

LA REVISTA PARA APRENDER INGLÉS

SPEAK UP

317 AÑO XXVII
REVISTA MENSUAL 5,95€
REVISTA MÁS DVD 17,95€

A YEAR IN
THE USA
**Study
Abroad**

James Redfield
THE TRUTH
ABOUT 2012

Ireland
THE MAGIC
OF THE HARP

Nº 317 - 5,95€/7,95€ DVD - Canarias 6,10€/8,10€ DVD
00317
8 480002 029032

 &
EXERCISES
Improve
Your English

A Scot in Hollywood

**EWAN
McGREGOR**

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

MICHELE BACHMANN

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



Michele Bachmann quiere ser presidente de EE UU. Es creacionista y miembro del Tea Party. Sus ideas ponen los pelos de punta a más de uno. No hay que subestimarla.

Michele Bachmann is a US congresswoman. She represents a small district in Minnesota. She recently announced her campaign to become US president.

THE TEA PARTY

Who is Michele Bachmann? She's a Republican. She's one of the leaders of the Tea Party, the right-wing Republican movement. She's a tax lawyer¹. She once worked for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS),

America's taxation department. She's married with five children. She has also cared for² 23 teenage foster children³.

EXTREME VIEWS

What are Bachmann's beliefs⁴? She is anti-abortion. She says global warming⁵ is a hoax⁶. She believes President Obama is a socialist and anti-American. She wants an investigation into the beliefs of all US politicians. She believes there is a media conspiracy to transform the US into a socialist state. She's

against a national health service⁷. She's against the minimum wage⁸. She is against gay marriages⁹. She believes gay people are dysfunctional and ill¹⁰.

CREATIONISM

What inspired Bachmann's political career? It was her foster children. Bachmann is a 'creationist.' She is against the teaching of evolution in schools. She taught¹¹ her own children at home. However, US law obliges all foster children to study in public schools. Bachmann was horrified by the public school curriculum. She organised local Christian groups into a political movement.

POTENTIAL

Is Bachmann a serious contender¹² for the US presidency? The biggest danger is to underestimate¹³ her, say political commentators. She is a powerful orator. She brings people together¹⁴. She takes a popular issue, and then organises small groups of activists into powerful movements. She has raised¹⁵ over \$4 million for her presidential campaign. The Democrats are worried¹⁶. They see her as an intelligent Sarah Palin. Her beliefs are, however, very extreme. Experts suggest she will be successful in

Bachmann quotes

On global warming:

"Global warming is voodoo, nonsense, a hoax."

"Carbon dioxide²¹ is a harmless²² gas. Carbon dioxide is natural."

On evolution and 'intelligent design':

"There are hundreds and hundreds of scientists, many with

Nobel Prizes, who believe in intelligent design²³."

On the economic crisis:

"We can't trust President Obama to solve the problem."

On privacy:

"I think there is a point where you say enough is enough²⁴ to

government intrusion. Does the federal government really need to know our phone numbers?"

On gay marriage:

"If gay marriage is permitted, little children will learn that homosexuality is normal, natural and perhaps they should try it."



Michele Bachmann: tax lawyer, creationist, anti-abortionist, and candidate for US president.

rural regions, but lose in the more sophisticated big cities.

BUT...

Bachmann's top presidential campaign issue is government spending¹⁷. She promises drastic cuts¹⁸. However, US newspapers have made two discoveries. Firstly, her family's farm has received large government subsidies. And secondly, husband Marcus Bachmann's 'Christian counselling practice'¹⁹ has also received government funds. Some people say Bachmann's counselling centre offers gay conversion therapy. This is a controversial psychological treatment²⁰ which attempts to transform homosexuals into heterosexuals. The American Psychological Association has repudiated it.

Speak Up EXPLAINS

She once worked for the IRS – *Once* es una de esas palabras con diferentes significados; aquí indica 'en algún momento del pasado'. Otros significados de *once*: una vez (*she went to the cinema once last week*, fue al cine una vez la semana pasada); después, apenas: *once Tom finished his homework*, he went out (después de haber terminado sus deberes, Tom salió). Y como /wʌns/ se pronuncia como si la 'o' fuera consonante, el artículo es 'a' y no 'an'. *It's a once in a lifetime experience* (es una experiencia única).

EXERCISES

Listening Questions

- Put the following topics into the order in which they first appear in the report.
 - foster mother
 - gay means 'dysfunctional'
 - tax
 - views on Obama
 - an 'intelligent Sarah Palin'
 - IRS
 - cut government spending
- Write the word that best fits the gap provided. The first letter and a definition of the word are given to help you.
 - Many of Michele Bachmann's (b) _____ (ideas) seem very extreme.
 - Some people who don't like the public school (c) _____ (program) choose to educate their children at home.
 - A way to care for children in private homes within the public system is called (f) _____ (nurture, support) care.
 - Political experts believe that Ms Bachmann is a persuasive (o) _____ (speaker).
 - Despite the scientific evidence, some people prefer to believe that global warming is a (h) _____ (fiction).
 - Extreme right-winger Michele Bachmann has claimed that gay people are (i) _____ (unwell).

Answers

- c, f, a, d, b, e, g
- a) beliefs, b) curriculum, c) foster, d) orator, e) hoax, f) ill

MORE EXERCISES ON CD

GLOSSARY

- TAX LAWYER:** abogado fiscalista
- TO CARE FOR:** cuidar
- TEENAGE FOSTER CHILDREN:** adolescentes en régimen de acogida
- BELIEF:** creencia
- GLOBAL WARMING:** calentamiento global
- HOAX:** patraña
- NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE:** sanidad pública
- MINIMUM WAGE:** salario mínimo
- MARRIAGE:** matrimonio
- ILL:** enfermo
- TO TEACH:** enseñar
- CONTENDER:** aspirante
- TO UNDERESTIMATE:** subestimar
- TO BRING TOGETHER:** unir
- TO RAISE:** recaudar
- WORRIED:** preocupado
- GOVERNMENT SPENDING:** gasto público
- CUT:** recorte
- COUNSELLING PRACTICE:** gabinete de asesoramiento psicológico
- TREATMENT:** tratamiento
- CARBON DIOXIDE:** dióxido de carbono (CO₂)
- HARMLESS:** inocuo
- INTELLIGENT DESIGN:** creacionismo (lit. diseño inteligente)
- ENOUGH IS ENOUGH:** ya basta, hasta aquí hemos llegado

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

STATE NICKNAMES

PLACES WITH CHARACTER

PART
THREE

Continuamos con los apodos o sobrenombres, algunos bastantes insólitos, que se dan a muchos Estados de EE UU. Este mes nos desplazamos a la costa atlántica.

The mid-Atlantic state of Maryland is called 'the Free State'. A Baltimore newspaper first called it that during the 1920s, when the manufacture and sale of alcohol were banned for a time. Maryland said it wanted to be free from this prohibition.

Mississippi is 'the Magnolia State'. It is named for¹ a tree with big, beautiful white flowers that grows in that hot, southern state.

The midwestern state of Missouri is called 'the Show Me State'. The people of that frontier state were once famous for not believing everything people told them.

If you visit the western mountain and plain state of Montana you will know why it is known as 'Big Sky Country'.

Nebraska is the only state to have a nickname that honours sports teams. The state university's athletic teams are nicknamed 'Cornhuskers'² in recognition of one of the area's chief crops³. The state borrowed the 'Cornhusker' nickname from the university.

The western desert state of Nevada is called 'the Silver State'. It



was once home to many silver mines⁴ and towns that grew up around them. Today, most of them are empty ghost towns.

New Hampshire, in the north-east area called New England, is 'the Granite State' because of that colourful rock.

New Jersey is between the big cities of New York, New York and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It got its nickname, 'the Garden State', because New Jersey truck⁵ farms once provided vegetables to those big cities.

New York, which always thinks big, was called 'the Empire State' because of its natural wealth⁶. The most famous Manhattan skyscraper⁷ got its name from the state. It is,

of course, the Empire State Building.

If you get a chance to see a red sunset⁸ over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico, you will know why that southwestern state is called 'the Land of Enchantment'.

North and South Carolina were one colony until 1729. South Carolina's nickname is the easier of the two: it is 'the Palmetto State' because of a fan-leaved⁹ palm tree¹⁰ that grows there. North Carolina is 'the Tar¹¹ Heel¹² State'. That is because many of the men who worked to gather¹³ substances from trees wore no shoes. They would make turpentine¹⁴ from tar and get the black, sticky¹⁵ tar on the heels of their feet.

The state of Ohio is in the Mid-





Mississippi is the Magnolia State. (above). New York is the Empire State (top right) and Texas is called the Lone Star State (opposite page).



© Image Courtesy of FreePhotoVault.com

Speak Up EXPLAINS

The Quaker religion –

Los cuáqueros son los fieles de un movimiento religioso nacido del protestantismo. Se cree que el origen del término proviene del inglés arcaico *Quacksalver*, que era como se les llamaba en sentido peyorativo porque en sus reuniones, cuando creían que sobre ellos estaba descendiendo el Espíritu Santo, manifestaban ciertos signos físicos como, por ejemplo, temblor. Ellos preferían definirse como *The Society of Friends*, o sea la 'Sociedad de los amigos' (de Jesús).

© GTres

west. It is named 'the Buckeye¹⁶ State' after a tree that produces nuts similar to chestnuts¹⁷.

The Great Plains state of Oklahoma is called 'the Sooner State'. That is because of a sale of land in 1889. Some people arrived in the territory to claim¹⁸ their land¹⁹ earlier than they were supposed to. They cheated²⁰ and got there 'sooner'.

Pennsylvania's nickname is 'the Keystone²¹ State'. Just as a keystone holds together a stone arch, Pennsylvania was seen as holding together the young American republic. Pennsylvania is also sometimes called 'the Quaker State'. Its founder, William Penn, and most of his followers, were members of the Protestant Quaker religion.

Rhode Island's nickname is 'Little Rhody' because of its size. The state is smaller than the area around Los Angeles, California.

Tennessee got its nickname – 'the Volunteer State' – because of the bravery²² of its citizens. They volunteered to join Tennessean Andrew Jackson to defend the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, against the British army in the war of 1812.

Texas is called 'the Lone Star²³ State'. It gets its nickname from the single star on its flag. This represents the short time Texas was an independent nation battling Mexico for self-rule²⁴.

'The Beehive²⁵ State' of Utah has no more beehives than any other state. The nickname is from

the Mormon Church's symbol for hard work.

The eastern state of Vermont is proud of its beautiful Green Mountains so it calls itself 'the Green Mountain State'.

The southern state of Virginia is called 'the Old Dominion.' Long ago, King Charles II of England added²⁶ the colony's coat of arms²⁷ to his shield²⁸. It joined his other dominions of England, Ireland and Scotland.

West Virginia broke away²⁹ from Virginia in the 1860s. It is called simply 'the Mountain State' for the ancient Appalachian mountains.

And we have saved perhaps the most American nickname for last. The western state of Wyoming was once an area where cattle³⁰ were transported east. And where there are cattle, there are men – and now women – to move them. So Wyoming is 'the Cowboy State'.

GLOSSARY

- 1 NAMED FOR: llamado así debido a
- 2 CORNHUSK: hoja de maíz
- 3 CHIEF CROP: cultivo principal
- 4 SILVER MINE: mina de plata
- 5 TRUCK: camión
- 6 WEALTH: riqueza
- 7 SKYSCRAPER: rascacielos
- 8 SUNSET: puesta de sol
- 9 FAN-LEAF: hoja con forma de aspa de ventilador
- 10 PALM TREE: palmera
- 11 TAR: alquitrán
- 12 HEEL: talón
- 13 TO GATHER: recoger
- 14 TURPENTINE: aguarrás
- 15 STICKY: pegajoso
- 16 BUCKEYE: falso castaño de Ohio (*Aesculus glabra*)
- 17 CHESTNUT: castaño
- 18 TO CLAIM: reclamar
- 19 LAND: terreno, tierra
- 20 TO CHEAT: hacer trampa
- 21 KEYSTONE: piedra angular
- 22 BRAVERY: valentía
- 23 LONE STAR: estrella solitaria
- 24 SELF-RULE: autonomía
- 25 BEEHIVE: colmena
- 26 TO ADD: añadir
- 27 COAT OF ARMS: escudo de armas
- 28 SHIELD: escudo
- 29 TO BREAK AWAY: escindir
- 30 CATTLE: ganado

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

ICE-COLD AMBITION

THE CASE OF KERRIGAN AND HARDING

En 1994 un suceso conmovió el mundo del deporte. La patinadora estadounidense Nancy Kerrigan sufrió un brutal ataque, propiciado por su rival Tonya Harding.

In 1994 there were at least three sensational news events in the United States. The first was the trial¹ in Virginia of Lorena Bobbitt, the woman who cut off the penis of her violent husband in 1993. The second was the arrest of OJ Simpson in Los Angeles. The third was the attack on the ice skater² Nancy Kerrigan in Detroit.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

The attack took place on January 6th. Kerrigan, who was 23, was in Detroit for the US Figure Skating Championships. A man attacked her with a police baton³. He hit⁴ her above the knee⁵. The man ran away, but cameras filmed Kerrigan as she screamed "Why? Why? Why?"

It was an international TV news story. At first the attacker was a mystery man, but the police discovered the terrible truth: the mystery man, Shane Stant, was working for another skater, Tonya Harding! Harding, also 23, was Kerrigan's rival and she wanted to end her career.

MEDALLIST

Kerrigan recovered and one month later she went to Lillehammer in Norway for the Winter Olympics. She won a silver medal: her rival, Tonya Harding, came eighth. The scandal of the attack dominated the Olympics. The US police arrested Shane Stant and Harding's husband. They also arrested Harding, but she didn't go to prison. Her sentence was three years' proba-

tion⁶, 500 hours of community service⁷ and a \$160,000 fine⁸. It was the end of her skating career: she was a 'persona non grata.'

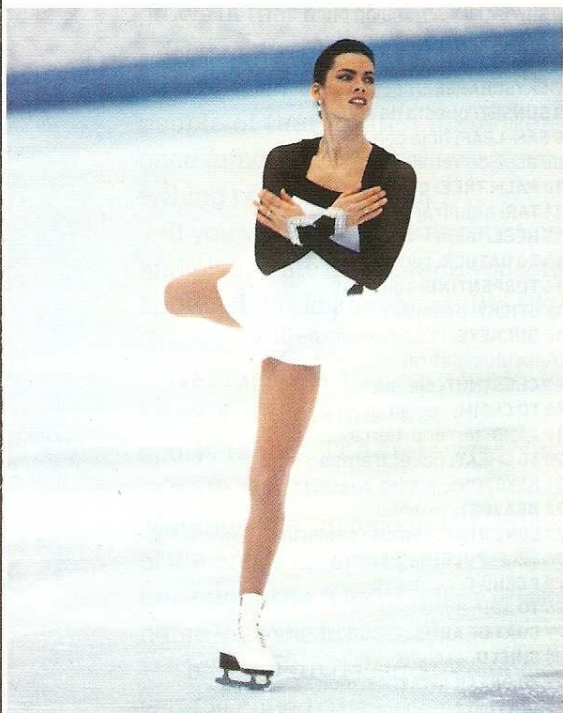
IMAGE PROBLEM

For the media Harding was the devil⁹ and Kerrigan was an angel, but her image also changed. At Lillehammer Kerrigan was aggressive and the press criticised her. She also retired from competitive skating after the Olympics. She appeared in many 'ice shows'¹⁰ and in 2007 she had a small part in the 'ice skating comedy,' *Blades of Glory*. The film stars Will Ferrell and is a parody of the world of skating. It is very funny.

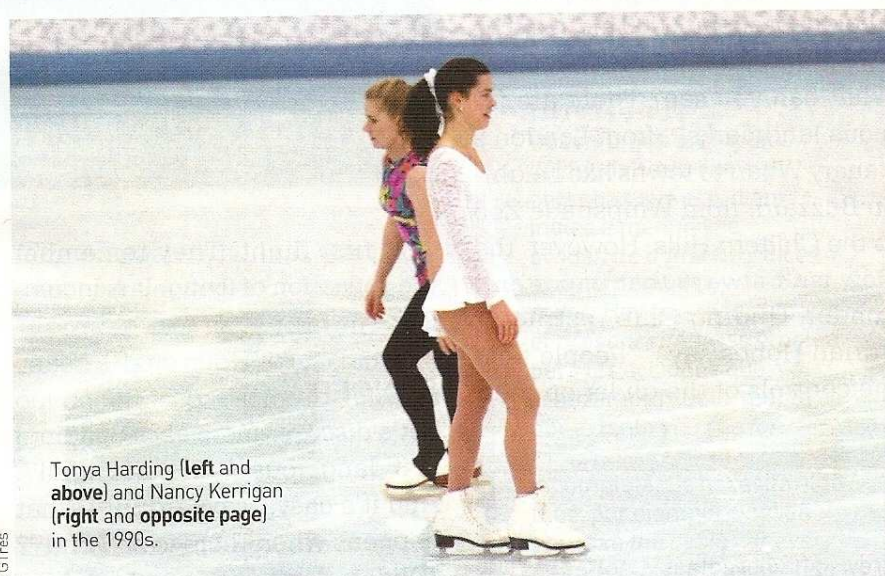
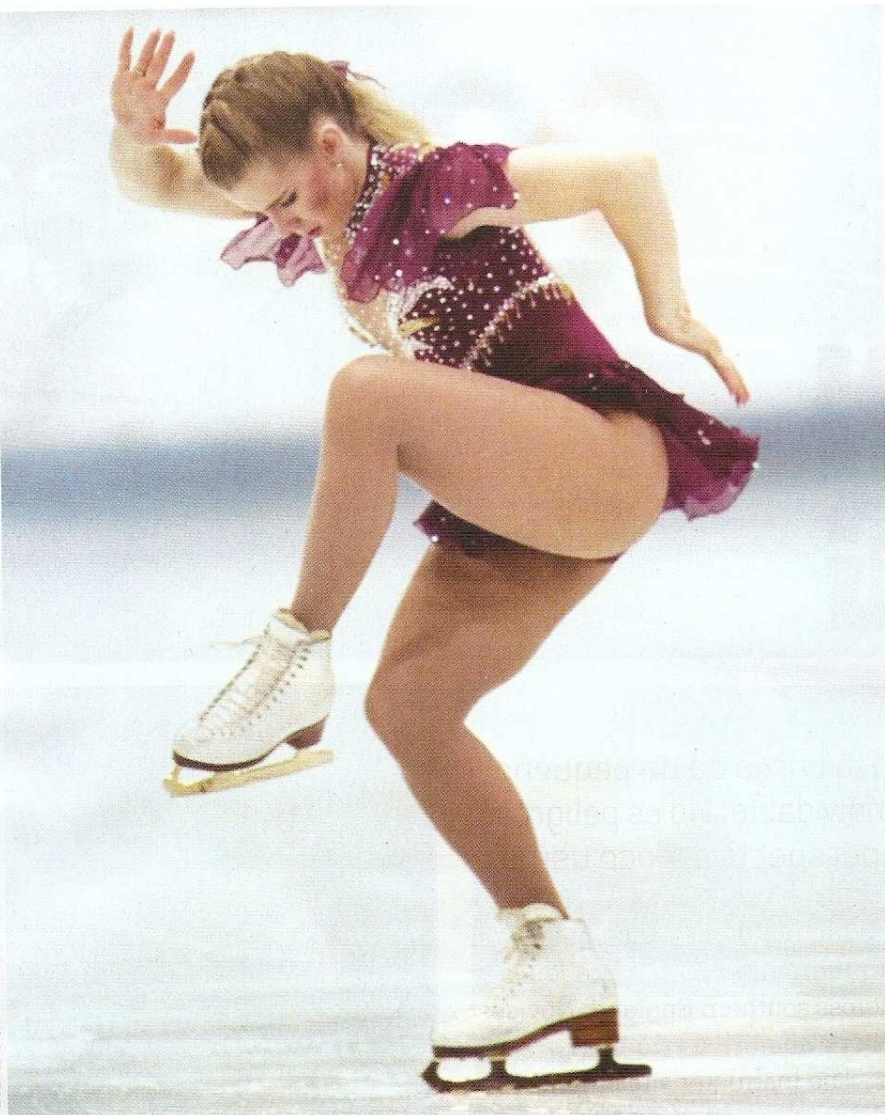
NANCY

The Detroit attack was not the only controversial episode in Kerrigan's career. When she was a child her father had three jobs. This was to pay for her skating lessons. In 2010 her father died. He was 70, but the reason for his death was bizarre: he had a violent fight with Nancy's brother Mark. The police arrested Mark and he went to prison.

