ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК
CULTURE THROUGH LANGUAGE
ТЕКСТЫ ДЛЯ ИНДИВИДУАЛЬНОГО ЧТЕНИЯ
Материалы и методические указания для самостоятельной подготовки студентов по специальности 21.05.03

САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГ
2016
Методические указания предназначены для студентов, обучающихся по специальности 21.05.03 «Технология геологической разведки», специализация «Технология и техника разведки месторождений полезных ископаемых» и согласованы с программой по иностранному языку для студентов неязыковых вузов. Предлагаемый материал направлен на выработку и совершенствование навыков чтения, понимания и перевода текстов по лингвострановедению среднего и повышенного уровней сложности, а также навыков самостоятельной работы с текстами. Данные методические указания рассчитаны на 30 часов самостоятельной работы.

Библиогр.: 8 назв.

Научный редактор доцент Ф.М. Ярмухамедова

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Данные методические указания предназначены для учебно-методического сопровождения курса английского языка для студентов специальности 21.05.03 «Технология геологической разведки», специализация «Технология и техника разведки месторождений полезных ископаемых».

Освоение материала, изложенного в методических указаниях, способствует формированию у студентов способности к коммуникации в устной и письменной формах на иностранном языке для решения задач межличностного и межкультурного взаимодействия (ОК-5). Основной целью методических указаний является формирование и совершенствование навыков чтения, понимания и перевода текстов лингвострановедческой тематики. Материалы предназначены для самостоятельной работы студентов с неадаптированными текстами, отражающими современные реалии стран изучаемого языка.

Наличие текстов среднего и повышенного уровня сложности позволяют использовать данные методические указания на разных этапах обучения иностранному языку.
THE ENGLISH AND THEIR MANNERS
When it comes to being polite the English are the champions.

GLOSSARY

to coin a phrase, exp
if you “coin a phrase”, you are the first person to use that phrase

a finishing school, exp
a private girls' school that teaches girls how to "behave" in society

a queue, n
a line of people waiting to be served in a shop, etc.

to win hands down, exp
to win completely and easily

a roll-call, n
if someone takes a “roll-call”, they read out names from a list to check who is there

a lecturer, n
a teacher at a university or college

bumbling, adj
a “bumbling” person is often confused and disorganized and makes mistakes

a fondness for, exp
if you have a “fondness for” something, you like that thing

to squeeze past, exp
if you “squeeze past” someone, you have to push them a bit in order to pass

to bump into, exp
if you “bump into” someone, you crash into them or hit them accidentally

a portrayal of, exp
an actor’s “portrayal of” a character is the way the actor acts and plays the character

1. Pre-reading
What would you do/say in the following situations?

1. You arrive in a shop and there’s a queue to get served.
2. You want to talk to a colleague. You ask if he/she has a minute.
3. You are in a restaurant. Your fork is dirty.
4. You are in a corridor. There are lots of people there. You need to get past.
5. Someone bumps into you in the street.
6. You are in a shop. You’d like a packet of crisps.

2. Reading
Read the text once and compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity. Read the text again and say what the author thinks an English person would do/say in each of the situations from the Pre-reading activity.

3. Discussion
1. Are people good at queuing in your country? What queuing etiquette is there?
2. Do people use “please” and “thank you” a lot in your language? Why is that?
3. What’s your definition of the word polite?

The English are famous for their manners. The phrase, “Manners maketh the man” was coined by Englishman William of Wykeham back in 1324. But they’re just as important today. Books are written on the subject, advice columns in magazines tell people how to behave, and “finishing schools” still exist to ensure that young girls become young “ladies”.

The best example of English manners is in their mastery of the art of forming a queue. It is a popular joke in England (the land of sporting failures) to say, “If only queuing was an Olympic sport, we’d win hands down.” No one knows exactly how and when it started, but queuing plays an integral role in the English social make-up. School children are taught to queue for roll-call, assembly and lunch, and English people across the land form orderly queues at shops, banks, cinemas and bus-stops every day. The English obviously aren’t the only people who queue, but they seem to do it better than anyone else. As one visitor said, “I have travelled across Europe, the Middle and Far East and nowhere have I seen the single-file queues which are formed in England.” Perhaps it is best summed up by the humorist George Mikes who said, “An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one.”

5
The English are also famously polite when it comes to language. Whereas many other nations are more direct in their communication, the English prefer a more indirect form of asking for things. For example, an American who wants to talk to a colleague might say, “Got a minute?”; however an English person will often use a more indirect means of requesting the chat, “Sorry to bother you, but would you possibly have a minute or so to have a quick chat if you don’t mind, please?”

And in a restaurant, an American might say, “Waiter! Could I have another fork, please?”; whereas an English person would say, “Excuse me! I hate to be a bother, but would you mind awfully changing this fork, please?” Anyone who has seen a Hugh Grant film will recognize his portrayal of the bumbling Englishman and his fondness for indirect speech.

The English also love to apologise for things. When squeezing past someone, people say “sorry”. And they’ll apologise if you bump into them, “Whoops! Sorry! My fault.” In fact, no one seems to say “sorry” as much as the English: “Sorry I’m late. / Sorry about the mess. / Sorry I forgot to call you last night. / I’m sorry you didn’t get the e-mail.” And so on. They also like to use “please” and “thank you” a lot. In a shop, they will say, “I’d like a packet of crisps, please. Thanks.” When getting off a bus, English passengers say “thank you”, British students thank their lecturers, and bosses often thank their employees for doing their jobs.

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.102.)

Text 2

MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN

When it comes to crazy, there’s no one quite like the Brits

GLOSSARY

| **bizarre, adj** | unusual; strange |
| **to be host to, exp** | if a country "is host to” an event, |
| **wrestling, n** | a form of fighting that is a sport |
| **to lock, n** | if two people “lock” arms/feet/ |
they organize that event

**to roll, vb**
when something “rolls”, it moves along a surface, turning over many times

**to overtake, vb**
if you “overtake” something that is moving, you go faster than it and pass it

**an injury, n**
if there is an “injury”, someone breaks a leg/arm, etc.

**to delay, vb**
if an event is “delayed”, it starts later than planned

**a toe, n**
one of the five “fingers” on your feet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>toes, etc. they join these body parts together</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>a big toe, n</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the biggest/thickest toe on your foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>successful, adj</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if someone is “successful”, they win or achieve what they want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>grotesque, adj</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disgusting / horrible / revolting / very ugly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>an epitaph, n</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the text on someone’s gravestone (the stone that marks where they are buried when they are dead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“gurn”, exp</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>this sounds like the word “gone”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. **Pre-reading**

Cheese rolling, toe-wrestling and gurning are unusual “sports” from England. What do you think they consist of?

