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ENGLISH
FIRST

Our Favourite Family?

Britain and
Its Royals

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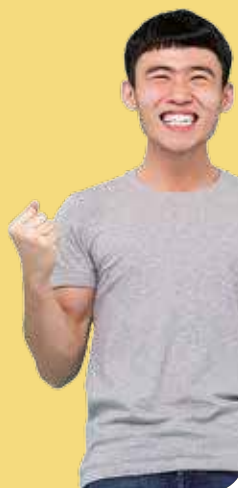
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What's Inside

10

Did you know that the sport of rodeo developed from old cowboy practices?

Who were cowboys and what was their life like? Read more in the article.

WEEKLEY BROTHERS
DAVIE PRO RODEO
"COWBOY TOWN" DAVIE, FLORIDA

QUINN
COMMERCIAL

4 UK Culture

Windsors or Losers?

6 Traditions

An Easter Calendar

8 Profile

The One to Watch: Florence Pugh

10 American History

Horses, Herds and Hats

12 Travel

Travels with Mariel: Hong Kong

14 Story

Czech English or English Czech?

16 Science

Talking Trees

18 Fashion / Traditions

Scottish Style

20 Language

Everyday English: Sport

21 Puzzle

Brain Training

22 Sport

Rough Ride

24 Music

New Music

26 Fun / Weird News

The Best Shower Thoughts and April Fool's Ads

27 Language / Pronunciation

Homographs & Homophones

28 Test

LanguageCert B1

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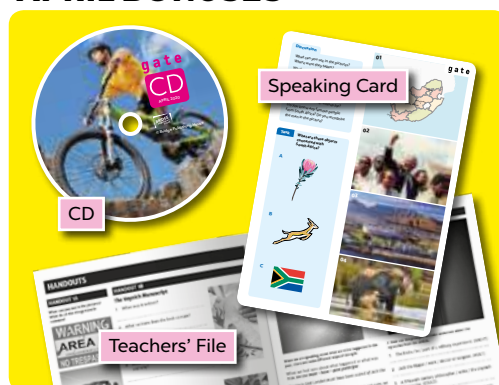
DEAR READERS,

April is here and that means Easter! What does this holiday mean to you? A day or two off school is, of course, the most important thing, but it probably depends on which country you live in as Easter traditions are different everywhere. You can find out inside how Brits and Americans celebrate – would you swap your Easter for an English-speaking one? But it's not all eggs and bunnies, we also meet one of Hollywood's coolest stars, Florence Pugh, get to know more about the speedy sport of mountain biking, and travel to Hong Kong with Mariel. And there's more! Talking plants, real-life cowboys and tough men in kilts all feature, so we have lots for you to read.

THE GATE TEAM

P.S. We really hope you are healthy and not in quarantine, stay safe out there and keep washing your hands!

APRIL BONUSES



KEY TO ICONS

(CD) Listening on CD

(TF) Extra materials in the Teachers' File (TF)

If you think of Britain, you probably think of the royal family. Whether Stuarts, Hanovers or Windsors, Britain has had one for hundreds of years. But what do they do? And what do British people really think of them? Do they represent everything that is great about the United Kingdom, or are they simply rich people living in luxury?

LIAM PEACH (UK)

A Tongue-in-Cheek*
Look at the Royal
Family

Windsors or



Official Duties¹

So what do the royals actually do? In the past it was mainly **hunting**² and cutting off people’s heads, but times have changed. These days the royal family have** a lot of duties, but mainly **waving**³. And smiling. And sometimes, even waving *and* smiling. OK, OK, there is a bit more to it than that. The Queen is head of state. However, since the United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy*, this is mostly a **ceremonial**⁴ role. For example, the Queen opens new sessions of Parliament and meets the prime minister regularly and does a lot of work to represent the country. The royal family help the Queen in her official duties. Mainly just meeting a lot of foreign leaders, **hosting**⁵ luxurious **banquets**⁶ and



garden parties and sometimes giving people medals. They also fly around the world to represent the UK abroad. Well, it’s a **tough**⁷ job, but someone has to do it.

Royal Finances

Did you know the Queen never carries any money? So there’s no point in asking her to lend you a **fiver**⁸. Although she never carries any money, that certainly doesn’t mean she doesn’t have any. In fact the Queen alone **is worth**⁹ around £400 million, and the royal family as a whole **is estimated**¹⁰ to be worth nearly £70 billion. So where does all this money come from? Most of it **is inherited**¹¹ – places like Balmoral Castle in Scotland and Sandringham House in England have belonged to the House of Windsor* for generations, and they also own businesses and other buildings around the UK. However, the royals also get money from **taxpayers**¹². They receive something called a sovereign grant, paid to them by the government. This is money for looking after royal **residences**¹³ (like Buckingham Palace, which doesn’t actually belong to the royal family), paying staff and official entertainment. In 2019/2020 the sovereign

grant was £82.4 million. That’s more than one pound from every single person in the UK.

Scandals

The royals are supposed to set a good example, so the rest of us know how to behave. However, royal behaviour is not always as good as it should be, and there have been plenty of scandals over the years. In 1936, King Edward VIII fell in love with an American. Shocking, I know. And not only was she American, she was also divorced. At the time, it was forbidden for the king to marry a divorced woman, so Edward **abdicated**¹⁴ – he chose love over being king and left the royal family, with his brother George becoming king. There have been lots of **affairs**¹⁵, most famously Prince Charles and Lady Diana both having lovers while married. And of course, the latest scandal has seen Prince Harry and his wife Megan leave the royal family completely, to try to have a life away from all the craziness. (A British royal marrying an American divorcee and leaving the royal family? Where have I heard that before?)

**WHAT DO PEOPLE
IN THE UK THINK
ABOUT THE ROYAL
FAMILY? HERE ARE
A FEW OPINIONS.**



I like them, a bit of tradition. Their faces look cool on mugs (= hrnky) and tea towels (= utěrky), too.
— ROB

Losers?



I am a fan. It plays a big role in representing the UK abroad, and at home its strength is that it is politically neutral, meaning the Royals are for all British people, no matter who you vote for. They can stand apart (= stranou) from the usual stupid arguments of political parties.
— GARETH

Having a royal family is a proud tradition for British people. It brings millions of people to the country. However, they cost the taxpayer a lot of money in security and holidays, so I'm worried there are more cons than pros (= záporů než kladů).
— JESS

Anything Positive?

Of course, there must be something positive about them, or the British royal family would have had the same problem as the French and Russian royal families. (Who is the king of France these days?•) The Royals do a lot of work for different charities, supporting over 2,000 of them in the UK and nearly 3,000 around the world. They have also been important in times of crisis in Britain. When London was bombed every night during the Second World War, George VI and his wife Elizabeth stayed in Buckingham Palace to show their support for the people of London. The palace was hit by German bombs nine times, and George and Elizabeth regularly visited parts of London that were worst damaged, **raising the morale**¹⁶ of Londoners and people across the UK. But the real **benefits**¹⁷ of the royal family come from tourism.

People all over the world are fascinated by them and thousands of tourists come and pay to visit royal castles and palaces. It is estimated that this brings in around £500 million a year. For many people both at home and abroad, the royals represent many of the best things about the UK: tradition and **dignity**¹⁸. And being really good at waving.

**In BrE, collective nouns like family can take both plural and singular verbs.



Discuss

Do you like the British royal family?
Who is your favourite member of the royal family? Why?

Why are the royals good for the UK?
Do you agree with any of the people's opinions?

Would you like to have a royal family in your country?

*Glossary

tongue-in-cheek – humorous, not meant to be taken seriously
constitutional monarchy – a type of government in which the power is in the hands of a democratically elected parliament and the monarch's power is limited

Culture Point

Until 1917, the House of Windsor was the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. They changed the name to sound more English during the First World War.

Language Point

The writer uses a lot of irony in this text. Did you understand the part about the French king? Do you know what happened to the last French king, Louis XVI?

Vocabulary

- ¹ **duty** ['dju:ti] – povinnost
- ² **to hunt** [hʌnt] – lovit
- ³ **to wave** [weɪv] – mávat
- ⁴ **ceremonial** [seri'məʊniəl] – formální
- ⁵ **to host** [həʊst] – pořádat
- ⁶ **banquet** ['bæŋkwɪt] – slavnostní hostina
- ⁷ **tough** [tʌf] – těžký, náročný
- ⁸ **five** ['faɪvə(r)] – pět liber
- ⁹ **to be worth** [wɜ:θ] – mít cenu
- ¹⁰ **to estimate** ['estimeɪt] – odhadnout
- ¹¹ **to inherit** [ɪn'herɪt] – zdědit
- ¹² **taxpayer** ['tækspeɪə(r)] – daňový poplatník
- ¹³ **residence** ['rezɪdəns] – sídlo
- ¹⁴ **to abdicate** ['æbdɪkeɪt] – odstoupit z funkce
- ¹⁵ **affair** [ə'feə(r)] – milostný poměr
- ¹⁶ **to raise the morale** [reɪz mə'reɪl] – povzbudit náladu
- ¹⁷ **benefit** ['benɪfɪt] – přínos
- ¹⁸ **dignity** ['dɪgnəti] – důstojnost

The royal family is a big tourist attraction. We don't have a Disneyland.
— RICHARD

AUBURN SCALLON (US)

An Easter Calendar

ONE SPECIAL SUNDAY
OR A WEEK OF
TRADITIONS?

The first time I spoke to Czech friends about Easter, I was surprised to learn the specific names for so many different days. In the US, where I grew up, Easter is not a **public holiday**¹. It is more of a **religious**² holiday for **Christian**³ families. **Jewish**⁴, Muslim, and **atheist**⁵ Americans, for example, do not celebrate Easter. Most Americans learn the meaning of one day, Easter Sunday, and Christian families usually know the meaning of the other days.

Let's have a look at what happens during the Easter week in English-speaking countries and how it's different from the Czech Republic.

Task 1

Do you know the names of the days of Easter in Czech?

Maundy (or Holy) Thursday

CHRISTIAN STORY This is the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus had dinner with his twelve apostles (followers). He also washed their feet as a symbol that no person is too important to help another person.

US This day is not often celebrated.