Nancy's mother is legally blind¹¹ and Nancy has founded the Nancy Kerrigan Foundation: this is to help people like her mother. Today, Nancy is married with three children.



© Pascal Rondeau/ALLSPORT



Tonya Harding (left and above) and Nancy Kerrigan (right and opposite page) in the 1990s.

TONYA

Tonya Harding's life since 1994 has been disastrous. She has a drink problem and there have been many cases of domestic violence. She has also had a number of car crashes¹². In 2007 she called the police to her house when some armed men entered it. The police think she was

hallucinating¹³. Tonya Harding also had a brief career as a boxer: in 2002 she appeared in a Fox TV 'celebrity boxing' fight against Paula Jones. Paula Jones was famous because she was part of a Bill Clinton sex scandal. The Jones-Clinton scandal began in 1994. It was an interesting year in America!

EXERCISES

Listening Questions

- Choose the best ending for each sentence.
 - Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding
 - are figure skaters.
 - were figure skaters.
 - will be figure skaters.
 - The attack on Kerrigan took place
 - at the US Figure Skating Championships.
 - at the Winter Olympics.
 - in a famous ice show.
 - It seemed Tonya Harding planned to
 - skate for Norway.
 - attack Shane Stant.
 - ruin Kerrigan's career.
 - Harding's sentence was
 - three years probation and a large fine.
 - five hundred hours of community service.
 - both of the above.
- Put the following topics into the order in which they normally happen to a criminal.
 - go to jail
 - commit a crime
 - be given probation
 - be sentenced
 - go to trial
 - do community service
 - be arrested
 - be charged with a crime
- Indicate which word doesn't belong in the group.
 - rival, adversary, friend
 - OJ Simpson trial, Winter Olympics, Lillehammer
 - skater, police baton, ice rink
 - retired, press, news
 - scandal, sensational, boring
 - hit, attack, parody

Answers

- a) 2, b) 1, c) 3, d) 3
- b, g, h, a, e, d, c, f
- a) friend, b) OJ Simpson trial, c) police baton, d) retired, e) boring, f) parody

GLOSSARY

- TRAIL:** juicio
- ICE SKATER:** patinador sobre hielo
- BATON:** porra
- TO HIT:** golpear
- ABOVE THE KNEE:** por encima de la rodilla
- PROBATION:** libertad condicional
- COMMUNITY SERVICE:** trabajo para la comunidad
- FINE:** multa
- DEVIL:** la mala (lit. diablo)
- ICE SHOW:** espectáculo sobre hielo
- BLIND:** ciego
- CAR CRASH:** accidente de coche
- TO HALLUCINATE:** alucinar

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

LONDON GLIDING

UP IN THE AIR

Ver Gran Bretaña desde arriba, a bordo de un pequeño aeroplano, es una experiencia inolvidable. No es peligroso, la sensación es increíble y, la perspectiva, poco usual.

This month we see Britain from a unique perspective: the cockpit¹ of a glider². Imagine you are high above³ southern England. There is perfect silence. You can see for miles in every direction. London is behind you. In front, there are the green hills⁴ of the Dunstable Downs. Enjoy this wonderful experience with the London Gliding Club.

PANORAMA

The London Gliding Club is based near Dunstable, about 45km north of central London. The club's in-

troductory flights⁵ take people on an incredible 20-minute journey across southern England. Novices⁶ climb aboard⁷ a two-seater⁸ glider. The instructor sits behind. The glider is towed⁹ by an aeroplane to a height of about 2,000 metres. The cockpit gives a 360-degree view. What can you see? There are famous landmarks¹⁰, from London's Canary Wharf to towns like Leighton Buzzard, from Whipsnade Zoo to the Chiltern Hills. However, the view isn't always that important. London Gliding Club instructor Adrian Hobbs says, "People take the controls of the glider on their



very first flight. They remember the sensation of flying. It is incredible."

DANGER

Let's discover more about gliding. Is it dangerous¹¹? "No, not at all¹². And it's easy," says Adrian. What happens when there is no wind¹³? "Gliders don't need wind," Adrian explains, "It takes about 20 minutes for a glider to descend from 2,000 metres." So gliders can only descend? "No, they can also climb. Pilots look for a thermal¹⁴. That's warm¹⁵ air which rises¹⁶ naturally. The warm air carries the glider higher and higher in the sky. Experienced pilots can travel hundreds of miles across country. They glide

London Gliding Club

The London Gliding Club was founded in 1930. The first gliders were dangerous contraptions¹⁹, they often crashed²⁰! Airfield officers communicated with pilots by flag signals²¹. There were signals for 'too fast' and 'too slow.' Club

member Geoffrey Stephenson was the first pilot to cross the English Channel. He flew from Dunstable to France in 1939. During the war, the airfield was a prisoner of war camp. Today's gliders are very different. They are made of

fibreglass²², not wood. And they are much safer!

London Gliding Club

Tring Road,
Dunstable,
Bedfordshire
LU6 2JP
+44 (0) 1582 663419
www.londonglidingclub.co.uk



Gliding lessons make an unusual gift! Above: a student sits behind an instructor in a two-seater glider.



Speak Up EXPLAINS

You can see for miles –

Observemos el empleo del modal verb *can*. Las personas que estudian inglés a menudo se olvidan de utilizarlo y dicen simplemente *You see for miles*. Hay que recordar que el *present simple* se emplea para las acciones que realizamos regularmente, por lo tanto *you see for miles...* es una frase incompleta. Se necesita algo más, por ejemplo *...when you take the cable car every day*. En este caso, el sentido es que la altura del funicular permite ver algo que normalmente no se puede ver, por esta razón hay que utilizar *can*. Veamos también estas frases: *This is a bad line, I can't hear you* [No te oigo]. *Can you hear me?* [¿Me oyes?] *It's really dark in here. I can't see you* [No te veo].

from thermal to thermal." Do pilots ever make emergency landings¹⁷? "Frequently," says Adrian, "it's called a 'land out.' Pilots often land out on farms, but someone always comes and collects them."

PRIVILEGE

The London Gliding Club is an association of volunteer pilots. Its members maintain the airfield¹⁸, the gliders, and they also give lessons. Why do they do it? "It's a privilege," says Adrian. "For example, it's a privilege to fly over Mont Blanc at 5,000 metres. It's a privilege to accompany an 85-year-old lady on her birthday, and see her excitement as we fly over Whipsnade Zoo."

EXERCISES

Listening Questions

1. Choose the best option.

- The cockpit is located at the (front/back) of a plane or glider.
- A 'novice' is a (new/experienced) pilot.
- A two-seater glider can be flown (within/outside) the London area.
- People (are/aren't) allowed to fly a glider without a pilot's licence.
- Most people find the experience of gliding (scary/wonderful).
- A thermal refers to (warm/cold) air that rises.
- Sometimes gliders have to make emergency (landings/stops).
- The London Gliding Club is staffed by a group of (volunteer/commercial) pilots.

2. Match the following words to their synonyms or definitions

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| a) unique | 1. move smoothly and steadily |
| b) tow | 2. well-known place |
| c) landmark | 3. pick up |
| d) glide | 4. special |
| e) dangerous | 5. drag, or pull along |
| f) rise | 6. learn |
| g) collect | 7. risky |
| h) discover | 8. go up |

Answers

1. a) front, b) new, c) outside, d) aren't, e) wonderful, f) warm, g) landings, h) volunteer

2. a) 4, b) 5, c) 2, d) 1, e) 7, f) 8, g) 3, h) 6

MORE EXERCISES ON CD

GLOSSARY

- COCKPIT:** cabina de mando
- GLIDER:** planeador
- HIGH ABOVE:** muy por encima
- HILL:** colina
- FLIGHT:** vuelo
- NOVICE:** principiante
- TO CLIMB ABOARD:** subir a bordo
- TWO-SEATER:** biplaza
- TO TOW:** remolcar
- LANDMARK:** punto de referencia
- DANGEROUS:** peligroso
- NOT AT ALL:** en absoluto
- WIND:** viento
- THERMAL:** corriente térmica (movimiento de aire provocado por el calentamiento del suelo)
- WARM:** caliente
- TO RISE:** ascender
- LANDING:** aterrizaje
- AIRFIELD:** campo de aviación
- CONTRAPTION:** aparato
- TO CRASH:** estrellarse
- FLAG SIGNALS:** señales de bandera
- FIBREGLASS:** fibra de vidrio

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

CHAMPION PIGEONS

FAST AND FAITHFUL

Gracias a su capacidad de orientación, las palomas mensajeras han jugado un papel importante en la historia. Este mes hay una exhibición en Blackpool.

If you go to Blackpool's Winter Gardens on January 21st or 22nd, you will see hundreds of pigeons. They are very special pigeons: they are homing pigeons¹. And this is the Royal Pigeon Racing Association's BHW (British Homing World magazine) Show of the Year.

The event attracts over 25,000 people. Awards² are given to the best pigeons, and visitors can also discover everything about pigeon racing. They can meet 'pigeon fanciers'³, people who keep pigeons. And they can buy their own pi-

geons at auction⁴. A champion racing pigeon can cost €10,000!

HER MAJESTY

What is special about homing pigeons? They always fly home. You can transport them hundreds of miles, release them, and they will return home. People have used pigeons as messengers for centuries.

Pigeon racing is a traditional working-class sport in the north of England. It began during the 19th century. Gambling⁵ was very popular at that time. The postal service used pigeons to deliver messages.

A Proud History

Pigeons were the first domesticated birds. Experts say the Rock Dove¹⁴ was domesticated 10,000 years ago. It is the ancestor¹⁵ of all pigeons today. People have kept pigeons for thousands of years. The Romans kept pigeons for food. In medieval times only

nobles had permission to keep pigeons. They were an important source of meat during the winter. The Egyptians were probably the first to send messages by pigeon. They discovered that pigeons naturally return to their birth place. Aristotle



mentions homing pigeons in his writing. So pigeon post has a long history. Pigeon racing, however, started in the 19th century in Belgium.

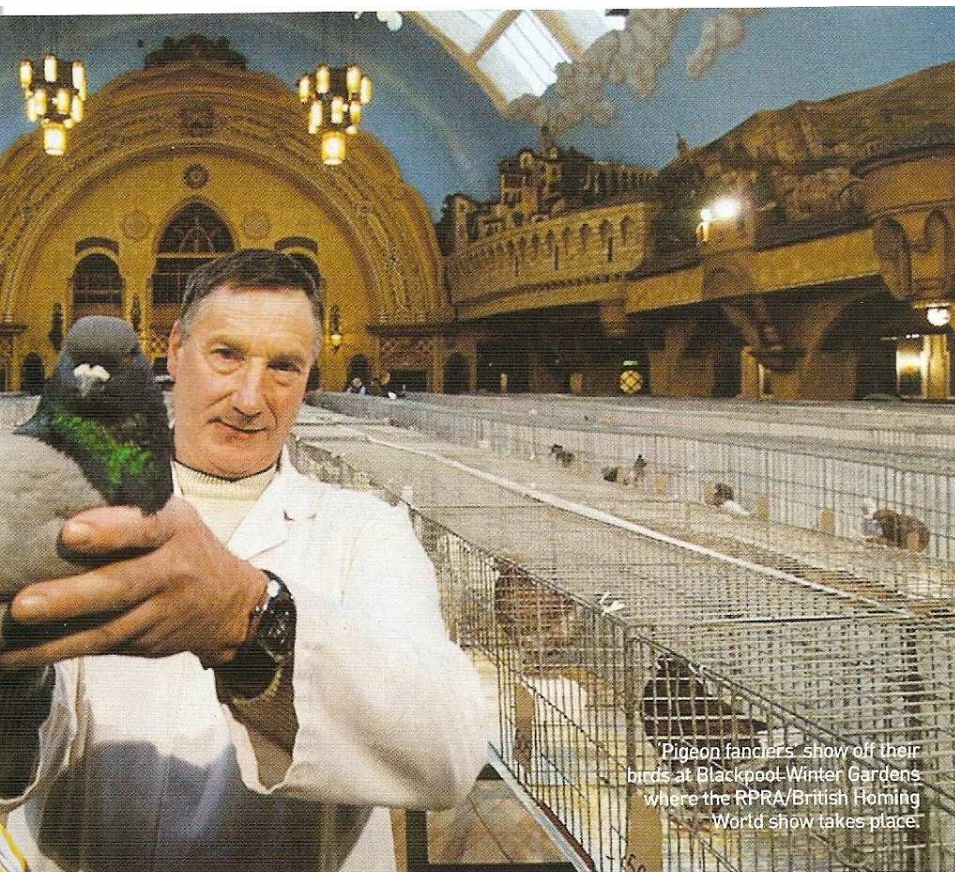
TEACHERS:
See Speak Up
in Class
exercises
on CD



So people gambled on the pigeons. Then people began to buy and race⁶ the pigeons. It was common for miners and shopkeepers⁷ to have a pigeon loft⁸ in their gardens. Soon pigeon racing became a recognised sport, with clubs all over Britain and the world. Famous pigeon fanciers include Pablo Picasso, Walt Disney and boxer Mike Tyson. Queen Elizabeth is an enthusiastic pigeon fancier. She has a pigeon loft at Sandringham in Norfolk.

WAR STORIES

Pigeons were very important during the Second World War. The military used pigeons to send messages. Resistance fighters in Europe communicated with England by pigeon, for example. RAF⁹ planes al-



Pigeon fanciers show off their birds at Blackpool Winter Gardens where the RPR/British Homing World show takes place.

What is a pigeon race?

The pigeons all have a special ring attached to their legs. In a race, the pigeons are released from a location about 160 to 800 kilometres from their home. The birds then fly back to the same spot. Their time of arrival is registered with a special clock. Of course, the distance varies. So the average speed of each pigeon is calculated. The fastest pigeon wins. How do pigeons navigate? Experts think they use the Earth's magnetic field and the sun. In fact, today's mobile phone signals can confuse them.

ways carried¹⁰ a pigeon. If the plane crashed, the pilot released the pigeon with the plane's location.

A HERO

One pigeon, White Vision, was a national hero in 1943. He received the Dickin Medal. This is the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. White Vision's plane crashed¹¹ in the Hebrides. The search for the plane failed because of terrible weather and fog¹². But White Vision flew 95 kilometres against 40 kilometre per hour winds. His message gave the location of the crash, and the crew¹³ were saved. Altogether 32 pigeons received medals for heroism.



GLOSSARY

- 1 HOMING PIGEON:** paloma mensajera
- 2 AWARD:** galardón
- 3 PIGEON FANCIER:** colomófilo
- 4 AUCTION:** subasta
- 5 TO GAMBLE:** jugar
- 6 TO RACE:** organizar carreras
- 7 SHOPKEEPER:** tendero, comerciante
- 8 PIGEON LOFT:** palomar
- 9 RAF (ROYAL AIR FORCE):** Fuerza Aérea Británica
- 10 TO CARRY:** transportar, llevar
- 11 TO CRASH:** estrellarse
- 12 FOG:** niebla
- 13 CREW:** tripulación
- 14 ROCK DOVE:** paloma bravía
- 15 ANCESTOR:** antepasado

Speak Up EXPLAINS

The Dickin Medal –

Muchas personas consideran la *Dickin Medal* como la Cruz Victoria de los animales puesto que se trata de una verdadera y auténtica medalla militar británica. Se le otorga

a los animales por acciones valientes en tiempo de guerra. Fue creada en 1943 por Maria Dickin, la fundadora de un ambulatorio para animales, y entre 1943 y 1949, fueron otorgadas 54 *Dickin Medals* a 32 pichones, 18 perros, 3 caballos y 1 gato. Es una medalla muy preciada: basta

decir que la medalla del gato Simón, la mascota de una nave durante el incidente del Yang-Tse en China (1949), fue vendida en 1993 por 23.000 libras esterlinas.



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

SAY IT IN WELSH

A LIVING LANGUAGE

Al igual que en España, en Gran Bretaña también se hablan diferentes lenguas. Una de las más utilizadas es el galés, idioma oficial del país de Gales, junto al inglés.

When you cross over the border¹ from England into Wales² you don't have to show your passport, but you do notice a difference immediately. All the road markings³ and signs⁴ are in two languages – English and Welsh. Not all visitors to Britain know that people speak other languages here. There's the Gaelic language in Scotland and a few people speak Cornish in the South West of England, but the most widely⁵ spoken language in the UK – apart from English – is Welsh.

A FAMOUS NAME

The first Welsh word you'll see on the road into Wales is ARAF. There's a helpful English translation next to it – SLOW.

As you can see, Welsh looks quite different to English. It sounds very different too. If you think English pronunciation is difficult, try this: *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch*.

