their own identity within a programme and to develop that particular identity in terms of their career, in terms of their own development as human beings. So I think it's a very flexible approach to teaching and learning. ☒





## THE BREXIT EFFECT

Studying in the UK is not cheap and both UK and EU students are currently required to pay up to<sup>29</sup> £9,250 per year for an undergraduate degree. However, this is different in Scotland where tuition is currently free for students from Scotland and the EU, thanks to subsidies from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). Undergraduate tuition fees are even higher for international students, who can pay from around £10,000 and up to £38,000 or more for medical degrees. Postgraduates wanting to study in the UK will be currently looking to spend around £15,000 per year for a standard Masters degree, whereas the average cost of a laboratory-based course (such as some Masters in Science degrees) tends to be higher (£17,500) because of the more expensive equipment and facilities that the course requires.

At the time of writing, it was unclear what effect Brexit would have on tuition fees in the UK. It may mean a significant increase, as EU students will no longer be considered in the same category as domestic students. Given this, students planning on enrolling in a British university should check their official website for information on the potential impact of Brexit. Some universities give guarantees to EU students that Brexit will not imply an increase of tuition fees.

## DEGREE RECOGNITION

Another important effect of Brexit regards the recognition of university degrees. According to the European Commission, EU students who have completed their studies in the United Kingdom before the date on which Brexit takes effect will continue to have their degrees recognised in all EU countries.

However, it remains to be seen whether that will be the case for EU citizens who complete their studies after the date on which Brexit comes into force<sup>30</sup>. Even though<sup>31</sup> they began their degrees before the referendum on Brexit that took place in 2016.



## EVERYDAY DIALOGUES

# UK Universities

By Mariam Khan

Hello. I'm calling about your email about studying in the UK. Are you interested in **undergraduate** or **postgraduate** courses?

If you **check**<sup>2</sup> your **inbox**, you'll see I've sent you a full **listing**<sup>3</sup> of our **fees**.

That would be perfect! So how do I **apply**?

It's easy. You just have to register and apply through UCAS, that's the Universities and Colleges **Admissions** Service.

Oh, thanks for calling back! Undergraduate. I want to do a **bachelor's degree** in engineering.

I **would if I could**, but I just don't have the time.

One more thing: will I need a student **visa**<sup>5</sup>?

A standard degree would **take**<sup>1</sup> three years, depending on your **field of study**, but we also have shorter courses. A Level 4 would only take one year.

That's great, thanks. I would also need to find **accommodation**<sup>4</sup>. Do you offer help with that?

At the moment, EU residents don't need a visa, but we don't know what will happen exactly after Brexit. I'll send you a link to the government site that has the latest information.

I want to do the full course, but how much would it cost?

The university has a number of **halls of residence**. Some have kitchens and some have dining rooms that offer **reasonably-priced** meals.

OK, I'll check my email now. Thanks again!

## NOW LET'S REVIEW THE VOCABULARY!

**Undergraduate** education is the education that **follows**<sup>6</sup> secondary school.

An **inbox** is an electronic folder<sup>10</sup> where incoming emails are held.

When something is **reasonably-priced**, it is not very expensive and **affordable**<sup>12</sup> for most people.

**Postgraduate** education follows the **completion**<sup>7</sup> of an undergraduate course and is typically a year in duration.

A **fee** is a cost which is paid for services such as, in this case, education.

Here, **apply** means to make a formal request for **enrolment**<sup>13</sup> in the university.

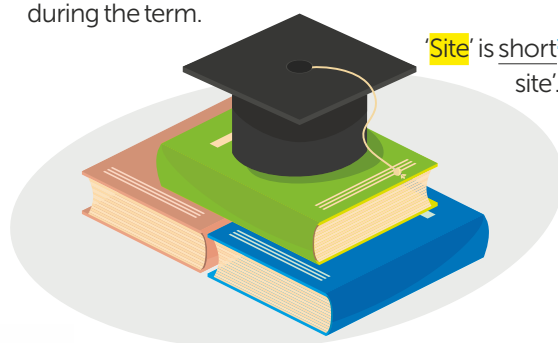
A **bachelor's degree** is awarded<sup>8</sup> to a student who has completed an undergraduate course which typically takes four years to complete.