UK The Queen gives Maundy ['mɔ:ndi] money to British people at a different church each year. The amount matches her age. For example, when she was 80 years old she gave 80 pence to 80 men and 80 women.

CR This day is called Green Thursday in Czech. It is common to cook green food, often with **herbs**⁶ that grow in the spring. Another tradition in some places is for boys to shake a **rattle**⁷ to **scare away**⁸ Judas (the man who **betrayed**⁹ Jesus).

Good Friday

CHRISTIAN STORY On this day, the Bible says that Jesus was crucified ['kru:sɪfaɪd] (= his hands and feet were **nailed**¹⁰ to a wooden cross) and died.

US, UK & CR Christians may go to church in the afternoon. Some people either fast (= don't eat anything) or they don't eat meat all day.

US Normal school and work day.

UK Public holiday. This day is also connected with baking and eating hot cross **buns**¹¹, a sweet bun with a cross on top. There is also a British **nursery rhyme**¹² called "Hot Cross Buns".

CR Public holiday. This is the second day that boys may shake a rattle through their town or village. Also, according to **folk**¹³ traditions, this was a magic day when mountains opened and treasures could be found inside.



Holy (or Black) Saturday

CHRISTIAN STORY This is a quiet day for many Christians, thinking about when Jesus was still dead. It is also the last day of Lent (= púst).

US & UK Normal weekend day.

CR This day is called White Saturday in Czech. This is the third (and last) day that boys may shake a rattle through their town or village. Also, on this last day of Lent, people bake sweet Easter bread with **raisins**¹⁴ and cake in the shape of a lamb.



Easter Sunday

CHRISTIAN STORY Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected [rezə'rektɪd] (= came back to life) on Easter Sunday.

US, UK & CZ Many Christian families wear their best clothes and go to church.

US & UK This is the main day for Easter celebrations. It's popular to have an egg hunt in the yard, with children searching for painted **hard-boiled**¹⁵ eggs or chocolate eggs.

US Many Christian children also receive an Easter **basket**¹⁶ filled with gifts and candy from the Easter Bunny.

CR This is a day of preparation for Easter Monday. Girls decorate eggs and boys make their **whips**¹⁷.

Easter Monday

CHRISTIAN STORY

The Christian Bible does not say anything about Easter Monday.

US & UK British children may play a game of **rolling**¹⁸ eggs down a hill. In the US, this game only happens on the lawn of the White House (where the US president lives and works) with a few lucky children who aren't at school.

US Normal school and work day.

UK Public holiday in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland (but not in Scotland).

CR Public holiday. This is the main day for Easter celebrations. Boys go from door to door, visiting their neighbors and singing a song. They carry a whip with **ribbons**¹⁹ and they softly (I hope) hit the women and girls who answer the door. Then they get a **treat**²⁰, maybe candy or a painted egg. The whipping should bring health and youth to the girls and women.



Task 2

Put the activity with the correct country and the day in the Easter calendar.

- 1 baking Easter bread
- 2 fasting
- 3 painting Easter eggs
- 4 playing a game of pushing eggs on the ground
- 5 giving money to people in church
- 6 whipping girls for good health

	US	UK	CR
Maundy Thursday			
Good Friday			
Holy Saturday			
Easter Sunday			
Easter Monday			

Vocabulary

- ¹ **public holiday** [pʌblɪk 'hɒlədeɪ] – státní svátek
- ² **religious** [rɪ'lɪdʒəs] – náboženský
- ³ **Christian** ['krɪstʃən] – křesťanský
- ⁴ **Jewish** ['dʒuːɪʃ] – židovský
- ⁵ **atheist** ['eɪθɪst] – ateista
- ⁶ **herbs** [hɜːbz] – bylinky
- ⁷ **rattle** ['rætl] – řehlačka
- ⁸ **to scare away** [skeə(r)] – odehnat
- ⁹ **to betray** [bi'treɪ] – zradit
- ¹⁰ **to nail** [neɪl] – přibít
- ¹¹ **bun** [bʌn] – sladký bochánek
- ¹² **nursery rhyme** ['nɜːsəri raɪm] – říkadlo
- ¹³ **folk** [fəʊk] – lidový
- ¹⁴ **raisin** ['reɪzn] – rozinka
- ¹⁵ **hard-boiled** [hɑːd bɔɪld] – natvrdo
- ¹⁶ **basket** ['bɑːskɪt] – košík
- ¹⁷ **whip** [wɪp] – pomlázka
- ¹⁸ **to roll** [rɒl] – kutálet
- ¹⁹ **ribbon** ['rɪbən] – stuha
- ²⁰ **treat** [tri:t] – dobrota



"The women I'm attracted to playing I hope will mean something to someone."



"I've been told to be skinny before – it's already happened, but it's up to you to either listen or say no. I'm not listening."

The One to Watch Florence Pugh

KAREN CRYER (UK)

The British actress, Florence Pugh [pju:], is quickly becoming one of the most famous young stars on the big screen. At only 24 years old, she already has an **impressive**¹ **CV**² and was nominated for an Oscar earlier this year. Her on-screen **presence**³ and ability to play a wide **variety**⁴ of characters has made her "the one to watch". Let's take a look at the life, talent and upcoming projects of Florence Pugh.



Showing Talent Early

Florence grew up in Oxford, England, and is the second youngest of four children. Her family is creative – her mother is a dancer, and her older brother and sister are also both actors. In fact, her childhood hero was her brother, who began acting when he was 16. Florence's first performance was playing Mary in a nativity play* at school. She made the audience laugh and from then she **was hooked**⁵.

She made her first film when she was only 17. It was a thriller called *The Falling*, in which she appeared with Maisie Williams (Arya Stark in *Game of Thrones*). But it was two years later, in 2016, when critics and audiences really started to notice her. Starring in the **disturbing**⁶ *Lady Macbeth*, Florence played the role of a young bride in an unhappy marriage perfectly. She won a British Independent Film Award for her performance. Not bad for a twenty-year-old.



Beyond the Big Screen

Most people recognise Florence from her films, but she has also worked in television. In the **suspenseful**⁷ 2016 British crime drama *Marcella* she played one of the murderer's **victims**⁸ and in the modernised television movie *King Lear* Florence was amazing as Cordelia, the youngest of King Lear's daughters. In *The Little Drummer Girl*, a series from 2018, she starred as an actress hired to **spy on**⁹ terrorists. Although her **co-stars**¹⁰ were well-known talents, she stole the show*.

A Role Model

When she was younger, Florence had the opportunity to make a TV show in Hollywood. But, after she got the part, they wanted her to lose weight, making her wonder if acting was the right career for her. Florence then realised she could represent women in an inspiring way. After *Lady Macbeth* (where she had a **nude**¹¹ scene), she knew she didn't have to change anything about her appearance and this **confidence**¹² shows in all the characters she plays.



2019: The Biggest Year So Far

Last year, Florence continued to show her acting talent in *Midsommar* and *Little Women*. *Midsommar* showed her in a starring role as a young woman who joins her boyfriend on a trip to a festival in Sweden. Everything seems normal, but then things start to get very dark and Florence's performance is perfect, **keeping** the audience **gripped**¹³ the whole way through.

At the end of 2019 the film *Little Women*, based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott, was released. The story has already been adapted into five films, so you might wonder why they made another one.

Well, we're glad they did! The director, Greta Gerwig (who directed the popular independent film *Lady Bird*), brings the story of the four March sisters to life. Florence plays the youngest, Amy, and she was nominated this year for a BAFTA* and an Oscar, both for Best Actress in a **Supporting Role**¹⁴, because of her performance in the film.

The Only Way Is Up

So what's next for Florence Pugh? Well, this year we will see Florence in her biggest role so far, starring alongside Scarlett Johansson in *Black Widow*. Florence plays Black Widow's "sister" and trained killer Yelena Belova, in this action-packed Marvel film, so we will see her change again into a completely different character. The **much-anticipated**¹⁵ film is not just **stunts**¹⁶ and fight scenes though. Florence says the film is "very **raw**¹⁷" and "very beautiful". We can't wait to see what this chameleon-like actor brings to the Marvel franchise*!



Task

Find in the text.

- 1 the first character she ever played
- 2 a name of a Shakespeare play
- 3 the setting of the movie *Midsommar*
- 4 the name of her co-star from *Black Widow*
- 5 the name of the award she won at age 20