That's the name of a small town in Wales and, in English, it means: "The church of Saint Mary in the hollow⁶ of the white hazel tree⁷ near the rapid whirlpool⁸ and the church of Saint Tysilio near a red cave."

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

Welsh looks and sounds so different from English because it's a Celtic language. Celtic cultures still exist around the borders of the UK – in Wales, Scotland and Ireland – and also in parts of France. For hundreds of years, almost everyone in Wales spoke Welsh, but nowadays⁹ there are about 500,000 Welsh speakers – about 20 per cent of the population.

© Crown copyright (2011) Visit Wales

Signs in Wales are in English and Welsh. Below left, the longest place name in Europe is a village on the Welsh island of Anglesey.

ALIVE AND WELL

So is Welsh dying out?¹⁰ Not at all. Nowadays all schoolchildren in Wales study Welsh and many choose to go to a Welsh-speaking school. You can get public information in Welsh, speak it in court¹¹, or study it at university. People surf the net¹² in Welsh, keep up¹³ with friends on Facebook and write blogs in Welsh.

And, by the way, 'Croeso i Gymru!' means 'Welcome to Wales!'

GLOSSARY

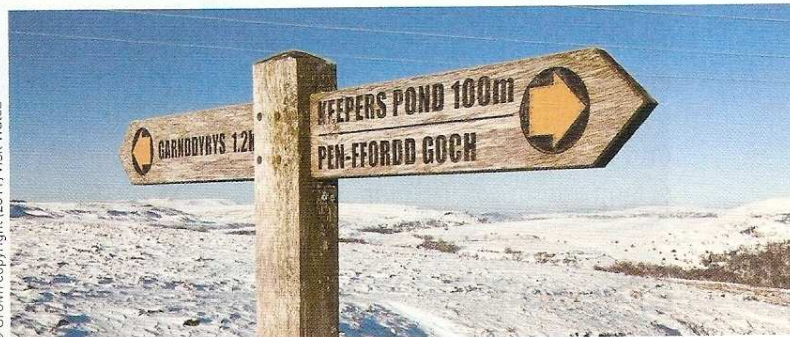
- 1 BORDER:** frontera
- 2 WALES:** Gales
- 3 ROAD MARKING:** señal de tráfico
- 4 SIGN:** letrero
- 5 WIDELY:** extendido
- 6 HOLLOW:** hondonada
- 7 HAZEL TREE:** avellano
- 8 WHIRLPOOL:** remolino
- 9 NOWADAYS:** hoy en día
- 10 TO DIE OUT:** desaparecer
- 11 COURT:** tribunal
- 12 TO SURF THE NET:** navegar por la red
- 13 TO KEEP UP:** mantener el contacto



© Crown copyright (2011) Visit Wales



© Crown copyright [2011] Visit Wales



Speak Up EXPLAINS

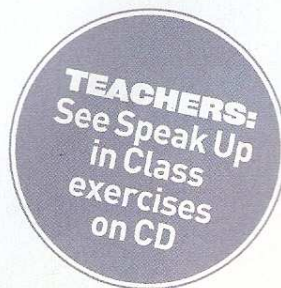
Celtic languages – Las lenguas celtas insulares son las que se hablan en los territorios de Gran Bretaña, Irlanda y otras islas. Se dividen en dos grandes ramas: las lenguas gaélicas y las lenguas britónicas. En el primer grupo se incluyen el gaélico de Escocia e Irlanda y el

manés de la isla de Man, mientras que entre las del grupo britónico figuran el córnico (hablado en algunas áreas de Cornualles), el cúbrico (ya extinto) y el galés. A diferencia de las otras lenguas celtas, el galés es una lengua viva que el 9 de febrero 2011 obtuvo *The Royal Approval* que legitima el galés como una de las lenguas oficiales de Gales. Una curiosidad: el galés se habla también

en una colonia galesa radicada en la Patagonia argentina, en la provincia de Chubut.

Emphatic form – Énfasis en las frases. Al leer el artículo no pasa desapercibido que en la frase afirmativa de la introducción se emplea el auxiliar *do*. Cuando queremos subrayar y enfatizar una determinada idea empleamos los auxiliares *do*, *does* y

did. Imaginemos por un momento que acabas de depositar dinero en el banco pero tu madre no te cree y dice: *Why didn't you deposit the money in the bank?* tu respuesta podría ser *I did do it!* Por lo general esta expresión se emplea en presente: *You're wrong, I do like Japanese food!*, pero también en pasado, como en el ejemplo de arriba *I did do it!* Se enfatiza el auxiliar *do* o *did* con un cierto tono de voz.

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **C1 ADVANCED**

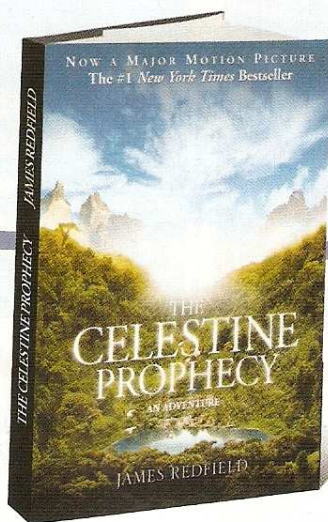
JAMES REDFIELD

THE TRUTH ABOUT 2012

¿Se acabará el mundo en diciembre de 2012, como indican algunas profecías? James Redfield, autor de *La novena revelación*, vaticina grandes desafíos y cambios profundos, pero en ningún caso el fin del planeta.

Many people believe that the world will end on December 21st, 2012. This is based on an interpretation of the Mayan calendar which, apparently, ends on that date. We at *Speak Up* do not believe that the world will end next year, nor does the best-selling author James Redfield.

Redfield is certainly knowledgeable¹ about Mayan culture. He became famous in the 1990s when he published the novel *The Celestine*.



The Plot

In James Redfield's first novel, *The Celestine Prophecy*, an anonymous narrator and his friend Wilson James go on an adventure that involves an ancient Peruvian manuscript. They travel to Peru and discover that the manuscript contains nine insights into mankind's¹⁸ spiritual condition. More insights are added in the book's sequels, which entail journeys to places like Tibet. In Redfield's latest book, *The Twelfth Insight: The Hour of Decision*, the narrator and his friend are given the fragments of another ancient manuscript. They head first to Arizona, where they meet members of the Hopi

Native American tribe, and later to the Middle East, where they encounter Muslims, Jews and Christians. The story also includes a group of terrorists with a nuclear bomb. In spite of this, Redfield's message is optimistic: he claims¹⁹ that the end of the Mayan Calendar (on December 21st, 2012) does not mean the end of the world, but the start of a new era of unity and peace.

tine Prophecy. Redfield, who was a therapist to abused adolescents in his native Alabama, self-published² the book, but it was later picked up³ by Warner Books and became an international sensation⁴.

INSIGHTS

The Celestine Prophecy is an adventure in which the narrator discovers a series of insights⁵ into human spirituality in an ancient Peruvian manuscript. Since then Redfield has published sequels⁶ such as *The Tenth Insight: Holding the Vision* and *The Secret of the Shambhala: In Search of the Eleventh Insight*. The latest, *The Twelfth Insight: the Hour of Decision*, came out this year.

Redfield has been called 'the father of the New Age movement,' but this is a term he dislikes, as he does not consider himself part of the 'New Age.' When he met with *Speak Up* we asked him about the idea that the world could end next year:

James Redfield (Southern American accent): Well, that was all silly. There was no scholarly evidence⁷ that the calendar ever mentioned Doomsday⁸ and there still isn't.

There were some Mayan prophets of that time who said, "As this calendar ends, I think there's going to be a lot of challenging⁹ events," and that prophet might be correct, but the calendar does not predict the end of anything: it predicts the beginning of something, a new wave¹⁰ of consciousness, I would call that spiritual consciousness, on the planet, among human beings.



THE ARAB REVOLT

Redfield says that his ideas about the Mayan Calendar have been influenced by those of a Swedish expert, Carl Calleman:

James Redfield: There was a galactic period of evolution that's ending – he would argue¹¹ has already ended, as of March 6th, I believe, of this year, at which point a new phase began, which can roughly¹² be called 'unity consciousness,' and what this really entails¹³ is a kind of indwelling of consciousness within all humans¹⁴ that results

in certain urges¹⁵ such as you see in Arabia since March, of democratic movements and transparency movements, all those things. So that happened exactly on time, according to the Mayan calendar, and now this ... this consciousness, this indwelling of consciousness, is continuing to phase in¹⁶, which I write about every month on my website, and phases which, synchronistically, correspond to the integrations that I talked about in *The Twelfth Insight*, of how we're tuning into¹⁷ a greater spiritual consciousness. But it's fascinating to

GLOSSARY

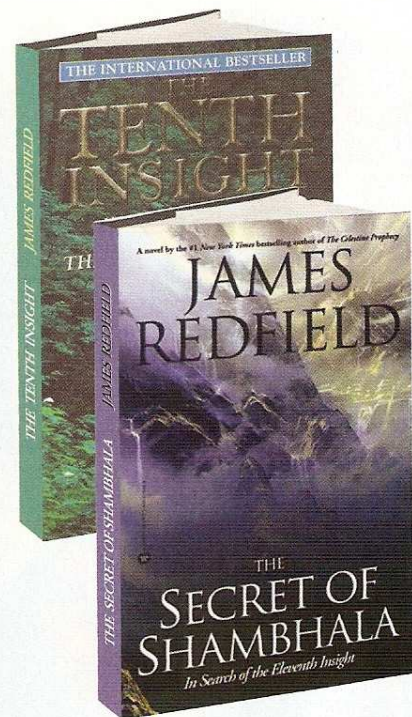
- 1 KNOWLEDGEABLE:** experto
- 2 TO SELF-PUBLISH:** autopublicar
- 3 TO PICK UP:** descubrir (lit. coger)
- 4 SENSATION:** éxito
- 5 INSIGHT:** visión profunda
- 6 SEQUEL:** continuación
- 7 SCHOLARLY EVIDENCE:** prueba contrastada, documentada
- 8 DOOMSDAY:** día del Juicio Final
- 9 CHALLENGING:** desafiante, retador
- 10 NEW WAVE:** nueva ola, nuevo movimiento
- 11 TO ARGUE:** sostener
- 12 ROUGHLY:** aproximadamente
- 13 TO ENTAIL:** suponer, implicar
- 14 INDWELLING OF CONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN ALL HUMANS:** toma de conciencia colectiva del género humano
- 15 URGE:** impulso
- 16 TO PHASE IN:** introducir paulatinamente
- 17 TO TUNE INTO:** sintonizar
- 18 MANKIND:** humanidad, género humano
- 19 TO CLAIM:** afirmar

be alive right now, I mean I can barely keep my feet on the ground²⁰ because of how exciting it is, just the very fact that all this is going on in our time and it's frustrating to see so many people paralysed in fear because of the challenges in the economies and all that kind of thing, but this amazing²¹ spiritual creative event is occurring at the same time.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL ...

So what will happen next year?

James Redfield: On December 21st? Nothing, absolutely nothing, that has not been happening since March. There were differences of opinion in the Mayan culture, and some emphasised this December 21st event, but it was really made up of²² philosophers, and people interested in indigenous cultures, and they invented up (sic) this mythical alignment²³ on December 21st, with the ... the mythical sinner²⁴ of the galaxy: all that's made up²⁵. None of that's true. The History Channel, you know, talks about it all the time, but only because certain people that they're interviewing, that they



think are experts, but if you go to the best scientific scholarship, I mean, call up a good astronomer and ask him if there's going to be any kind of alignment with the centre of the galaxy, and they'll say, "No, not on that date, but it happens very frequently." So this is all made up, you know, because it gets the New Agers charged up²⁶, but it really misses the true point²⁷ of what the Mayan calendar predicts and that is a surge²⁸ in consciousness that's available²⁹.

Speak Up EXPLAINS

So that happened exactly on time –

On time, in time. Estas dos expresiones parecen iguales pero ¡cuidado! tienen dos significados distintos. *On time* significa con puntualidad: esto ha sucedido exactamente cuando tenía que suceder, cuando estaba establecido, puntualmente. *In time*, a tiempo: *I arrived in time to see*

the lunar eclipse: llegué con suficiente tiempo, para ver el eclipse de luna.

Call up a good astronomer and ask him if there's going to be any kind of alignment with the centre of the galaxy, and they'll say no –

El futuro: *Be going to y will.* En inglés no existe un verdadero tiempo futuro sino que se emplean distintas construcciones para transmitir este concepto.

Entre las formas más comunes nos encontramos con *be going to*, para hablar de las intenciones futuras programadas o predicciones basadas en algún dato, y *will* para las decisiones tomadas en el momento o previsiones sin datos. En la lengua hablada en vez de decir *there's going to be an alignment* algunos dicen *there's gonna be*. Hay que recordar que *gonna* se dice ¡pero no se escribe!. Cuidado con esas cosas.

EXERCISES

Listening Questions

1. Choose the best option.

- James Redfield seems (excited/dismayed) at how we are presently evolving.
- There is a (real/mythical) alignment of the planets on December 21st, 2012.
- The view that the world will end on that date is based on the (Catholic/Mayan) calendar.
- James Redfield (does/doesn't) consider himself to be 'New Age'.
- He says 'unity consciousness' is (linked to/caused by) the Arab Spring.
- Redfield believes that (nothing much/something big) will happen on December 21st, 2012.

2. Match the word to its synonym or definition.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| a) revolt | 1. follow-up |
| b) insight | 2. excited, enthusiastic |
| c) silly | 3. burst of energy |
| d) charged up | 4. uprising |
| e) sequel | 5. difficult, demanding |
| f) surge | 6. perception, awareness |
| g) prophecy | 7. foolish |
| h) challenging | 8. prediction |

3. Put the following topics into the order in which they appear in the report.

- The History Channel
- A new wave of consciousness
- The Celestine Prophecy*
- The Mayan Calendar
- The Tenth Insight*
- The Arab Revolt
- The Father of the New Age movement

Answers

- a) excited, b) mythical, c) Mayan, d) doesn't, e) linked to, f) nothing much
- a) 4, b) 6, c) 7, d) 2, e) 1, f) 3, g) 8, h) 5
- d, c, e, g, b, f, a

GLOSSARY

20 I CAN BARELY ... GROUND: apenas logro mantener los pies en el suelo

21 AMAZING: extraordinario

22 IT WAS MADE UP OF: se trataba de

23 ALIGNMENT: alineación

24 SINNER: pecador

25 ALL THAT'S MADE UP:

todo eso se ha inventado

26 IT GETS ... CHARGED UP: altera a los seguidores de la New Age

27 TO MISS THE POINT:

no entender de qué se trata

28 SURGE: aumento, subida

29 AVAILABLE: disponible



Future Transport

IT SOUNDS like¹ science fiction but before long Britain will have its first flying cars. American company Terrafugia have launched² a new model of the car-plane which drives on the road with wings folded³ before opening them to take off⁴ as a light aircraft, offering the opportunity to jump over⁵ traffic jams⁶. The Terrafugia Transition has a top speed of 185 kmph in the air and can be parked in the garage at home. The vehicle costs \$280,000 (€208,000) and first deliveries⁷ are due to be made this year. Buy yours on: www.terrafugia.com



'Trusty' Gene Found

RESEARCHERS⁸ at the University of Toronto, Canada, have discovered a gene that makes a person seem kind and trustworthy⁹, without them actually saying anything out loud¹⁰, *New Scientist* reports. An experiment was conducted in which volunteers were asked to watch silent videos of intimate conversations and judge the honesty of the speaker.

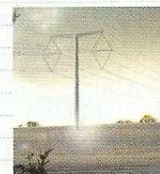
Notes



Dolphin Speak

The Wild Dolphin Project based in Florida, USA, is using special

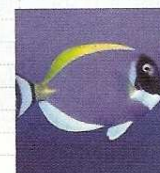
underwater computers to prove communication between dolphins and humans exists. Dolphins are thought to be very sophisticated, which is why many other people question the animal's desire to communicate with us.



Pretty Pylons

Electricity pylons¹¹, disliked by many wildlife¹² lovers, have

existed for more than 75 years. In that time their design has hardly changed. However, in Britain an official competition was launched to find Britain's next generation of pylons. A T-shaped¹³ design won first prize.



Fin Massage

We humans love a back massage to relax us. But now it has been

discovered that a type of fish, the 'surgeonfish', enjoys one too! The masseuse is another fish, the small 'cleaner wrasse', that removes parasites, dead skin¹⁴ and, researchers say, relaxes the surgeonfish by rubbing¹⁵ its fins¹⁶.

GLOSSARY

1 IT SOUNDS LIKE: suena como
2 TO LAUNCH: lanzar (al mercado)
3 TO FOLD: doblar
4 TO TAKE OFF: despegar
5 TO JUMP OVER: saltar por encima
6 TRAFFIC JAM: atasco
7 DELIVERY: entrega
8 RESEARCHER: investigador

9 TRUSTWORTHY: de fiar
10 OUT LOUD: en voz alta
11 PYLON: torre de alta tensión
12 WILDLIFE: fauna
13 T-SHAPED: en forma de T
14 DEAD SKIN: piel muerta
15 TO RUB: frotar
16 FIN: aleta

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **B1 INTERMEDIATE**

EWAN MCGREGOR

A SCOT IN HOLLYWOOD

Ewan McGregor cuenta con una fructífera carrera. Tras saltar a la fama con *Star Wars*, ha intervenido en películas de acción, suspense, románticas e incluso musicales. Sus dotes como cantante no son desdeñables.

Action films, musicals, Shakespeare plays, off-beat¹ thrillers, Ewan McGregor has played many roles in his extraordinary career. The 40-year-old actor, made internationally famous by his role as a young Obi-Wan Kenobi in three *Star Wars* films, was brought up² in a small town near Perth in Scotland and now resides with his wife and four daughters near Hollywood.

SPOTTED

The son of teachers, McGregor is the nephew of Denis Lawson,

the acclaimed Scottish actor who played a role in the original *Star Wars* trilogy. The young McGregor had clearly taken some tips³ from his uncle and while still studying drama in London was cast in Denis Potter's TV miniseries *Lipstick⁴ on Your Collar* (1993). It was to be McGregor's first big role in a musical, and certainly not his last!