2. **Reading**

Read the text to check your ideas.

3. **Language focus**

*The Present Perfect Passive*

Look at this extract from the article, “It’s been practiced in England since 1297…” In this example, the writer has used a Present Perfect Passive construction (“have/has been” + a past participle). Transform the following sentences into the Present Perfect Passive.

1. They have made the cake.
2. They have sold the house.
3. She has bought the car.
4. He has framed the picture.

5. Discussion
1. Which of these “sports” would you like to try? Why?
2. Are there any unusual sports in your country? What?
3. What’s your favorite spectator sport?

Are there any unusual contests or competitions in your country? The English are famous for their wacky pastimes. This is the first of a two-part series. Top of the list of bizarre British pastimes has to be Cheese Rolling. Every May, Cooper’s Hill in Gloucester is host to a race of man against a Double Gloucester cheese. The cheese is rolled from the top of the hill and a group of competitors chase it down the hill and try to overtake it before it reaches the bottom. This may sound easy, but it isn’t especially dangerous; and every year there are several injuries. In fact, 2005’s main race had to be delayed because there were no ambulances, as they were already being used to take competitors from previous races to hospital.

Next on the list is the World Toe-Wrestling Championships. This takes place in Derbyshire every year. As part of the “toe fight”, two competitors sit opposite one another on a platform (called the “Toedum”). They both lock big toes and then try to push each other’s feet to the ground. For the last few years, the competition has been dominated by Alan “Nasty” Nash, and Paul “the Toeminator” Beech, who have won the title ten times between them. It is a sport the British are actually good at, which is just as well, given that it was invented by a group of walkers in Staffordshire who wanted to find a game that Britain could be successful at.

Unfortunately, numerous efforts to get the sport Olympic status have been unsuccessful. However, toe wrestling has more chance of Olympic recognition than the sport of “gurning”. The aim of gurning is to pull the most grotesque face possible. It’s been practised in England since 1297, and the World Gurning Championship takes place annually in Egremont, Cumbria. The undoubted star of the sport was Peter Jackman, who won the Championship four times and whose speciality was a face
called “The Bela Lugosi”. Jackman even had all of his teeth removed in 2000 to make his facial features easier to manoeuvre, but tragically died in Spain three years later while playing golf. His epitaph was, “Gurn’, but not forgotten.”

*(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.101)*

Text 3

MUSIC FESTIVALS

1. Pre-reading

Which words do you associate with music festivals? Choose from the words below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>house music</th>
<th>mud</th>
<th>tickets</th>
<th>a farm</th>
<th>food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sun</td>
<td>bands</td>
<td>theatre</td>
<td>security</td>
<td>rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drink</td>
<td>crowds</td>
<td>dance</td>
<td>rock music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noise</td>
<td>the blues</td>
<td>hip hop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Reading I

Read the article once. Which words from the Pre-reading activity can you find in the article?

3. Reading II

Read the article again and choose the correct word.

1. Glastonbury is going to celebrate its 30th/40th birthday.
3. The first Glastonbury festival was in 1960/1970.
5. The first festival cost £1/£2.
6. The tickets for the 2010 event sold out in less than 24/48 hours.
8. U2 are/aren’t going to play in 2010.

4. Discussion

1. Have you ever been to a music festival? Which one? What was it like?
2. What important festivals are there in your country?
3. What do you like/dislike about music festivals?

Music festivals are popular all over the world. The UK’s most famous event is Glastonbury, which is going to celebrate its 40th birthday.

Glastonbury is the largest outdoor music festival in the world. It’s best known for music, but the festival also includes dance, comedy, theatre, circus and cabaret acts. In fact, the full title of the festival is *The Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts*, but most people just call it Glastonbury or Glasto. More than 170,000 people attended the festival in 2007, and watched over 700 acts perform on 80 different stages. 2010 is the 40th anniversary of the first festival and many people believe that the event, which is going to be between 23rd and 27th June, is going to be the best yet.

The first Glastonbury festival was in 1970. Back then, it was called the Pilton festival. It was started by a local farmer, Michael Eavis. He had been to a blues festival in nearby Bath to see Led Zeppelin play. Eavis liked the festival so much he decided to start his own event on his farm in Pilton, a small village in South-West England about 6 miles east of the town of Glastonbury.

Glastonbury became really popular in the 1990s. Security was improved, so the event became safer, and as a result more families began to attend. In addition, the festival began to include many different types of music and not only mainstream rock. The festival’s dance music area became extremely popular and attracted a large audience.

Ticket prices to Glastonbury have changed over the years. The first festival cost £1 (about €1.12), plus free milk from the farm. The second festival was free. But the 2010 festival costs £194.95 (about €218.35). That’s per person! Incredibly, however, the festival usually has no trouble selling the tickets. The tickets for the 2010 event sold out in less than 24 hours, although no one knew who was going to play. Glastonbury is that popular.

Of course, most people are certain that there are going to be some big names playing at the festival. Glastonbury always attracts the most popular acts. In 2009 Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young and Blur were head-
liners. The year before saw Jay-Z and The Kings of Leon playing on the famous Pyramid Stage. Others who’ve played there include Paul McCartney, The Killers, The Arctic Monkeys, Robbie Williams, REM, Coldplay, Radiohead… the list is endless. Everyone has "done" Glastonbury.

So, who’s going to play in 2010? The biggest news is that U2 are going to headline on the Friday night. They’ve never played at Glastonbury before, so the organizers are very excited. Michael Eavis has said, “The 26-year-old rumor has finally come true. At last, the biggest band in the world are going to play in the best festival in the world! Nothing could be better for our 40th anniversary party.”

However, one thing the organizers can’t control is the weather. The Glastonbury Festival is famous for its bad weather. In 1997 and 1998, there was heavy rain (and lots of mud), and again in 2004, 2005, and 2007 (there wasn’t a Glastonbury in 2006 when the weather was hot and sunny). It’s too early to say what the weather is going to be like for Glasto 2010. Let’s hope, however, that the organizers get blue skies and sunshine for their 40th birthday party!

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.100)

Text 4

TV CRUELTY

TV shows that take things too far.

