

# Maîtrisez l'anglais en 12 sujets



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**Jenny Smith**

# Table des Matières

[Audiobook gratuit !](#)

[Comment arriver à parler anglais couramment](#)

[Crime](#)

[Law](#)

[The News](#)

[Food and Cooking](#)

[Property](#)

[Romance](#)

[Hospitals/Medicine](#)

[School](#)

[Sports](#)

[Football/Soccer](#)

[Cars](#)

[Wildlife](#)

[Nature](#)

[Audiobook gratuit !](#)

[Conclusion](#)

[Plus de choses à écouter !](#)

# Maîtrisez l'anglais en 12 sujets

Plus de 200 mots et phrases intermédiaires expliqués

Jenny Smith

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# Table of Contents

[Audiobook gratuit !](#)

[Comment arriver à parler anglais couramment](#)

[Crime](#)

[Law](#)

[The News](#)

[Food and Cooking](#)

[Property](#)

[Romance](#)

[Hospitals/Medicine](#)

[School](#)

[Sports](#)

[Football/Soccer](#)

[Cars](#)

[Wildlife](#)

[Nature](#)

[Audiobook gratuit !](#)

[Conclusion](#)

[Plus de choses à écouter !](#)

## COMMENT ARRIVER À PARLER ANGLAIS COURAMMENT

*Ce livre est destiné aux apprenants d'anglais intermédiaires.*

Beaucoup de choses font d'un individu un excellent anglophone, l'une des choses principales étant qu'ils peuvent parler d'un grand nombre de sujets différents facilement. Beaucoup d'élèves du niveau intermédiaire peuvent très bien parler de certains sujets, mais ils se perdent complètement quand quelqu'un parle d'un sujet inconnu. Ce livre vous aide à construire votre vocabulaire en 12 sujets très utiles et communs.

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**Un)** Ce livre couvre 12 sujets très communs. Le vocabulaire utilisé est « spécialisé » mais commun à la vie de tous les jours.

**Deux)** Si vous ne pouvez parler que de quelques sujets limités, vous **ne parlerez pas** couramment. Ce livre vous aide à passer ces limites.

**Trois)** Ce livre contient **235 nouveaux mots et phrases** introduits en contexte (nouvelles ou articles). Cela rend l'apprentissage facile et amusant, tout en voyant comment ces termes sont couramment utilisés.

**Quatre)** Chaque nouveau mot ou phrase est expliqué en anglais simple. Cela vous aidera à vous habituer à penser en anglais plutôt que de traduire à partir de votre propre langue tout le temps.

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**Six)** A la fin de chaque chapitre, il y a une section « Entraînement supplémentaire ». Il s'agit d'émissions de télévision et de chaînes Youtube qui vous aideront à pratiquer la langue.

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J'ai aussi beaucoup d'autres livres sur [ma page d'auteur](#). N'hésitez pas à y jeter un coup d'œil.

**Ok, commençons.**

# CRIME

## PART ONE

### The Police

Me and my partner had been working on the case for about two months. We were part of a larger sting operation to take down Henry Deacon, one of the most notorious crime bosses in town. He'd been picked up before for petty crime such as selling black-market goods but nothing ever really stuck. The evidence was either found to be inadmissible in court or the jury members would be intimidated or bought off, so he'd always walk.

#### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A case:** Here this word means when the police investigate a crime. An investigation.

Example: *The murder case took two years to investigate.*

**A sting/sting operation:** This is sometimes called a 'police sting' and is a complicated operation to catch criminals.

Example: *The police sting took over a year but eventually closed the crime syndicate down.*

**Notorious:** This means 'famous' for doing something bad (or sometimes unorthodox).

Example: *You could say that Bonnie and Clyde are famous but 'notorious' would be a better description.*



**(When someone is) picked up:** ‘To be picked up’ has many meanings but here it refers to when someone is taken to the police station for further questioning.

Example: *The escaped convict (someone who was in prison) was picked up when he tried to cross the border.*

**Petty crime/petty criminal:** A small crime/criminal. Not a serious crime/criminal.

Example1: *Stealing from shops is considered a petty crime.*

Example 2: *He was known as a bit of a petty criminal so everyone was shocked when he robbed a bank.*

**The black-market:** This is when things are sold ‘unofficially’. So they are not through formal channels and shops. They are untaxed.

Example: *Black-market cigarettes account for 30% of all cigarettes sold in the UK.*

**When something doesn’t stick:** Again this has many meanings but in this context it means when the evidence against a criminal is not enough to convict them. So the police try to connect someone to a crime but it doesn’t ‘stick to them’.

Example: *The DNA evidence was inconclusive so the charge didn’t stick.*

**To be inadmissible in court:** This is evidence that cannot be used in court. For some reason the evidence has become useless.

Example: *The witness was drunk when he saw the crime so his evidence is inadmissible.*

**To intimidate (someone)/to be intimidated (by someone):** To act in a threatening way towards someone. To feel threatened by someone. This is used for both physical and psychological intimidation.

Example 1: *He was always intimidating his wife.*

Example 2: *His wife was intimidated by him.*

**To buy someone off/To be bought off:** This is when someone is bribed to do something. To be paid by a criminal to ignore evidence etc.

Example 1: *The criminal bought the policeman off.*

Example 2: *The criminals in that town can do whatever they want because the whole police force has been bought off.*

**(When a criminal) walks:** This is when someone is definitely guilty but for some reason is not convicted of the crime.

Example: *Even though his alibi was obviously fake it meant that he was able to walk.*

## PART TWO

We'd been sitting outside of his house on a stakeout for the past week. He had not left once, when suddenly at around 3am we spotted him. He got into his car and started driving towards the western part of town. We tailed him at a distance for about a mile when he turned onto the highway. We were pretty confident that he hadn't noticed us so we maintained our distance and followed him to an abandoned warehouse. We were far away from him and we had to turn off our lights, but we could just about make-out what was happening. It seemed that it was some sort of a buy. Although it was dark, we identified the other person as a known drug importer. We rang our commanding officer but he ordered us to stand down and not to bust them as there were only two of us and it would be too risky without back-up. Even though we disagreed, that is the chain of command and we had to respect it.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A stakeout:** When the police wait outside someone's house and watch them. When the police secretly watch someone who they think may commit (has committed) a crime.

Example: The two police officers were on a stake-out watching the suspected criminal.

**To tail someone:** This is when someone (usually the police) follows someone else (usually a suspect) without them knowing about it.

Example: *The criminal made sure that he lost the tail before he tried to leave the country.*

**To (be able to) make (something) out :** This is when you cannot see something clearly but you can just about identify what it is. Note: This is not exactly a 'police show' word, but it is useful.