The following year, Ewan played a very different part in the black comedy thriller *Shallow Grave*. It was the directorial debut of Danny Boyle (of *Slumdog Millionaire* fame) and its critical success, and

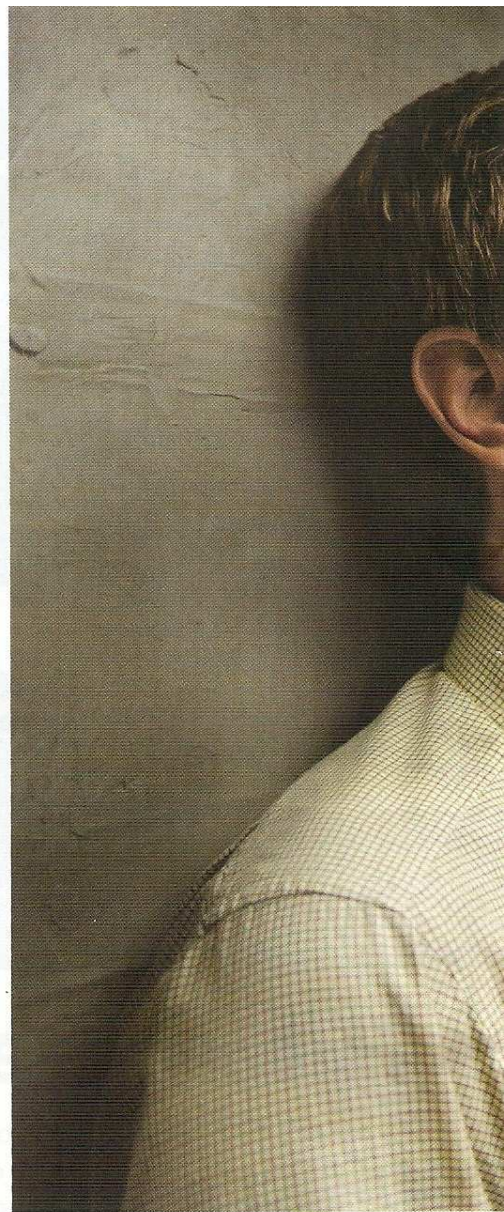
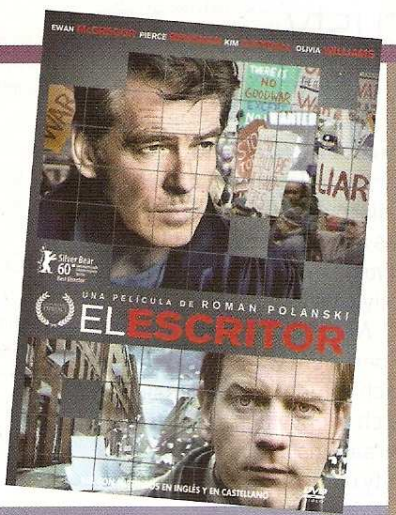
the Empire Award⁵ that McGregor won for his role, led to⁶ a further collaboration between the two in the brilliant if disturbing⁷ *Trainspotting* (1996).

A STAR IN STAR WARS

McGregor's early run of success, compounded⁸ by his romantic role in the British movie *Little Voice* (1998), led to another quite distinct part. In 1991 he was cast by George Lucas in the prequel to the incredibly successful *Star Wars* trilogy that was originally made between 1977 and 1983. *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* was followed by *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones* (2002), yet both highly-anticipated movies, with vastly inflated⁹ budgets¹⁰ on the original trilogy, received mixed reviews¹¹. Happily, *Episode III – Re-*

Dangerous Words

Roman Polanski is the controversial director behind the critically acclaimed suspense film *The Ghost Writer* (2010), based on the book by bestselling British author Robert Harris. Ewan McGregor plays the ghostwriter¹⁷ hired¹⁸ to complete the memoirs of a former British Prime Minister, played by the Irish actor Pierce Brosnan. In doing so he uncovers¹⁹ secrets that put his own life at risk. The film also stars Olivia Williams and James Belushi.





Clockwise from main photo:
Ewan McGregor in *The Ghost Writer* (2010), *I Love You Philip Morris* (2009), *Miss Potter* (2006) and *Cassandra's Dream* (2007).



venge of the Sith (2005), in which McGregor reprised¹² the same role, was a massive hit.

MAD FOR MUSICALS!

Rather than putting all his eggs in one basket¹³, Ewan McGregor played other roles between the *Star Wars* films. In 2001, he starred as a young Bohemian poet in Baz Luhrmann's extravagant *Moulin Rouge!* opposite Nicole Kidman. The film won two Oscars and both actors received praise¹⁴ for their acting and singing.

McGregor, whose singing ability is certainly not professional, has nevertheless been asked to sing in a number of movies since. They include *A Life Less Ordinary* (1997) a less-successful Danny Boyle film, and Todd Haynes' box-office flop¹⁵ *Velvet Goldmine* (1998), a movie

in which the soundtrack is arguably much better than the script. Fortunately, McGregor found more success in stage musicals, playing the leading role in *Guys and Dolls* at the Picadilly Theatre in London from 2005-2007.

SMART MOVES

Unafraid to take risks, McGregor's career has been marked by as many surprise hit films as 'misses'! *Big Fish* (2003), *Young Adam* (2003) and *I Love You Philip Morris* (2009) have been hits, while *Amelia* and *Angels & Demons* (both 2009) got poor reviews. Other films, such as Woody Allen's *Cassandra's Dream* (2007), have polarised critics! One thing is for sure, with so many

strings to his bow¹⁶, McGregor has made himself one of the most employable actors in the world.

GLOSSARY

- 1 OFFBEAT: original
- 2 TO BRING UP: criar
- 3 TIP: consejo
- 4 LIPSTICK: lápiz de labios
- 5 AWARD: galardón
- 6 TO LEAD TO: llevar a
- 7 DISTURBING: inquietante
- 8 TO COMPOUND: aumentar
- 9 TO INFLATE: hinchar
- 10 BUDGET: presupuesto
- 11 RECEIVED MIXED REVIEWS: recibió críticas de todo tipo
- 12 TO REPRISÉ: repetir
- 13 TO PUT ... BASKET: jugárselo todo a una carta
- 14 PRAISE: elogios
- 15 FLOP: fracaso
- 16 WITH... BOW: con tantos recursos
- 17 GHOSTWRITER: [escritor] negro
- 18 TO HIRE: contratar
- 19 TO UNCOVER: destapar

BRITAIN
BY LINDA LIGIOS



The Hard Rock Café was founded in London at 150 Old Park Lane in 1971 (opposite page, top). Now it is a big brash global enterprise.

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **B1 INTERMEDIATE**

A GLOBAL ICON

THE HARD ROCK CAFE

Cuando hace 40 años en Londres se abrió el primer Hard Rock Cafe, fue toda una revolución. Paul McCartney y Eric Clapton eran asiduos clientes. Hoy este emblemático lugar tiene alrededor de 150 locales en más de 50 países y continúa expandiéndose por el mundo.



When the first Hard Rock Cafe opened in London on June 14th, 1971 it was an instant¹ hit² with customers. This was thanks to its eclectic American décor, friendly service and loud³ music. 40 years on, it is a global icon with 150 venues⁴ in over 50 countries.

THE YOUNG AMERICANS

Founded by Isaac Tigrett and Peter Morton, two enterprising⁵ young

Americans, the Hard Rock Cafe soon became the trendiest⁶ venue in the British capital. It was a regular stop for rock stars like Paul McCartney and Eric Clapton. In 1979 Clapton donated his Red Lead II Fender guitar to the cafe. He asked the staff to hang⁷ it on the wall, above his favourite bar stool⁸. In this way people could see that this was his 'spot'⁹. This prompted¹⁰ Pete Townshend of The Who to donate one of his guitars. He left a note: "Mine's as good as his! Love, Pete."

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

This marked the start of an extensive collection of music memorabilia which now contains more

GLOSSARY

- 1 INSTANT:** inmediato
- 2 HIT:** éxito
- 3 LOUD:** fuerte
- 4 VENUE:** local
- 5 ENTERPRISING:** emprendedor
- 6 TRENDY:** de moda
- 7 TO HANG:** colgar
- 8 STOOL:** taburete
- 9 SPOT:** sitio, rincón
- 10 TO PROMPT:** incitar



HRC is famous for its collection of rock memorabilia, including Eric Clapton's guitar (right).



than 73,000 items¹¹. They include rare photographs, instruments, clothing and costumes¹², platinum and gold LPs, posters of Jim Morrison, Freddie Mercury, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Prince, and Elton John.

The Beatles split up¹³ in 1970 (the year before the Hard Rock opened), but there was always a strong connection. In 1989 Isaac Tigrett married Maureen Cox, the former wife of Ringo Starr. The Hard Rock Cafe (HRC) collection includes the harpsichord¹⁴ used on songs like *All You Need Is*

Love and Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, but Tigrett would often introduce his wife (who died in 1994) as "my most authentic piece of rock'n'roll memorabilia!"

The Hard Rock also owns the first ever guitar owned by Sex Pistol Glen Matlock and Madonna's bustier¹⁵ from her 1990 *Blonde Ambition* Tour. These and other rare pieces are displayed in 'The Vault'¹⁶ in the old Coutts Bank. This is now home to the Hard Rock Café London Rock Shop, which sells merchandise that enjoys cult status.

The success of the first Hard Rock Cafe inspired Tigrett and Morton to expand in both Europe and the United States. In 1992 Tigrett founded another franchise, the House of Blues (with 'Blues Brother' Dan Aykroyd).

LET'S PARTY

The Hard Rock chain was sold to the Rank Group and today it is owned by the Seminole Native American tribe of Florida. The most recent cafe was opened in Florence in June this year.

The HRC celebrated its 40th birthday last year in style. London's Hyde Park provided the setting for Hard Rock Calling, a three-day outdoor music event in June with Bon Jovi, Rod Stewart and Stevie Nicks. For more information: www.hardrock.com

The Hard Rock Cafes in Spain

The phenomenally successful chain of restaurants extends its reach to Spain, where franchises exist in central locations in Madrid (since 1994), Barcelona (since 1997), Mallorca (since 2008) and Marbella (since 2009). The franchises do not only serve food, they also stage concerts and even screen football matches, such as the popular clash of the two great rivals FC Barcelona and Real Madrid! Reviews are generally positive of the venues, where a



meal is averagely priced at €30. There is a downside¹⁷ to success, however: the places are often packed, with long queues and slow service.

GLOSSARY

- 11 ITEM:** objeto
- 12 CLOTHING AND COSTUME:** vestidos y trajes
- 13 TO SPLIT UP:** separarse
- 14 HARPSICHOORD:** clavicordio
- 15 BUSTIER:** corpiño interior o sostén que cubre el busto y el torso femenino hasta la cintura
- 16 VAULT:** sótano
- 17 DOWNSIDE:** lado negativo



Clockwise from this photo: Rita Gilligan with Bruce Springsteen, Ron Wood and Paul McCartney.



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **C1 ADVANCED**

A Celebrity Waitress

The Hard Rock Cafe, the world-famous chain of informal restaurants that specialise in rock memorabilia and tasty¹ hamburgers, was 40 years old last year.

The original Hard Rock Cafe was opened in London by two Americans, Peter Morton and Isaac Tigrett. Today there are over 150 Hard Rock Cafes in 52 countries and new ones are still opening. One person who has witnessed² the Hard Rock's evolution is the Irish waitress³ Rita Gilligan. She was one of the first waitresses to be hired⁴ at the cafe in London and she still works there today. Now aged 70, she is something of an institution and she travels the world as the company's 'Goodwill'⁵ Ambassador'. We asked her about the early days:

Rita Gilligan: I think most of the women were in – the waitresses – were in Pandora's Box because every day was different. It wasn't

like a regular job with regular customers that you didn't know, you'd go in and ... it was just fascinating to see the people! The Beatles would come in, The Stones, Eric Clapton, Freddie Mercury, they were just all coming in, and it wasn't so much them, what really attracted me was the way they were dressed: long hair, velvet⁶ jackets, flowers round their neck, chains round their necks, 'cause my husband was a three-piece suit⁷, short back and sides⁸, and these guys, I was thinking, "Oh, my God! Look at these guys!" Big leopard skin shoes⁹, the big platforms, you know, and it was just so much fun. And then the next week, I mean, "I wonder what will happen today? I wonder what it will be like, who will come in today, what will it be like?" And every day was fun, fun, fun, it was funky¹⁰, it was hard work, because you have to remember, going back 40 years ago, people didn't eat burgers, people had four cloths¹¹

on the table, they had seven or eight knives, seven or eight forks, and all of a sudden¹² the culture shock in the Hard Rock was a complete shock to everybody. They didn't want to drink out of the neck of the bottle¹³, they didn't want to pick up the burger¹⁴, we had to teach them.

GLOSSARY

- 1 TASTY:** sabroso
- 2 TO WITNESS:** ser testigo de
- 3 WAITRESS:** camarera
- 4 TO HIRE:** contratar
- 5 GOODWILL:** buena voluntad
- 6 VELVET:** terciopelo
- 7 THREE-PIECE SUIT:** traje de tres piezas
- 8 SHORT BACK AND SIDES:** patillas y nuca cortas (corte de cabello)
- 9 LEOPARD SKIN SHOES:** zapatos de piel de leopardo
- 10 FUNKY:** divertido
- 11 CLOTH:** mantel
- 12 ALL OF A SUDDEN:** de repente
- 13 TO DRINK OUT OF THE NECK OF THE BOTTLE:** beber a morro
- 14 TO PICK UP THE BURGER:** coger la hamburguesa con la mano

TRAVEL

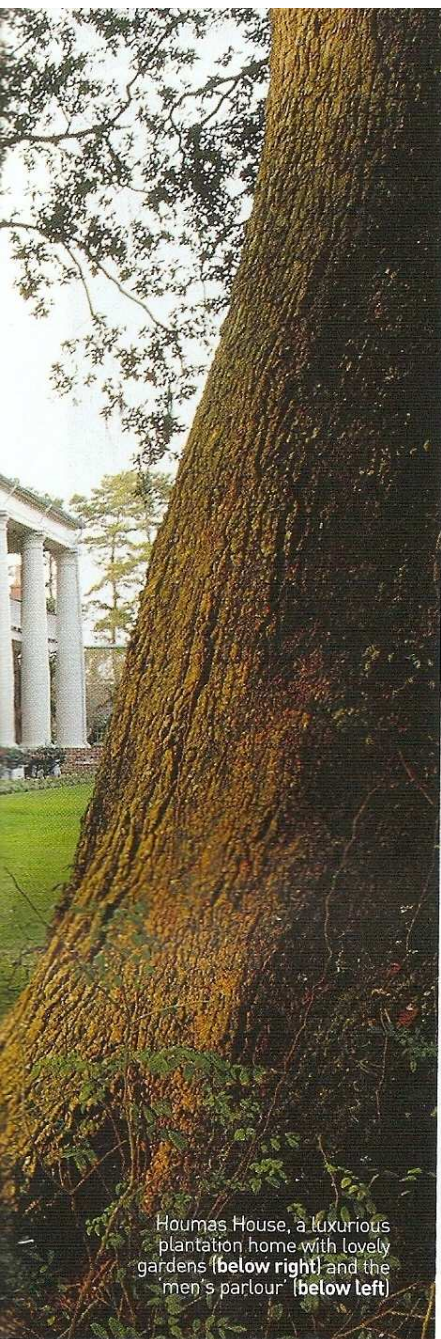
BY JULIAN BARTWELL
SPEAK UP EXPLAINS RACHEL ROBERTS

LANGUAGE LEVEL B1 INTERMEDIATE

LOUISIANA ON THE RIVER ROAD

Un viaje a Luisiana no puede dejar de incluir las antiguas plantaciones de azúcar. Sus granjas, auténticas mansiones, son un vestigio del esplendor y riqueza que tuvo esta zona del Misisipi en el pasado.





Houmas House, a luxurious plantation home with lovely gardens (below right) and the men's parlour (below left)

© Kevin Kelly, Houmas House



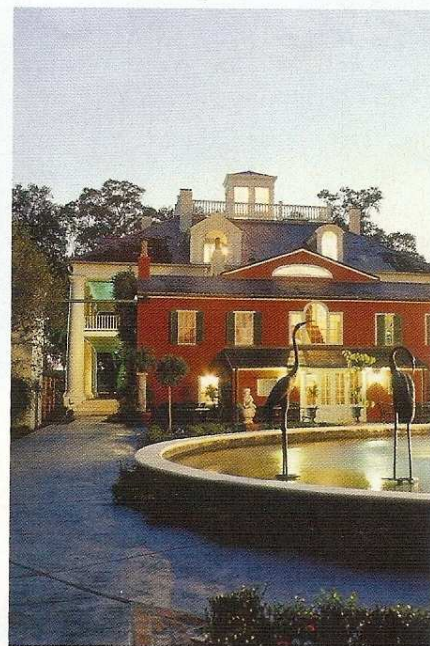
© Kevin Kelly, Houmas House

In the Deep South of America, a quiet road follows the curves of the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. For 112 kilometres, Louisiana's "River Road" passes green fields, farms¹, small settlements² and factories³. It's hard to believe that this was once one of the richest parts of the US. Halfway along the road, however, the grandeur of Houmas House comes into view. This is one of only a handful⁴ of historic plantation houses surviving from America's great sugar-growing era.

SUGAR

"Between New Orleans and Baton Rouge at one time there were close to 200 plantation houses," says Kevin Kelly, who bought Houmas House back in spring 2003. "And not only houses: each plantation had several hundred or thousand acres of land." The plantations grew one of the world's most precious products: sugar.

Houmas House is named after the tribe of Native Americans who originally lived close to the river bank alongside herds⁵ of bison⁶. Next came French settlers, who built a



© Kevin Kelly, Houmas House

house behind today's mansion. Successive owners of Houmas House increased the land holdings⁷ of the plantation until it was the largest sugar producer in the country, supplying an incredible nine million kilos of sugar each year.

GOLD

As the wealth of the sugar barons increased, so did the size and splendour of their houses. Houmas House, like many, combined family home with business office. It was also the site for large parties.

The food served today at Houmas House reflects Louisiana's Creole culture: the French and Spanish influences which are so prominent in nearby New Orleans. It is a reminder of the region's forgotten history, says Kelly. "One of the biggest lessons I have learned is how important this area was to the country. Not only the wealth but the culture here," he explains.