**Halls of residence** are **buildings**<sup>11</sup>, usually built by universities, where students live during the term.

**Admission** is the process of entering a university.

A **field of study** is a **branch**<sup>9</sup> of knowledge. In engineering, it might be electrical, chemical or mechanical, for example.

**'Site'** is short<sup>14</sup> for 'web site'.



## GLOSSARY

- 1 **to take:** durare
- 2 **to check:** controllare
- 3 **listing:** lista
- 4 **accommodation:** alloggio
- 5 **visa:** visto
- 6 **to follow:** seguire
- 7 **completion:** completamento
- 8 **to award:** conferire
- 9 **branch:** ramo
- 10 **folder:** cartella
- 11 **buildings:** edifici
- 12 **affordable:** abbordabile
- 13 **enrolment:** iscrizione
- 14 **short:** abbreviazione



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ADVANCED **C1**

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **increase:** aumento
- 2 **inter-city:** tra città
- 3 **red bricks:** mattoni rossi
- 4 **town hall:** comune
- 5 **demands:** richieste
- 6 **labour:** di lavoro
- 7 **riots:** sollevamenti
- 8 **tiny:** piccola
- 9 **to allow:** permettere
- 10 **MP:** parlamentari  
(abbr. di *Member of Parliament*)
- 11 **cavalry:** cavalleria

# Manchester, an Industrial Icon

Il progresso scientifico e tecnologico, la creatività musicale e le conquiste in campo sportivo hanno fatto di questa città industriale un centro di nuove idee e importanti movimenti politici e culturali.

**M**anchester is a huge English city in the north, famous for its industrial past and radical ideas. In the 1800s, it became the most important cotton production town in the world with a massive population in-crease<sup>1</sup> of working people. Home to the

world's first inter-city<sup>2</sup> passenger railway station, inaugurated in 1830, Manchester's development is reflected in its red brick<sup>3</sup> buildings: Manchester Town Hall<sup>4</sup>, built in the Gothic revival style, is one of the most important Victorian buildings in England.





## THE WORKING CLASS

With the new working classes came united demands<sup>5</sup> for political representation and rights. Labour<sup>6</sup> conditions were often abusive, and Manchester was the scene of bread and labour riots<sup>7</sup>. At the time, only a tiny<sup>8</sup> percentage of men were allowed<sup>9</sup> to vote in Britain, and most of the north, including Manchester, had no MP<sup>10</sup> representing them at all. The Peterloo Massacre in 1819 saw cavalry<sup>11</sup> charge into a peaceful crowd of up to 80,000 who had gathered to demand reform. It caused a national outcry<sup>12</sup>.

## RADICAL LITERATURE

Manchester played a key role in the history of left-wing<sup>13</sup> politics, and today it is a UNESCO City of Literature known for its "radical literary history". It has featured in works highlighting<sup>14</sup> the changes that industrialisation brought, including Friedrich Engels' *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1844) and Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *Mary Barton: A Tale<sup>15</sup> of Manchester Life* (1848). Learn more at the People's History Museum, the national centre for material relating to the history of working people in the UK. Notably<sup>16</sup>, too, Manchester's Pankhurst Centre was the former home of Emmeline Pankhurst



and the birthplace<sup>17</sup> of the suffragette movement in 1903.

## SCIENCE AND PROGRESS

A university town, Manchester has excelled in scientific advancement: in 1917, scientist Ernest Rutherford first split<sup>18</sup> the atom here, and in 1948 one of the earliest computers was built here. Manchester's Science and Industry Museum pays homage to these and other scientific achievements<sup>19</sup>.

## TROUBLED TIMES

Heavy industry suffered a downturn<sup>20</sup> in Manchester from the 1960s, and was obliterated<sup>21</sup> under the 1980s economic policies<sup>22</sup> of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Regeneration began in the late 1980s, when Bridgewater Concert Hall and the Manchester Arena were built. The city centre was extensively regenerated in the 2000s.