Example: *My daughter's drawing is a bit messy but I can just about make out that it's of a dog.*

**A buy:** This is often used to describe when criminals meet in secret to exchange money for (illegal) goods.

Example: *The drugs buy was caught on camera by a tourist filming on their smart phone.*

**A known (criminal):** This is a criminal that the police know about. The police have records/details about this criminal. This person has had past problems with the law.

Example: *He was a known criminal so the police had his finger prints on record.*

**To stand down :** Here it means when a police officer or soldier does not attack but instead retreats.

Example: *The police man was ordered to stand down when it appeared that they were about to raid the wrong house.*

**To bust (someone) for (something)/ to make a bust:** This is when the police catch and charge a criminal for something. This is usually called '**an arrest**' or '**to arrest someone**'.

Example 1: *The criminal was eventually busted for drug smuggling.*

Example 2: *The criminal was eventually arrested for drug smuggling.*

**Back-up:** Here it means additional police officers called to assist in a difficult situation.

Example: *As soon as she realised that he had a gun, she called for back-up.*

**The chain of command:** In both the police and the military they have what is known as 'the chain of command'. This describes when orders are given by the superiors and those below *must* follow them.

Example: *The chain of command means that the commander is held responsible for the mess even though it wasn't directly his fault.*

## PART THREE

The orders came through that we were to ignore the other suspect and resume our tail on Henry Deacon. We were then supposed to stop and search his car. We were able to tail him for about half a mile and then he must of made us as he suddenly swerved off of the main road and then tore off down a smaller road. We tried to pursue him but he managed to shake us. We doubled back and called in a description of his car. He was eventually spotted about two miles from our destination so we raced after him. We eventually caught up with him and pulled him over.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A suspect:** This is someone the police think may have committed a crime.

Example: *The main suspect suddenly tried to leave the country so the police arrested them.*

**To be made:** In this case it is when a the suspect realises that they are being tailed by the police and then tries to escape.

Example: *Even though the police were careful not to get too close, the suspect made them easily, and was able to lose them.*

**To swerve:** To turn very sharply (sometimes not on purpose). **To swerve off (onto another road):** This is when you dangerously turn onto another road. Note: This is not a 'police show' word but it is useful.

Example 1: *The car in front of me was swerving all around the place. I think the driver was drunk.*

Example 2: *The car swerved onto the smaller road.*

**To tear off :** To suddenly accelerate/To run off/To suddenly leave. Note: This is not a 'police show' word but it is useful.

Example: *He tore off as soon as heard the news.*

**To pursue (someone):** To follow (someone).

Example: *The policeman pursued the suspect on foot.*

**To shake (a tail):** This is when a suspect manages to lose/escape from the police who are following them.

Example: *The suspect managed to shake the police tail pretty easily.*

**To double back:** This is when you return the way that you came. It is sometimes used when you are lost or the purpose for going a certain direction no longer exists. Note: This is not a 'police show' word but it is useful.

Example: *We suddenly got caught in a thunder storm so we decided to double back and return home.*

**To call (something) in:** This is when police officers ring the police station with details or updates.

Example: *After the shooting the policeman called it in immediately.*

**To spot someone/ to be spotted:** To see someone from a distance. To see someone doing something.

Example 1: *I spotted him stealing sweets from a shop.*

Example 2: *He was spotted stealing sweets from a shop.*





## PART FOUR

We had no idea whether Deacon was armed or not so we approached his vehicle with extreme caution. He was sitting there very calmly but refused to get out of the car. Eventually we had to force him to get out of the car. When we searched the car we discovered a bag of money and a gun so we read him his rights and took him down to the station. We then booked him for possession of an illegal weapon.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To be armed:** To have a gun or a weapon.

Example: *Police officers in America are all armed.*

**To approach with caution:** This is when you should be careful when getting close to someone because they may be dangerous.

Example: *The policeman approached the suspect with caution because he thought that he might have a gun.*

**To read someone their rights:** When the police arrest someone they must inform them of their rights. For example 'you have the right to remain silent' etc. This is called 'reading someone their rights'.

Example: *The police officer read the suspect his rights and then took him to the police station.*

**To book someone for a crime:** To arrest someone for something and then enter their details in to a formal police record.

Example: *He was booked for drunk driving.*



## PART FIVE

### The Suspect

My name is Henry Deacon and I am a hard working law abiding businessman. For some reason the cops have had it in for me since I was young. I admit that I have had a few brushes with the law when I was younger and was even banged up for a while but I while I was inside I saw the error of my ways and turned over a new leaf. Since then I've been on the straight and narrow, and haven't so much as got a parking ticket. Nether-the-less the pigs have been hassling me ever since.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To have it in for someone:** This is when you dislike someone for no reason and you try to cause trouble for them. Note: This is not a 'police show' word, but it is useful.

Example: *That teacher always had it in for me, I think that's why I always hated school.*

**A law abiding (person):** Someone who obeys (follows the rules of) the law.

Example: *She was a law abiding citizen until one day she just went crazy and tried to rob a bank.*

**To have a brush with the law:** This is when you have had a 'little' trouble with the police. It has the feeling of not being that serious.

Example: *That area is so rough that most of the young men there have had brushes with the law.*

**To be banged up:** This is slang for being in prison.

Example: *He was banged up for murder.*

**To be inside:** In this case it refers to being in prison.

Example: *He studied law while he was inside and eventually defended himself in court.*

**To see the error of one's ways:** To realise that you have done something wrong. To realise that you are on the wrong path in life and to try and change it.

Example: *He was so selfish when he was younger. But he soon saw the error of his ways after he had a child and had to be responsible for someone else.*

**To turn over a new leaf:** This is when you try to change your life. To try to change your character or your life.

Example: *He was caught cheating at school and was thrown out. But he assures me that he has turned over a new leaf and that he will never do that again.*

**To be on the straight and narrow:** This is used when someone used to do illegal things but now never breaks the law.

Example: *He's been on the straight and narrow ever since he almost went to jail. He realized at that point that he needed to sort his life out.*

## PART SIX

I had been pretty ill for about a week so I hadn't left my house. I'd noticed that my house was being watched but it had happened so many times before that I thought nothing of it. Anyway I was starting to feel better so I thought that I'd take a drive. I drove around for a while and then took a walk. On my way home I was stopped by the police. It was then that they planted the gun and the money. They said that they'd caught me red handed but really they were just trying to frame me for a crime I didn't commit.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To plant evidence:** This is when the police/or someone places fake evidence at the scene to make it look like someone has done something against the law.

Example: *At first the police thought that it was suicide but then they noticed that the suicide note had been planted there, so they decided that it must have been murder.*

**To catch someone (doing something) red handed:** This means that the person was caught while in the act of doing something bad.

Example: *She caught her husband red handed with another woman.*

**To frame someone for a crime:** This is when someone tries to make it look like someone else has committed a crime even if they haven't. To make someone look guilty for something they didn't do.