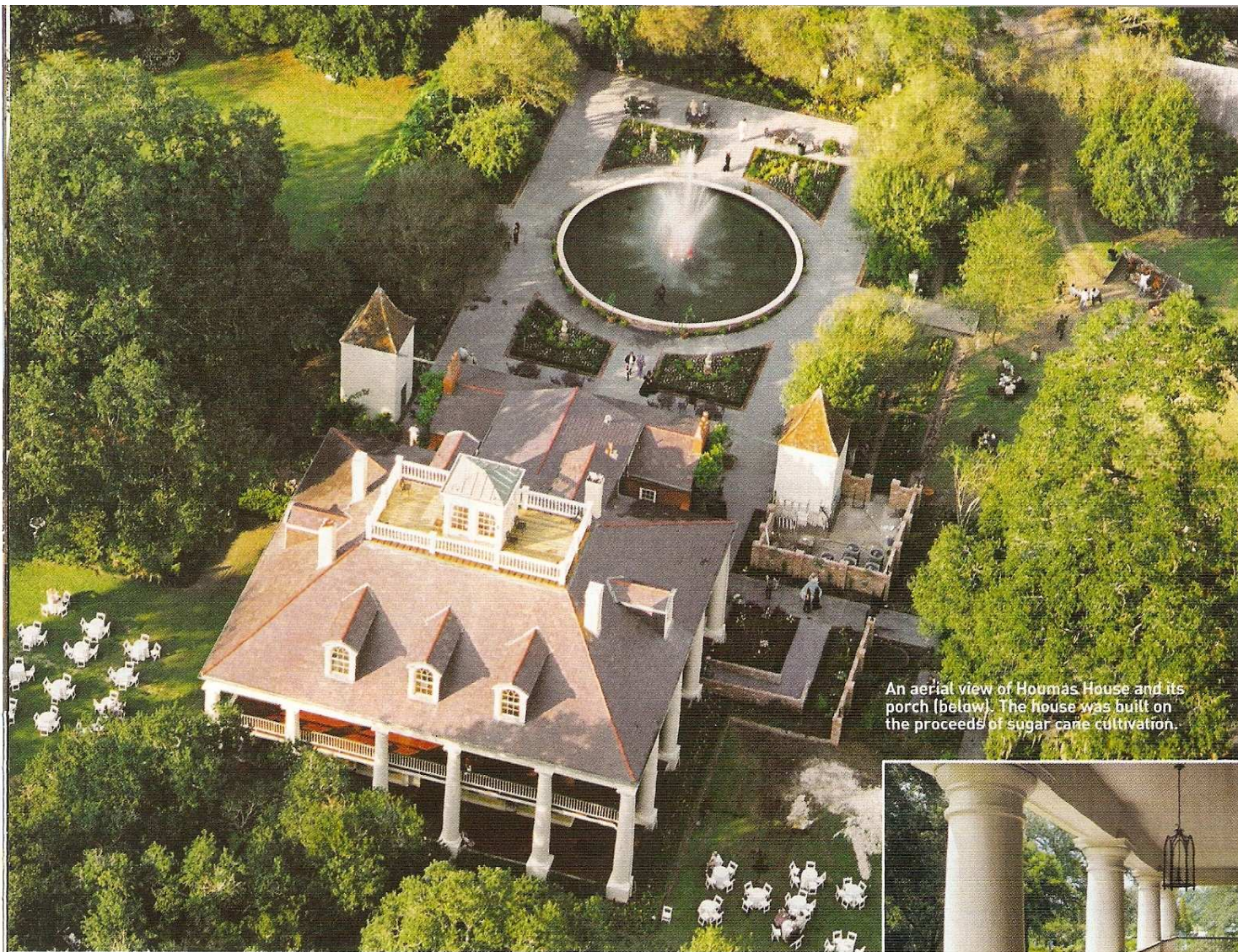
If you go ...

Houmas House Plantation and Gardens is located between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, just 6 kilometres from Interstate-10 on Louisiana's historic River Road. A tour of the mansion and gardens costs \$20, gardens and grounds only costs \$10; www.houmashouse.com



GLOSSARY

- 1 FARM:** granja
- 2 SETTLEMENT:** población
- 3 FACTORY:** fábrica
- 4 HANDFUL:** puñado
- 5 HERD:** manada
- 6 BISON:** bisonte
- 7 LAND HOLDING:** propiedad de tierras



An aerial view of Houmas House and its porch (below). The house was built on the proceeds of sugar cane cultivation.

© Kevin Kelly, Houmas House



© Julian Earwaker

Speak Up EXPLAINS

One of the biggest lessons I have learned is how important this area was to the country –

El pasado y el participio pasado de *learn* ¿son *learned* o *learnt*? ¿Es un verbo regular o irregular? El verbo aprender, como muchos otros verbos -entre los cuales podemos citar *burn* (quemar), *dream* (soñar), *spoil* (arruinar)-, es tanto regular como irregular. Depende del lugar donde estemos. En lo que llamamos *American English* estos verbos tienden a utilizarse en la forma regular con -ed final, mientras que en el *British English* se emplea la forma irregular *learnt*.

Houmas House also has a café named after one of its more colourful⁸ owners: John Burnside. Burnside was an Irishman who began life as a barman and died as one of the richest men in America. An astute businessman, he lived in grand style and enjoyed⁹ entertaining¹⁰. "Once he took spider webs¹¹ and threw 24-carat gold dust¹² on them," says Kelly. "And he told his guests that he was so wealthy that his spiders spun¹³ gold webs as opposed to common silk webs¹⁴!"

THE END OF AN ERA

The Mississippi River is close by, hidden behind the green grass of the levee¹⁵. It was the river that gave the region its wealth by providing fertile soil for growing sugar cane. And it was the river that took the wealth away when, in 1927, terrible floods¹⁶ destroyed the plantations along the River Road. Two years later the Great

Depression brought an end to the era of the Sugar Barons and Houmas House fell into disrepair. Fortunately, Houmas House was rescued¹⁷ in 1940 and restored, work that Kelly has continued over the past decade. What does he want his visitors to experience? "I want them to forget that there's a world outside," he says. At the 'Sugar Palace' of Houmas House, that's easy to do.

GLOSSARY

- 8 COLOURFUL:** pintoresco
- 9 TO ENJOY:** disfrutar
- 10 TO ENTERTAIN:** recibir o invitar [a los amigos]
- 11 SPIDER WEB:** tela de araña
- 12 GOLD DUST:** polvo de oro
- 13 TO SPIN:** hilar
- 14 SILK WEB:** telaraña de seda
- 15 LEVEE:** dique
- 16 FLOOD:** inundación
- 17 TO RESCUE:** salvar, recuperar



© Julian Eanwaker

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **B2 UPPER INTERMEDIATE**

North and South

Life in the Deep South of the United States may have changed in modern times, but you can still get an idea of what it was like if you visit its old plantation houses. Houmas House, between Baton Rouge and New Orleans in Louisiana, is a fine example. It is owned and operated by a businessman, Kevin Kelly, who talked about its rich past:

Kevin Kelly (Southern American accent): The emissary to Queen Victoria visited Houmas House in 1860, and his name was Sir William Russell, and Sir William Russell wrote the book *The North and South*; he was sent to the United States to basically check things out¹⁸ for the Queen, to determine whether they should support the North or the South, or get involved¹⁹, whatsoever. And in that visit he wrote that never before had he seen an estate that was so grand²⁰ as this one, that from ... the Widow's Walk on the top of Houmas House, he could see the entire fortune for miles around. Now, in Europe, I suppose it's very mountainous and so you can't see very far. The property here, the 400,000 acres, was totally flat, so you can see 30 or 40 miles away and you would be able to see anything.

At that time Houmas House was owned by John Burnside, one of the richest men in America. Burnside was an Irishman and Kevin Kelly also has an Irish background:

Kevin Kelly: I suppose I am part of the long line-up²¹ of eccentric Irish bachelors²² who have

owned Houmas House. Ever since Houmas House was first built by Wade Hampton, who was an Irishman, the property has changed hands²³ now on five different occasions and on each occasions (sic), other than one, it was an Irishman who bought it who was a bachelor! So when I signed²⁴ the contract to purchase²⁵ Houmas House, the seller was pretty shocked to see that and said, "Well, we know this act of sale²⁶ is going to work²⁷ because this has always been known as 'The Irish Bachelor's House!'"

And Kevin Kelly feels that visitors to Houmas House enter another world:

Kevin Kelly: The experience that I'm trying to create at Houmas House that I think most people feel is that, when you enter the gates, you forget that there's a world outside of our gates. It's a whole experience of feeling the gardens, nature and strolling²⁸, and just forgetting that there are bad things outside. It's just a culture; it's arriving, going to the Turtle Bar, having a cocktail, bringing it on your stroll through the gardens, going through the house to see the architecture, the artwork²⁹ and the furniture³⁰ collection. It's dining, whether it be for lunch or for dinner, but almost everyone tells me, when they step foot³¹ (sic) on the property, they forget what lies outside, and that's wonderful to be able to create that, for our visitors who come. I know it feels that way to me, but I didn't think it was happening to others, but truly it does.

EXERCISES

Listening Questions

1. Choose the best answer for each question.
 - a) Where in the US can you find the old plantation houses?
 1. the Wild West.
 2. the Deep South.
 3. New England.
 - b) Which state is part of the Deep South?
 1. Louisiana.
 2. Montana.
 3. New Orleans.
 - c) Why did Queen Victoria send William Russell to the US?
 1. to buy slaves.
 2. to cultivate sugar cane.
 3. to check things out.
 - d) What kind of background did many of the plantation owners have?
 1. British.
 2. African.
 3. Irish.
 - e) What does 'to change hands' mean in English?
 1. to be bought and sold.
 2. to be rented out.
 3. to be owned.
 - f) What is a bachelor?
 1. the owner of a plantation.
 2. a married woman.
 3. an unmarried man.
 - g) What are you doing if you are 'strolling' through a place?
 1. walking quickly.
 2. walking in a leisurely way.
 3. pushing a trolley.
 - h) Why do people go to Houmas House?
 1. to drink cocktails.
 2. to admire the artwork.
 3. both of the above.

Answers

1. a) 2, b) 1, c) 3, d) 3, e) 1, f) 3, g) 2, h) 3

MORE EXERCISES ON CD

GLOSSARY

18 TO CHECK THINGS OUT:

verificar, comprobar

19 TO GET INVOLVED: involucrase

20 GRAND: magnífico

21 LONG LINE-UP: larga lista

22 BACHELOR: soltero

23 TO CHANGE HANDS:

cambiar de propietario

24 TO SIGN: firmar

25 TO PURCHASE: adquirir, comprar

26 SALE: venta

27 TO WORK: funcionar

28 TO STROLL: pasear

29 ARTWORK: obras de arte

30 FURNITURE: muebles

31 TO STEP FOOT (TO SET FOOT): entrar, pisar

CULTURE

BY KATHLEEN BECKER
SPEAK UP EXPLAINS BY RACHEL ROBERTS

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **B1 INTERMEDIATE**

IRISH STRINGS

THE MAGIC OF THE HARP

El arpa forma parte de la tradición y cultura irlandesa. Su sonido dulce y sutil sonaba en los festejos de la corte y acompañaba a los poetas bardos en sus recitales. Hoy es el símbolo no oficial de Irlanda.

Earlier this year Queen Elizabeth II made a historic state visit to Ireland. When she went to Trinity College Dublin, she was welcomed by a harpist. This was a continuation of a great tradition. The harp's ethereal sound is very Irish, and very pleasant to hear.

The harp has been part of Irish life for a millennium. In Celtic culture, harpists were respected. They accompanied bardic¹ poetry or court recitals² and played for the nobility. Their triangular harps were carved³ out of a single trunk⁴ of wood, usually willow⁵.

The harp became the official national symbol with the English domination of Ireland in the 16th century. When a Gaelic chieftain⁶ adopted a green flag incorporating the harp, it also became a symbol of Irish pride – and resistance.

In late medieval Ireland the Gaelic harp was banned. And with emigration and loss

of influence of the Gaelic families, the harp tradition died out⁷.

MILESTONES

The heroes of Irish harp history are Turlough O'Carolan, a blind itinerant harper (see interview and sidebar), and an Englishman, Edward Bunting, who organised an important harp convention in Belfast in 1792. For the first time, Gaelic harp melodies and tunes⁸ were written down and saved for posterity. At that time, very few harpists were left in Ireland. Today the harp is enjoying a renaissance, with many people (mainly women) learning to play. It is fashionable now to book a harpist for a wedding or a corporate event. Buskers⁹ play the harp at famous tourist attractions, along the Ring of Kerry or the Cliffs of Moher.

GLOSSARY

- 1 BARDIC:** bardo (poeta de los antiguos celtas)
- 2 RECITAL:** audición
- 3 TO CARVE:** esculpir, tallar
- 4 SINGLE TRUNK:** un único tronco
- 5 WILLOW:** sauce
- 6 CHIEFTAIN:** jefe
- 7 TO DIE OUT:** decaer (ver Speak Up Explains)
- 8 TUNE:** canción, tonada
- 9 BUSKER:** músico callejero





Sounds of Ireland: Irish harps are a national symbol and are usually played by women!

Speak Up EXPLAINS

Harpists were respected - El pasivo. Cuando se habla de tradiciones se tiende a emplear la forma pasiva para describir aquello que sucedía en el pasado: los arpistas eran respetados, las arpas se tallaban de un único tronco de madera ... El pasivo se forma con el verbo *be* conjugado en el mismo tiempo de la frase activa seguido del participio pasado del verbo principal.

The harp tradition died out - *To die out* se emplea a menudo para indicar que se ha perdido interés en una cosa. La tradición, el interés en esa tradición se ha debilitado, ha decaído.

They're known as O'Carolans, and there's beautiful pieces between slow and fast tunes - Se las conoce (a las melodías) como O'Carolans y hay piezas hermosísimas, con motivos lentos y rápidos. Es común que en la lengua hablada se empleen expresiones como *there's* seguidas de sustantivos plurales. Digamos que, aunque no sea gramaticalmente correcto, se hace la vista gorda.

Learn the harp in a week? Kathleen Becker's personal experience

Every year the Oideas Gael cultural centre, which promotes the Irish language (in the Glencolumbkille valley in County Donegal), offers a week-long harp course. Is it possible to learn to play the harp in a week? Kind of¹, with a lot of concentration and dedication. It helps that the strings² are colour-coded³: the C is red, the F⁴ black. The other five students give me a lot of encouragement, as I am a complete beginner. If you can read music, one week is enough to learn to play a simple tune, like the O'Carolan favourite *Eleanor Plunkett*. Using just the right hand, the sound is a bit 'pling-pling'. Adding the left-hand chords⁵, which make harp music so beautiful, requires a level of coordination that I don't yet have.

At the end of the week, the five other students and I give a concert. While I play with the tin whistlers⁶ and flute players, I can't hear myself. It feels as if I'm murdering poor Eleanor Plunkett, but there is a great sense of achievement too. As Barack Obama said during his state visit to Ireland, 'Is féidir linn! 'Yes, We Can!'

COURSE DETAILS

The annual harp course at Oideas Gael (www.oideas-gael.com) in Glencolumbkille is excellent value. It costs €180; accommodation is another €180, and a rented harp €80. It is a good idea to have some basic idea about music. There are frequent direct buses to Donegal Town from Dublin Airport (www.buseireann.ie) and onwards services to the Glen.

An annual workshop on the Irish harp is on offer at Kilkenny School of Music, run by the Historical Harp Society of Ireland (www.irishharp.org). In Dublin, the 15th century Trinity College Harp is on show in the Long Room of the Old Library at Trinity (www.tcd.ie); you can admire it when you go and see the famous Book of Kells.

For more information, contact the official Irish tourist board in Spain at: tel (Spain). 0034 91 74 56 420 www.discoverireland.com/es

GLOSSARY

- 1 KIND OF:** algo
- 2 STRINGS:** cuerdas
- 3 COLOUR-CODED:** codificado por colores
- 4 C ... F:** do, fa
- 5 LEFT-HAND CHORDS:** las cuerdas que se tocan con la mano izquierda
- 6 TIN WHISTLE:** flautín de metal, de seis agujeros, típico de Irlanda, conocido también como silbato irlandés



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **C1 ADVANCED**

A National Symbol

The **harp** is an instrument that produces the most wonderful music. It is the official symbol of the Irish province of Leinster, but it is the unofficial symbol of Ireland in general. But is the harp tradition surviving in modern Ireland? The answer would appear to be yes. An example comes in the form of Oisín Morrison, a young harp teacher who started learning the instrument when he was a teenager:

Oisín Morrison (Irish accent):

It's one of the great symbols of Ireland, so I suppose people really love seeing it around the place¹. So ... it's ... a bit of a novelty as well to see a male² playing the harp because I'm ... to be honest, I really ... I don't understand why it's only women – well, I won't say it's only women, but the majority of harp players between classical, Irish music, jazz, any genre, and it's mostly female. A lot of great, great harp players have been men, do you know? I mean, Turlough O'Carolan, for example. He was a fantastic blind harp composer and he composed hundreds of tunes which have become known ... that they've ...

then known as O'Carolans, and there's beautiful pieces between slow and fast tunes.

He then told the remarkable story of Turlough O'Carolan, who lived from 1670 to 1738:

Oisín Morrison: When he was 18, he got smallpox³, so, because of that, he went blind. The only career that you could lead if you were blind at that time was a musician, a harp player or a poet, or a bard, or, so, but, I mean, that worked out to his advantage⁴, I suppose! Because Margaret Rose was the woman who took him in⁵ and paid for his education and paid for his tuition on the harp. And, I suppose, after that he went ... he was a travelling blind harp player. And he went around to all the different landlords' houses⁶, and he would ask for accommodation or food, in exchange for him composing a piece.

GLOSSARY

1 SEEING IT AROUND THE PLACE:

verla por doquier, en todas partes

2 MALE:

hombre

3 SMALLPOX:

viruela

4 WORKED OUT TO HIS ADVANTAGE:

se convirtió en una ventaja para él

5 TO TAKE IN:

acoger

6 LANDLORD'S HOUSE:

casa señorial

EXERCISES

Listening Questions

1. Choose the best answer for each question.

- Which instrument is the 'unofficial' symbol of Ireland?
 - the lute.
 - the harpsichord.
 - the harp.
- Who normally plays the harp in Ireland?
 - children.
 - women.
 - men.
- Another, more colloquial word for 'song' mentioned is
 - melody.
 - script.
 - tune.
- What problem did Turlough O'Carolan have?
 - he was blind.
 - he had arthritis.
 - he was deaf.
- How did his defect benefit him in the 1600s?
 - he was able to work on a farm.
 - he could retire.
 - he could be a poet or a musician.

2. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

- The official instrument of Leicester is the harp. (TRUE/FALSE)
- The harp is said to be the most difficult instrument to play. (TRUE/FALSE)
- O'Carolans are a type of tune played on the harp. (TRUE/FALSE)
- Smallpox is a disease that always causes people to go blind. (TRUE/FALSE)
- People gave O'Carolan accommodation in exchange for compositions. (TRUE/FALSE)
- Margaret Rose was his wife and benefactor. (TRUE/FALSE)
- O'Carolan was a harp player who lived from 1670 to 1738. (TRUE/FALSE)

3. Insert vowel combinations to create words used in the article.

Example: r l n d + l + e + a = Ireland

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a) nstrmnt | e) btfl |
| b) tngr | f) smllpx |
| c) symbl | g) lndlrđ |
| d) cmpsr | h) ccmmđtn |

Answers

- a) 3, b) 2, c) 3, d) 1, e) 3
- a) False, b) False, c) True, d) False, e) True, f) False, g) True
- a) instrument, b) teenager, c) symbol, d) composer, e) beautiful, f) smallpox, g) landlord, h) accommodation

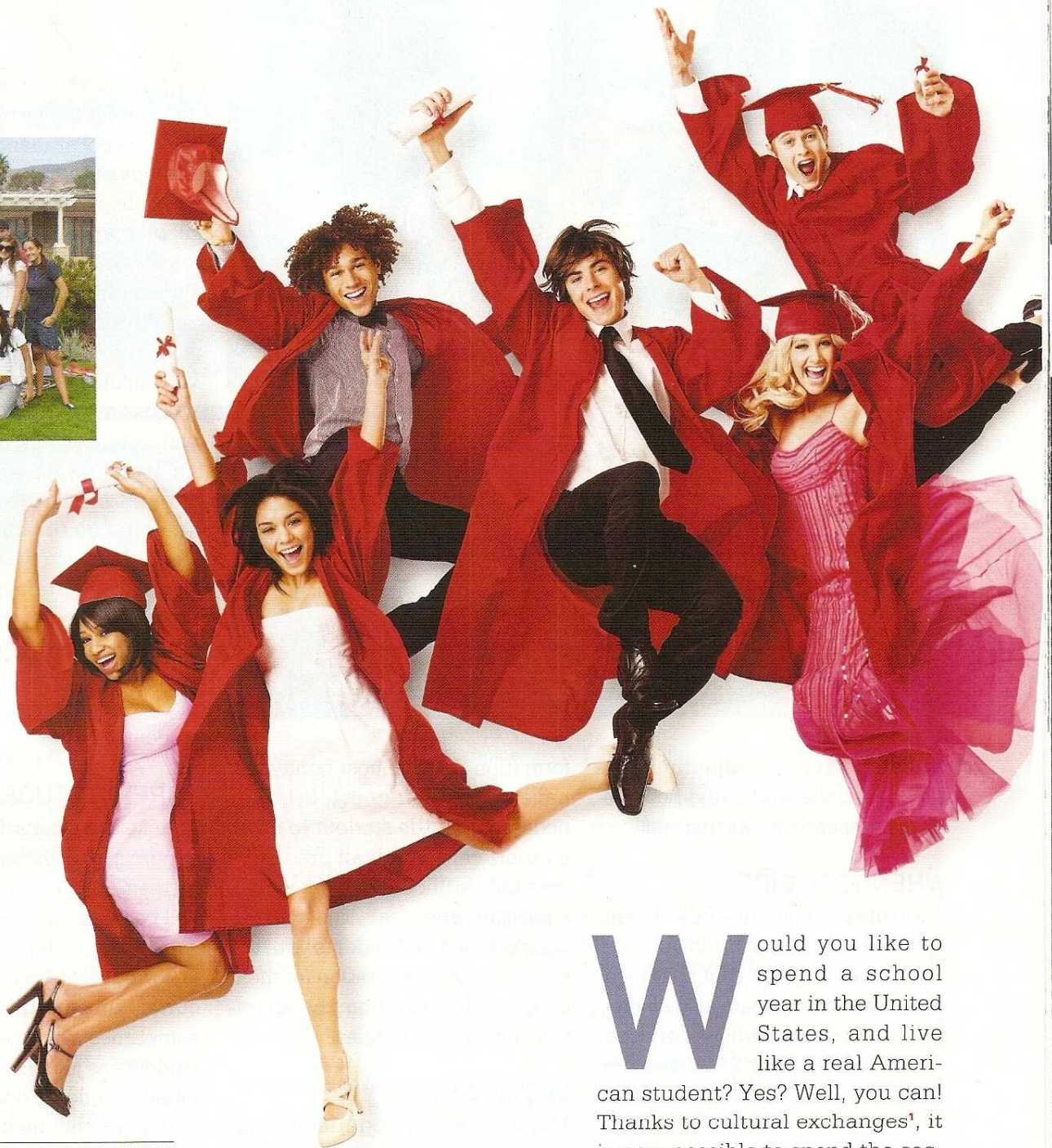
MORE EXERCISES ON CD

SPECIAL

BY ROBERTA MIGLIUCCI



A group of European kids who spent a year of study in the States.



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **B1 INTERMEDIATE**

A SCHOOL YEAR IN THE USA

AN AMERICAN EDUCATION

¿Un curso escolar en Estados Unidos? ¿Por qué no? Miles de estudiantes viven cada año esta experiencia. Se requiere un buen nivel de inglés y asegurarse que los estudios serán convalidados en España.

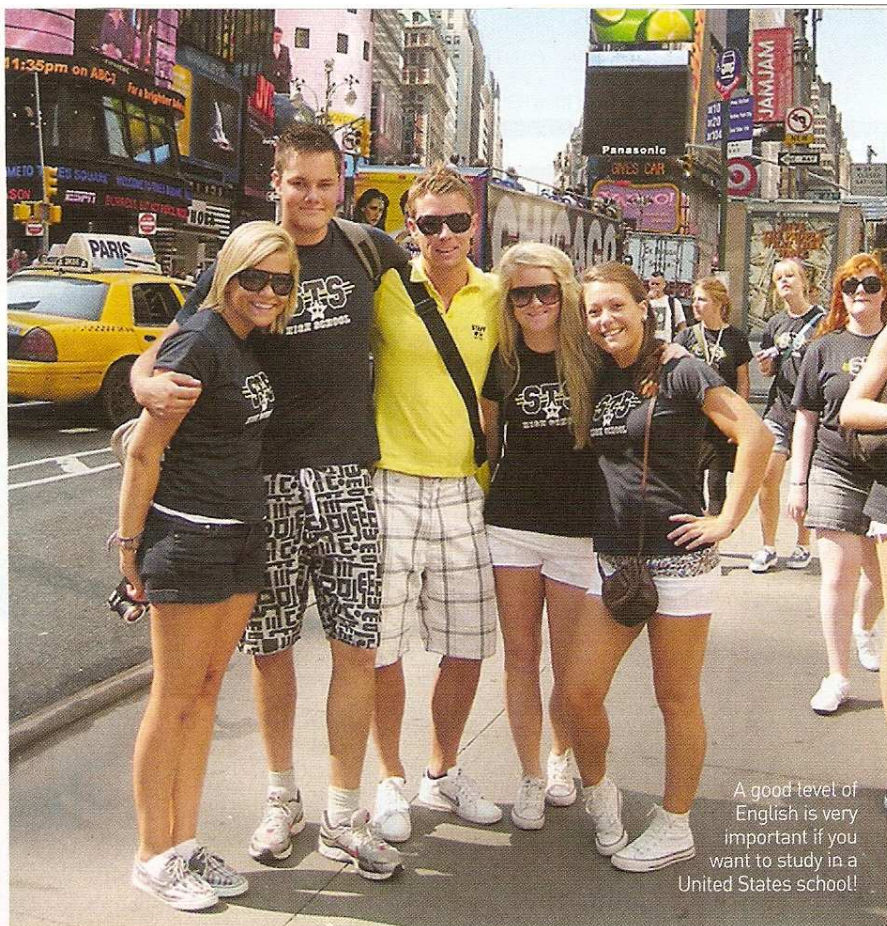
Would you like to spend a school year in the United States, and live like a real American student? Yes? Well, you can! Thanks to cultural exchanges¹, it is now possible to spend the second, third or fourth year of high school² in a foreign country. For a number of reasons the fourth year is said to be the most useful. The best way to organise this is to refer to a specialised association, which will be able to guarantee satisfaction for both the student and the host family³. This year abroad will be great for students, and not only for their English: they

GLOSSARY

1 EXCHANGE: intercambio

2 HIGH SCHOOL: instituto de enseñanza secundaria

3 HOST FAMILY: familia de acogida



will also have the opportunity to experience the world, and become more independent and mature.

WHEN TO DECIDE

If you are planning to study abroad for the school year 2012-2013, your application⁴ must be sent by March 2012. Scholarships⁵ are also available. The departure will be between July and September 2012, and the return between May and July 2013.

REQUIREMENTS

The fundamental requirements are: to be extremely open-minded⁶, flexible and motivated! Moreover, all your grades⁷ must be satisfactory and your knowledge of English must be adequate.

DOCUMENTS AND APPLICATION

The application should include an autobiographical essay⁸ in which the students describe themselves. The essay must be written in English, followed by pictures which represent the daily life of the student. This document is extremely important as it will be the only in-

formation that the host family will have about their guest. It is also necessary for the student to have: a report card⁹ (with all grades), a medical certificate and, of course, a passport and visa¹⁰. The associations will provide students with the necessary documentation for them to obtain their visa from the American consular authorities.

VACCINATIONS

Many US States require mandatory¹¹ vaccinations, so it's good to know which ones you have and which ones you might need.

COSTS

The costs are flexible. They may vary from 7,000 to 10,000 euros, or even more. They cover: airline tickets, association assistance, insurance¹², room and board¹³, and personal expenditure¹⁴.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL

The American school system consists of 12 school years, called 'grades'. The high school lasts four years, and is divided as follows: freshman (14-15), sophomore (15-

16), junior (16-17) and senior (17-18). During the last year, American high school students are expected to study only four or five mandatory subjects: English, American History, Maths and PE¹⁵. Then, there are 'elective subjects'¹⁶, like Sculpture, Photography, Art History, Journalism, Music and Theater.

As the Spanish school system is very different, it is very important to discuss a good school programme with your teachers, in order to make up for¹⁷ any missing credits on your return. In the United States, students go to school from 8 am (sometimes even earlier) to 3 pm, Mondays to Fridays. In the afternoon students get the chance to do more sports and to join clubs. In fact, American schools encourage taking up¹⁸ sports and participation in student life.

FOREIGN STUDENTS

Thanks to a Counselor's¹⁹ help, students can plan the study programme for their American school year. They will be placed in the most suitable²⁰ school year, depending on their knowledge of English, the school curriculum and their age. Schools sometimes tend to enroll²¹ foreign students as juniors. This is because foreign students often have excellent academic results: they could win scholarships that are meant for²² American citizens.

GLOSSARY

- 4 APPLICATION:** solicitud
- 5 SCHOLARSHIP:** beca
- 6 OPEN-MINDED:** de mentalidad abierta
- 7 GRADE:** calificación, nota
- 8 ESSAY:** redacción
- 9 REPORT CARD:** libreta de notas
- 10 VISA:** visado
- 11 MANDATORY:** obligatorio
- 12 INSURANCE:** seguro
- 13 BOARD:** manutención
- 14 PERSONAL EXPENDITURE:** gastos personales
- 15 P.E. (PHYSICAL EDUCATION):** educación física
- 16 ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:** asignaturas optativas
- 17 TO MAKE UP FOR:** compensar
- 18 TO TAKE UP:** apuntarse
- 19 COUNSELOR:** orientador
- 20 SUITABLE:** apropiado
- 21 TO ENROLL:** matricular
- 22 MEANT FOR:** destinado a, reservado a



More Information

The Spanish Ministry of Education website is a source of practical information: <http://www.educacion.gob.es/eeuu.html>
Tel: 913277681;
to validate school

qualifications gained in the US: <http://www.educacion.gob.es/educacion/sistema-educativo/convalidaciones/titulos-no-universitarios.html>



Giovanni



Silvia

They did it!

We interviewed some students who attended their fourth year in the US. When we asked them what they missed most about their country when they were in America, they answered food, of course!

What's the difference between your school and the American school?

Silvia (attended the senior year in Indiana, with STS): In America, there is no homework¹, they're more general than our high schools. If students don't pass a class they have to go to summer school. This way they don't miss any academic years. There are many easy classes and there is a graduation ceremony, too!
Stefano (attended the senior year in Wyoming, with EF): The atmosphere is different: in America you're more involved, classmates² and teachers respect you.

Then we asked them whether they studied more in their country or in the USA. They all agreed: in their country, definitely!

Arianna (attended the junior year in Montana, with EF): You study differently. American classes are more interactive, personal interests are always valued and students are encouraged to pursue³ them

through their curriculum choice. The stereotype about the American school being 'easy' is totally untrue: both ways of learning are effective!

Stefano: There isn't any class 'interrogation' there. Instead you have written tests, and about 70 per cent of these are multiple choice⁴ quizzes⁵.

Could you describe a typical school day in the States?

Silvia: I would get up at 6.30. I went to school from 8.00 to 3.00 pm. After school I did track and field⁶ and clubs such as science and math academic teams. On the weekend I would hang out with⁷ friends, take trips around Indiana and go to church on Sunday with my host family.

Arianna: The alarm clock would go off at 5 am, so I could get up and do two hours of dance practice. Classes kept me busy until 3.30 pm. A yellow school bus would take me back home, where I spent time with my host sister⁸. Most days I went to the gym with my host mom (she taught pilates!) Then, we all had dinner together: the mom taught me how to cook typically American dishes!

Stefano: I woke up at 4.30 because at 5 I had to be in the pool⁹ so I could train until 7. Then I had breakfast at school and lessons started at 7.45 ...

What is the thing you miss most about America?

Silvia: The school because you get to spend much more time with friends than at home.

Stefano: I miss everything, especially the spontaneity and confidence¹⁰ that people give you unconditionally.

Would you like to do it again?

Silvia: Definitely! It made me more mature and I got to experience the world. I want to study abroad some other time. Just do it! It's one of the best things you could ever do!

Arianna: I became more mature, self-confident and open-minded than before. I have two cultural methods for interpreting reality now. Believe me when I tell you that the American and our views of life are very different!

Could you tell us something about your experience?

Giovanni (attended the senior year in California, with Mondo Insieme): The first days were hard, but then everything changed! My host family was wonderful. It wasn't hard to find friends: I am Italian and we have a certain charm in the States! I think this experience is something priceless¹¹ and unforgettable!

GLOSSARY

- 1 HOMEWORK**: deberes
- 2 CLASSMATE**: compañero de clase
- 3 TO PURSUE**: continuar, proseguir
- 4 MULTIPLE CHOICE**: elección múltiple
- 5 QUIZ**: prueba
- 6 TRACK AND FIELD**: atletismo
- 7 TO HANG OUT WITH**: salir con, ir por ahí
- 8 HOST SISTER**: hermana de acogida
- 9 POOL**: piscina
- 10 CONFIDENCE**: confianza
- 11 PRICELESS**: invaluable



PLACES

BY JULIAN EARWAKER
SPEAK UP EXPLAINS BY RACHEL ROBERTS

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **B1 INTERMEDIATE**

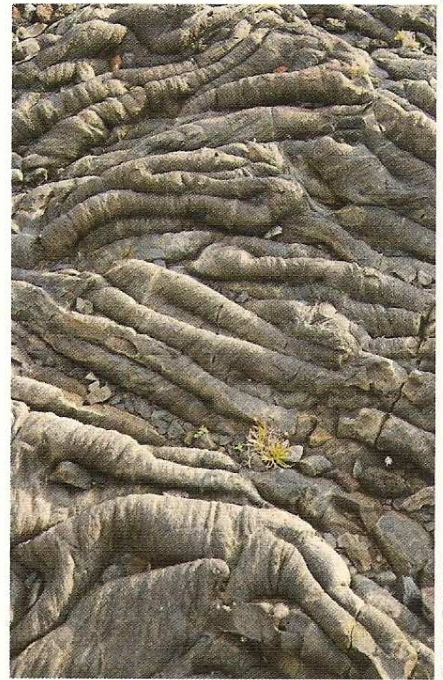
HAWAIIAN LANDSCAPE BORN FROM FIRE

Su nombre evoca paisajes de postal: cocoteros, playas de arena blanca, aguas cristalinas... Pero las islas Hawai ofrecen mucho más; un territorio en constante cambio, debido a sus volcanes activos, y un precioso ecosistema único en el mundo. Un auténtico laboratorio evolutivo que rivaliza con las Galápagos.



Steam¹ rises into the sky above the crater of Kilauea on Big Island, Hawaii. Further down the slopes² of the volcano, orange fingers of lava, more than 1,100 degrees Celsius in temperature, stretch³ towards the ocean. Nothing can stop them. But they are cooling fast. New land is being created.

Hawaii is the southernmost (and westernmost) of the 50 US states. It is also the newest. A chain of volcanic islands, it lies deep in the Pacific Ocean some⁴ 3,500 kilometres west of Los Angeles. Born more than 70 million years ago, it is still growing. On Big Island, the youngest of the six major islands, Kilauea has been erupting continuously since 1983. The island is also home to two other giant volcanoes: Mauna Kea, currently dormant⁵, and Mauna Loa. They sit above a 'hotspot'⁶ in the earth's mantle⁷ on the Pacific plate, from which molten rock⁸ erupts as red-orange lava. "Here you can be so close to the pulse of the earth and the dynamics of the earth," says Jim Gale, Chief of Interpretation at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Big Island. "It's still alive! We're one of the few places in the world where you can see an active volcano."



© Julian Earwaker

NUMBER ONE

Mauna Loa is the planet's largest and most active volcano. In the Hawaiian language, it means 'long mountain,' which is appropriate because Mauna Loa stretches almost 100 kilometres

GLOSSARY

- 1 STEAM:** vapor
- 2 SLOPE:** ladera
- 3 TO STRETCH:** extenderse, desplegarse
- 4 SOME:** unos
- 5 DORMANT:** inactivo
- 6 HOTSPOT:** zona caliente
- 7 MANTLE:** capa
- 8 MOLTEN ROCK:** roca fundida

Earth's Largest Volcano

Mauna Loa first erupted about one million years ago.

It has erupted 33 times since 1843.

The volcano is 4,169 metres high.

Mauna Loa is 35 metres lower than neighbouring Mauna Kea, whose summit is one of the best sites in the world for astronomical

observation and the site of several giant telescopes.

Most of Mauna Loa lies beneath the ocean: measured from the sea bed it is almost 9,200 metres high – that's taller than Everest!

The huge mass of Mauna Loa squashes the sea bed like a mattress a further 8 km. The volcano's



© PD-USGOV-INTERIOR-USG

summit is therefore actually some 17 km above its base!

Lava enters the Pacific Ocean from Big Island in Hawaii, one of the few places in the world where you can see an active volcano.

© Mila Zinkova

Speak Up EXPLAINS

Language point – survive and thrive. En inglés son muy apreciadas las frases que riman. Es que, de algún modo, las palabras resaltan y suenan más memorables. *To thrive*, por ejemplo, significa ‘crecer de forma lozana’. Se podría considerar que es una palabra intelectual que no utiliza todo el mundo y sin embargo, *to survive and thrive* (sobrevivir y crecer bien) es una frase bastante común. *Claim to fame* es otra expresión que rima, muy usada, que significa ‘razón por la cual son famosos’.