GLOSSARY

to humiliate, v

to make someone feel stupid

a bachelor, n

a man who isn’t married

to fall for someone, exp

to start to love someone

penniless, adj

with no money

a wisecrack, n

a comment that is designed to make others laugh

mean, adj

cruel; not kind

to shave off, phr vb

to cut all the hair off your head/body, etc.
a birth father, *n*
your biological dad

talentless, *adj*
with no talent/ability/skill

to mock, *vb*
to make fun of

a put-down, *n*
a comment that is designed to make someone feel stupid

rejection, *n*
a feeling of sadness after not being accepted / not winning / not passing something

a nervous breakdown, *n*
a mental disorder that a person experiences. It is a type of severe depression

1. Pre-reading discussion
*Are you familiar with these types of television programs?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. A documentary</th>
<th>4. The news</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. A reality TV show</td>
<td>5. A chat show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A sitcom</td>
<td>6. A game show</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Reading I
*Look at the list of TV program names below. What type of programs are they? What do you think they’re about? Read the text to check your ideas.*

Joe Millionaire
The X-Factor
Britain’s Got Talent
American Idol
Who’s the Daddy?

3. Reading II
*Read the text again and choose the correct answers.*

1. *Joe Millionaire* follows the lives of single/married women.
2. In *Who’s the Daddy?* the contestant has to choose her dad from among 6/7 people.
3. Contestants in *The X-Factor* are often ridiculed by members of the public / judges.
4. Simon Cowell is also known as the King/Queen of Mean.
5. Susan Boyle became famous on the show Britain’s Got Talent / Les Misérables.

4. Language focus
   The Present Simple Passive
   Look at this extract from the text, “...they are often mocked and ridiculed by the judges.” The writer has used a Present Simple Passive tense (“are mocked”). Transform the following sentences to the Present Simple Passive. Don’t include the agent (the person who does the action).

1. They make the cakes.
2. He sends the e-mail.
3. They clean the windows.
4. She writes the book.

5. Discussion
   1. Have you seen any of these TV programs (or something similar)? What do you think of them?
   2. What’s your favorite / least favorite TV show/program?
   3. Do you watch more or less TV than about 3 years ago? Why?

The X-Factor. Britain’s Got Talent. American Idol. TV talent shows are popular all over the world. But why? Is it because we share the contestants’ hopes and dreams? Or is it because we enjoy watching them get humiliated?

Take the program Joe Millionaire. It follows the lives of single-women looking for the man of their dreams. She’s introduced to a rich, handsome bachelor who takes her on a series of incredible dates. But once she’s fallen for him, it’s revealed that he is in fact penniless. Then, she has to choose whether to stay with him or not — and we supposedly learn about her “true values”. Then, there’s Who’s The Daddy?, which is about adopted women trying to find their birth fathers. The problem is there are 7 actors who claim to be her real father. But it’s all right — if she picks her real daddy, they both win a cash prize.

Many say that reality talent shows such as The X-Factor and Britain’s Got Talent are the worst of the lot. Each week we watch talent-
less contestants make fools of themselves. For many viewers, these disastrous auditions are the highlight of the show. To add to the contestants’ misery, they are often mocked and ridiculed by the judges.

One of the most famous judges in the UK is Simon Cowell. He’s notorious for his insults, put-downs and wisecracks about contestants and their abilities, and he’s popularly known as the “King of Mean”. Some of his most famous remarks include the following. “Shave off your beard and wear a dress – you’d be a great female impersonator.” / “That was terrible, I mean just awful.” / “My advice would be if you want to pursue a career in the music business, don’t.” / “Did you really believe you could become the next American Idol? Well, then, you’re deaf.”

Many find the rejection and humiliation too much. One contestant from American Idol committed suicide. But sometimes, even the winners suffer. Susan Boyle became a worldwide star overnight on Britain’s Got Talent. Boyle (born in Scotland, 1961) appeared as a contestant on the show on 11th April 2009 singing “I Dreamed a Dream” from the musical Les Misérables. Although she didn’t come in first place, her album (released in November 2009) debuted as the number-one best-selling CD in charts around the world. However, she was unable to cope with the pressure and attention and she suffered a nervous breakdown soon after.

Reality TV often seems to walk a fine line between entertainment and exploitation. And although it comes in many different forms, it usually does the same thing: serve up the audience with victims to laugh at. Now, is that morally right?

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.100)

Text 5

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
One of the world’s most famous children’s books.

GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a riverbank, n</th>
<th>to have sympathy for, exp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>peculiar, adj</td>
<td>if you &quot;have sympathy for&quot; someone, you appreciate/understand their</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
strange/unusual

to shrink, *vb*
if something “shrinks” it becomes smaller
to compliment, *vb*
if someone "compliments" you, they say something good about you

*a sin, n*
a crime against god/society
*sorrow, n*
极端的悲伤
*foul-tempered, adj*
if someone is “foul-tempered”, they get angry quickly and often
*fury, n*
极端的愤怒

croquet, *n*
an outdoor game in which the players hit wooden balls through hoops by using mallets (see entry below)
a hedgehog, *n*
a small brown animal with sharp spikes on its back
*a mallet, n*
a wooden pole with a thick piece of wood at the end for hitting balls
*a grin, n*
a broad/wide smile

situation and/or feel sorry for them
to quote, *vb*
to repeat words/sentences from a book/play/poem, etc.
*kitchen utensils, n*
things that are used in a kitchen to cook/clean, etc.
to turn into, *exp*
to become

*bossy, adj*
if someone is “bossy”, they give orders and tell others what to do
to put on trial, *exp*
if someone is “put on trial”, there is a legal process to see if they are innocent or guilty

*a tart, n*
a type of shallow cake filled with sweet things such as fruit
*a witness, n*
a person who has seen a crime
*a hare, n*
a type of large rabbit
*the breeding season, n*
the time of the year when animals make babies
*a waistcoat, n*
clothing worn inside a jacket. It is like a jacket but with no arms

1. Pre-reading discussion
*Have you read Alice in Wonderland? Have you seen the movie?*
2. Reading
Read the texts 5 and 6 to find out some interesting facts about the movie, the book and its author. Were you familiar with any of them?

Alice in Wonderland was written more than a hundred years ago. But it’s still as popular today as it was in Victorian times. And now there’s a new film version starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter. The fantasy-adventure film is directed by Tim Burton. It is an extension to the Lewis Carroll novels Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. The film combines live action and animation. Mia Wasikowska plays the role of Alice, Johnny Depp is the Mad Hatter, and Helena Bonham Carter is The Red Queen. In the film, Alice is 19 and is attending a party at a Victorian estate. She is about to be proposed to by a rich suitor, but runs off, following a white rabbit into a hole. She ends up in Wonderland again. The White Rabbit claims to have come back for Alice because she’s the only one who can kill the Jabberwock, the beast who guards the Red Queen’s empire. Will Alice be able to end the Red Queen’s reign of terror?