Example: *He always said that he was framed but the police found his fingerprints on the murder weapon.*

**To commit a crime:** To do a crime. 'Commit' is the verb used with a lot of crimes. For example, to commit murder/suicide.

Example: *He committed his first crime when he was still in high school.*

## PART SEVEN

### **At the station.**

When we got him back to the station he started protesting his innocence and shouting that he'd never seen the gun before in his life. We ran the gun through the computer and it was connected to two unsolved murders. This was excellent news for us, not only did we have him bang to rights on the drug deal we could also pin two murders on him as well. After years of getting off scot free we now had him and we intended to throw the book at him. We were going to make sure that he would go down for this.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To protest one's innocence:** To insist with lots of passion that you are innocent.

Example: *Even though we caught him red handed he was still protesting his innocence to the end.*

**To have someone bang to rights (UK only. Very rarely used):** To have 100% solid evidence against someone.

Example: *The police had him bang to rights on the murder charge.*

**To get off scot free:** To not get punished even though you did something bad. To not be convicted (found guilty in court) even if you committed a crime.

Example: *When we were kids my brother always got off scot free but I was always punished.*

**To pin a crime on someone:** This is when the police connect someone with a certain crime. It can be used in the context when the person is actually

guilty and when the person is innocent.

Example 1: *The police found his fingerprints on the weapon so were able to pin the murder on him.*

Example 2: *The police tried to pin the murder on him even though he had an alibi.*

**To throw the book at someone:** To try and punish someone (through the legal system) as much as possible.

Example: *Because the child eventually died they threw the book at the drunk driver that caused it.*

**To go down for something:** To go to prison. To be sent to prison.

Example: *He went down for 10 years after admitting to manslaughter.*



## MORE USEFUL WORDS:

**An alibi:** This is when someone has a witness to them being somewhere else at a particular time, which proves that they couldn't have committed the crime.

**An airtight alibi:** This is when the alibi is 100% certain.

**A snitch (US and UK)/a grass (UK only):** This is a criminal who gives information to the police about other criminals in order to go free or to benefit in some way. So they betray other criminals.

**A police informant:** This is a person (usually involved in the criminal world) who sells information to the police. The slang term for them is (police) snitches (see above).

**Under-cover police:** This is a police officer that is pretending to be a criminal in order to catch real criminals.

**Pigs (US/UK)/filth (UK only)/fuzz (UK only):** These are all very insulting terms for the police.

**Top brass (UK):** The top police. Management.

**Manslaughter:** To kill someone by accident.

**First degree murder:** To plan to kill someone in advance and then actually do it.

**DUI (US):** Driving under the influence (of alcohol). This is the name of the crime. So the police charge drink drivers with a 'DUI'.

**Ma'am:** This is a word used when addressing a senior person who is female. It is often used in UK police shows. It is also used regularly in the US when respectfully addressing women.

**Guv:** This word is used in UK police shows when police officers are addressing their boss. It's a bit like 'sir' or 'madam'. It stands for **governor**.

## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are a lot of different police shows and films that you could watch, and of course you should watch as many as possible. But here are some for you to consider. Please be careful and research them first as many are **very violent** and feature bad language.

### **Easier:**

[The Bill](#): This is a long running UK police show. The stories are quite simple and there isn't too much slang.

[Southland](#): Each episode is a new story. It follows different types of police officers in Los Angeles. The stories are quite simple and there isn't too much slang.

[Columbo](#): This is quite old but is still good. It follows the work of one detective. Each episode is a new story.

### **More difficult:**

[CSI](#): This show concentrates on a forensic department within the police force. The stories are quite simple but there is a lot of 'technical' language. There are lots of different series set in different US cities. For example [CSI Miami](#) and [CSI New York](#).

[Dexter](#): This is a show about a serial killer that works in the Miami Police Department. One story runs for the whole season, but the language used is not that difficult.

[Prime Suspect](#): Very famous UK police show starring Helen Mirren. Very dark and realistic.

### **Most difficult:**

[The Shield:](#) This show is set on the streets of LA and is pretty violent. The stories are not too complicated but there is a lot of slang.

[The Wire:](#) This is by far the most difficult TV programme to understand *ever*. It features a very complicated plot with lots of different characters. There is a lot of **very** difficult slang. I am a native English speaker and it took me four episodes to 'get the hang of' the slang. However, it is very interesting and has five seasons so you will get a lot of practice. If you can understand this show completely it is proof that you are finally 100% fluent in English.

# LAW

## PART ONE

Every now and then there is a murder trial which really divides public opinion. Some people feel that the accused definitely committed the crime, while others are not that sure. One recent example was that of Joe Phillips. He was a respected local business man with lots of ties to the local community. About two years ago his business partner was shot in the back in what looked like a cold blooded murder. Mr Phillips was initially questioned by the police but denied knowing anything about it. Later that day the police discovered that a witness had seen Mr Phillips physically fighting with the victim. He was soon taken into custody for questioning. As he couldn't produce an alibi and most of the evidence pointed toward him, he was formally charged with murder.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**The accused:** The person who is suspected of committing a crime. This is a term used in court.

Example: *The accused sat in silence and refused to look at the judge.*

**Cold blooded murder:** This is when the murder was done on purpose and not because of some emotional or self defense reason. It is similar to 'premeditated murder' which is a murder that has been carefully planned in advance.

Example: *It was decided that it was cold blooded murder and that she had done it to collect the insurance money.*

**A witness:** A person that saw a crime being committed. Or an alibi that saw the accused at a different place from where the crime was committed.

Example 1: *There was a witness that saw the man being robbed.*

Example 2: *The witness said that he had seen the accused in a bar at the other side of town when the murder occurred. This means that the accused could not have committed the crime.*

**To be taken into custody:** To be taken to the police station when they suspect you of something.

Example: *He was taken into custody when they discovered that he had bought an illegal gun.*

**To be charged with (a crime):** This is when the police officially say that they think that you committed the crime.

Example: *He was formally charged with fraud. The trial should start some time early next year.*

## PART TWO

His lawyer immediately requested bail but it was denied as there were fears that Mr Phillips may try to skip bail. The defense\* immediately started to build a case to prove his innocence. Of course the prosecution was busy trying to prove that he was guilty. From the outside it was starting to look like an open and shut case. There was a witness that placed him at the scene of the crime an hour before the murder. He was also seen fighting with the victim. He had a motive, because he would gain full control of the company and make millions of pounds if his partner was dead. The only thing that was missing was a murder weapon.

\*US spelling = defense. UK spelling defence.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Bail/to skip bail:** This is money you can pay to be released from the police station after you have been charged. You will of course have to return for the court case. To 'skip bail' or 'jump bail' is when you are released on bail (or 'out on bail') and then run away.