## INDIE MUSIC

Manchester is also world-famous for its indie music scene of the 1980s and 1990s. Associated bands include The Smiths, Joy Division, The Stone Roses and The Verve. Their music was promoted by infamous<sup>23</sup> nightclub the Hacienda, developed by the founder of Factory Records, Tony Wilson; the 2002 film *24 Hour Party People* tells his story. 2007's *Control* is a fictional biographical reflection on the tragic life of Ian Curtis, lead singer of Joy Division. Learn more by taking a Manchester Music Tour, hosted by Craig Gill, founding member of Inspiral Carpets and a DJ at the Hacienda. ☺



Clockwise from opposite page top: Manchester city; the Science and Industry Museum; record covers from Manchester bands of the 1980s and '90s; on the map; Emmeline Pankhurst in 1913; the Town Hall; regional Eccles cakes filled with currants.

## GLOSSARY

- 12** outcry: protesta
- 13** left-wing: di sinistra
- 14** to highlight: evidenziare
- 15** tale: racconto
- 16** notably: in particolare
- 17** birthplace: culla
- 18** to split: scindere
- 19** achievements: conquiste
- 20** downturn: calo
- 21** to obliterate: annientare
- 22** policies: politiche
- 23** infamous: noto



# Aa THE BEST OF THE BLOG

The *Speak Up* blog answers any questions you may have either about the English language or our articles. Write to us at: <http://blog.speakuponline.it>. The most interesting questions will be published on this page. A word of warning, though: our blog is not a translation or homework service!

## UK STUDIES

Hello!

*Vorrei sottoporvi un dubbio riguardo agli studi superiori nel Regno Unito. Uso un esempio che ho letto su un giornale: "Il principe William è laureato in Geografia". Ciò significa che ha studiato proprio nella facoltà di Geografia o che è la materia nella quale ha ottenuto il voto più alto? Inoltre vorrei sapere se i centri come Eton sono università o scuole preparatorie, che quindi possono essere considerate 'high schools'.*

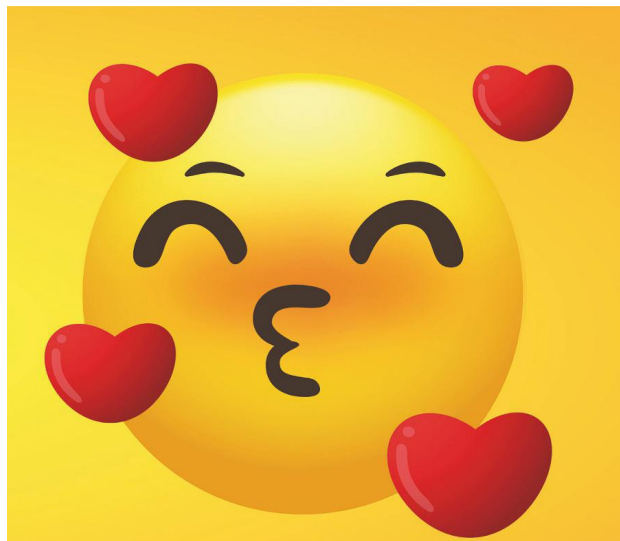
*Un saluto e grazie,  
Maria*

Cara Maria, come sicuramente saprai, il sistema educativo è diverso in ogni Paese, anche se esistono alcuni elementi comuni. Uno di questi è il fatto che, nella maggior parte dei casi, l'istruzione superiore universitaria comincia verso i 18 o i 19 anni. Iniziamo rispondendo alla tua seconda domanda: Eton College è una scuola secondaria per ragazzi (si, solo per uomini) dai