→ SOLUTIONS IN THE TF

*Glossary

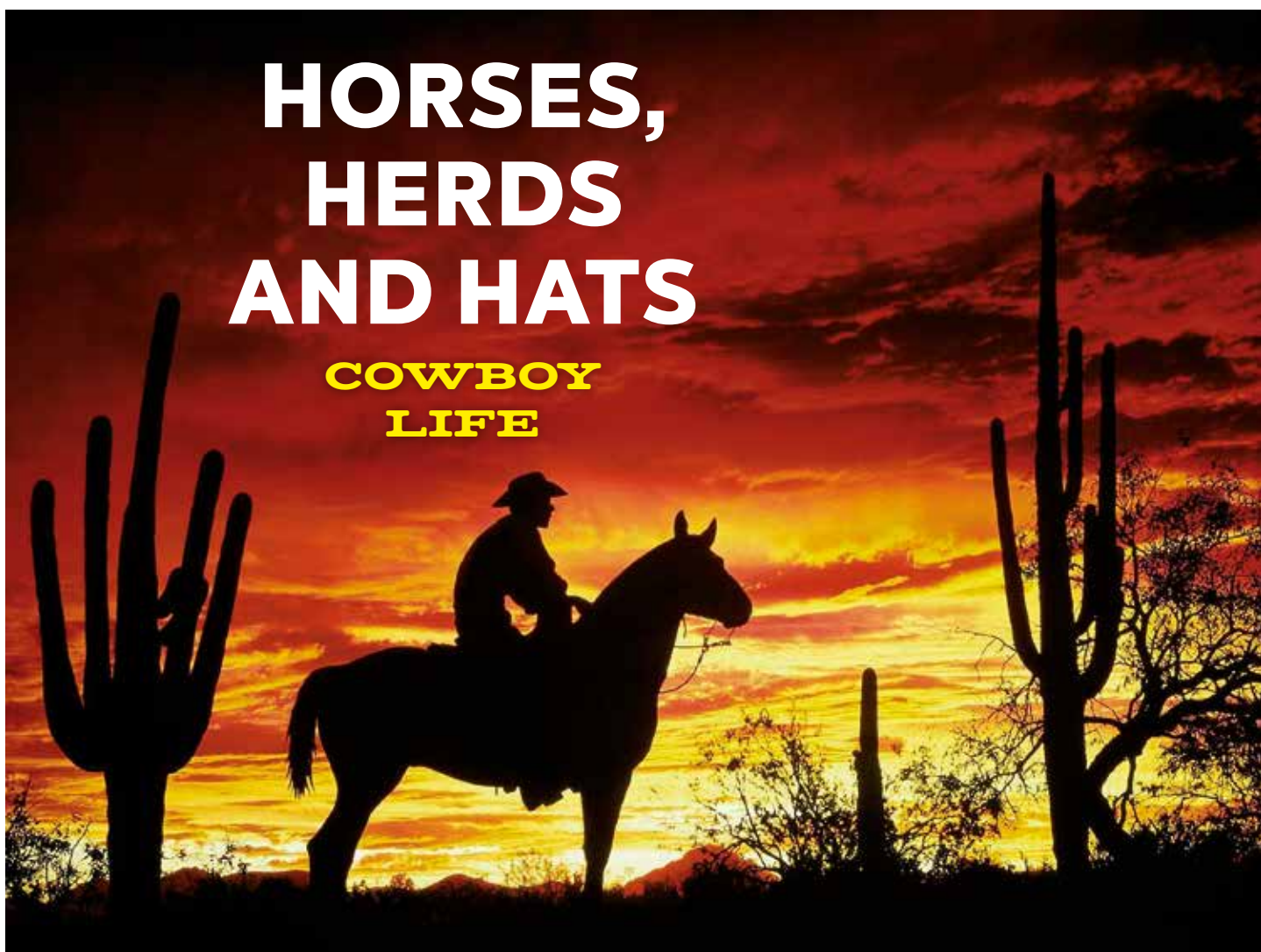
nativity play – a play about the birth of Jesus Christ performed by children at Christmas
to steal the show – to become the main star, to get the most attention
BAFTA – British Academy of Film and Television Arts
franchise – a series of films featuring the same characters

Vocabulary

- ¹ **impressive** [im'presiv] – působivý
- ² **CV, curriculum vitae** [kə'rikjələm 'vi:taɪ] – životopis
- ³ **presence** ['prezəns] – vystupování
- ⁴ **variety** [və'raɪəti] – škála
- ⁵ **to be hooked** [hʊkt] – být posedlý
- ⁶ **disturbing** [di'stɜ:bɪŋ] – znepokojivý
- ⁷ **suspenseful** [sə'spensfəl] – napínavý
- ⁸ **victim** ['vɪktɪm] – oběť
- ⁹ **to spy on** [spaɪ] – špehovat, sledovat
- ¹⁰ **co-star** ['kəʊ stɑ:(r)] – hvězda z filmu
- ¹¹ **nude** [nju:d] – nahý
- ¹² **confidence** ['kɒnfɪdəns] – sebevědomí
- ¹³ **to keep sb gripped** [grɪpt] – zaujmout, ovládnout někoho
- ¹⁴ **supporting role** [sə'pɔ:tɪŋ rəʊl] – vedlejší role
- ¹⁵ **much-anticipated** [æn'tɪsɪpeɪtɪd] – velmi očekávaný
- ¹⁶ **stunt** [stʌnt] – kaskadérský kousek
- ¹⁷ **raw** [rɔ:] – syrový

HORSES, HERDS AND HATS

COWBOY LIFE



A

A tough hero in a big hat, **vest**¹ and boots, standing opposite an **unshaven**² man dressed in black, both of them with hands waiting at their sides, ready to reach for their revolvers and shoot each other down?

B

A man in a blue uniform with a **rifle**³, fighting off Native Americans?

C

A tired, dirty man on a horse leading thousands of cows across flat land under an orange sky?

Howdy partner!
The cowboy is one of the greatest symbols of American culture, but what actually is a cowboy? When you think of one, what image comes to mind?

MARK WHEELER (US)

COWBOY HISTORY

Cowboys have been in North and South America since the 17th century, when the Spanish brought **cattle**⁶ to areas that are now Argentina, Mexico and the United States. Of course, they were not called cowboys then. They were called **vaqueros**, from the Spanish *vaca*, which means cow. These *vaqueros* started most of the things we associate with cowboys. They had to watch and control groups of cows, a job also called **herding**⁷. Naturally, they couldn't do all the running around themselves, and that's why horses became necessary. Horses allowed the *vaqueros* to **keep up with**⁸ these large herds and ride quickly after lost or frightened cows. They put **saddles**⁹ and **stirrups**¹⁰ on the horses, used lassos and wore large **wide-brimmed**¹¹ hats to protect themselves against the sun and rain. English-speaking Americans in Texas and California picked up these Spanish traditions.

Although, all of these men, and sometimes women, are **stereotypical**⁴ characters of the American Old West (or Wild West), in fact only the last one is actually a cowboy. The expert shooter from option A is a **gunslinger**⁵. And B is a soldier from the American army. A cowboy might seem like a strange symbol of American culture: His life was hard and dirty. What did cowboys actually do and where did they come from?



COWS ON THE MOVE

After the end of the Civil War, the number of cowboys in the US grew. Especially in Texas, huge open ranches* were filled with thousands of cattle owned by rich ranchers. It was the cowboys' job to both look after these cattle and to move them to areas where they could be put into **railroad cars**¹² for transport to cities. The movement of these cows (to sometimes very far-away places) was called a cattle drive.

each cowboy usually had three or four horses. Cowboys had to watch the herd for 24 hours a day to protect them from stampedes (when a group of cows runs and makes other cows run too), **theft**¹⁶ and attacks from Native Americans. This was a long, dirty, and hard job, but cowboys sang songs and told stories around the campfires at night and were paid when they reached their destination. After long months on horseback, they could finally go to town and spend their hard-earned money.



THE TEAM: COWBOYS, COOKS AND WRANGLERS

A normal cattle drive moved about 3,000 cows. About 10–15 cowboys were needed to watch 3,000 cows for 24 hours a day. They were led by a cowboy with a lot of experience called a trail boss. The team also included a cook, who drove a big wagon loaded with food and **supplies**¹³. The cook was not just a cook but was also the team's medical man, **barber**¹⁴, banker (he carried the money) and **settler of arguments**¹⁵. A pretty important guy, you could say.

This group of cowboys also had a special cowboy called a wrangler, whose job it was to look after the extra horses – on a long cattle drive

COWBOYS NOWADAYS

Though there are not nearly so many cowboys today, they do still exist. Because ranch cowboys worked so hard and developed such difficult, unusual skills – like **roping**¹⁷ cattle, **taming**¹⁸ wild horses and **wrestling**¹⁹ bulls to the ground – many wanted to use these skills in a way that was easier (though still dangerous) and more **rewarding**²⁰. The sport of rodeo developed from these skills and cowboys still compete in rodeo fairs across the United States. And as well as rodeos, there are still many large ranches in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and throughout Central and South America which need the special combination of skill and **toughness**²¹ that has always defined the cowboy.

Task

Complete the sentences with the correct words from the article.

- 1 A *vaquero* is a _____ word for a _____.
- 2 Looking after animals and controlling them on wide spaces is called _____.
- 3 To catch a cow, cowboys had to use a type of rope called a _____.
- 4 On cattle drives cowboys moved cows from big farms called, _____, to the railway or far away places.
- 5 The person with most responsibilities on a cattle drive was the _____.
- 6 A wrangler was a person who took care of extra _____.
- 7 Among the skills the cowboys had to learn and that later became a part of rodeo were wrestling bulls to the _____.

→ SOLUTIONS IN THE TF

* Glossary

ranch – a big farm where cows, sheep and other animals are kept

Vocabulary

- ¹ **vest** [vest] – vesta
- ² **unshaven** [ʌn'ʃeɪvən] – neoholený
- ³ **rifle** ['raɪfl] – puška
- ⁴ **stereotypical** [steriə'tɪpɪkl] – zažitý
- ⁵ **gunslinger** ['gʌnslɪŋə(r)] – pistolník
- ⁶ **cattle** ['kætl] – dobytek
- ⁷ **to herd, herd** [hɜ:d] – hnát (jako stádo), stádo
- ⁸ **to keep up with sb** – držet krok s, stíhat
- ⁹ **saddle** ['sædl] – sedlo
- ¹⁰ **stirrup** ['stɪrəp] – třmen
- ¹¹ **wide-brimmed** [waɪd-brɪmd] – se širokým okrajem
- ¹² **railroad car** – vagón
- ¹³ **supplies** [sə'plaɪz] – zásoby
- ¹⁴ **barber** ['bɑ:bə(r)] – holič
- ¹⁵ **settler of arguments** ['setlə(r) 'ɑ:gjumənts] – urovnávající sporů
- ¹⁶ **theft** [θeft] – krádež
- ¹⁷ **to rope** [rəʊp] – svazovat do lasa, lasovat
- ¹⁸ **to tame** [teɪm] – zkrátit
- ¹⁹ **to wrestle** ['resl] – povalit
- ²⁰ **rewarding** [rɪ'wɔ:dɪŋ] – uspokojující, naplňující
- ²¹ **toughness** ['tʌfnəs] – tvrdost



In the 1860s cowboys were a mixed group: former soldiers and immigrants who had just learned to ride; there were Native American cowboys and African-Americans, and Mexican vaqueros.



Hong Kong

MARIEL TAVAKOLI (US)

From Beijing, my dad and I continued our Asian trip in Hong Kong, formally called the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR). Once again, we tried to explore this city and region in three days. Traveling to China's southern coast in the middle of November, we went from the cool autumn of Beijing to the heat and **humidity**¹ of Hong Kong. With its thick air and crowded atmosphere (it's one of the **most densely populated**² places in the world), Hong Kong **made an impression**³ from the start.

Hong Kong's Past and Present

Hong Kong has a long history that goes back to 220 BC when it was controlled by China. Now Hong Kong is part of the People's Republic of China, but did you know that the city was a colony of the United Kingdom for 99 years? From 1898 to 1997, the UK **ruled**⁴ all of Hong Kong based on an agreement between China and the United Kingdom. Then, at midnight on June 30th 1997, Hong Kong once again became part of China. As a result, Hong Kong has a complicated position. During the time of British rule, the city became a big center for global business. Now, the city and its people have to bring together this unique history and its connection to modern China.