Example 1: *Bail was set at \$30000, so there was no way that he could afford it.*

Example 2: *He skipped bail, so if he gets caught he will be sent straight to jail.*

Example 3: *The police didn't think that he was dangerous so he is out on bail now.*

**Innocence/Guilt:** If someone didn't do the crime then they are 'innocent'. If they did do the crime then they are 'guilty'.

Example 1: *He was caught on camera doing it, so he's definitely guilty.*

Example 2: *I don't know why, maybe it's the way he speaks, I just think that he's innocent.*

**The prosecution:** In a criminal court this is the side (lawyers etc) that is accusing someone of doing a crime.

Example: *The prosecution brought 100's of witnesses in to prove that the defendant was guilty.*

**The defense:** In a criminal court the individual being accused of the crime is 'the defendant', and their team of lawyers etc are called 'the defense'.

Example: *The defense argued that the defendant was not even in the same town at the time of the murder.*

**An open and shut case:** This is a case where it is very clear who committed the crime.

Example: *He was found holding the murder weapon so it was a pretty open and shut case.*

**A motive:** A reason for committing a crime.

Example: *His motive for committing the crime was jealousy. He had discovered that his wife was having an affair.*



## PART THREE

On the first day of the trial, Mr Phillips entered a plea of not guilty. The trial eventually lasted three months with around 30 people testifying for and against the accused. It seemed that he would definitely be convicted. Then suddenly it was discovered that the main witness for the prosecution had committed perjury and had not seen a fight at all. In fact it emerged that he was a long time enemy of Mr Phillips and that he had lied. Of course the case against the accused was mainly based on the witness' testimony that he'd seen a fight. Mr Phillips was eventually found not guilty by the jury and was acquitted. He later said that when the jury delivered a verdict of not guilty it was the happiest moment of his life. The witness however was immediately charged with perjury, but he is expected to appeal against it.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A trial:** This is when a criminal case is heard in the court.

Example: *The trial lasted three years and cost millions of pounds.*

**To enter a plea (of guilty/not-guilty):** This is when at the beginning of the trial the defendant says whether they are guilty or not. If they say 'not guilty' then the trial tries to find out if they are telling the truth or not. It is also called 'pleading guilty' or 'pleading not guilty'.

Example 1: *The defense entered a plea of not guilty.*

Example 2: *The defendant shocked the court by immediately pleading guilty.*

**To testify:** To give evidence in court. To say something officially in court.

Example: *He testified that he had never met the victim in his life.*

**To be convicted:** When it is decided by the court that you are guilty.

Example: *He was convicted of fraud and sent to prison for 6 months.*

**To commit perjury:** To lie in a court case.

Example: *If you commit perjury you will perhaps be sent to jail.*

**The accused:** This is the person who is being accused of the crime. Also known as the defendant.

Example: The accused denied committing the crime.

**Testimony:** This is what people officially say in a court case. For example, if a witness sees something, then they give a ‘testimony’ that they saw that thing. The verb is ‘to testify’ (see above).

Example 1: *The witness gave his testimony and then left.*

Example 2: *The witness testified that he saw the defendant at the scene of the crime.*

**Jury:** These are the ‘everyday’ people in the court that have to decide whether someone is guilty or not.

Example: *The jury only took ten minutes to decide on a not guilty verdict.*

**To be acquitted:** This is when the court decides that you are not guilty and that you are free to go.

Example: *There just wasn’t enough evidence so she was acquitted.*

**A verdict:** This is the guilty or not guilty decision (often decided by the jury).

Example: *The not guilty verdict surprised everyone.*

**To appeal:** This is when you lose a court case and then go back to court again to have the decision reversed.

Example: *He lost the court case but is expected to appeal as soon as possible.*

## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are a lot of different 'Legal Shows' but here are a few to get you started.

[Law and Order:](#) This is a good one to start with as it features both the police case and the court case that follows it.

[The Good Wife:](#) This show centers around a group of lawyers and a politician who is sent to prison. It is quite easy to understand.

[Rake:](#) This is an Australian show that stars a lawyer who has a very messy personal life. There are not many 'court room' scenes but it is very entertaining. It also features lots of famous Australian actors in cameo roles.

[Silk:](#) This is a UK legal drama. It may be slightly more difficult to understand.

# THE NEWS

## PART ONE

Tonight there have been unconfirmed reports of outbreaks of violence in Smithville. There have been mounting tensions over the past months between the ruling party and the opposition. While there has been tension for years, clashes started to flare up after one of the shadow ministers John Jones was assassinated. Since then tensions have been running high.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Unconfirmed reports:** This is exactly what it sounds like. ‘Reports or information’ which has not been officially confirmed. So it may or may not be true.

Example: *There have been unconfirmed reports that the princess is pregnant.*

**Outbreaks of violence:** This describes when incidents of violence occur in various small events at different locations.

Example: *There were outbreaks of violence but the police managed to contain things easily.*

**Mounting tensions:** This is when tensions between two (or more) parties are getting worse and worse. Another common phrase is ‘mounting fears’ and describes when fears of ‘something bad’ happening are growing.

Example: *There have been mounting tensions within my family as to whether we should put our Grandmother in an old people’s home or not.*

**The ruling party / the opposition:** The ruling party is the party that is running the government. The opposition is the party that wants to be voted in to run the government.

Example: *The opposition has accused the ruling party of incompetence.*

**To clash/ clashes:** This word is often used in the news and it means the same thing as 'battle' or 'confrontation'. It can refer to both physical and non-physical disagreements.

Example 1: *The police clashed with protesters throughout the night.*

Example 2: *There were clashes between local youths all night long.*

**To flare up:** This is when tensions/violence/disagreements occur/get worse.

Example: *Every time my whole family gets together, tensions flare up.*

**Shadow (ministers) (UK English):** This is a member of the non-ruling political party (often called the opposition party(see above)).

Example: *The Shadow Health Minister accused the government of putting profits in front of patient care.*

**To be assassinated:** To be killed for a political reason.

Example: *He was assassinated while giving a speech about public safety.*

**Tensions are running high:** Again this is exactly what it sounds like and describes a situation where everyone is very tense.

Example: *Ever since we heard that there would be some redundancies, tensions have been running high at my work.*



## PART TWO

Just before his assassination a memo was leaked where the Prime Minister dubbed Mr Jones 'a traitor' and eluded that he had links to certain radical anti-government groups. Sources close to Mr Jones claim that those claims were completely unfounded. Mr Jones had been gaining a lot of support over the past year and was poised to become a real threat to the ruling party at the next elections.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To leak something:** This is when secret information is made public. This is always disclosed (told) against the will of the person/party involved.