Language point: -less – El sufijo *-less* significa ‘sin’, por lo tanto *hopeless* quiere decir ‘sin esperanza’: *the situation is completely hopeless*. También puede tener un sentido irónico: *he’s a hopeless cook* (es un cocinero desastroso). *Fearless* significa ‘sin miedo’, *worthless* ‘sin valor’, etc. En el texto hay dos ejemplos inventados que no aparecen en el diccionario pero que están muy bien: *briarless briars* (brezos sin espinas) y *mintless mints* (plantas de menta sin menta).



Plants grow even in cold lava, or *pahoehoe*, as it is called in Hawaii.

© Julian Eavaker

in length and 50 kilometres wide. Hawaii provides⁹ a ‘laboratory of time’ for visitors – and for scientists studying volcanoes and the formation of the earth.

DARWIN’S DELIGHT

Near the coast, the road has been overwhelmed¹⁰ by the constant stream¹¹ of lava that still flows¹² into the ocean. Here crowds gather¹³ within a few metres of some of the planet’s newest land; steaming, cooling and solidifying. The boiling hot new lava initially creates a dead zone. But it doesn’t remain dead for long. Six months later the first ferns¹⁴ and trees will take root¹⁵ despite the lack of nutrients. On Hawaii a whole ecosystem has evolved to live in this unique environment. “If Darwin had come here instead of the Galapagos his eyes would have been silver dollars!”¹⁶ says Gale. “Of the 14 species he saw there that had adapted and diversified, here he would

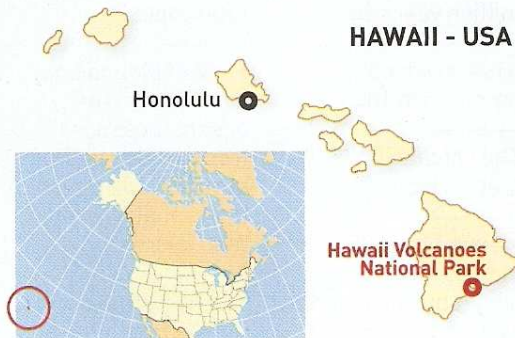
have found 57. Hawaii is a spectacular place for wild, endemic life to survive and thrive¹⁷.”

PELE THE GOD!

Near the ruined coast road and most recent lava flows, a short walking trail¹⁸ leads to ancient petroglyphs left by some of the earliest Polynesian settlers¹⁹. According to Hawaiian legend, Pele, the goddess of fire and creation, lives to this day in the caldera of the Kilauea volcano and hides beneath the slopes of Mauna Loa. When eruptions throw out²⁰ thin²¹ strands²² of volcanic silica²³, they are known as “Pele’s hair”, while small drops of lava are known as “Pele’s tear-drops²⁴.” On the world’s biggest volcano, the goddess appears to be getting restless²⁵. “The last eruption was 1984 and we expect an eruption any day,” says Gale. “We typically get a Mauna Loa eruption every 20 years. So we’re a little bit behind schedule²⁶ right now!”

If You Go...

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is located in the southern half of Big Island. It takes about three hours to drive there from either Kona or Hilo, which both have international airports. This World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve is open 24 hours a day, all year round. Admission costs \$10 per vehicle. www.nps.gov/havo - www.gohawaii.com/

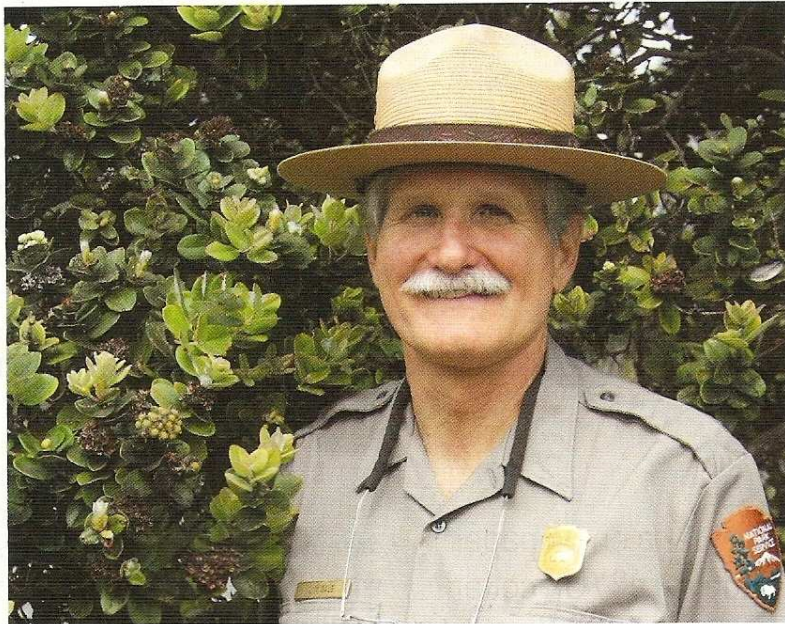


HAWAII - USA

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

GLOSSARY

- 9 LABORATORY OF TIME:** laboratorio evolutivo
- 10 OVERWHELMED:** cubierto
- 11 STREAM:** corriente
- 12 TO FLOW:** desembocar
- 13 TO GATHER:** reunirse
- 14 FERN:** helecho
- 15 TO TAKE ROOT:** echar raíces, arraigar
- 16 HIS EYES WOULD HAVE BEEN SILVER DOLLARS:** se le hubieran puesto los ojos como platos
- 17 TO THRIVE:** crecer con fuerza
- 18 WALKING TRAIL:** sendero, senda
- 19 SETTLER:** poblador
- 20 TO THROW OUT:** expulsar
- 21 THIN:** fino
- 22 STRAND:** filamento
- 23 SILICA:** sílice
- 24 TEARDROP:** lágrima
- 25 RESTLESS:** inquieto
- 26 TO BE BEHIND SCHEDULE:** ir retrasado



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **C1 ADVANCED**

Under the Volcano

Hawaii is the home state of President Barack Obama, but this isn't its only claim to fame²⁷. The youngest of the USA's 50 states consists of a chain of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean. Hawaii's ecosystem is unique but, according to²⁸ Jim Gale, who is Chief of Interpretation at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Big Island, it is under constant threat²⁹:

Jim Gale (Standard American accent): We are so isolated, we are so remote, that what happens is that we didn't really have animals come over to Hawaii that are grazers³⁰. So our plants lost their thorns³¹, so we have briarless briars³², we have mintless mints³³, so there's no sharp minty taste, they've lost that mint. So we have these plants that are not really adapted to herbivores, and so when, over time, people have introduced pigs, they introduced cattle³⁴, they introduced a variety of different ungulates, you know, hoofed³⁵ animals, goats³⁶ and things like that, they destroy the forest. And it's not like the forest isn't strong, but the forest has not adapted to having herbivores, having grazers, having choppers, having rodentia³⁷ coming in and literally just destroy the forest.

THE EXTINCTION CAPITAL

And, says Jim Gale, Hawaii faces an enormous ecological challenge:

Jim Gale: Well, we are, unfortunately, the extinction capital for the United States. We have more threatened and endangered species here than any other national park, or any other place in the United States, any other state, because we have such high endemism³⁸, and... again, we have plants and animals found here and no other place in the world, so that you could be missing one plant in southern UK, but you still have it in the northern UK, you know what I mean? But here, once we lose a plant, it's gone forever. In some cases, we are down to one single plant, and with the rats that eat the plants, or eat the seeds³⁹, I mean, and the bio mass, you know, just the numbers of rats alone is staggering⁴⁰. There's (sic) daunting challenges⁴¹, every day, for us and our resource managers, to try to control the number of invasive species and to find successful ways to collect seeds, and plant seeds and get successful seeds to grow. And, then, to have a pollinator⁴²: do we still have the pollinators around? So I wouldn't say we have control, but we have lots of hope.

EXERCISES

Listening Questions

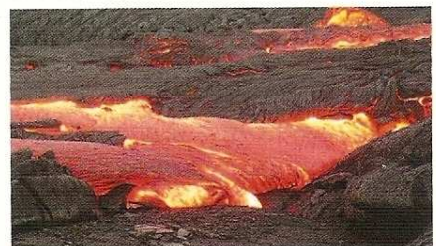
- Write the word that best fits the gap. The first letter of the word is given to help you.
 - Obama is Hawaii's (c) _____ to fame.
 - The (e) _____ in Hawaii is unique.
 - Hawaii has no (b) _____.
 - The (c) _____ provide meat and milk.
 - Animals that eat small plants are called (g) _____.
 - Hoofed animals are called (u) _____.
 - Cutting down trees destroys a (f) _____.
 - Planting (s) _____ is a way to reforest.
- Decide if the word relates to plants or animals or both.

a) herbivore	1. plants
b) rodentia	2. animals
c) mint	3. both
d) goats	
e) seed	
f) pollinator	
g) endangered species	
h) ecosystem	

Answers

- a) claim, b) ecosystem, c) briars, d) cattle, e) grazers, f) ungulates, g) forest, h) seeds
- a) 2, b) 2, c) 1, d) 2, e) 1, f) 1, g) 3, h) 3

MORE EXERCISES ON CD



GLOSSARY

- 27 (TO HAVE A) CLAIM TO FAME:** destacarse por
28 ACCORDING TO: según
29 THREAT: amenaza
30 GRAZER: rumiante
31 THORN: espina
32 BRIARLESS BRIARS: espino sin espinas
33 MINTLESS MINT: menta sin (aroma de) menta
34 CATTLE: ganado
35 HOOFED: ungulado
36 GOAT: cabra
37 RODENTIA: roedores
38 SUCH HIGH ENDEMISM: un número tan alto de especies endémicas
39 SEED: semilla
40 STAGGERING: asombroso
41 DAUNTING CHALLENGE: desafío de enormes proporciones
42 POLLINATOR: polinizador

TEACHERS:
See Speak Up
in Class
exercises
on CD

LANGUAGE LEVEL: C1 ADVANCED

FICTION

The Birthday Present

Lucy cumple trece años. Una cajita, envuelta en un papel de una joyería, yace en sus manos. ¿Qué será? ¿Un collar? ¿Una pulsera? ¡Hace tanto tiempo que no recibe un regalo!

"Happy birthday, dear!" Lucy held the small package. She was incredulous, a birthday present! She couldn't remember ever having a present to open.

Lucy held¹ the small package in her hand, wondering² what a wonderful surprise awaited³. She shook it close to her ear, only a soft thud⁴, and turned it over and over. The wrapping paper⁵ had the name of the shop: H. SAMUEL. She knew that it was a jeweller's⁶. She loved window shopping at H. Samuel's, dreaming of being a star, wearing precious emerald stones around her neck and silver bangles⁷ around her tiny wrists⁸. H. Samuel was her stepmother's⁹ idea of 'Tiffany's'.

Lucy couldn't believe how important she was to have a birthday present bought from H. SAMUEL. The best jeweller's in town. She smiled at her stepmother. Lucy had misjudged¹⁰ her; here she was holding a little box, a dream! She felt tears of joy well up¹¹ in her eyes: why had she held such bitter thoughts towards her stepmother?

Lucy's thirteenth birthday was going to be special after all! Only two events were celebrated with a gift¹², Christmas and her birthday, and she only ever received useful presents – either a pair of shoes or a dress – depending on how much she had grown. She might have shoes for Christmas, if she had outgrown her old ones¹³, or sometimes a skirt¹⁴ and pullover, or vice-versa, for her birthday. She outgrew her clothes long before they were worn¹⁵ because she was only allowed to wear her 'good' clothes if they went visiting on a Sunday. During the week she made do¹⁶ with clothes and shoes her stepmother bought at the local church jumble sale¹⁷.

It wasn't that they were poor or anything; her stepmother just didn't consider it necessary to spend money on new clothes and shoes for a growing child. Why should she spend money on a child that wasn't even hers!? Her new outgrown clothes were given as presents to her stepmother's relatives' daughters. They couldn't be wasted, could they?

Her stepmother believed in giving Lucy a good housekeeping¹⁸

education. She was strict and expected Lucy to be obedient. She had to be the first one up in the morning to prepare breakfast for the paying guests¹⁹ before setting off for school. Her stepmother's motto was "The Devil finds work for idle hands²⁰." If Lucy wasn't up by 7 o'clock, her stepmother would knock on her bedroom wall, disrupting²¹ her morning dream. Lucy envied her friends who talked about their Sunday mornings in bed sleeping till late.

On Sundays the knock on the wall was sounded at 6.30, reminding Lucy that she had to get up to attend the 7 o'clock Mass. Lucy reluctantly got out of bed, she had to cycle three miles to the Catholic church, and winter time was the worst, the cold frosty mornings biting into her face²² and hands.

Her stepmother wanted her to be a good obedient Christian,

Speak Up EXPLAINS

If she had outgrown her old ones

– No es fácil traducir literalmente el verbo *outgrow*. En castellano tenemos que emplear un giro de palabras y sin embargo es un verbo muy usado cuando queremos expresar que nos hemos hecho mayores con respecto a algo. Por ejemplo se puede decir que un niño *outgrows* a toy cuando ha crecido y no se divierte más con un determinado juguete. O bien lo contrario: si decimos que the books we'll never outgrow, la idea es que hay libros (para niños) que nos deleitarán aun de mayores.



EXERCISES

Listening Questions

- Choose a word from the list that best fits the gap.
useful vice-versa jumble package
stepmother relatives idle well up
a) If you are _____ for too long, you might feel bored.
b) A decorative plate is not usually very _____.
c) The advert seemed more like a _____ of words, not a paragraph.
d) All of our _____ are coming to the family barbecue.
e) John knows Jim's family and _____.
f) There's a clog in the drain so the water will _____ in the sink.
g) A _____ is the woman who married your father, after your mother.
h) There is a _____ waiting for the hotel guest at reception.

- Put the following topics into the order in which they appear in the story.

- Sunday mass
- a pullover
- a jeweller's
- a leather box
- a housekeeping education
- a beautiful brooch

Answers

- a) idle, b) useful, c) jumble, d) relatives, e) vice-versa, f) well up, g) stepmother, h) package
- c, b, e, a, d, f

MORE EXERCISES ON CD

and good Christians always went to early morning Mass. Lucy had no say²³, she was obedient and, being an only child, she had nobody to seek²⁴ comfort²⁵ from. She hated getting up early in the morning, she hated the ugly dresses and shoes her stepmother bought for her birthdays. Perhaps, deep down²⁶, she hated her stepmother too. However, a good Christian should not hate and Lucy tried to kid herself²⁷ that she loved this woman. Today, Lucy's birthday, her stepmother's redemption; she hugged²⁸ her and whispered, "Thank you, Mum."

Now here, at last, a small package – not the usual dress or shoes – a tiny package with H. SAMUEL printed on the wrapping paper. Could it be a pair of earrings²⁹? She had pointed to a pair when her stepmother was buying herself a gold bracelet, or maybe that beautiful brooch³⁰ with the initial "L." Lucy closed her eyes; or a set³¹ of four bangles to make up her name. She could feel the excitement of opening her first real birthday present! Thirteen, a teenager! She felt so special!

Slowly, she started unwrapping³² her gift. Her stepmother stood by her side with a smile,

so sure that Lucy would just love her present. So much thought had gone into choosing the right gift for a teenager!

The wrapping paper revealed a square³³ brown leather³⁴ box – and, inside the small box, a pink floral patterned³⁵ case³⁶, just like Chinese boxes. Lucy carefully took out the box and held it in her hand. It had a catch³⁷ on one side and two small hinges³⁸ on the other. She clicked the catch and opened the box.

A small ladies' alarm clock³⁹ ticked⁴⁰ quietly⁴¹ away. The alarm had already been set⁴² for 7 o'clock.

GLOSSARY

- TO HOLD: sostener
- TO WONDER: preguntarse
- TO AWAIT: esperar
- THUD: ruido sordo
- WRAPPING PAPER: papel de envolver
- JEWELLER'S: joyería
- SILVER BANGLE: pulsera de plata
- TINY WRIST: muñeca estrecha
- STEPMOTHER: madrastra
- TO MISJUDGE: juzgar mal
- TO WELL UP: brotar
- GIFT: regalo, obsequio
- IF SHE HAD OUTGROWN HER OLD ONES: si los viejos le quedaban pequeños
- SKIRT: falda
- WORN: desgastado
- TO MAKE DO: apañárselas, arreglárselas con lo que hay
- JUMBLE SALE: mercadillo
- HOUSEKEEPING: trabajo doméstico
- PAYING GUEST: huésped
- THE DEVIL ... IDLE HANDS: el diablo encuentra trabajo para las manos perezosas

- TO DISRUPT: interrumpir
- BITING INTO HER FACE: cortándole la cara
- HAD NO SAY: no tenía voz ni voto
- TO SEEK: buscar
- COMFORT: consuelo
- DEEP DOWN: en lo más profundo
- TO KID ONESELF: engañarse
- TO HUG: abrazar
- EARRINGS: pendientes
- BROOCH: broche
- SET: juego
- TO UNWRAP: desenvolver
- SQUARE: cuadrado
- LEATHER: piel
- PATTERNED: con dibujos
- CASE: funda
- CATCH: cierre
- HINGE: bisagra
- ALARM CLOCK: despertador
- TO TICK AWAY: marcar el tiempo
- QUIETLY: silenciosamente
- TO SET: fijar, programar



MEET THE PRESS

BY NATE SILVER - © 2011 THE NEW YORK TIMES
SPEAK UP EXPLAINS BY RACHEL ROBERTS

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **B2 UPPER INTERMEDIATE**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Where to get the world's best service

Cuando viajamos es importante documentarse sobre las costumbres del lugar, entre ellas la de dar o no dar propina. *The New York Times* realizó una investigación sobre el tema y concluyó que la cantidad de la misma no influye en la calidad del servicio.

The guidebooks tell you never to tip¹ in Japan. But when my partner and I traveled there last December, and our 45-kg bellhop² insisted on carrying our heavy suitcases to our room, we thought a few hundred yen was more than appropriate. She politely³ refused our money. And, over the course of the next week, so did the hotel clerks⁴ who equipped us with umbrellas at the first sign of rain, the concierges who booked us tables at fantastic sushi restaurants too off the grid⁵ to be listed on the In-

ternet and the restaurant owners who presented⁶ us with a souvenir menu – in English – to commemorate all the delicious food we had just eaten. No tipping meant no tipping, period⁷.