One City, Three Areas

In our three days of sightseeing we tried to visit all three major areas of Hong Kong: Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.

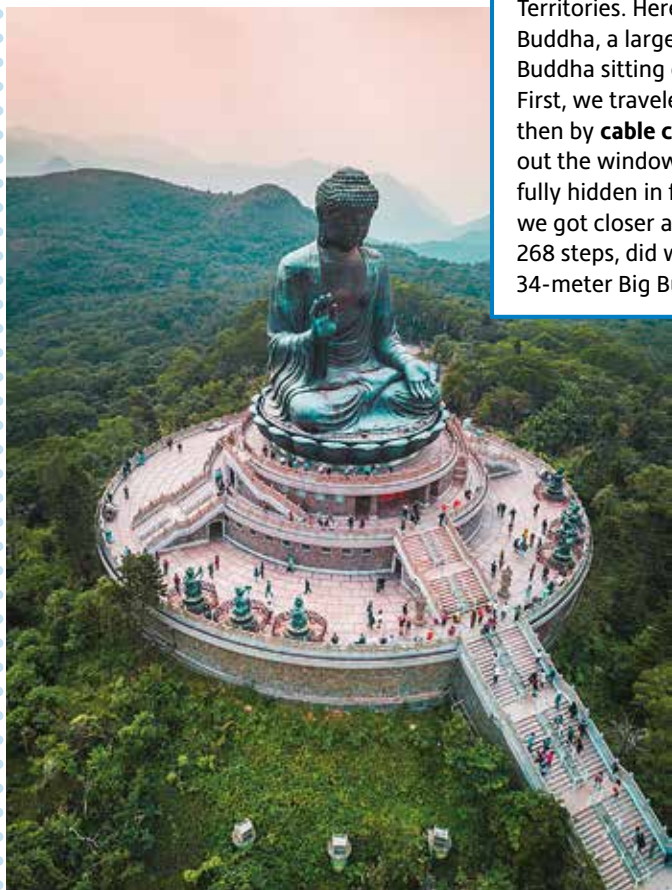


Hong Kong Island

On our first day, we enjoyed the views of the city by taking the **Peak**⁵ Tram to Victoria Peak on Hong Kong Island. From the highest hill of the island (552m), it was possible to see the Victoria **harbour**⁶ and to look down at the buildings and streets of the city below. Hong Kong Island's Central District is home to the city's government and business district, with lots of skyscrapers and international offices. Then you can get to the Mid-Levels neighborhood, where many rich and international **residents**⁷ live, by the longest outdoor escalator system in the world (800m).

Kowloon Across Victoria Harbour is Kowloon. This area of Hong Kong feels just as crowded, but with a more local energy. More than 2 million people live in Kowloon and 94% are Cantonese, the largest ethnic group in southern China. We walked through the famous Ladies' Market and Flower Market. Both were full of people, selling and **haggling**⁸ for the best prices. Yet in the middle of all the craziness, I remember seeing small children sitting in their family's **stalls**⁹, peacefully doing their homework.

Lantau Island Finally we took a one-day trip to Lantau Island, which is part of the New Territories. Here we saw Tian Tan Buddha, a large bronze statue of Buddha sitting on a lotus throne. First, we traveled by metro and then by **cable car**¹⁰. As we looked out the window, the Buddha was fully hidden in fog. Only when we got closer and climbed the 268 steps, did we get to see the 34-meter Big Buddha.



CD Task

Listen to a recording about dumplings (= knedlíčky) in Hong Kong. Exercise in the TF.

Task

Can you correct the mistakes in these sentences?

- 1 Hong Kong belonged to Britain until 1999.
- 2 Kowloon is home to Hong Kong's government.
- 3 Mariel travelled by metro and escalator to see the Tian Tan Buddha statue.
- 4 In 2014 students occupied the Hong Kong Polytechnic University campus.
- 5 Now the relationship between China and Hong Kong is much better.

→ SOLUTIONS IN THE TF

Vocabulary

- ¹ **humidity** [hju:'mɪdətɪ] – vlhkost
- ² **most densely populated** ['densli 'pɒpjələtɪd] – nejhustěji osídlený
- ³ **to make an impression** [ɪm'preɪn] – udělat dojem
- ⁴ **to rule** [ru:l] – ovládat
- ⁵ **peak** [pi:k] – vrchol
- ⁶ **harbour** ['hɑ:bə(r)] – přístav
- ⁷ **resident** ['rezɪdənt] – obyvatel
- ⁸ **to haggle** ['hægl] – smlouvat
- ⁹ **stall** [stɔ:l] – stánek
- ¹⁰ **cable car** ['keɪbl kɑ:(r)] – lanovka
- ¹¹ **influence** ['ɪnfluəns] – vliv
- ¹² **election** [ɪ'lekʃn] – volební
- ¹³ **alleged** [ə'ledʒd] – údajný
- ¹⁴ **trial** ['traɪəl] – soudní proces
- ¹⁵ **to withdraw** [wɪð'drɔ:] – stáhnout
- ¹⁶ **tense** [tens] – napjatý

Protests: 2014 and 2019 When we were in Hong Kong in 2014, the Central District was occupied by student protesters. They were protesting against the **influence**¹¹ of the Chinese Communist Party on Hong Kong's democratic **election**¹² process. During our visit, we had the opportunity to walk through the protest camp only weeks before the police cleared the area. I was shocked to see all of the students and protesters sitting in the city of tents, planning and organizing their next move. In 2019, Hong Kong was again the center of more protests, this time on the Hong Kong Polytechnic University campus. The protests were against a new law that would allow **alleged**¹³ criminals to be taken to China for **trial**¹⁴. Even when the law was **withdrawn**¹⁵, the protests continued. On November 24th, the election of many pro-democracy candidates showed widespread support for the protesters. The relationship between Hong Kong and China continues to be **tense**¹⁶, and the future unsure.

English Childhood

A question I get asked a lot is whether I feel more Czech or more English. I grew up in London, where I went to an English school until I was 10 years old. After that I moved to Prague. If you had asked me this question six years ago, I would have said that I felt more English because

I spoke English better than Czech and I had spent my whole childhood there. Now, however, I feel **equally**¹ Czech and English, since living in the Czech Republic has **influenced**² me a lot.

London Life

When I was younger I didn't realise that I was growing up in one of the largest and most exciting cities in the world. For me it was just where my home was, where I had friends and where I went to school. I didn't **appreciate**³ the culture and the lifestyle, which I now notice when I visit London. What I also noticed was that people were very different there from those in Prague. People in England are a lot more **open-minded**⁴ and friendly to strangers than here in the Czech Republic. In shops the shopkeepers always smiled and said hello, but here people are a lot more formal and **reserved**⁵.

Czech English



School Difference

Moving to the Czech Republic was the biggest change in my life. At the beginning it was very difficult to **adjust**⁶ to my new school. In England, teachers try to make everything as fun as possible. Here in the Czech Republic, in my experience, teachers are **strict**⁷ and marks are more important to students than their **effort**⁸ in class. The English school system is better for subjects like history because students **are not forced**⁹ to memorise dates of battles, but they have to think outside the box* and understand why things happened.

On the other hand, when it comes to languages, I think that the Czech system is better. When learning a language, you have to remember things **off by heart**¹⁰, even though it's boring. The Czech system is based mostly on memory and therefore I found learning a language here was easier. It is difficult to say which education system is better because they both have their **strengths and weaknesses**¹¹.



Sonia Furlong is neither just Czech or just English, she is both. Her mum is Czech and her dad is English so she has written an article for Gate about what it feels like to come from two cultures and speak two languages.

SONIA FURLONG (UK/CZ)





English Czech?



The Same or Different Teenagers?

Moving here gave me a chance to see how people live and think differently in both countries. Teenagers in Prague and in London are quite similar. Everybody has **access**¹² to the internet and social media, so trends **spread**¹³ quickly over the whole world. There are differences, though. I would say that English teenagers are more **outgoing**¹⁴ and **accepting**¹⁵. For example, in London you can wear anything you want and nobody will **judge**¹⁶ you because people want to be unique and interesting. Here, in Prague, people don't go outside of their comfort zones* as much and people that do are often judged for it.

However, I find that my Czech friends are a lot more empathetic than my English friends. Czech teens think and care about each other more personally, whereas English teens can be friendly on the outside, but not as **caring**¹⁷ as Czech teens.



One Person and Two Cultures

Although each of my parents has a different nationality and a different mother tongue, we speak Czech when we are all together. But individually I speak to my parents in their language. I'm very **grateful**¹⁸ that I can speak two languages **fluently**¹⁹ because it makes learning other languages easier and more interesting. It also means that I know the cultures and traditions of both countries.

I am also very grateful that I can experience both capital cities of these countries. Although London seems like a better city to live in, I am happy to be living in Prague. When I first came here it felt like a very small city, but I have come to love that about Prague because I can travel anywhere quickly and easily and I never get lost. I also love the beautiful buildings and tiny streets that are empty, unlike the crowded streets of London.



Discuss

Do you think it is an advantage to come from two cultures? What could be difficult? Think about: language / holidays / family

If you could choose another culture / language, which would you like?

Have you ever been to the UK? What were the people like there?

Do you agree with Sonia's opinion about Czech teenagers and school in the Czech Republic?