Example: *It was leaked that the politician was actually involved in tax evasion.*

**To be dubbed (something):** To be called (a name). When an event or person is named something for a certain reason.

Example: *The uprising in Egypt was dubbed 'The Arab Spring'.*

**A traitor:** Someone who betrays someone else. Someone who betrays their country.

Example 1: *I can't believe my best friend is still friends with my ex-wife even after what she did to me. He is such a traitor.*

Example 2: *The spy sold secrets to the other country so is basically a traitor.*

**To elude that....:** This means that something was 'hinted at'. To not say something directly but 'to convey' that meaning.



Example: *Even though he never said it directly, he eluded to the fact that he was considering retirement.*

**To have links/ties to (something):** To have connections with something.

Example: *The new finance minister has ties to one of the biggest banks so he is probably not to be trusted.*

**Sources close to (someone):** A 'source' is someone who provides information about something. So a 'source close to (someone)' is a source who is in direct contact with the person the story is about.

Example: *Sources close to the pop star say that she is recovering from exhaustion but will resume her tour as soon as possible.*

**Unfounded reports/allegations:** This is when something is not true. Is just based on rumor and not on fact.

Example 1: *The reports of his death were completely unfounded. He is actually alive and well and living in Spain.*

Example 2: *There were some unfounded allegations of fraud but nothing really came of it.*

**To be poised (to do something) (for something to happen):** You are just about to do something. This thing is just about to happen.

Example 1: *I was poised to win the Gold when my knee gave out on me and I fell over.*

Example 2: *She was poised to become the next big A-list actress and then she suddenly retired without warning.*

## PART THREE

Since his death many people have felt that they no longer have a voice and this has sparked anger amongst some of the poorer communities. We will now go to our correspondent on the ground for an update.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To have a voice:** This is when certain groups are able to get their opinions and concerns heard by those in power. When people's views are represented by the government.

Example: *Young people often feel that they don't really have a voice when it comes to local matters.*

**To spark (anger):** To cause anger etc.

Example: *The politician sparked anger when he made the sexist remarks.*

**(The reporter) on the ground:** (The reporter) who is actually at the scene of the news story.

Example: *Our reporter on the ground has the full story.*

**A correspondent:** A journalist.

Example: *Our Middle Eastern correspondent has the full story now.*

## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are lots of different news channels such as [CNN](#), [Sky](#) and [BBC news 24](#) which you should try to watch as much as possible. Also I would suggest watching [BBC's Newsnight](#) as it has extended coverage of the main stories. If you are interested in economics and finance I would suggest [The Keiser Report](#) as it is both informative and very entertaining.

### **News channels on Youtube.**

[Channel 4.](#)

[Youtube News.](#)

[New York Times.](#)

[Al Jazeera English.](#)

## FOOD AND COOKING

This is a very short chapter about cooking. By this stage in your language learning (intermediate level) you should be familiar with most of the words connected to food and cooking. Therefore we will concentrate on words and phrases that are useful but not covered in most English guides. But before we do, please just make sure that you are familiar with the common terms listed below. If you don't recognise one, please grab a dictionary and look it up, as they are all in daily use.

### **Common cooking terms:**

To fry, to bake, to chop, to cut, to slice, to boil, to steam, to roast, to soak, to toast, to drain, to mash, to roll, to knead, to peel, to skin, to marinade, to glaze, to sear, to season, to sprinkle, to simmer, to drizzle.

## PARTY FOOD

Every year around Christmas, my friends and I have a little tradition where we take it in turns to hold a small drinks party. It's usually really fun and we get to meet new people and to catch up with each other. This year was my turn. Now, I have no problem hosting the party but to be honest I absolutely hate cooking. So I decided that I would just do finger food. I decided that rather than just cooking a few big dishes that I would knock up a load of different light bites. So I made some savory nibbles, and some assorted dips. I also made spicy fruit punch for the kids which they all slurped down in one gulp. I thought that I'd cooked enough but everyone wolfed down the food within minutes so either they were really hungry or I didn't make enough. All in all it was a pretty fun party but I'm glad that I don't have to do it again next year.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Finger food/ light bites/ nibbles:** These words all basically describe the same thing and that is small snacks.

Example 1: *I don't think people will be in the mood for a full sit down meal so let's just put out some finger food.*

Example 2: *They didn't provide much food, just some light bites.*

Example 3: *It was a pretty good wedding except there were only nibbles, not any real food.*

**To knock up some food:** This describes when you very quickly prepare some really simple food. Note: be careful when using this as it sounds similar to 'knock someone up' which means to get someone pregnant.

Example: *I don't have much energy after work so I usually just knock something very simple up, and eat that.*

**A savory (dish):** This is any type of food which is not sweet.

Example: *I much prefer savoury foods to sweet things.*

**A dip:** This is a type of sauce that you can dip crackers or celery/carrots etc into.

Example: *I love sour cream and chive dip.*

**To slurp:** This is when you drink very noisily.

Example: *I hate it when people slurp when they drink.*

**To wolf (food) down:** This is when you eat very quickly.

Example: *I was so hungry that I wolfed my dinner down in about 3 minutes.*

**To gulp:** This is a loud swallowing sound. In the above paragraph it is to 'swallow in one gulp' which means that you ate something quickly.

Example: *He always made a gulping sound when he drank. It was quite unattractive.*

## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are hundreds of different food and cooking shows. Here are some of the more popular cooking programme presenters. Each one has lots of different shows.

### **Famous Cooking Show Presenters.**

[Jamie Oliver](#)

[Julia Child](#)

[Delia Smith](#)

[Gordon Ramsey](#)

### **Cooking Channels on Youtube.**

[Betty's kitchen.](#)

[Food Wishes](#)

[Simple Cooking Channel](#)

[Show me the Curry.](#)

# PROPERTY

## PART ONE

They say that moving house is one of the most stressful things to do next to divorce and losing a loved one. I'm not sure if that is true there is certainly a lot of stuff to think and worry about when you go house hunting. Firstly you have to think about what type of house you want. Do you want a house that is completely finished or would you like a renovation property. The advantage of buying somewhere which has room for improvement is that you can add value and also make your mark.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To go house hunting:** This describes the act of searching for a property to buy or to rent.

Example: *Using the internet has made house hunting a lot easier.*

**A renovation property/To renovate:** 'To renovate' is when you fix a property up, so a 'renovation property' is a building which needs work done on it.

Example: *I don't have much money so I'm going to buy a renovation property and then renovate it myself.*

**Room for improvement:** This means that it can be improved upon.

Example: *Even though you could live in it, there is definitely room for improvement.*



**To add value:** This is when you make improvements on a property, which then causes its value to go up.

Example: *We made the kitchen bigger in order to have more space and to add value to the property.*

**To make your mark (on something):** Here this phrase means to ‘put your personality onto something’ and to change it. So for example if you changed the house to have a very ‘modern’ feel, then you have *made your mark* on it.