13 ai 18 anni, subito dopo ciò che nel Regno Unito chiamano *preparatory school* (dagli 8 ai 13 anni). Possiamo, quindi, paragonarlo al liceo o all'istituto nel sistema italiano. Il termine *high school* è più comune nel sistema statunitense. Passiamo ora alla tua prima domanda. Il principe William, dopo aver studiato a Eton, si è laureato in Geografia presso l'Università di St. Andrews. È vero che iniziò a studiare Storia dell'arte, ma poco dopo passò alla facoltà di Geografia. Il sistema britannico, in questo caso, è simile a quello italiano. Invece, e forse per questo ti è sorto il dubbio, negli Stati Uniti i laureati in genere frequentano un *major* e un *minor*. Ciò significa che studiano due discipline: quella *major* è la loro area principale di studio, e la *minor* è una seconda nella quale ottengono un livello di competenza avanzato, ma che non è la loro specializzazione. Speriamo di aver sciolto i tuoi dubbi. Saluti,  
*Speak Up*



## IDIOMS



**T**here are many love-related idioms expressing to different degrees one's interest in another person. On a superficial level, someone can 'catch your eye'; in the UK, you can 'fancy' or in the US 'have a crush on' someone. If you feel stronger, you can 'have the hots for' someone or even 'fall head over heels in love with' someone. If you form a relationship with that person, in the UK, you are 'going out with' them or 'seeing' them; in the US you are 'going steady'. If the relationship is going well you might 'get hitched' or 'tie the knot' (get married), if it is not, if it is 'on the rocks', it may be best to 'break up' or (if they turn out to be really tiresome) 'dump' them and move on.



## CROSSWORD SOLUTION



The solution to last month's crossword is: the second most important day of your life is 'the day you find out why you were born.'



# Imparare l'inglese a 360°?

Monica Perna, di *Impara l'Inglese con Monica*, ci spiega come farlo



**A**pprendere concretamente una lingua considerata "il passaporto per il mondo" quale l'inglese significa appprociare uno studio che lavori **contemporaneamente** su tutte le *language skills*, i mattoni su cui si basa l'intero processo comunicativo.

Conoscere l'inglese oggi significa **avere accesso all'80% delle informazioni** presenti in rete, **viaggiare** e studiare **all'estero** e candidarsi alle offerte di lavoro aperte agli *English speakers*.

Opportunità per molti italiani ancora difficili da sfruttare, essendo il nostro paese fanalino di coda in Europa quanto a competenze in quella nota come *The Language of Business*.

Eppure, oggi giorno, esistono svariati strumenti per studiare l'inglese: da quelli più tradizionali come i libri, a quelli più moderni come applicazioni e podcast. Dove risiede quindi il problema?

I **libri** pongono l'accento sulla **grammatica** e l'**esercizio scritto**, con un lavoro su produzione orale e vocabolario quasi completamente assente.

Le **app** fanno leva sulla memorizzazione di **parole** e **frasi fatte**, con spiegazioni



Visita la pagina Facebook di **Impara l'Inglese con Monica** ed accedi al suo **corso completamente gratuito di 4 lezioni** disponibile per i lettori di *Speak Up* scannerizzando il QR code o digitando [tinyurl.com/ingleseconmonica](http://tinyurl.com/ingleseconmonica)

di grammatica scarse o inesistenti: si imparano così delle frasi, ma non si hanno le competenze per modificarle o integrarle.

I **podcast** stimolano un lavoro sull'**ascolto**, ma non insegnano a scrivere in inglese, dove pronuncia e spelling non coincidono!

Ecco perché Monica Perna, dopo anni di docenze in atenei ed aziende, ha creato un metodo, ad oggi testato su **oltre 4.000 studenti**, che unisce, con organizzazione e struttura, strumenti tradizionali ed innovativi, **insegnando l'inglese a 360°**.

Il suo metodo si concretizza in un percorso online chiamato "**Impara l'inglese con Monica**" che, con una tabella

di marcia snocciolata in **90 giorni**, conduce, partendo dalle basi, al livello intermedio, oggi richiesto dal mercato del lavoro.

Il percorso fa leva su tutte le competenze: una solida conoscenza della **grammatica** per saper esprimere qualsiasi proprio pensiero, **vocabolario**, perché per padroneggiare una lingua servono tra le 500 e le 1.000 parole, **lettura** ed **ascolto**, per saper comprendere un testo o un dialogo, ed infine **produzione scritta e orale**, per gestire una conversazione.