The story starts with Alice sitting on a riverbank with her sister. Suddenly, Alice sees a White Rabbit. He’s wearing a coat and carrying a watch. He runs past. Alice follows the rabbit down a hole and falls very slowly into a fantasy world of adventure, peculiar creatures and absolute nonsense. There’s a drink that makes her shrink, a cake that makes her grow, a talking cat, a cook who throws her baby in the air, and a queen who hates white roses. On a very basic level, Alice in Wonderland is a fascinating children’s book. But there’s a more complex side to it. Alice is the means through which Carroll criticize and compliments Victorian society, explains Morton N. Cohen in his biography Lewis Carroll. He explains how children recognize many of the situations as ones that they have had to deal with. And that “these painful and damaging experiences are the price children pay in all societies in all times when passing through the dark corridors of their young lives.” Here are some of the characters from the story.
Alice
Alice is the main character in the book. Carroll described her as loving, courteous, trustful and above all curious – “wildly curious, and with the eager enjoyment of life that comes only in the happy hours of childhood, when all is new and fair, and when sin and sorrow are but names – empty words signifying nothing!”

Queen of Hearts
The Queen of Hearts is a foul tempered monarch. Carroll himself described her as “a blind fury”. Her most famous line is “Off with her head!”, which she repeats a lot. One of the Queen’s hobbies is an unusual game of croquet in which the balls are live hedgehogs and the mallets are flamingos.

Cheshire Cat
The Cheshire Cat first appears in the kitchen with the Duchess, the Cook and the Baby. It has an unusual grin, as well as the ability to become invisible. The Cheshire Cat is one of the few animals who apparently has some sympathy for Alice. He guides her on to the next step of her journey (to the Mad Tea-Party) and is the subject of what may be Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland’s most quoted line, “‘Well! I’ve often seen a cat without a grin,’ thought Alice; ‘but a grin without a cat! It’s the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life!’”

Cook
The Cook serves in the Duchess’s kitchen. She throws things (mostly kitchen utensils) at the Duchess and the Baby, and she cooks with a lot of pepper, which causes the Baby and the Duchess to sneeze.

Duchess
When Alice first meets the Duchess, she’s sitting in the kitchen with the Cook and the Cheshire Cat, and she’s holding the Baby (who later turns into a pig). The Duchess shakes the Baby and tosses it up into the air, eventually throwing it at Alice.
**King of Hearts**
The King of Hearts is the queen’s husband. He is not as bossy as his wife, but he has a form of logic that at first confuses Alice, then irritates her.

**Knave of Hearts**
The Knave (or Jack) of Hearts is arrested and put on trial for stealing the Queen’s tarts.

**Mad Hatter**
The Mad Hatter is one of the characters at the Mad Tea-Party. This is an endless tea time party in which time never progresses and tea never ends. The Mad Hatter wears a top hat and appears as a witness in the trial of the Knave of Hearts. In Carroll’s time, hat makers regularly used mercury to treat their hats. Many believed that the mercury caused madness.

**March Hare**
The March Hare is the host of the Mad Tea-Party. He is very argumentative and challenges almost all of Alice’s remarks. In England, March is the breeding season for hares, and they often act strangely during this time.

**White Rabbit**
The White Rabbit is the first character that Alice meets in her dream wonderland. He has a white coat, a waistcoat and he carries a large gold watch. The White Rabbit is constantly worried about time. Many believe he is representative of a typical Victorian adult.

*(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.100)*
Text 6
LEWIS CARROLL
The creator of Alice in Wonderland Stories.

GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a lecturer, n</td>
<td>a teacher at a university or college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a don, n</td>
<td>a teacher at Oxford or Cambridge University in England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a dean, n</td>
<td>an important administrator at a university or college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonsense, adj</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to urge, vb</td>
<td>something, you persuade them strongly to do it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to withdraw from circulation, exp</td>
<td>if a book is “withdrawn from circulation”, it is taken out of the shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a penname, n</td>
<td>an author’s invented name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
text or speech that doesn’t make sense  
**a tale, n**  
a story

**to deflect criticism, exp**  
if you “deflect” criticism, you do things to neutralize criticism, often by creating a distraction and making people focus on that

**Reading**  
*Read the text to find out about a famous author.*

He was a famous mathematician. He was a *lecturer* at Oxford University. And he created the *Alice in Wonderland* series of books. Lewis Carroll (real name, Charles Dodgson) was a fascinating man.

Charles Dodgson was born in 1832. In 1846, he went to Rugby School. After finishing school, he went to Oxford University. He graduated in mathematics in 1854, and began to work as a math’s *don* at the university a year later. Whilst working there, he wrote and published several short stories and novels, as well as various works on mathematics. But Dodgson is most famous for his *Alice in Wonderland* books.

The main character in the books, Alice, was based on a real girl, Alice Pleasance Liddell. Alice Liddell was the daughter of the *dean* of Christ Church College (Henry George Liddell) where Dodgson worked. On 4th July 1862, Dodgson took Alice (aged 10) and her two sisters (Lorina Charlotte, 13, and Edith Mary, 8), and the Reverend Robinson Duckworth on a boat trip up the River Thames. During the journey, Dodgson passed the time by telling the children a *nonsense tale*. He later wrote down the story, calling it *Alice’s Adventures Underground*. When he finished the book in 1863, his friends and family urged him to publish it.

The book was renamed *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and published in July 1865. It was immediately *withdrawn from circulation* because of poor print quality. A corrected edition was published in November. It was a big success. In fact, Queen Victoria enjoyed *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* so much that she asked Dodgson for more of his work. In response, Dodgson sent her his most recent mathematics book.

Interestingly, Dodgson had mixed feelings about his fame as an author of children’s stories. He preferred to think of himself as a man of
science and mathematics who also happened to write nonsense. Dodgson never publicly acknowledged that he was also Lewis Carroll, and he seldom signed his books, and never gave away his portrait. Dodgson died of bronchitis on 14th January 1898. He is buried in Mount Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey, near the home he bought for his family.

Dodgson developed an early version of the word game that is now known as Scrabble. In 1856, Dodgson took up the new art form of photography. He soon became a well-known photographer. He created more than 3,000 images, but only 1,000 have survived time and deliberate destruction.

Many have questioned his friendship with young girls. Some say it was a result of his complete lack of interest in the adult world. Others say he was interested in adult women – both married and single – and that he had several scandalous relationships (by standards of the time). As a result, and in order to deflect criticism, it was his family who gave the false impression of a man who only liked the company of young children. At the time, this wasn’t seen as anything particularly unusual.