Example: *When I moved to my new house, I really wanted to make my mark on it so I re-did it to exactly how I like things.*

## PART TWO

The next thing you need to worry about is what the area is like. Is it an up-and-coming area or more of a commuter town. Also if you have kids you have to consider whether you are in the catchment area for the best schools. Another thing is whether it has good local amenities and transport links.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**An up-and-coming area:** An area which is becoming popular.

Example: *Where I grew up used to be horrible but I hear that it's quite an up-and-coming area nowadays.*

**A commuter town:** This is a small town near a big city where people live in but commute to work in the city.

Example: *I live in a small commuter town near London. It's ok but a bit boring as there is nothing much to do.*

**A catchment area:** This is the area around somewhere like a school or a hospital that is served by that institution. For example if you live inside the catchment area of ABC School you can go there. If you live outside the catchment area however, you must go to school somewhere else.

Example: *Unfortunately we live outside of the catchment area of the best school in the area so our son couldn't go there.*

**Amenities:** These are things like shops and local services like libraries and schools.

Example: *My new house is pretty nice but there are no real amenities in the local area so we have to drive for everything.*

**Transport links:** This is basically the network of busses and trains that connect a certain area to other places.

Example: *Even though there is not much work around there, the transport links are excellent so you can probably commute to work pretty easily.*

## PART THREE

Now we come to the deciding factor, and that is the price. Even if the house has the wow factor and literally ticks all of the boxes it doesn't matter if you can't afford it. Because even if you like it, you won't be able to buy it. Nowadays more people than ever want to get on the property ladder so it is definitely a seller's market. This has meant that asking prices are at an all time high so first time buyers in particular have a difficult time getting started. My advice would be to avoid houses that have already been renovated and try to find a nice fixer-upper that you can do up slowly.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**The wow factor:** This phrase is used about houses that are really impressive. Note: this phrase is usually only used on TV and not in everyday conversation.

Example: *That property was alright but it didn't really have the wow factor. So I think that I'll keep looking for somewhere else.*

**To tick all of the boxes :** This means that a property totally meets what you want. It fits all of the criteria that you set. Note: again this phrase is only ever really used on TV.

Example: *This house has three nice bedrooms, a garage and a huge garden. It really ticks all of the boxes.*

**The property ladder:** This describes being a property owner. If you own a house etc then you are 'on the property ladder'. If you don't, then you are not on the ladder.

Example: *I have no interest in getting onto the property ladder, I'm very happy to just rent a place.*

**A seller's market:** This is when the seller has the control and can ask for a high price because a lot of people want to buy from them. The opposite is of course 'a buyer's market'.

Example 1: *There are hardly any good properties around so it really is a seller's market.*

Example 2: *When the house prices dropped in the US it was a buyer's market and you could buy nice properties at a real discount.*

**Asking prices:** The price the seller advertises the property for.

Example: *The asking price was unrealistic so I offered him a lot less.*

**A fixer-upper:** This is a property that needs to be renovated, but will be nice when it is fixed.

Example: *It's a bit of a fixer-upper but the building is pretty solid so most of the work is just cosmetic.*

**To do (something/somewhere) up:** This means 'to fix' or to 'improve' something/somewhere.

Example: *It was a ruin when I bought it but I spent a few years doing it up and it's absolutely great now.*

## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are two types of property show. The first is where the hosts take people around to find a house to buy. The second is where people renovate a property or build a new house.

### **House hunting.**

Location Location Location: This is the most popular of these shows in the UK. The presenters help members of the public go house hunting.

Property Ladder: This is basically the same as above.

A place in the sun; home or away: This is similar to the above show but people have to look for a property both in the UK and somewhere warmer. They then decide which place they would prefer to live in.

### **Renovation/building.**

Grand Designs: This show is very popular and features people who build their own (often unusual) houses.

# ROMANCE

## PART ONE

I don't know about you but it takes a lot for me to fall for someone. But with him, I would have to say that it was love at first sight. Thinking back I would probably just call it lust rather than love, but that's how I felt at the time. From the moment I laid eyes on him I fancied him. We both attended the same university and while we didn't have any of the same classes I'd always see him in the library sitting on his own studying. He never seemed to notice me but I knew immediately that I wanted to go out with him.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To fall for (someone):** To start to love someone. To fall in love with someone. To become romantically interested in someone.

Example: *Although he wasn't very handsome, because of his personality, I fell for him immediately.*

**Love at first sight:** When you fall in love with someone the first time you see them.

Example: *It was love at first sight for me and my wife.*

**Lust/to lust after someone:** To desire someone. To have sexual feelings toward someone. This is more of a physical than emotional feeling.

Example: *I think that a lot of people mistake lust for love.*

**To fancy someone:** To be interested in someone romantically.

Example: *I didn't really fancy her at first but once I got to know her I fell for her pretty quickly.*

**To go out with (UK)/ To date (US):** To be boyfriend and girlfriend. To be in a romantic relationship with someone.

Example: *We went out with each other for a few years but then ended it when he went off to work abroad.*



## PART TWO

Now I have never ‘pulled’ anyone in my life, I even find flirting to be a bit embarrassing. But I made my mind up that if I was ever going to meet him I’d have to make the first move. I asked my friends for advice but they were all totally useless. This was because they were usually the one’s getting hit on and not the other way around. Eventually I bought a book called ‘How to Chat Up Boys’. It was filled with the usual stuff like cheesy pick up lines, so I decided to ignore that too.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To pull (someone) (UK):** To talk to someone and get them to go on a date with you. This is a slang term and used in very casual language.

Example: *I don’t know how he does it but every time we go to a party he manages to pull.*

**To flirt (with someone):** To speak to someone (who you are romantically interested in) in a way that is playful and makes it clear that you are interested in them.

Example: *I’m not that good at flirting, I always say something weird and put the guy off.*

**To make the first move:** To be the one to make a romantic advance on the other person.

Example: *In most cultures it’s the man that makes the first move.*

**To hit on (someone) (US):** This is when you try to flirt with someone. You try to get them to be interested in you. Note: Be careful as ‘to hit’ and ‘to hit on’ have completely different meanings.

Example: *I hate that bar, all the guys are constantly trying to hit on all the girls.*

**To chat (someone) up (UK):** To flirt with someone and try to get with them romantically.

Example: *I can never chat girls up, I never know what to say.*

**Pick up lines:** To 'pick someone up' is the US version of 'to pull'. So a 'pick up line' is a phrase that you use to start a conversation with someone that you are interested in romantically. The UK version is a 'chat up line'.