Videolezioni abbinate a una coinvolgente aula virtuale, con contatto diretto con docente e compagni, creano il clima di apprendimento perfetto per superare ostacoli come la mancanza di tempo per lo studio, le difficoltà di memorizzazione e rallentamenti in itinere.

**Perché 90 giorni?** Perché le lezioni intraprese nei primi tre mesi di una nuova esperienza come l'apprendimento linguistico contribuiscono sensibilmente a determinarne il successo o l'insuccesso.

Ecco perché *Impara l'Inglese con Monica* fonde il rigore e la precisione di un insegnamento metodico con l'interazione degli strumenti più innovativi in una chiara finestra temporale.

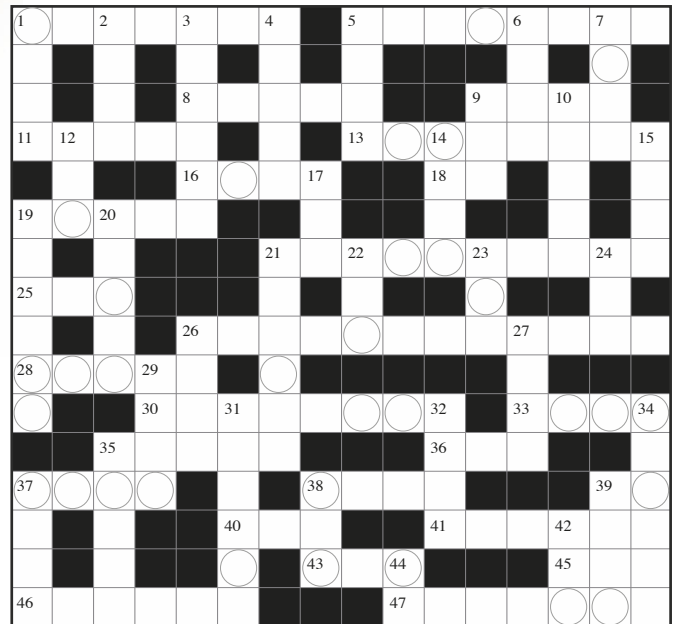






## A USEFUL TIP FOR THIS LIFE.

The circled letters (5,1,6, 5,5, 4, 3, 4) give you a useful tip for this life.