*Glossary

outside the box – using new, original ideas
comfort zone – a situation in which you are relaxed and which you know well

Vocabulary

- ¹ **equally** ['i:kwəli] – stejně
- ² **to influence** ['ɪnfluəns] – ovlivnit
- ³ **to appreciate** [ə'pri:ʃieɪt] – ocenit
- ⁴ **open-minded** ['əʊpən 'maɪndɪd] – tolerantní, otevřený
- ⁵ **reserved** [rɪ'zɜ:vɪd] – odměřený
- ⁶ **to adjust** [ə'dʒʌst] – přizpůsobit se, zvyknout si
- ⁷ **strict** [strikt] – přísný
- ⁸ **effort** ['efət] – snaha
- ⁹ **to force** [fɔ:s] – donutit
- ¹⁰ **off by heart** – nazpaměť
- ¹¹ **strengths and weaknesses** [streŋθs 'wi:knəsɪz] – dobré a špatné stránky
- ¹² **access** ['ækses] – přístup
- ¹³ **to spread** [spred] – šířit se
- ¹⁴ **outgoing** [aʊt'gəʊɪŋ] – přátelský
- ¹⁵ **accepting** [ək'septɪŋ] – přijímající
- ¹⁶ **to judge** [dʒʌdʒ] – soudit
- ¹⁷ **caring** ['keərɪŋ] – starostlivý
- ¹⁸ **grateful** ['greɪtfl] – vděčný
- ¹⁹ **fluently** ['flu:əntli] – plynule

Talking Trees

How Plants Communicate and What They Say

Some people think that plants grow better if you talk to them. A few even believe the plants talk back and that we just don't understand. It's silly, right? Well, yes and no. Plants don't listen or talk to us, but they do "talk" and "listen" to each other.

PAUL FARRINGTON-DOUGLAS (UK)

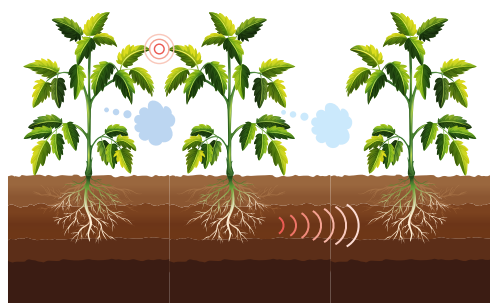
The idea that plant communication might be a real thing appeared in the 1980s. Scientists already knew that things like attacks by insects could change the way some trees grow. They also knew that sometimes the same changes happened on their own. They started to wonder: were these changes happening because *other* trees were being attacked? Could the trees be communicating with each other?

The Littlest Words

It didn't seem possible. Plants are just *there*. They don't think or move or feel pain. They certainly couldn't be talking. I mean, how would that even be possible?

We now know that plants do communicate, mostly by producing molecules that travel through the air or **soil**¹. Perhaps it shouldn't have been a surprise. The smells of flowers are chemical signals to **attract**² insects, and that's a kind of communication, too. Plant communication, it **turns out**³, is everywhere.

Basic Plant Communication



PEOPLE ARE REALLY SILLY!

OH, OUR POOR LEAFY COUSIN OVER THERE!

BUT HE DOESN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT WATER, THEY TAKE CARE OF HIM

Fighting Talk

We all know that plants have ways to fight off enemies. Some have **thorns**⁴ or **stings**⁵, and many are poisonous – they produce their own pesticides*. But thorns and stings don't help against insect attackers, and pesticides are "expensive": making chemical **weapons**⁶ uses energy and food that plants would rather use for growing. For this reason, many plants don't make them all the time. They start to do it only when their leaves get damaged.

What's interesting is that they also "tell" other plants to do the same. When they start up their chemical weapons factories, molecules get released into the air. Nearby plants **detect**⁷ these chemicals. They "know" that it means danger, and start making their own pesticides, too.

This can even cross between **species**⁸. When the leaves of a plant called sagebrush (= pelyněk) are damaged, it fills the air with a chemical that insects don't like. Tomato plants and tobacco plants nearby detect this chemical and start making their own anti-insect poisons. In another example, insect attacks on cucumber plants can "switch on" pesticide production in nearby chili peppers and lima beans.

Call in an Air Strike⁹

As any government knows, having your own military power is good, but having strong friends is even better. Some plants don't just make their own chemical weapons. They call for help from animals, too.

Everyone who has a garden has seen plants covered in **aphids**¹⁰. These are little vampire insects that attack plants and drink their blood (plant "blood" is called **sap**¹¹, really, but "blood-drinking" sounds more dramatic). It's hard for plants to fight them off.

Aphids have a number of natural enemies, though, especially parasitic wasps. So when aphids attack, the plants make chemicals that attract these wasps. The wasps **lay eggs**¹² inside the aphids.

PLANTS,
I'M COMING!

The eggs then **hatch**¹³, and the wasp larvae eat the aphids from the inside. Nice, eh?

It's a pretty good trick for the plants. Why do you need to fight if someone else will do it for you? In fact, it's such a good trick that lots of plants use it. The lovely smell of fresh-cut grass, for example, is a chemical signal to attract parasitic wasps. How romantic.



Uses in Technology

These kinds of plant communication are not just cool. They may have practical uses, too. Farmers may be able to use them to make **crops**¹⁴ safer from insects. Think about making tomatoes safer from insect attack by using the warning signals from sagebrush leaves, for example, instead of spraying the plants with chemicals.

Even more advanced uses might be possible with genetic engineering. As we now know, plants can detect chemicals in the air and soil, then send signals to other plants. With genetic engineering, we

could "hack" this ability. Imagine a plant that could detect diseases or pollution in soil or water, then send out a chemical message in the air to tell us about it.



Does it sound like science fiction? Engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have already made spinach plants that can detect molecules from explosives. The future is here.



*Glossary

pesticide – any chemical used to kill an attacking species; pesticides include insecticides (which kill insects), fungicides (fungi), herbicides (plants) and many others.



CD Task



Listen to a recording about another type of plant communication and complete the notes.

- 1 Some plants send _____ between their roots.
- 2 Thin **fungi**¹⁵ around the roots _____ the plants like internet _____.
- 3 When scientists broke the fungi between some, the ones still connected fought against the _____.
- 4 The fungi have a special _____ with the plants. They are **allies**¹⁶ in the _____ against aphids.

Task

Decide if the following sentences are true or false. Correct the false ones.

- 1 Plants listen and talk to us.
- 2 Plants communicate by producing molecules.
- 3 Plants make pesticides when their roots are damaged.
- 4 Parasitic wasps are natural enemies of aphids.
- 5 Scientists have produced spinach plants that can make explosives.

→ SOLUTIONS IN THE TF

Vocabulary

- ¹ soil [sɔɪl] – zemina
- ² to attract [ə'trækt] – lákat
- ³ to turn out – ukázat se
- ⁴ thorn [θɔ:n] – trn
- ⁵ sting [stɪŋ] – žahavý chlup
- ⁶ weapon ['wepən] – zbraň
- ⁷ to detect [di'tekt] – zaznamenat
- ⁸ species ['spi:ʃi:z] – druh, druhy
- ⁹ air strike ['eə streɪk] – nálet
- ¹⁰ aphid ['eɪfɪd] – mšice
- ¹¹ sap [sæp] – míza
- ¹² to lay eggs [leɪ] – snášet vajíčka
- ¹³ to hatch [hætʃ] – vylíhnout se
- ¹⁴ crop [krɒp] – plodina
- ¹⁵ fungi ['fʌŋɡaɪ] – houby
- ¹⁶ allies ['ælaɪz] – spojenci

Scottish Style



April 6th is Tartan Day, a day when many of the millions of people of Scottish descent¹ in America, Canada and around the world celebrate their Scottish roots. And there is nothing more Scottish than the iconic item of clothing, the kilt, and the coloured cloth called tartan which is used to make it.

Kilt History

First of all, let's make one thing clear. A kilt is not a skirt. Try telling any proud Scot that it is, and you will see the reaction you get. Kilts were first worn in the 16th century by the strong men of the Scottish highlands. To begin with, it was a much bigger **garment**² than today's kilts and known as a *filleadh mòr*, or great kilt. So great in fact, they could be over six metres long. The bottom section was the **pleated**³ "skirt" we know today, and the top section was worn over the shoulder like a **cloak**⁴. This design was a bit impractical for certain activities, though, and in the 1720s a smaller "walking kilt" was invented that was just the bottom section. This is the basis for the modern kilts we see today.



Special Occasions Only?

The kilt was for everyday use in the beginning, but these days you (unfortunately) won't see too many Scots wearing them in the streets of Glasgow or Edinburgh. Modern kilts are worn only for special occasions, such as weddings or **funerals**⁵, or at sporting events like the annual Highland Games*. However, the kilt as an everyday item is starting to make a comeback, and you can now buy modern kilts made from materials like leather, cotton or denim. Would you be brave enough to wear one?

Tartan: A Cloth and a Pattern⁶

Kilts are of course made from tartan, which is the word for the pattern, and also for the cloth with this pattern on it. The pattern always consists of **horizontal**⁷ and **vertical**⁸ **bands**⁹ of different colours, and although the traditional material is wool, modern tartan can be made from other materials too. Originally, different tartans were associated with different parts of Scotland, as the people making them could only use local types of wool and local **dyes**¹⁰. However, over time, tartans became associated with different Scottish clans*, each of which had their own special colours. These days, there are 3,000 different official tartans.



CD Task

Listen to a recording and find out what happened when the kilt was banned¹⁵.

Vocabulary

- ¹ descent [di'sent] – původ
- ² garment ['ga:mənt] – oděv
- ³ pleated ['pli:tɪd] – skládaný
- ⁴ cloak [kləʊk] – plášť
- ⁵ funeral ['fju:nərəl] – pohřeb
- ⁶ pattern ['pætn, 'pætərn] – vzor
- ⁷ horizontal [hɒri'zɒntl] – vodorovný
- ⁸ vertical ['vɜ:tɪkl] – svislý
- ⁹ band [bænd] – pruh
- ¹⁰ dye [dai] – barva
- ¹¹ ruler ['ru:lə(r)] – vládce
- ¹² lining ['laɪnɪŋ] – podšívka
- ¹³ poppy ['popi] – mák
- ¹⁴ unit ['ju:nɪt] – útvar
- ¹⁵ banned [bænd] – zakázaný

Task

Famous Colours

Some tartans are more famous than others. Can you match the description to the correct famous tartan?

A Royal Stuart Tartan – probably the most famous tartan of them all, it is named after the House* of Stuart, **rulers**¹¹ of Scotland and later England too. It is the official tartan of Queen Elizabeth II and it also became popular with punks in the 1970s.

B Burberry Check Tartan – This one is not a clan tartan. It was actually created by the fashion company Burberry in the 1920s and was used as the **lining**¹² in its coats. It is now famous all around the world as one of the best known symbols in fashion.