Example: *Probably the most common pick up line is 'do you come here often?' which to be honest is not that good of a line.*

## PART THREE

Then one day out of the blue, he suddenly came over to my desk and asked me out on a date. I was completely shocked as I didn't think he even knew that I existed. I thought for a second about playing hard to get, as that was the advice I got from the useless book. But I thought for a second and decided to not be an idiot and to just say 'yes'. We dated for about three months and I was completely head over heels in love with him. Then slowly his attitude towards me started to change and he seemed a bit cold and distant.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To ask someone out:** To invite someone on a date.

Example: *I was so nervous when I asked her out, that I almost didn't hear her answer.*

**To play hard to get:** This is when you pretend that you are not interested in someone in order to trick them into being even more interested in you.

Example: *I don't really like girls that play hard to get. If they are interested they should just be straight about it.*

**To be head over heels in love (with someone):** To be completely 100% in love with someone.

Example: *We were head over heels in love when we first started to date, but we soon grew tired of each other after we got married!*



## PART FOUR

Then I started to hear rumours that he had been playing the field and that he was well known for two timing girls. I confronted him but he always laughed and said that it was funny because he was the complete opposite of 'a player'. I tried to ignore the rumours and refused to believe that he would cheat on me, but at the back of my mind I couldn't shake the feeling that it was true. Then one of my best friends rang me with the news that he had hooked up with another friend of hers. I went around to his house immediately to ask him if he had gotten off with this girl. When I got to his house, to my shock and horror, I saw him through the window snogging the other girl.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To play the field:** To date lots of people (sometimes at the same time).

Example: *I was never the one to play the field when I was younger.*

**To two time (someone)/ a two timing.....:** This is when you have two partners and they don't know about it. To cheat on someone.

Example 1: *I had no idea that she was actually two timing me the whole time we were going out with each other.*

Example 2: *My ex-husband was a complete two timing liar.*

**A player (US):** Someone (usually a man) who has lots of partners and is not that serious about relationships.

Example: *I would stay away from him if I were you, he's a bit of a player.*

**To cheat on (someone):** To be unfaithful to someone. To date/sleep with someone else even though you have a regular partner.

Example: *It turned out that she was cheating on her boyfriend for the past few months.*

**To hook up (with someone):** This means to kiss or have sex with someone. It is used by younger people.

Example: *I heard that Tilley and Adrian hooked up over the weekend!*

**To get off with (someone) (UK):** This usually means to (romantically) kiss someone.

Example: *Is it true that she got off with her best friend's boyfriend?*

**To snog (UK):** To (French) kiss someone. This could be seen as a slang term.

Example: *Her dad caught her snogging some boy in their sitting room.*

## PART FIVE

I was absolutely heart-broken but I knew then and there that I would break up with him. I thought about ringing on the doorbell and dumping him in person but I was so upset that I thought I couldn't handle it. So I pulled out my phone and took a picture of them kissing, and then emailed it to him with the message, 'you're dumped'. I never heard from him again and he stopped using the library so we never saw each other. It took a long time to get over it but I eventually got a boyfriend who apart from not sleeping around is also probably the love of my life. So it goes to show that there is a difference between real love and just plain old lust.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To break up with someone:** To end a relationship with someone. This can be either one person's action or a mutual decision.

Example 1: *I broke up with my girlfriend over the weekend.*

Example 2: *Me and my girlfriend decided to break up.*

**To dump someone:** To end a relationship with someone. This is when it is one person's decision. It has the feeling that the other person would be upset by it. It is not a polite phrase.

Example: *I don't know why but he always ends up dumping his girlfriends after a few months.*

**The love of one's life:** The main love in your entire life.

Example: *Even though I've had lots of relationships, I still think that my first boyfriend was the love of my life.*

**To sleep around:** To have lots of different sexual partners.

Example: *People who sleep around put themselves at more risk of catching STDs.*



## EXTRA PRACTICE

Most TV dramas feature an element of romance but don't exclusively center around it. If you would like to just concentrate on this type of language then I suggest you watch films instead as there are a lot of 'Romance movies'. I also suggest that you watch 'Reality shows' such as '[Made in Chelsea](#)' or if you can't find anything better '[Jersey shore](#)' as 'relationships' are basically all they ever talk about.

# HOSPITALS/MEDICINE

## PART ONE

I've been working in a hospital for about a year. In this time I've pretty much gotten used to it, but at first I had no idea what was going on. I mean, everything was just so confusing. For instance, all of the job titles are strange. Of course I understood 'doctor' and 'nurse' but apart from that there are all these different levels and types. For example with the doctors there are obviously the surgeons and the other doctors but what is the difference? Also there are pediatricians, obgyns and midwives. There are also cardiologists, oncologists and a ton of other types of doctor.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Paediatricians :** This is a doctor that deals with babies and children. This branch of medicine is called 'pediatrics'.

Example: *Tom's paediatrician says that he is getting better.*

**OBGYN:** This is a shortened term for obstetrics and gynecology. So it refers to a branch of medicine dealing with women/pregnancy.

Example: *The OBGYN told me that I needed to get as much rest as possible before the due date.*

**A midwife:** This is a person who deals with the actual birth of a child.

Example: *The midwife was very helpful and really helped the birth go as smoothly as possible.*

**A cardiologist:** This is a doctor that deals with heart problems. The branch of medicine is called 'cardiology'.

Example: *The cardiologist said that I would have to quit smoking and stop eating red meat if I wanted to reduce my chances of getting heart disease.*

**An oncologist:** This is a doctor that deals with cancer patients. The branch of medicine is called 'oncology'.

Example: *The oncologist had to break the news that the patient had cancer.*

## PART TWO

Also, to make things even more confusing, within the doctors there are different levels of seniority. The new doctors are called residents, and are basically still doing their on-the-job-training. The next level up are the attendings who are the ‘full’ doctors and have totally finished their training.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A resident:** This is a newly graduated doctor who has to do on the job training. This training is called ‘residency’.

Example: *The residents are the ones who have to work crazy hours but they don't tend to get paid that much.*

**An attending:** This is a doctor who has finished his on the job training.

Example: *The attendings have to teach the residents.*

## PART THREE

Another thing that took me a long time to get used to was all of the jargon and specialised language. Here are a few of the words that they use regularly. A drip is called an 'I.V.'. When they take someone's pulse and blood pressure they call that 'vitals'. When someone is having a heart attack they call that a 'cardiac arrest'. Another word they use is 'coding' which is when the heart has stopped. If someone 'flat lines', that means that their heart has stopped and that basically they are dead. Then they use the paddles and just before they electric shock the heart they shout "clear". Also, another word they often used was 'a central line' which is the tube they use to do \*chemotherapy with.

\*A cancer treatment.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**An IV/a drip:** This is medicine that is delivered directly into the veins (IntraVenously).

Example: *He couldn't eat or drink so they had to give him liquids via a drip.*

**Vitals:** This refers to 'vital signs' and are ([according to Wikipedia](#)) body temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate.