This raised a question: Do you get better service in countries where gratuity⁸ isn't expected, or is Japan unique? The answer is a little bit complicated and involves⁹ something I call the Tipping Curve.

LET ME EXPLAIN ...

Last July, I polled¹⁰ 400 experienced international travelers

about the levels of service they experienced in 24 countries and how much they tipped when they dined out in each one. In terms of¹¹ service, Japan won in a landslide¹² – it scored¹³ 4.4 points on average on a 5-point scale¹⁴ – while Russia came in dead last¹⁵, with only 1.7 points.

I built a 'tipping index' from a combination of the survey responses and the guidance of three travel etiquette websites. I discovered that countries sort¹⁶ themselves into one of three groups: those where reasonably large tips are a part of the

Speak Up EXPLAINS

Off the grid. – A *grid* es una red de cables a través de los cuales se suministra electricidad. Si una persona está *off the grid* quiere decir que no está conectada a la red (y quizás obtiene el suministro de manera ilegal). En cambio,

en este artículo significa que algunos restaurantes no aparecen en las guías turísticas y, por tanto, solo la gente de la zona los conoce.

Our 45-kg bellhop insisted on carrying our heavy suitcases to our room – *Insist on*. Lamentablemente, como no existe una regla gramatical que estipule la

preposición que va detrás de cada verbo, no queda más remedio que aprendérselas. Cuidado aquí con confundir los infinitivos (*to tip* etc.) con algún verbo que va con la preposición *to* pero que es seguido de otro verbo en gerundio y no en infinitivo, por ejemplo, *I'm looking forward to seeing you* (tengo muchas ganas de verte).

Their waiters are more likely to leave customers dissatisfied –

To be likely to + infinitivo expresa la idea de probabilidad y se traduce en castellano con el presente del subjuntivo [es más probable que...]. En este caso: 'Es más probable que sean los camareros los que dejen a los clientes insatisfechos (del servicio)'.

Country	Service Grade	Standard tip
1. Japan	4.4	0 percent
2. Thailand	3.9	3 percent
3. Canada	3.7	16 percent
4. New Zealand	3.7	16 percent
5. United Arab Emirates	3.6	10 percent
6. Germany	3.6	10 percent
7. United States	3.6	18 percent
8. South Africa	3.5	11 percent
9. Australia	3.4	8 percent
10. Argentina	3.4	10 percent
11. Morocco	3.4	7 percent
12. Turkey	3.4	8 percent
13. India	3.3	10 percent
14. Brazil	3.3	7 percent
15. Vietnam	3.2	5 percent
16. England	3.2	10 percent
17. Greece	3.2	8 percent
18. Spain	3.1	8 percent
19. France	3.1	8 percent
20. Italy	3.0	7 percent
21. Egypt	3.0	8 percent
22. Mexico	3.0	13 percent
23. China	2.9	3 percent
24. Russia	1.7	10 percent



culture, those where tipping is uncommon and those that fall somewhere in between.

THE AMERICAN WAY

The countries that received the highest grades for customer service tended to cluster¹⁷ at either end of the spectrum. In Japan and Thailand, tipping is rare, but the service is regarded as excellent. The most tip-friendly countries – the United States and Canada – also received above-average¹⁸ marks for service.

THE FRENCH

Most European nations (Germany being the exception) scored below average. Places like France, Spain and Italy often add a service charge to the bill¹⁹ – but what you tip on top of that is an open question. About

one-third of visitors to France said they left no more than pocket change for their waiters, while another quarter of the people tipped at least 15 percent for decent service.

There are also strange cases like Russia, where a tip is expected of a foreigner but not always of a native, and Egypt, where tipping is common but often at a flat rate²⁰ rather than as a percentage of the bill.

DISSATISFIED

All of this brings us to the Tipping Curve. If servers expect a generous gratuity, there is a strong economic incentive for them to do superior work. And if they expect nothing at all, good service is taken completely out of the economic context and becomes²¹ a matter of custom²². But when countries try to split the

difference or if they introduce confusing rules into the system, their servers are more likely to leave customers dissatisfied.

GLOSSARY

- 1 TO TIP:** dar propina
- 2 BELLHOP:** botones
- 3 POLITELY:** amablemente
- 4 CLERK:** recepcionista
- 5 TOO OFF THE GRID:** fuera de circuito (Ver Speak Up Explains)
- 6 TO PRESENT:** regalar, dar
- 7 PERIOD:** y punto
- 8 GRATUITY:** propina
- 9 TO INVOLVE:** implicar
- 10 TO POLL:** sondear
- 11 IN TERMS OF:** en cuanto a
- 12 TO WIN IN A LANDSLIDE:** lograr una victoria aplastante
- 13 TO SCORE:** obtener
- 14 SCALE:** escala
- 15 DEAD LAST:** el último de todos
- 16 TO SORT:** clasificar
- 17 TO CLUSTER:** agruparse
- 18 ABOVE-AVERAGE:** por encima de la media
- 19 BILL:** cuenta
- 20 FLAT RATE:** tasa fija
- 21 TO BECOME:** convertirse
- 22 A MATTER OF CUSTOM:** una cuestión de costumbre



Trumpet Master

JAZZ IS one music genre where experience matters¹ more than novelty² and look³. Jimmy Owens, a veteran American trumpeter with over forty-five years of experience playing, lecturing⁴ and composing for orchestras, films and even⁵ ballets releases a new album this month entitled *The Monk Project*. Owens has performed⁶ with some of the great figures of jazz including Dizzy Gillespie, Sweets Edison and Duke Ellington. In a recent review, magazine *All About Jazz* called him: "better than ever, whether employing a breathy⁷, vocal quality ... or brilliant ... melodic ideas."



Spellbinding Vocalist

FIONN REGAN, the Neil Young-inspired Irish singer-songwriter, who wears his hairstyle⁹ like some people wear hats, releases a third album this month. To go by¹⁰ the critics, with *100 Acres of Sycamore* Regan may better the success of his debut album *The End of History*, which was nominated for a prestigious Mercury prize in 2006.

Notes



Pet Sounds

Welsh singer Cate Le Bon mixes¹¹ folk and psychedelia in

her English and Welsh language songs. Le Bon, who releases a new album *CYRK* this month has been praised¹² for her dark lyrics and haunting¹³ voice, which she attributes to having a lot of pets that died when she was young.



Telling Tales

US singer-songwriter Craig Finn, the lead singer with band

The Hold Steady, is another musician who is famed for the content of his songs. He writes them as if they were stories, with repeated characters and storylines¹⁴. Finn releases the solo album *Clear Heart Full Eyes*.



Something Going On

American electropop duo Chairlift started out as a Colorado-

based university project to make background¹⁵ music for haunted¹⁶ houses in 2005. Now based in Brooklyn, seven successful years on¹⁷, Caroline Polachek and Patrick Wimberly release¹⁸ a third album called *Something*.

GLOSSARY

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 TO MATTER: importar | 10 TO GO BY: a juzgar por |
| 2 NOVELTY: novedoso | 11 TO MIX: mezclar |
| 3 LOOK: apariencia | 12 TO PRAISE: elogiar |
| 4 TO LECTURE: dar clases | 13 HAUNTING: evocador |
| 5 EVEN: incluso | 14 STORYLINE: historia |
| 6 TO PERFORM: actuar | 15 BACKGROUND: de fondo |
| 7 BREATHY: atmosférico | 16 HAUNTED: encantado |
| 8 SPELLBINDING: cautivador, fascinante | 17 SEVEN YEARS ON: siete años más tarde |
| 9 HAIRSTYLE: peinado | 18 RELEASE: publicar |



Gender Bender

GLENN CLOSE'S angular, androgynous features have served her well in roles where sex and sexual stereotypes are blurred¹. In 1987's *Fatal Attraction* she played a femme fatale stalker² who dominates Michael Douglas! Then she gave a moving performance in 1995's *Serving in Silence*, playing a highly-respected female army officer who is discharged³ for coming out of the closet⁴. Going by⁵ the critics, she is equally compelling⁶ in *Albert Nobbs*. Set in turn of the century Dublin, she plays a woman who disguises herself⁷ as a man in order to get a job as a butler⁸, then keeps the charade going for thirty years! All's well until Helen (Mia Wasikowska) steps in – a headstrong⁹ young lass who wants to emigrate to America.



On the Money

BRAD PITT plays a tough, sweaty, stressed team manager in the film *Moneyball* – yet more proof that the USA can't get enough of baseball¹¹ movies! This time, though, the plot centres on the dirty business of trading players, and how computer analysis, rather than cash, can win the game.



Nuptials Down Under

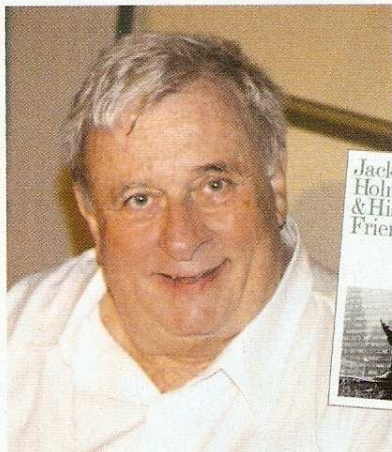
OLIVIA NEWTON JOHN, star of the classic musical *Grease*, is an Australian icon, so the stakes are high¹⁰ for *A Few Best Men*, her first major feature in 30 years. Directed by Stephan Elliot of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* fame, it is the story of a trio of British male misfits and a rock n' roll mother of the bride who team up to upset an outback wedding.



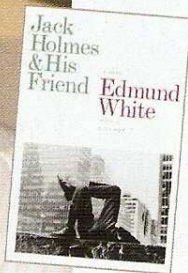
GLOSSARY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 BLURRED: borroso | 7 TO DISGUISE ONE-SELF: disfrazarse |
| 2 STALKER: acosador | 8 BUTLER: mayordomo |
| 3 TO DISCHARGE: expulsar | 9 HEADSTRONG: testarudo |
| 4 CLOSET: armario | 10 THE STAKES ARE HIGH: las expectativas son altas |
| 5 GOING BY: a juzgar por | 11 BASEBALL: béisbol |
| 6 COMPELLING: convincente | |

Exploring Sex and Sensibility



EDMUND WHITE is considered to be one of the best contemporary American writers. Candid about his homosexual promiscuity, he has written for decades now with acuity¹, insight² and compassion about the gay experience in the USA, most notably in his three auto-



biographical novels, *A Boy's Own Story*, *The Beautiful Room is Empty* and *The Farewell Symphony*. *Jack Holmes and His Friend* (Bloomsbury) is an exploration of sexuality and sensibility centring on the friendship between a gay man and a straight⁴ man in New York from the 1960s to the 1990s. With his usual "metaphors of startling⁵ precision" (Martin Amis), White gives us a sometimes delicate, sometimes colourful rendering⁶ of the whole range⁷ of New York society.



Parenting the Chinese Way

YALE LAW SCHOOL professor Amy Chua hit the headlines⁸ last year with a supposedly controversial book on parenting⁹. *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* (Bloomsbury), now in paperback, was supposed to show how Chinese parents are better at raising¹⁰ children than Western ones. In reality, it is an entertaining, highly readable memoir "about the art of obsessive parenting" (*The New York Times*), as Chua tries, gruellingly¹¹, to turn her two young daughters into¹² prodigies.

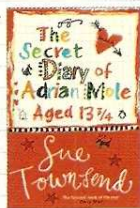
News and Reviews



Music for Books

American company Booktrack is offering

soundtracks¹³ for e-books, novels and non-fiction. The 'movie-like soundtracks' combine sound effects, original music and ambient sound, and adjust to your reading speed. Titles include *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.



Adrian Mole Revisited

This month sees the publication of a special

edition in hardback¹⁴ to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first appearance of Sue Townsend's comic novel, *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4* (Michael Joseph). Seven volumes of Mole's diaries followed.



Arnie's Total Recall

Bodybuilder¹⁵-turned actor-turned politician

Arnold Schwarzenegger has decided to 'tell all'. Star of films such as *Terminator* and *Total Recall*¹⁶, Arnie will publish his "unbelievably true memoir" next October, unimaginatively entitled *Total Recall* (Simon & Schuster).

GLOSSARY

- 1 ACUITY:** agudeza
- 2 INSIGHT:** perspicacia
- 3 FAREWELL:** despedida
- 4 STRAIGHT:** heterosexual
- 5 STARTLING:** sorprendente
- 6 RENDERING:** retrato
- 7 RANGE:** gama
- 8 TO HIT THE HEADLINES:** salir en los titulares
- 9 PARENTING:** educar a los hijos
- 10 TO RAISE:** criar
- 11 GRUELLING:** agotador
- 12 TO TURN INTO:** convertir en
- 13 SOUNDTRACK:** banda sonora
- 14 HARDBACK:** tapa dura
- 15 BODYBUILDER:** culturista
- 16 TOTAL RECALL:** memoria excelente

FURTHER INFORMATION: General information about books can be found at www.amazon.co.uk, which also sells books and delivers internationally. To find out more about the books described on this page and others, please take a look at the following publishers' websites: Bloomsbury: www.bloomsbury.com, Michael Joseph: www.penguin.co.uk, Simon & Schuster: www.simonandschuster.com.



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2 PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

GLOBAL VILLAGE

GOSIA STEPIEN



¿Qué acento tienen los polacos cuando hablan en inglés? Gosia Stepien lleva siete años residiendo en Gran Bretaña, es una enamorada de Notting Hill y le encantan los *scones*. Veamos cómo nos lo cuenta.

We continue our series of brief interviews with foreign residents in London. This month we meet a Polish¹ girl who introduces herself:

Gosia Stepien (Polish accent): Hello, my name is Gosia, I come from Poland. I've been here in (the) UK for seven years and I work at a big media company².

Where did you learn English?

Gosia Stepien: *I was learning English since I've been six or seven but, to be honest, I've learnt properly English when I came here to England and I have a chance to speak with English people and, to be honest, I start learn here, so I've been using (it) here in real life, so I think it's the best way, if you come to the country and then you learn the language.*

What is your favourite place in London?

Gosia Stepien: The place I like the most in London is Notting Hill, especially Portobello market, when (sic) I can find so many vintage clothes³ and the best vintage bags ever.

What do you like most about England?

Gosia Stepien: What I like about England is scones⁴ with cream and strawberry⁵! And those little villages at Cornwall.

GLOSSARY

- 1 POLISH:** polaca
- 2 MEDIA COMPANY:** empresa multimedia
- 3 VINTAGE CLOTHES:** ropa de época
- 4 SCONES:** bollito (se come untado de mantequilla, mermelada y crema de leche)
- 5 STRAWBERRY:** fresa

Speak Up EXPLAINS

En la entrevista hemos señalado en cursiva algunas frases incorrectas en inglés. Lo correcto es decir: *I've been learning English since I was six or seven; I learnt English properly; I had a chance; I started learning in Cornwall* en lugar de 'at'.





¿Sabes la última?
¿No? Pues lee esta página.
Es la monda, ya verás...

JOKES // ON CD10

SPEAKER CHUCK ROLANDO STANDARD AMERICAN ACCENT

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **C1 ADVANCED**

The Last Laugh

The Mexican Maid

A Hollywood film producer and his wife lived in a luxury house in Beverly Hills. Like many rich people in Los Angeles, they had a Mexican maid¹. One day the maid asked the wife for a pay increase². The wife asked: "Now, Maria, why do you want a pay increase?"

Maria answered: "Well, Señora, there are three reasons why I want an increase."

"OK," said the wife, "what are they?"

"Well," said Maria, "the first reason is that I iron³ better than you."

"Oh, really?" said the wife, "Who says you iron better than me?"



Maria answered: "Your husband says so."

"Oh, yeah?" said the wife, "and what's the second reason?"

Maria answered: "Well, Señora, the second reason is that I am a better cook⁴ than you are."

"Nonsense!"⁵ answered the wife,

"who says you are a better cook than I am?"

Maria answered: "Your husband."

By now the wife was getting pretty angry:

"Oh, he does, does he? Now, tell me the third reason: it had better be pretty good!"⁶

"OK," answered Maria, "the third reason is that I am better at sex than you are."

By now the wife was furious: "And does my husband say that as well?"

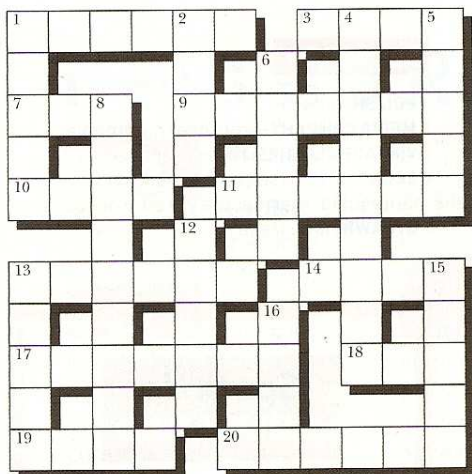
"No, Señora," answered Maria, "the gardener⁷ does."

"Oh, ok," answered the wife, "so, how much do you want?"

GLOSSARY

- 1 MAID:** criada
- 2 PAY INCREASE:** aumento de sueldo
- 3 TO IRON:** planchar
- 4 TO BE A BETTER COOK:** ser mejor cocinera
- 5 NONSENSE:** tonterías
- 6 IT HAD BETTER BE PRETTY GOOD:** más vale que sea muy buena
- 7 GARDENER:** jardinero

CROSSWORD C1 ADVANCED



ACROSS

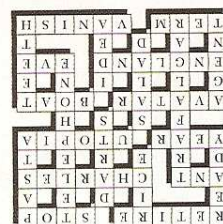
- 1** Stop work, around the age of 65.
- 3** Come to a halt.
- 7** Small, six-legged insect that is known for working very hard.
- 9** Name of the crown prince of the British royal family.

- 10** Happy New ...
- 11** Ideal, imaginary place, dreamed up by Thomas More in 1516.
- 13** Alter ego in computer games and the name of a film.
- 14** Vessel designed for transportation on water.
- 17** A country in the UK, with Scotland, Wales and Ireland.
- 18** The last day of the year is called New Year's ...
- 19** One of three periods of time during a school year.
- 20** Suddenly disappear, become invisible.

DOWN

- 1** The taxi has arrived. Are you ... to go?
- 2** Main ingredient of paella, risotto and a sweet, milky pudding.

- 4** You can contact me via email, fax or ...
- 5** Dried and shaped dough, such as spaghetti or macaroni.
- 6** Popular game played in English and Irish pubs.
- 8** Central London square with a memorial to Admiral Nelson.
- 12** Green leaves and vegetables, tossed with a dressing.
- 13** James Bond is a special ... with the British Secret Service.
- 15** They're in your mouth and you use them to chew.
- 16** A thought that comes into your head, either good or bad.



SOLUTION