C MacLeod Tartan – known as a "loud" tartan because of its bright colours and because it rhymes with the name of its clan, the official colours of this tartan are black, freedom red and golden **poppy**¹³.

D Campbell Tartan – the Campbells are one of the biggest and most powerful Scottish clans and their tartan was used by members of the Black Watch, an army **unit**¹⁴ containing many Campbells that kept the peace in the Highlands. The name Black Watch probably comes from their tartan, which was not as colourful as the colours of the uniforms worn by English soldiers. In the First World War, German soldiers called Black Watch soldiers the Ladies from Hell, thanks to their kilts and fighting skills.



* Glossary

The Highland Games – an event with traditional Scottish sports, dance and music

clan – group of families who are related to each other

The House of (Stuart, Windsor, etc.) – a royal family

EVERYDAY ENGLISH SPORT

LIAM PEACH (UK)

I love sport, especially football. I love to be out on the *pitch* playing, watching in the stadium or even being an *armchair fan*. I watched my favourite team last week and we *thrashed* our *opponents* 6-0. It was amazing. Our new *striker* got a *hat-trick* and the fans went crazy. But even when the team doesn't play well, the fans still support the players, they have lots of songs and *chants*, and always make a lot of noise. Even at *away games* there are always lots of people and there is always a lot of *banter* between the home and away fans, but it is always in good humour.

I've never seen any trouble in the *stands*. For me, football is more than just a game, it's a way of life.



Sport? Ugh! I just don't understand. OK, it's a good way to *keep in shape*, but I don't understand why people get so *competitive* about it. It's just a game. I can understand *adrenaline sports* like skydiving or bungee jumping. Those must be really exciting, but most sports are so boring. One game goes on forever, and then most times at the end it's just a *draw*, nobody even wins. And do you know how much it costs? My friend has a *season ticket* and it cost him thousands of pounds. Thousands of pounds. To watch a stupid football team every week. Just think what else he could buy with all that money. And there are even worse sports. What is the point of golf? People wearing stupid clothes and carrying around 20 *clubs* just to hit a tiny little ball. Why do they need so many? But the worst is Formula One. Cars driving round and round, *lap* after lap after lap. Why do people watch it? If I want to see cars driving, I can go to the motorway.



Task

Can you match the words in *italics* with their definitions?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 A situation in a sport when both teams or players have equal points / goals.</p> <p>2 A large structure at a stadium where people sit or stand to watch the event.</p> <p>3 A wooden or metal stick used for hitting a ball.</p> <p>4 Jokes, funny conversation between people.</p> <p>5 To stay fit and healthy.</p> <p>6 A pass or ticket that can be used many times.</p> <p>7 An area painted with lines where people play a sport like cricket or football.</p> <p>8 A word or a phrase that is repeated many times, often by sports fans.</p> | <p>9 A game that takes place in a different club's stadium.</p> <p>10 Really wanting to win or be more successful than someone else.</p> <p>11 Someone who watches sport on television.</p> <p>12 To win very easily, by a lot of goals or points.</p> <p>13 One complete trip around a racetrack.</p> <p>14 Three goals, especially in football.</p> <p>15 The person or team you are playing against in a sports event.</p> <p>16 Sports that involve some danger.</p> <p>17 A player whose job is to score goals.</p> |
|--|--|

Discuss

Do you do any sports? Which ones?
How often do you exercise?
Do you watch sport on TV? Which?

LISTEN TO THE CD TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

A SECRET MESSAGE

TIPS

COMPETITION

A decorative illustration of a white envelope with a floral and leaf design. The envelope is open, showing a white interior. The design on the envelope includes several pink flowers with black centers, green leaves, and a green fern frond. The background is a solid yellow color. Above the envelope, there are more pink flowers and green leaves on a light blue background.

¹ **dandelion** [ˈdændɪlaɪən] – pampeliška
² **urgent** [ˈɜːdʒənt] – naléhavý
³ **to decipher** [dɪˈsaɪfə(r)] – rozluštit

Mountain biking is one of the most popular, exciting sports in the world. The truth is that if it were not for some crazy men and women who decided to throw themselves down a mountain on their two-wheeled friends, then the mountain bike may never have been made.

MATHEW BURT (UK)



THE FIRST MOUNTAIN BIKE

In California in the 1970s, a group of friends started experimenting and building a bike that would work well on **dirt tracks**¹ down Mount Tamalpais, north of San Francisco. Finally, one of them made a bike with a strong, heavy **frame**², thick tyres and straight **handlebars**³. It was perfect for this **demanding**⁴ new sport and, soon after, these "mountain bikes" started to be **manufactured**⁵ in big numbers, and mountain biking got some real attention. →

ON AND OFF-ROAD

Now, of course, the mountain bike is the most common bike people choose to ride, and many of those bikes never even see a mountain. Why are they so popular? Well, let's compare the two types.

ROAD BIKES



Thin wheels, lighter frame, fewer **gears**⁶, and drop handlebars*.

OK, nothing much between them here, but when you think about what a road bike does and what a mountain bike can do, then there's a clear difference. Yeah, a road bike is fast and gets you where you need to be, but as long as you only travel on roads.

MOUNTAIN BIKES



Thick wheels, heavy frame, **suspension**⁷ (helps to get over rocks smoothly), lots of gears, straight handlebars and generally stronger.

Mountain biking (MTB), however, offers the kind of freedom a road bike cannot. Hills, dirt, forests, grass, rocks and stones: you can go anywhere with a mountain bike. With all those gears and extra metal, the world is open to you to explore.

Also, a mountain bike uses more muscles due to the **range**⁸ of movement needed when travelling over different **surface**⁹ areas. And compared to road biking, you don't have to wear all that embarrassing **lycra**¹⁰. (Only in professional cross-country races.)

MTB CATEGORIES

There are many mountain biking categories for you to try. Here are some of the main ones.

CROSS COUNTRY

This type of mountain biking is the only Olympic **event**¹¹. You race in a group of riders on a special track, moving over trees, branches, rocks and **streams**¹². Because the terrain is difficult, you need to be fit, and have lots of energy. A race is typically 4–10 kilometres long and contains a number of **laps**¹³. The first rider to finish wins.

DOWNHILL

Cycling to your grandma's on a Sunday afternoon is nice, but who wants nice when you can have "OMG amazing!"? As the name says, cyclists shoot down a hill the quickest way possible, trying to beat the clock. It's a long, rocky road to the bottom, and you need to be brave, and more than a bit crazy, but brakes, suspension and a crash helmet help.

FOUR-CROSS

You move at high speed, in groups of four, trying to get to the end of a specially designed track with lots of different **man-made**¹⁴ and natural **obstacles**¹⁵ there to stop you. Added to this, there is very often contact with the other riders which causes lots of crashes.

Discuss

Which bike do you prefer: a road or a mountain bike? Why?

What is the farthest you have ever ridden?

Are there any MTB races near where you live?

MASTERS OF MOUNTAIN BIKES



Rachel Atherton

Competing from an early age along with her two brothers in MTB downhill, this British biker made a name for herself very soon. She has won many world cups and championship titles and is called the queen of downhill racing.



Nino Schurter

This Swiss cross-country racer is legendary. He has won almost all of the men's cross-country championships in the last decade and also the gold medal at the last Olympics in Rio. He is now looking forward to competing at the Tokyo Olympics.

*Glossary

drop handlebars – handlebars that go down in a C-shape at the ends, typical for racing bikes
freeride mountain biking – a style of mountain biking similar to downhill but with more focus on tricks, style and technical features

Vocabulary

- ¹ **dirt track** ['dɜ:t træk] – polní cesta
- ² **frame** [freɪm] – rám
- ³ **handlebars** ['hændlbɑ:(r)z] – řídítka
- ⁴ **demanding** [di'mɑ:ndɪŋ] – náročný
- ⁵ **to manufacture** [mænju'fæktʃə(r)] – vyrábět, zhotovit
- ⁶ **gears** [gɪə(r)z] – převody
- ⁷ **suspension** [sə'spenʃn] – odpružení
- ⁸ **range** [reɪndʒ] – rozsah
- ⁹ **surface** ['sɜ:fɪs] – povrch
- ¹⁰ **lycra** ['laɪkrə] – elastan (látka)
- ¹¹ **event** ['i'vent] – disciplína
- ¹² **stream** [stri:m] – potok
- ¹³ **lap** [læp] – kolo, okruh
- ¹⁴ **man-made** [mæn 'meɪd] – umělý
- ¹⁵ **obstacle** ['ɒbstəkl] – překážka
- ¹⁶ **gathering** ['gæðərɪŋ] – shromáždění

THE MOST FAMOUS MTB EVENTS

The most famous, biggest and oldest race, the **Sea Otter Classic**, happens every April in Monterey, California. The four-day event has competitions in all the major disciplines of mountain bike racing.

GlemmRide, this freeride* mountain bike **gathering**¹⁶ in Austria includes a 2.3-kilometre downhill event on narrow forest tracks over roots and stones, and also a "slopestyle" event where competitors perform incredible acrobatic tricks.

Also, here in the Czech Republic, there is the Cross-Country Mountain Bike World Cup in **Nové Město na Moravě**, with some classic elbow-to-elbow action through thick Czech forest that promises fast, technical and exciting races.

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET ON YOUR BIKES AND RIDE!

NEW MUSIC

WHAT'S EVERYONE LISTENING TO IN 2020?

With a new year comes new, exciting music to enjoy. Let's take a look at the new albums everyone will be listening to in 2020.

KRISTINE BOTHA (SOUTH AFRICA)



Halsey

Full of tracks about love, **break-ups**¹ and personal identity, Halsey's new album *Manic* was released in early 2020. On her third album, Halsey has **blended**² genres such as hip-hop, rock and even country, all with a strong pop **element**³, to create an album of songs that can **appeal to**⁴ everyone. She released a total of six singles before the album came out, giving fans a clear idea of what to expect.

While many people can connect with the themes of the album, some songs are a bit more personal. The album features a song called "Ashley" which is Halsey's real first name. Listen out for musical guests on the album such as Alanis Morissette and Suga (from Korean boy-band BTS). Halsey's World Tour **hit**⁵ Europe in February, and she'll be playing shows everywhere from Japan to the USA throughout the year.