### ➤ Across

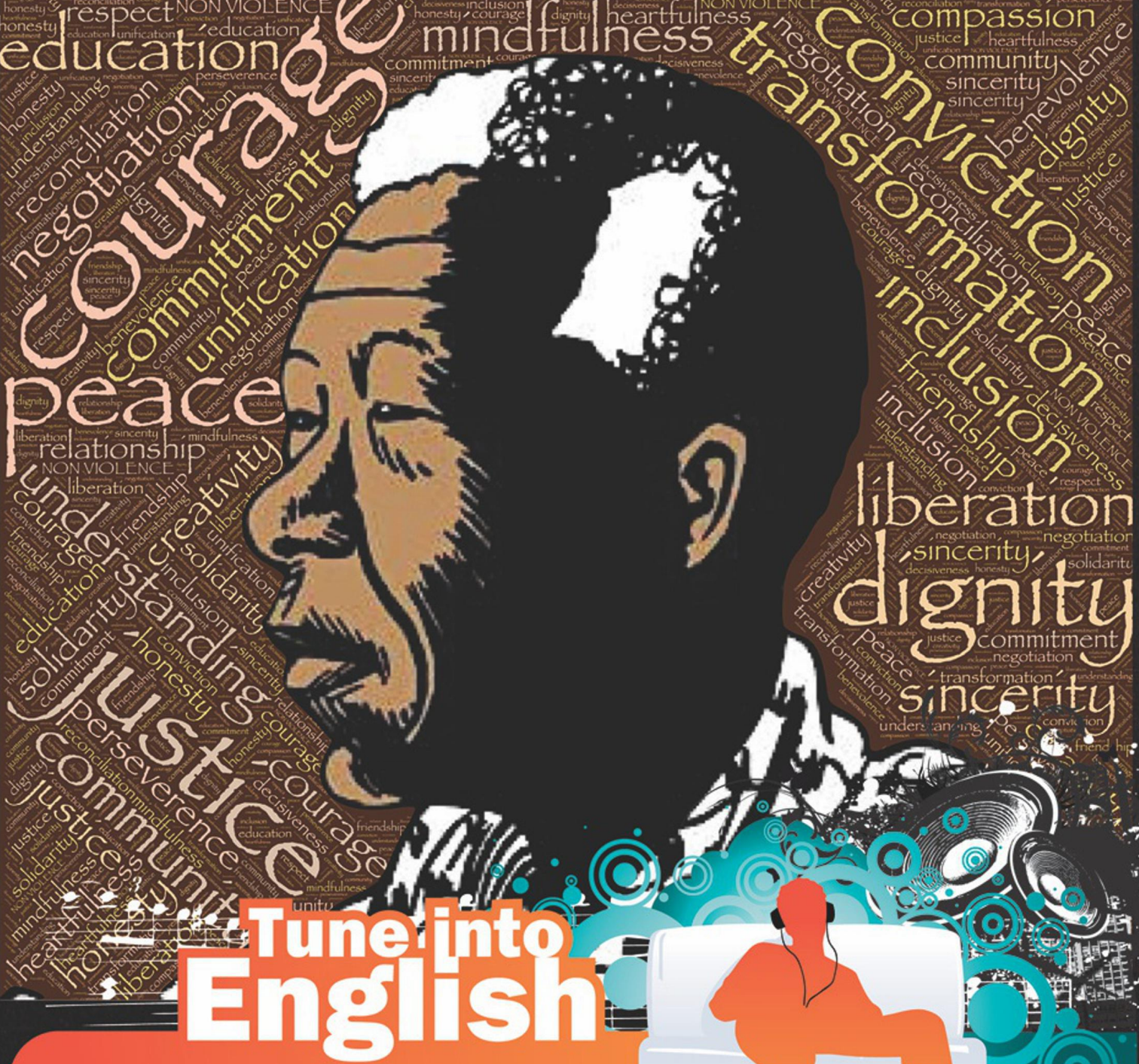
- 1 Preposition of place.
- 5 Technological device without wires.
- 8 Strength; authority.
- 9 At high speed; to not eat.
- 11 To find the solution to something.
- 13 Maker or designer of machinery.
- 16 Not common.
- 18 Preposition.
- 19 Very awake, vigilant; alarm.
- 21 Another; one more; extra.
- 25 Consume.
- 26 People who own shares in a company.
- 28 Collision; violent impact.
- 30 Not apart.
- 33 European mountain range.
- 35 Made a note of.
- 36 Organ of hearing.
- 37 Maintain; not throw away.
- 38 Spiritual body exercise.
- 39 Preposition of movement.
- 40 Frozen water.
- 41 Medical Practitioner.
- 43 Vast area of salty water.
- 45 Part of the verb 'to be'.
- 46 Mental or physical tension.
- 47 Teacher; instructor – especially for sport.

### Ⓢ Down

- 1 Person in charge; manager.
- 2 High.
- 3 Extremely skilled in a certain field.
- 4 More recent.
- 5 Past tense and homophone of 'war'.
- 6 Money borrowed or lent.
- 7 Place where something takes place.
- 9 Part of a shark.
- 10 Number coming after six.
- 12 'Black gold'; petroleum.
- 14 Mountain sheep.
- 15 Not artificial.
- 17 Finish.
- 19 Specialised business; – eg. for travel.
- 20 Additional.
- 21 Very, very surprised.
- 22 Cease to exist.
- 23 Not well.
- 24 What you breathe.
- 26 Hit with a bullet.
- 27 Beloved.
- 29 Finish, halt.
- 31 Exceptionally intelligent person.
- 32 Interpret writing.
- 34 Person who scores.
- 35 At no time.
- 37 Action of the lips.
- 38 Affirmation.
- 39 Past simple of 'tear'.
- 42 Brown skin from the sun.
- 44 Preposition often following 'arrive'.

The **solutions** will be published in the next issue of Speak Up.





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