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.100)

Text 7

MOBILE MADNESS
The invention we love to hate.

GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>have a tendency to, exp</th>
<th>a bride, n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>if something “has a tendency to” happen, it usually happens</td>
<td>a woman who is going to get married in a wedding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a performance, n</td>
<td>a cell phone, n US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if an actor/actress gives a “performance”, he/she acts in front of an audience</td>
<td>a mobile phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to grab, vb</td>
<td>a user, n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to take quickly and suddenly</td>
<td>someone who uses something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t care, exp</td>
<td>a researcher, n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>someone who investigates things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(often scientific things)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
it isn’t important to me

mortified, adj
very embarrassed and ashamed

1. Pre-reading

Look at following mobile phone situations. Rank them in order according to how bad they are (“1” is the worst thing that could happen).

Your mobile phone goes off during…

| ... a theatre play. | ...a job interview. |
| ...a film.         | ...a conversation with your boss. |
| ...an intimate conversation. | ...a one-minute silence to honor a recently deceased person. |
| ...a dinner with friends. | ...a wedding ceremony. |
| ...a football match. |                       |
| ...a train journey. |                       |

2. Reading I

Read the article once. Which mobile phone situation do you think is the most embarrassing?

3. Reading II

Read the text again. Then, complete the information with your own words.

1. Mobile phones have a tendency to…
2. When a spectator’s phone went off during a recent play, Hugh Jackman…
3. In Missouri, a mobile phone interrupted…
4. Overheard mobile conversations are…
5. In one experiment…
6. Some phone companies are developing mobile phones …
4. Language focus

The Future Passive

Look at this extract from the text, “...SoHo phones will not be sold...” In this example, the writer has used a future passive tense (“will be” + a past participle). Transform these sentences to the Future Passive.

1. They will finish it tonight.
2. She will send it later.
3. They will fix it tomorrow.
4. We will test it this afternoon.
5. They won't make the call later today.

5. Discussion

1. Has your phone ever gone off at an inopportune moment? What happened?
2. What are the best/worst things about mobile phones?
3. Have you got any mobile phone anecdotes? What are they?

Mobile phones. We’ve all got one, but they can be annoying at times. In fact, in a recent survey, 30% of US citizens named the mobile phone as the most annoying invention... even more than alarm clocks!

One of the main problems is that mobile phones have a tendency to ring at the wrong moment. Important meetings, romantic meals, trips to the cinema – no matter where we are, we can be sure that a phone will ring when we least expect it... and when we least want it to. One spectator’s mobile started ringing during a performance of the play A Steady Rain in New York’s Broadway. To this man’s horror, actors Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig (who were acting in the play) stopped their performance. “You wanna get that?” Jackman asked the spectator, referring to the call. “If you wanna get it, grab it. I don’t care. Grab it. We can wait. Just grab it!” he added while the mortified spectator tried to switch the phone off.

But this is quite a common occurrence. In Missouri, a mobile phone interrupted a church wedding. “The music had just started to play and my father began walking me down the aisle,” said the bride, Karen Emerson. “All of a sudden, the song ‘Girls Just Wanna Have Fun’ goes
off on my mobile phone (it’s my ringtone). Everyone looks at me and I realize the one thing I’ve forgotten to do is to turn my mobile off.”

Overheard mobile conversations are also top of the “annoying things about mobile phones” list. Psychologists at the University of York in England conducted an experiment: one group of people got on a train and started having a loud conversation; another group started talking at a normal volume into their cell phones. Although some train passengers said the loud conversations were annoying, many more people thought the person talking into his mobile phone was worse. “The problem seems to be that people pay more attention when they only hear half a conversation, and that can be really annoying,” said US academic Jakob Nielson.

Some phone companies are trying to help resolve these situations. Researchers at the Ideo industrial design company have created the SoHo1 phone. It gives callers a small electric shock when they speak too loudly. Graham Pullin of Ideo says their SoHo phones will not be sold, but he hopes they will get designers talking. “Much is made of ‘user-centric’ design,” he says, “but the people surrounding the user need to be considered too.”

Meanwhile, the number of mobile phone users grows every day. In Britain, there are already 121 phones for every 100 people, according to a recent survey; while in the USA, 1 billion text messages are sent every day. In 2005, there were about 2 billion cell phones in the world; researchers say there could be 3.3 billion by 2010. Now that’s a lot of interrupted theatre productions.

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.99)

**Text 8**

**YOU CAN’T READ THAT!**

*Why some people want to stop you from choosing what to read.*

**GLOSSARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>to ban, vb</strong></th>
<th><strong>to raise, vb</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to prohibit</td>
<td>if parents “raise” a child, they educate and care for that child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>a title, n</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to raise, vb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a book

to challenge, vb
if a book is “challenged”, someone questions whether it is suitable

would-be, adj
a “would-be” X is someone who is trying to be X

a censor, n
someone who tries to ban/prohibit things

a citizen censor, n
an ordinary member of the public who wants to ban something

witchcraft, n
the use of magical powers, especially evil ones

on the grounds that, exp
because

---

a CBE, abbr
a Commander of the British Empire – an award given to someone for special services to Britain

to notch up, phr vb
if you “notch something up” (such as a score or total), you achieve/get that score

to rank, vb
if you “rank” second in a list, you are in the second position in that list

to take it upon yourself to do something, exp
to decide to do something without asking permission

1. Pre-reading

Match the authors (1 to 8) to the books (a-h).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Ernest Hemmingway</th>
<th>a. The Goblet of Fire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Roald Dahl</td>
<td>b. The Grapes of Wrath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. JK Rowling</td>
<td>c. 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. George Orwell</td>
<td>d. The Giant Peach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. John Steinbeck</td>
<td>e. Northern lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. JD Salinger</td>
<td>f. For Whom the Bell Tolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell</td>
<td>g. And Tango Makes Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Philip Pullman</td>
<td>h. The Catcher in the Rye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Reading I
Why do you think some people try to ban books such as the ones in the Pre-reading activity? Think. Then, read the article once to check your ideas.

3. Reading II
Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. Who are the majority of would-be censors?
2. What type of books often get targeted by these censors?
3. What was wrong with the Harry Potter books?
4. What is the book about penguins based on?
5. What’s Philip Pullman’s latest distinction?
6. How has Pullman responded to this news?

4. Language focus
Expressions with “have” + a past participle
Look at this extract from the article, “…once tried to have the children’s book Daddy’s roommate removed from the town library…” In this example, the writer has used the Causative “have”. We often use this construction when we contract/pay someone to do something for us. Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. They had the flowers delivered to...
2. We had the car repaired by...
3. They had the packages sent to...
4. She had the food prepared by...
5. He had the money paid to...