Green Day

Punk-rock band Green Day released their 13th studio album, *Father of All...*, in February 2020. If you're a hockey fan, listen out for their new single, the song "Fire, Ready, Aim". It is being used as the official opening theme song for the National Hockey League this year. *Father of All...* is one of Green Day's shortest albums and it has received **mixed reviews**⁶. As one reviewer put it: "*Father of All...* is just another sign of a band who has always done things its way, **refusing**⁷ to do what's expected of them."

Fans of the band, which has been around since 1987, will also be happy to know that they are travelling the world as part of the Hella Mega tour this year. Catch them in the Czech Republic this summer on June 18th. They will be joined by their friends from the bands Weezer and Fall Out Boy.



Dua Lipa

Dua Lipa, still relatively new on the pop music scene, is quickly **establishing**⁸ her place as an amazingly talented pop star. Her new album *Future Nostalgia* is set for release in April, and she has everyone excited with her singles such as "Don't Start Now" and "Physical".

Vocabulary

- ¹ **break-up** ['breɪk ʌp] – rozchod
- ² **to blend** [blend] – smíchat
- ³ **element** ['elɪmənt] – prvek
- ⁴ **to appeal to sb** [ə'pi:l] – líbit se, zamlouvat se
- ⁵ **to hit** [hɪt] – vpadnout do
- ⁶ **mixed reviews** [mɪkst rɪ'vju:z] – smíšené recenze
- ⁷ **to refuse** [rɪ'fju:z] – odmítnout
- ⁸ **to establish** [ɪ'stæblɪʃ] – vybudovat si (pozici)
- ⁹ **contradictory** [kɒntrə'dɪktəri] – odporující si
- ¹⁰ **crooner** ['kru:nə(r)] – zpěvák milostných písní
- ¹¹ **rumour** ['ru:mə(r)] – zvěst
- ¹² **goddess** ['gɒdes] – bohyně
- ¹³ **gig** [gɪg] – koncert
- ¹⁴ **to stick to** [stɪk] – držet se

*Glossary

deep bass – very low sound
after hours – if something happens after hours, it is after most pubs and clubs close, so late at night.
Anthropocene – a new word for the present geological epoch when humans have started to change the earth (including climate change)

Task

Match these hits to the singers from the article.

- 1 "New Rules"
- 2 "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)"
- 3 "Can't Feel My Face"
- 4 "Him & I"
- 5 "Oblivion"

→ SOLUTIONS IN THE TF



"Physical" has a strong '80s influence while feeling very fresh, and the colorful music video suggests that Dua will mix retro-style pop with modern elements. This fits well with the **contradictory**⁹ title of her album, *Future Nostalgia*. She's also going to be touring this year, and you can find her performing all over Europe in April and May.



The Weeknd

Canadian R&B / Hip-Hop **crooner**¹⁰ The Weeknd has already released two songs from his new album. "Blinding Lights" sees him try out an '80s inspired electro-pop sound, while "Heartless" is full of deep bass* and even deeper lyrics. The videos for both tracks are set in Las Vegas and the album is going to be titled *After Hours**, which goes quite well with his moody, dark sound and look.

There are **rumours**¹¹ that this album might be very personal for The Weeknd, as it features a song called "Like Selena", which seems to be about his celebrity ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez. While he hasn't announced an official tour for this album yet, he has performed some of his singles on television and it is expected that he will announce a tour for his latest album soon. Get ready to buy a ticket if you're a fan of The Weeknd.



Grimes

Weird and wonderful Canadian alternative musician Grimes will also be hot on the music scene this year. She released her fifth album, *Miss Anthropocene**, in February. She's described the project as an album about "a **goddess**¹² of climate crisis". The album contains tracks about the planet's destruction as well as more personal songs inspired by the singer's private life. She is in a relationship with the tech-billionaire Elon Musk, which has attracted a lot of attention from the media.

So, whose music are you looking forward to hearing this year? Will you be attending any concerts, festivals, or **gigs**¹³? Do you explore different musical genres and artists every year, or **stick to**¹⁴ what you already know? Maybe our list will inspire you to check out some new albums this year.

THE BEST SHOWER THOUGHTS & APRIL FOOL'S ADS

As usual, the news is full of disasters, pandemics*, stupid politicians and other depressing things. But don't feel too down. Here are some fun bits and pieces² to put you in a good mood.

LIAM PEACH (UK)

Smart phones are probably responsible for reducing graffiti in public toilets.

Turtles can never have sleepovers³, because they always sleep in homes of their own.

Erasers **sacrifice**⁴ their lives for our mistakes.

Clapping is just hitting yourself because you like something.

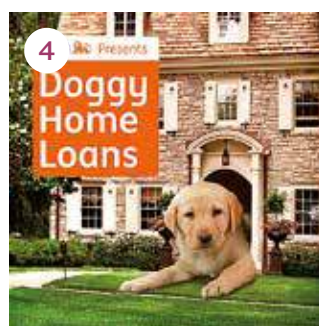
Good people get angry when you lie about them, bad people get angry when you tell the truth about them.

GENIUS IN THE SHOWER

Everybody knows that the best, most original and important thoughts come in the shower. Maybe you are in the middle of singing your favourite shower song and then, all of a sudden, your brain comes up with a little piece of genius. Users of the social platform Reddit often post their amazing shower thoughts for others to read. Here are just a few of the best. Do you like any of them? What has been your best shower thought?

TRICKY ADS

Every April Fool's Day, companies all over the world like to try and **trick**⁵ us and make us into April **fools**⁶ by publishing fake advertisements, and of course, every year, people believe them.



Task

Have a look at these April Fool's Day ads, would you be fooled? Can you explain what is wrong with them?

*Glossary

pandemic – a disease that spreads all over the world

Vocabulary

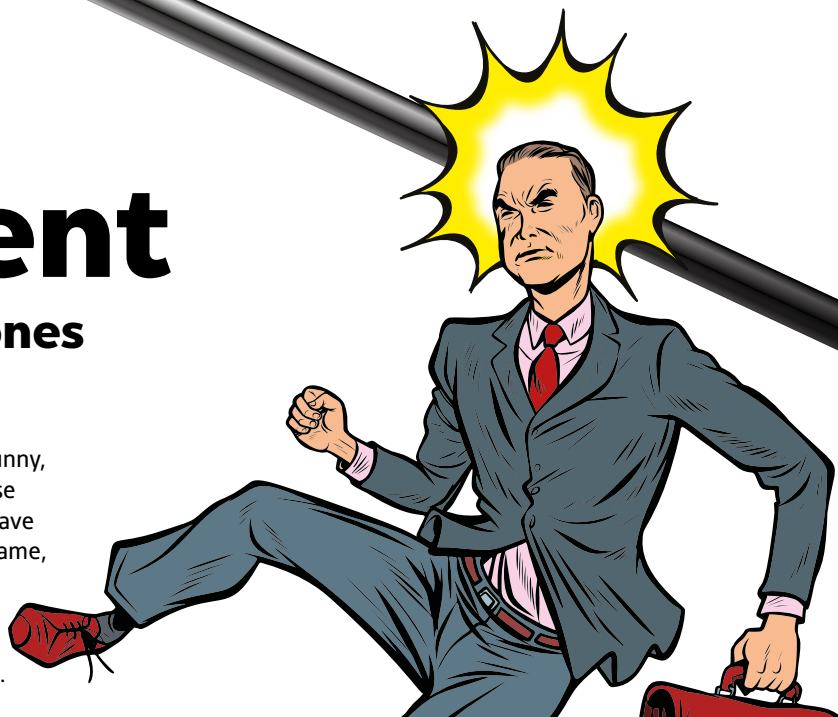
- ¹ ad [æd] – reklama
- ² bits and pieces – kousky
- ³ sleepover ['sli:pəʊvə(r)] – přespání
- ⁴ to sacrifice ['sækrɪfaɪs] – obětovat
- ⁵ to trick [trɪk] – napálit
- ⁶ fool [fu:l] – blázen
- ⁷ to be fooled [fu:ld] – nechat se napálit, podvádět

The Same, but Different

Homographs and Homophones

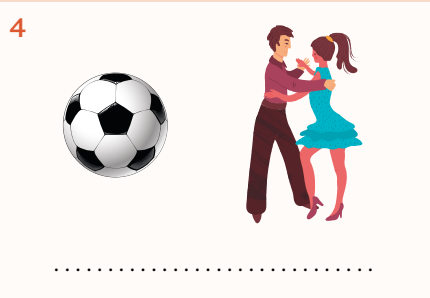
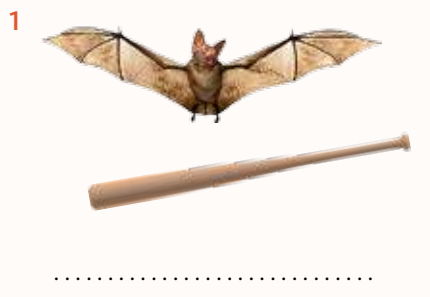
LIAM PEACH (UK)

A man walks into a bar. Ouch! Do you get it? OK, it's not very funny, but there are lots of jokes like this in English. They work because of homographs. These are words that are spelt the same, but have two different meanings (sometimes they are pronounced the same, sometimes not). Here the joke is that a *bar* can mean a pub, or it can mean a long piece of metal, so you think the man is walking into a pub, but in fact he is walking into metal and hurts his head. Yes, you are right: it really isn't very funny at all.



Task 1

Have a look at these pictures that show different homographs. Can you work out the word that connects them? Listen to the CD to check your answers.



OK, here's another great joke for you. Why don't lions like their meat cooked? They prefer it *roar*. Oh dear. Another terrible joke. This one works because of a homophone. These are words that are pronounced the same, but have different spellings and meanings. Here, *roar** (the noise a lion makes) and *raw* (uncooked). I'm sure you have noticed there are many words like this in English.



How many more homophones and homographs can you think of?

*works only with the British pronunciation of roar [rɔ:]

Task 2

Listen to the CD and see if you can write down the two (or more) different spellings of the word. Do you know what they mean?

1 _____ and _____

2 _____ and _____

3 _____ and _____

4 _____ and _____

5 _____ and _____ and _____

6 _____ and _____

Language Cert

Achiever B1 International ESOL

LanguageCert International is an approved SELT provider that delivers Home Office approved Secure English Language Tests (SELT) in the UK and around the world. LanguageCert's SELTs are a reliable, trusted and attractive choice for all candidates applying for UK visas where English language ability must be demonstrated.