5. Discussion
1. Have any books been banned in your country? Which ones?
2. What sort of books should be banned?
3. What forms of censorship exist in the world?

What do Ernest Hemmingway, Roald Dahl and JK Rowling have in common? They’re world-famous writers for a start, but they’re also
writers who’ve had their books removed from libraries or **banned** at one
time or another. Read on and find out about the books that some people
just don’t want you to read. This is the first of a two-part series.

No books are officially banned in the United States. However,
specific **titles** are frequently **challenged** in school curriculums and public
libraries. Many **would-be censors** are parents concerned about what their
children are reading at school and in local libraries. They are mostly
members of religious groups. The most common complaint is against
books with explicit sexual content or offensive language. However, Sarah
Palin (Republican vice-presidential candidate during the 2009 US elec-
tions) once tried to have the children’s book *Daddy’s Roommate* removed
from the town library while she was mayor of the town of Wasilla, Alas-
ka. It’s a story about a boy whose divorced father lives with his male
partner.

Many famous books have been the target of **citizen censors**. Fa-
vorites include *1984* (by George Orwell), *The Catcher in the Rye* (by JD
Salinger), *James and the Giant Peach* (by Roald Dahl), *The Color Purple*
(by Alice Walker), *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (by Ernest Hemmingway),
*The Grapes of Wrath* (by John Steinbeck), and, more recently, the *Harry
Potter* books (by JK Rowling) because of the use of magic and **witch-
craft**. The most banned book in the United States is a children’s story by
Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell called *And Tango Makes Three*. It is
based on a true story about two male penguins who **raised** a baby pen-
guin in New York’s Central Park Zoo. The book won several awards, but
it also attracted a lot of complaints from parents, religious organizations
and library users. They say the book is not suitable for children.

**Philip Pullman** is another writer whose books have been chal-
lenged. A successful novelist and children’s writer, Pullman has a **CBE**, a
Carnegie Medal and several honorary professorships. However, just re-
cently, he **notched up** a new distinction: he is **ranked** second in the top
10 books that people have tried to ban across America. Pullman’s fantasy
trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, consists of the books *Northern Lights* (also
known as *The Golden Compass* – 1995), *The Subtle Knife* (1997) and *The
Amber Spyglass* (2000). Several schools across America have received
requests from parents to remove the books. One challenge at a school in
Winchester, Kentucky was made **on the grounds that** the book’s main
character drinks wine with her meals. Another school in Oshkosh, Wisconsin pulled the trilogy because of its “anti-Christian message”.

Pullman said that he was “very glad to be back in the top 10 banned books”. But he added, “Of course it’s a worry when anybody takes it upon themselves to dictate what people should or should not read.”

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.99)

Text 9
RED-FACEBOOK
The hidden hazards of modern social networking.

GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>all rolled into one, <em>exp</em></td>
<td>all combined into one thing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the downside, <em>n</em></td>
<td>the negative aspect of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not amused, <em>exp</em></td>
<td>not happy about something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set up, <em>exp</em></td>
<td>the way that something is “set up” is the way that it is organized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manually, <em>adv</em></td>
<td>if something is operated “manually”, you need to do something with it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to opt out of, <em>exp</em></td>
<td>if you “opt out of something”, you decide not to participate in it or use it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pretty (good), <em>exp</em></td>
<td>quite (good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to cause a bit of a stink, <em>exp inform</em></td>
<td>to create a bit of a scandal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to miss, <em>vb</em></td>
<td>if you “miss” something, you don’t go to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>home and dry, <em>exp</em></td>
<td>safe and secure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a fairy, <em>n</em></td>
<td>a small magical female creature with wings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a wand, <em>n</em></td>
<td>a magic stick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to copy in, <em>exp</em></td>
<td>to include people in a list of e-mail addresses (cc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(they) were in for something, <em>exp inform</em></td>
<td>(they) were going to receive...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a serious grilling, <em>exp inform</em></td>
<td>if you receive a “serious grilling”, someone speaks to you angrily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Pre-reading
What can you do on social networking sites? Use the prompts below to think of as many ideas as you can.

friends, profile, e-mail, search, ads, photos, games, blog, privacy settings, chat rooms, instant messaging, classifieds, books, school, tags, bulletin board, groups, music, mobile

Example: You can meet people. You can get in touch with friends.

2. Reading I
Read the article once. What are the pros and cons of Facebook?

3. Reading II
Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. How many Facebook users are there?
2. What doesn’t Holly Barnes like about the “Compare Friends” application?
3. Why do you think she says the application is “sadistic”?
4. What did Kevin want to do?
5. What excuse did he give for not going to work?
6. What happened to him as a result?
7. How did Alex and Vanessa get in trouble?
8. Why was Brad’s girlfriend so angry with him?

4. Language focus
Prepositions and the gerund
Look at this extract from the article, “...you have to manually opt out of notifying your friends...” Notice the use of the gerund after the preposition “of” (“notifying”). Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Use a verb in the gerund.

1. I’m thinking about...
2. I’m looking forward to...
3. I believe in...
4. I dreamt about...
5. I often worry about...

5. Discussion
1. Have you got any social-networking stories similar to these ones? What are they?
2. Do you know of any other dangers related to social networking sites? What are they?
3. What are the benefits of socializing online? And the disadvantages?

Find old friends, meet people, date, get a job. Facebook offers you a whole world of opportunity. Social networking has never been faster or easier. But is it a good thing?

“It’s my e-mail, diary, address book and photo album all rolled into one”, says enthusiastic user Mia Saunders. But Mia isn’t alone. Estimates for total users of Facebook range from 57 million right up to 300 million. In fact, Facebook is growing so quickly that by the time you read this, those figures will probably be out of date.

But as with most things, there’s a downside. “I lost a good friend thanks to Facebook,” explained Holly Barnes. “I used the Facebook application ‘Compare Friends’. It’s supposed to be a ‘fun’ game that asks questions about five friends on your list and then gives them a rank and rating. One of the questions was, ‘Who smells better?’ I did it and then the results were sent out automatically to all my friends. Of course, the people who came last were not amused. But it wasn’t my fault, the way it’s set up, you have to manually opt out of notifying your friends of your choices. It’s pretty sadistic when you think about it.” Seems like in this case, social networking with Facebook caused a bit of a stink.