Also its ESOL set of general English language qualifications are ideal for candidates who need to prove their skills for education purposes. Besides international recognition they are recognised by the Czech Ministry of Education and listed in the MŠMT "MATURITA" list.

Listening Part 1

You will hear some sentences. You will hear each sentence twice. Choose the best reply to each sentence.

1

- a) Sure, just a moment.
- b) Hello, I can help you.
- c) Yes, we'll contact you.

2

- a) I didn't look at it once.
- b) I really enjoyed it there.
- c) I managed to relax at last.

3

- a) I haven't mended that yet.
- b) I'm afraid that's too much.
- c) I am sorry that you did that.

4

- a) Certainly, sir. I'll find the time.
- b) Alright, love, I'll do it for you.
- c) No way, mate, I'm really busy.

5

- a) I'm very happy working here now.
- b) I don't mind working with anyone here.
- c) I've always dreamed of working here.

6

- a) Yes, that chair looks comfortable.
- b) Great, thanks for your advice.
- c) Well, I never liked his style.

7

- a) I don't know how to do it.
- b) I can leave that for you.
- c) I'll go and check for you.

Listening Part 2

You will hear some conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answers for each conversation.

CONVERSATION 1

1. The man is the girl's
 - a) teacher.
 - b) father.
 - c) manager.
2. The girl feels
 - a) annoyed.
 - b) nervous.
 - c) depressed.

CONVERSATION 2

3. What is the man's main reason for choosing Italian?
 - a) He knows it's like Spanish.
 - b) He thinks it will be easy.
 - c) He loves the country.
4. How long is the man going to stay in Rome?
 - a) 1 year.
 - b) 6 weeks.
 - c) 8 months.

CONVERSATION 3

5. The woman wants to
 - a) do some shopping.
 - b) visit their family.
 - c) go to work.
6. The man
 - a) agrees to travel despite the weather.
 - b) refuses to drive on the slippery roads.
 - c) persuades the woman to stay at home.



Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to three words.

Escape Game

1. Time limit for getting out:
.....
2. Year first escape room appeared:
.....
3. What Agatha Christie's best-known for:
.....
4. Design of this escape room:
.....
5. Position of the panic button:
.....
6. Person giving extra ideas:
.....
7. Time until game starts:
.....

Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

1

At the beginning, Peter thinks Tanya's idea is

- a) too expensive.
- b) unnecessary.
- c) fashionable.

2

Tanya suggests a cleaning robot because she likes

- a) new technology.
- b) science fiction.
- c) useful gifts.

3

They both agree that Peter's mother is

- a) rarely friendly.
- b) rather forgetful.
- c) not easy to please.

4

Peter thinks that the advertisement is

- a) fairly interesting.
- b) totally accurate.
- c) completely false.

5

Peter says that reviews are

- a) rarely helpful.
- b) often important.
- c) always useless.

6

In the end they decide to ask Peter's sister to

- a) choose the flowers.
- b) share the present.
- c) pay for the dinner.



Reading Part 1

Read the texts. Choose the correct answer to complete each text.

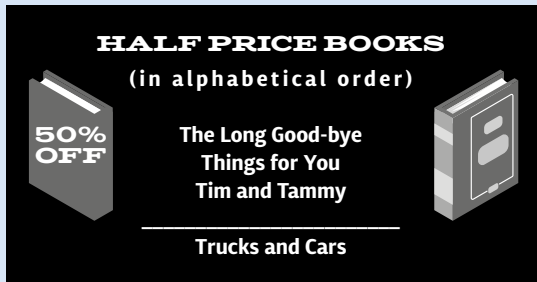
1

HALF PRICE BOOKS
(in alphabetical order)

50% OFF

The Long Good-bye
Things for You
Tim and Tammy

Trucks and Cars



- a) True Lies
- b) Tell Me a Story
- c) Tom Cat and Friends

2

Press any button to start,
_____ select the
number of the item you want.
Pay with your card.
Finally, collect your item.

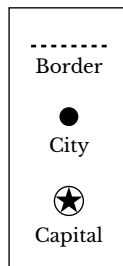


- a) before
- b) then
- c) so

3

PARTS OF A MAP

Objects on a map appear as circles, lines
or dots. _____
show something in the real world. For
example, circles show cities and lines
show borders.



- a) These
- b) That
- c) This

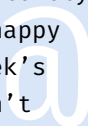
4



- a) Exit only
- b) Do not touch
- c) Drive carefully

5

Thank you very much for the lovely
birthday present. I was so happy
with the tickets to next week's
match. _____ I can't
wait to see my favourite team!



- a) I enjoyed reading it very much!
- b) The whole experience was wonderful!
- c) It was kind of you to choose what I wanted!

Reading Part 2

Read the text. Use the sentences to complete the text.
Choose the correct sentence for each gap.
There is one extra sentence you will not need.

Erich Kästner

Emil Erich Kästner was a German writer and poet who is most famous for his children's books. He started school in Dresden, but later went on to study philosophy at the University of Leipzig.

(1) _____ He then became a journalist and a writer.

In 1927, he left Leipzig. (2) _____ There he published poems and articles in various papers and magazines. Apart from these, he published his first and best-known children's book, Emil and the Detectives. (3) _____

The novel was so popular because it was unusual. In contrast to most children's literature of the period, it is set in contemporary Berlin and not in a fairy-tale world. The story of Emil and his friends has been made into a movie a number of times and was also adapted for the theatre.

(4) _____ The story of the separated twin sisters, who accidentally meet at a summer camp, became an instant success and has also been turned into films. The most popular of these was an American version, The Parent Trap.

Something new appeared in children's literature with Kästner's works. His books are famous for their humour and respect for children. (5) _____ His books were illustrated by Walter Trier, a famous artist, who also introduced a new style for the pictures. His drawings added a modern touch to Kästner's novels. (6) _____ Kästner wrote his last story in 1969.



- A Unlike other authors, he always took them seriously and trusted them.
- B It sold millions of copies and has been translated into 59 languages.
- C He moved to Berlin where he spent his most successful years.
- D His mother wanted him to become a teacher.
- E It is therefore not surprising that the books they produced are still enormously popular.
- F As for stories about girls, he wrote Lottie and Lisa after World War II.
- G At the end of his studies there, he received a doctorate in literature.

Reading Part 3

Read the four texts. Which text gives you the answer to each question? Choose the correct text (A–D) for each question.

A

The new Spartan's Football Stadium's opening ceremony was held yesterday and attended by guests including star footballer, Jay Ferosa. Fans then saw an excellent match in bad weather between the Spartans and the Giants. The Giants didn't play well in the rain and the Spartans defeated them 4-1. The stadium, which was built for three million euros, is now open to visitors on weekdays.

B

Parents can now send their children to the Spartan Football Academy at the famous new stadium. The two-week camps are going to take place during the summer holidays in July and August, with professional coaches and guest appearances by famous footballers. If you want your children to learn football skills and make new friends, this is the place for them. Take a friend and pay half price!

C

The Spartan's Football Stadium opening ceremony was great! I'm so happy I could be there. The building looks amazing; no wonder it cost so much. The match was fantastic despite the weather. I thought the footballers would stop playing, but they were great and didn't go off, although the wet grass seemed quite dangerous. They're organising football camps in the summer, so we could go together.

D

Rain delay and *rain stopped play* are words used to describe a sporting event which is delayed or cancelled because of rain. Sports typically stopped because of rain include golf, tennis, and cricket, where even slightly wet conditions can be dangerous for players. Football games generally continue despite the rain, although players can choose to stop the match and go off if the ground becomes too wet.



Which text:

1. explains what usually happens in bad weather?
2. is part of a personal letter?

Which text tells you:

3. exactly how much something cost?
4. the benefits of a summer programme?
5. where a famous person went?
6. about some players who did something unexpected?
7. about sports which people don't play on wet grass?

Reading Part 4

Read the text and answer the questions. Use a maximum of three words for each answer.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is home to some of Yorkshire's most beautiful scenery and most interesting attractions. The area is in the county of Yorkshire, in the north of England. It has three national parks – the Moors, the Peak District and the Dales. 'Dale' is an Old English word for a valley.

The National Park was created in 1954 but the first guided tours started as early as 1781. The dales were usually named after the river that runs through them, but this did not happen with the very popular Wensleydale. Instead of getting its name from the river, it got it from a village.

Visitors to the Dales can enjoy walks around former mines and traditional market towns, which offer a number of events and festivals. Nature-lovers can explore the hills or cycle beside the rivers. If you feel stressed, just relax here. Admiring the view is the perfect way to do this.

A great place to start exploring the area is the Dales Countryside Museum, which tells the history of the area from prehistoric times to the present. Exhibitions explain about the region's life, schools, farms and transport. The building itself used to be a train station when there was a railway there.

Hawes is also well-known for its local cheese. If you want to see how this creamy cheese is made, the Wensleydale Cheese Experience is just for you. Apart from learning the art of cheese making, the café here is the perfect place to enjoy some of the area's most popular dishes, such as a Yorkshire pudding.

There are a number of other places to eat in the Yorkshire Dales. The possibilities range from cafés to high-class restaurants. The first are particularly well-liked by visitors. Make sure you book a table in advance, though, especially in the busy months. Most places have websites so you can book online.

With spectacular views, historic castles, green fields and peaceful lambs, the Yorkshire Dales is a place for everyone.



1. What does 'dale' mean?

2. When did tourism start in Yorkshire Dales?

3. What is Wensleydale named after?

4. What can you do when looking at the view?

5. What was the Dales Countryside Museum originally?

6. What do most restaurants serve?

7. Where do many tourists prefer to eat?

8. How can you reserve a table in a busy period?

Your friend has the opportunity to study in Australia for a year but isn't sure about going. Write a letter explaining the advantages and disadvantages, and giving your advice. Write between 100 and 120 words.

[illegible][illegible]

Language
Cert

**z ceny zkoušky LanguageCert
v následujících LANGUAGECERT centrech**

AKADEMIE Jana Amosa Komenského

 Channel Crossings

glossa
ikola jazyků

Gate April | 2020 **35**

Garfield