Facebook can also cause you problems at work. Take Kevin - a young worker at a bank in Boston. He was desperate to go to a friend’s Halloween party. The big problem was that it was on a weeknight. But Kevin decided this was one party he couldn’t miss. So, he carefully prepared his excuse and told his bosses that he had to go back to New York for a few days because of a “family matter”. Kevin thought he was home and dry and it turned out to be a great party. Only problem was his boss,
a Facebook “friend”, had a look at Kevin’s profile at the weekend and saw pictures of Kevin at the party dressed as a green fairy with a magic wand. When Kevin came back to work on Monday he found this e-mail in his in-box (with a photo attached and the entire company copied in), “Kevin, hope everything was OK in New York. Cool wand! Cheers, Paul.” For Kevin, the fairy tale was over and he lost his job.

There’s also a danger of sharing your photos. When Alex and Vanessa went on holiday to the Bahamas they caught an Iguana and then had a beach barbecue with it. But it turns out the Iguana is on the endangered species list and when the authorities saw the pictures, Alex and Vanessa were in for a serious grilling.

Brad Barker from Australia was initially enthusiastic about Facebook. “I met my girlfriend from Australia through Facebook. She came over to live with me. At the time, I was friends with another girl, nothing more. One day, my friend sent me some holiday pictures of her in a bikini. My girlfriend found them and went crazy. Now she lives in Australia again!” So, as you can see, Facebook can make your life a lot easier – or a lot more complicated!

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.98)

Text 10

THE DARK AVENGER

Dexter – the crime fighter with a shocking secret.

GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>screens, n</td>
<td>televisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a blood splatter analyst, n</td>
<td>a medical scientist who looks at the way blood has flowed at a crime scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a conscientious worker, n</td>
<td>a person who works very hard/responsibly/effectively/carefully, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an avenger, n</td>
<td>someone who punishes people who have done bad things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to rid, vb</td>
<td>to eliminate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to escape justice, n</td>
<td>not to be punished for a crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a psychopath, n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a unique knack, n
a special way
a serial killer, n
a murderer who kills three or more people in separate events over a period of time, often using the same methods
to adopt, vb
to take care legally and formally of a child who has no parents
brutally murdered, exp
killed in a violent way
a sociopath, n
a person with an anti-social personality disorder (APD) who has no concern for social rules or society/people in general
innate, adj
that is a characteristic of that person
a stepson, n
the son of your wife/husband (but not your biological son)
remorseless, adj
with no feelings of pity
a stepdad, n
the husband of your mum (but not your biological dad)
to prevail, vb
to win; to triumph
to portray, vb
to show

Reading
Read the text to find out about a famous TV series

Dexter is one of the latest American crime series to arrive on our screens. Dexter Morgan (Dexter) works for the Miami police department
and uses his technical expertise to solve crimes. Think you’ve heard it all before? Think again. Dexter is hiding a dark secret.

Dexter Morgan is officially a **blood splatter analyst**. On the outside, he’s the typical all-American hero. He’s a **conscientious worker**, he takes good care of his family and he has a **unique knack** for solving crimes committed by serial killers. However, his key to understanding **serial killers** is due to one special thing: he is one himself.

Dexter has always had a dark side. He was **adopted** by Miami Police officer Harry Morgan when he was only three years old after Dexter’s mother was **brutally murdered** by drug dealers. As Dexter grew up, Morgan began to notice that Dexter had violent tendencies (he kills neighborhood pets for a start). As time goes by, Dexter becomes a **sociopath** with an **innate** need to kill. Morgan can only think of one solution to the problem. Since he can’t stop his **stepson** from committing violent crimes, he’ll teach him a strict moral code. So, he tells Dexter he’s only allowed to kill criminals who have killed many times before and who are **remorseless**. Eventually, Dexter follows his **stepdad**’s advice and becomes what he is today: a friendly, hard-working family man by day; a dark **avenger** by night.

The show raises a number of moral questions. Serial killer Dexter believes he is **ridding** society of dangerous killers who have escaped **justice** and who wouldn’t hesitate to kill again in the future. But doesn’t killing regularly make him just as bad as the **psychopaths** he targets? Actor Michael C. Hall, who plays Dexter on screen, says he has **struggled** with the issue himself. “You could argue that Dexter is, through killing, saving lives,” he said in an interview. The series is based on the book **Darkly Dreaming Dexter** by Jeff Lindsay, who wrote the story with this moral dilemma in mind. “Yes, killing is always wrong, no matter what,” the author admits, “but on the other hand, aren’t there some people that deserve it?”

Some are firmly against the show. The Parents Television Council (PTC) in America disagrees with the series being broadcast on **mainstream television**. President Timothy F. Winter argues that it “compels viewers to **empathize** with a serial killer, to **root for** him to **prevail**, to hope he doesn’t get discovered.” The PTC believes that **portraying** violence in this way is dangerous and sends out the wrong message to view-
ers. Fears **escalated** when a murder thought to be inspired by *Dexter* was committed in Canada in 2008.

But critics love the show for its originality. The first season received **rave reviews**, and Michael C. Hall was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance in 2006. The following seasons have been equally popular and the third season finale gave the American channel Showtime its highest ever ratings for an original series. Love it or hate it, *Dexter* will soon be back for a new season. So, if you like your dramas dark, and you’re looking for something different, why not give it a try? Be warned, though: it’s not for the **faint-hearted**.

*(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.96)*

**Text 11**

**YOU’RE FIRED!**
*A look at the UK’s toughest reality show*

**1. Pre-reading**
*Match the reality shows (1 to 5) to their corresponding descriptions (a-e).*

| 1. Survivor       | a. Contestants live together in a house. Every week one of them is evicted. |
| 2. American Idol  | b. Contestants are faced with a series of challenges that test them mentally and physically. Anyone who is too afraid to complete the task is out. |
| 3. Big Brother    | c. Celebrities are paired with professional dancers and compete in dance competitions. |
| 4. Strictly Come Dancing | d. Contestants live on a remote island and complete tasks in exchange for food. |
| 5. Fear Factor    | e. Contestants sing and dance in front of a panel of judges. |
2. Reading I
This article is about a reality show called The Apprentice. What do you think the show could be about? Look up a definition of the word “apprentice” if you need to. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

3. Reading II
Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. How long does the show last?
2. What went wrong when the contestant tried to sell the pizzas?
3. What happens to the winning team?
4. What happens to a member of the losing team?
5. Why was it a bad idea to try to hire out the Ferrari in the market?
6. What was the superhero Pantsman supposed to be promoting?

4. Language focus
Inferring meaning from the context
Look at the following words and expressions from the article. Find them in the article and try to guess the meaning from the context.

1. Pitch an idea
2. Fire a candidate
3. Heated argument
4. Backstabbing antics
5. Notorious incident
6. To be pants (informal)
7. Straight-talking

5. Discussion
1. Have you seen any of these reality shows? Which ones do you like? Why?
2. What are the most popular reality shows in your country?
3. Why do you think reality shows are so popular?
4. Could you think of an idea for a reality show?
How far would you go to get your dream job? In the reality TV show *The Apprentice*, 15 candidates compete against each other to work with multimillionaire Alan Sugar. But the competition is far from easy. Backstabbing, high pressure and ruthless decisions are all part of the deal.

Being on *The Apprentice* is like being on a 12 week job interview. The candidates are split into two teams and each week they are given a difficult business task to complete.

The tasks are designed to test their skills in salesmanship, negotiation, leadership, teamwork and organization. At the start of each episode, the teams each choose a project manager to act as the team leader for the duration of the task. And then they try to make some money.

The tasks are both varied and challenging. In one episode, the teams had to design a TV and print advertising campaign for Amstrad's new Jukebox music system. Then, they had to pitch the idea to potential buyers. In another episode, they had to sell pizzas at an Italian-themed stall at a London festival. That went disastrously wrong when they bought too many ingredients and made too few pizzas. In another episode, they had to buy British produce to sell at a French farmers' market. The plan was to buy some cheap cheese from a British supermarket and sell it off to unsuspecting French customers. It didn’t work too well. In another episode, the participants had to design greetings cards with an environmental theme. One of the salespeople became over enthusiastic and told potential buyers that if they didn’t buy the cards, they’d be damaging the environment.

At the end of each task, both teams are called into the boardroom to discuss things with Alan Sugar. Their performance is evaluated and the winning team is rewarded for their hard work. However, the losing team must explain what went wrong. Finally, Alan Sugar fires the candidate he believes is most responsible for the loss. The process continues over the weeks until Alan Sugar has only one candidate left, who will become his apprentice. In the boardroom, the candidates are often involved in heated arguments, especially when they have to defend themselves. One candidate, Michael Sophocles, became infamous for his backstabbing antics in Series Four. He continually blamed his colleagues for the team’s losses. He was eventually fired after unsuccessfully trying to rent out an expen-
sive Ferrari at Portobello Road market – a place where Londoners traditionally go for a bargain, not to spend large amounts of money.

A lot of the humor in the show comes from the contestants’ stupid mistakes or silly ideas. One of the most notorious incidents was in Series Five. The teams were asked to design a cereal box for children. Arrogant contestant Philip came up with the idea of a superhero called “Pantsman”, who wore his pants on the outside of his trousers. He also invented a Pantsman song and dance to accompany the promotion. Needless to say, executives were not impressed and concluded that the idea was, well, pants.

The show is also famous for Alan Sugar’s cutting remarks. He’s straight-talking and isn’t afraid to tell the candidates exactly what he thinks of them. After firing one candidate who hadn’t managed to sell anything, he said, “whoever employs him, better get a receipt”. And he told another candidate that “there might be a village missing an idiot somewhere”.

So, if you can deal with a hard-nosed boss, backstabbing colleagues and a great deal of embarrassment, why not apply for the next series? Who knows, you might become Alan Sugar’s apprentice!

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.95)

Text 12
DUMBED DOWN
Spelling standards are falling.

GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>long-standing, adj</th>
<th>a womb, n</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a “long-standing” situation has existed for a long time</td>
<td>the part inside a woman’s body where a baby grows before it is born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ridicule, n</td>
<td>abominable, adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if something is an object for “ridicule”, people make fun of it</td>
<td>very bad or unpleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concerned, adj</td>
<td>MP, abbr</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
if you are “concerned” about something, you are worried about it or feel responsible for its outcome

**a blunder, n**
a stupid or careless mistake

**a laxative, n**
medicine a person eats or drinks to help him/her go to the toilet

**lax, adj**
ot strict

**a scapegoat, n**
a person who receives criticism or who is attacked for something even if they are not responsible

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1. **Pre-reading**

   What do you think of the following statements?

   1. Spelling is not important.
   2. People are making more spelling mistakes today.
   3. Technology is one of the reasons why spelling standards are falling.
   4. Non-natives sometimes have better spelling than native speakers.

2. **Reading I**

   What do the people in the article say about those statements? Read the article to check.

3. **Reading II**

   Who are the following people and what do they say about spelling standards?

   1. Rob Stewart
   2. Jim Knight
   3. Kevin Blunkett
4. Language focus

Expressions

Find the phrase which means: “who’s responsible?”

5. Discussion

1. Do you think spelling is important? Why? Why not? Give examples of situations/times when spelling is important.
2. Do you check your spelling before sending e-mails / letters? Do you trust the spell checker on your computer?
3. Has anyone ever pointed out a spelling mistake to you at work? What happened?

Most universities have a long-standing reputation as centers for academic excellence. But, if they’re not careful, they could end up becoming centers of ridicule.

Spelling errors among university students are reaching an embarrassing level. In fact, the frequency of the mistakes has become so bad that just recently a group of concerned professors decided to publish the blunders online. The mistakes were taken from undergraduates’ tests and final papers. Some of the errors included “laxative enforcement policies” (instead of “lax” enforcement policies) and “escape goats” (instead of “scapegoats”). Rob Stewart, a professor at the University of the West of England, Bristol, was confident his students would be able to spell the word “alcohol”. So, naturally, he was disappointed when one student wrote “alkerhol”. Other undergraduates wrote “whomb” for “womb” and “abominous” instead of “abominable”.

But it isn’t just university students whose standards are dropping. MP Jim Knight is Minister of State for Schools and Learners. And his blog is full of spelling mistakes. Some of these include “persioners” instead of “pensioners” and “recieving” instead of “receiving”. When asked to explain what was going on, Knight said, “I’m normally a good speller; I just need to get better at checking it.”

But who’s to blame? Some say it’s the fault of the English language. After all, with so many words with illogical spellings, it’s no wonder that even native speakers get it wrong. But others say it’s a sign
of the times, with increased technology leading to a lowering of standards, particularly as a result of simplified spellings in e-mails and text messages. “Most people just don’t seem to care about spelling – it’s seen as something unimportant – the message is seen as central and key to communication, and spelling takes a back seat to that,” explained Kevin Blunkett, a geology professor from the University of London. “But when it comes to university students, we should expect more from them. If things continue like this, the status of the academic profession will be put into question. And we can’t have that.”

(Taken from: Hot English Magazine, No.93)
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