Example: *The doctor checked the patient's vitals as soon as he got into the Emergency Room.*

**Cardiac arrest:** Heart attack.

Example: *He had a cardiac arrest so was rushed to hospital.*

**Coding:** This means that the patient's heart has stopped.

Example: *He's coding so we have to shock him.*

**To flat line:** This basically means when your heart stops beating. It refers to when the line on the heart monitor suddenly goes flat.

Example: *He flat lined during surgery but luckily the doctor was able to save him.*

**‘Clear!’:** In hospital dramas they always shout ‘clear’ when they are about to electric shock someone in order to get their heart started again.

**A central line:** This is the tube they use to administer chemotherapy drugs.

Example: *The resident was learning how to set up a central line.*

## PART FOUR

Finally there were all of the different sections to the hospital. Firstly there are the wings, which are the main sections of the hospital building. Next are the wards which are sections of the hospital that deal with different medical problems. For example the 'oncology ward' and the 'pediatric ward'. Then there is the 'E.R' which is the emergency room, where they deal with all of the emergencies.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A hospital wing:** A large section of the hospital building.

Example: *Which wing is oncology in?*

**A ward:** This is a section in the hospital that deals with a certain branch of medicine.

Example: *Where is the oncology ward?*

**The emergency room:** This is the section where they deal with all of the emergencies.

Example: *The emergency room is a very stressful place to work.*

## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are both hospital dramas and ‘reality show hospital documentaries’

### **Hospital Dramas.**

[ER:](#) This is a famous drama featuring George Clooney.

[Grey’s Anatomy:](#) This show center’s around a group of interns.

[Scrubs:](#) This is a comedy show that also centers around a group of interns.

[Casualty:](#) This is a UK show that is based in an emergency room.

### **Reality Documentaries.**

[24 hours on A&E:](#) This show is based in an accident and emergency ward in a real UK hospital.

[One Born Every Minute:](#) This show is based in a maternity ward (where babies are born) in a real UK hospital.



# SCHOOL

## PART ONE

Most people look back at their school days with fondness, but not me. I absolutely hated school. I don't know exactly what it was but I just never really got into it. I think partly it was the fact that there were all of these cliques which I never really felt part of. Also there was real peer pressure to dress and act like everyone else. I used to dread going to school in the morning and I'd just spend the whole day waiting until the bell went so that I could finally go home.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A clique:** This is a small closed group of people. It is a negative term and describes a bit of a socially unhealthy group that doesn't like outsiders or doesn't treat non-group members well.

Example: *The problem with letting people choose which team to work on at work is that weird little cliques form.*

**Peer pressure:** This is when people of the same age or social background pressure you into doing something bad/you don't want to do. It is not always that they are forcing you, but more that everyone else is doing it so you feel that you should do it as well. For example if everyone else around you smokes then you might feel that you should start smoking as well.

Example: *I first started \*shop lifting because of peer pressure. All of my friends were doing it so I just sort of naturally fell into it.*

\*Stealing from shops.

**The bell:** This is the alarm that signals the beginning, breaks and end of the school day.

Example: *As soon as the end bell went I grabbed my bag and ran out of school.*

## PART TWO

I was pretty well behaved and was never suspended or excluded or anything like that, but I did used to bunk off a lot. I used to go to the local park and wait until it was time to go home and then pretend to my mother that I'd been at school all day. I remember that even though I loved the end of term because I didn't have to go to school over the holidays, I used to hate it because there was parent's evening, and my mum would discover my truancy. When I turned sixteen it was the happiest time in my life because I went to college\* which was totally different from school.

\*In the UK children finish school at 16 and then go to College for two years. This is the same as the US version, High School. Then at 18 they can go to University. This is what Americans often call 'College'.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To be suspended:** This is when a child has done something wrong and they are not allowed to come to school for a short period of time (a week or two). It is quite serious.

Example: *Tom was caught cheating on his homework so he was suspended for a week.*

**To be excluded:** This is when a child has done something really bad and is no longer allowed to attend that school. It is very serious.

Example: *Fiona was excluded for stealing school equipment.*

**To bunk off (UK)/To play hooky (US):** To not go to school even when you are supposed to.

Example 1: *I used to bunk off and go to the cinema instead.*

Example 2: *I used to play hooky and go to the movies instead.*

**Parent's evening:** This is when the parents of the students come in to discuss their child's progress with the teachers.

Example: *I've heard that most teachers absolutely hate parent's evening.*

**Truancy:** This is the more formal word for when a child 'bunks off'.

Example: *Truancy is a major problem in most UK schools.*

## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are both school dramas and 'reality show hospital documentaries'.

### **Dramas.**

[Waterloo Road](#): This is a UK drama based around the lives of students and teachers of a Scottish secondary school.

[Teachers](#): This UK drama is based around the lives of a group of teachers at a secondary school.

### **Reality Documentaries.**

[Education Essex](#), [Educating Yorkshire](#): Both of these shows are set in real schools and feature real students and teachers.

## SPORTS

You should be familiar with a lot of the language connected to sports as it appears in most 'Elementary English' courses. However, there may be a few phrases that you are unfamiliar with so we will take a look at them now. We will also take a quick look at the specialized language for football/soccer as many of these words can be used for other sports as well.

### **Some words that you may not know:**

**Opponent:** This is the person or team that you are competing against.

Example: *John's opponent in the Karate match was pretty good but John managed to win.*

**Disqualification:** This is when you are punished for doing something wrong and can no longer compete in the game or competition.

Example: *He was disqualified for punching below the belt.*

**Steroids:** These are a type of drug which enhance your physical performance. They are not allowed in sports competitions.

Example: *Everyone knew that he was taking steroids but nobody said anything.*

**Endurance:** This is when you keep going even if you are really tired. The ability to endure.

Example: *Marathon runners have amazing endurance.*



## FOOTBALL/SOCCER

That was an absolutely amazing game. Jones played excellently and was able to get a hat-trick. Even though he got a yellow card in the first half he still went on to play a great game. The first goal was stunning, as he managed to dribble half way down the field, tackle past the keeper and then blast into the back of the net. The second goal was from a cross from the midfielder, it looked like he might be off side for a second but it was ok and he volleyed it right over the keeper's head. Towards the end of the match he was fouled and got a penalty, which he scored. It really was an exceptional performance from Jones this evening.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A hat-trick:** This is when one player scores three goals in one match.

Example: *The striker scored a hat-trick in the last 20 minutes of the game.*

**A yellow/red card:** This is a warning that the player gets from the referee if they do something wrong. If they get two yellow cards they will get sent off (they can't continue with the game). The red card is more serious. If they get that they will get sent off immediately.

Example 1: *Ok, that was his first yellow card. Let's hope that he doesn't get another one.*

Example 2: *It was such a dangerous tackle that he got a red card and was immediately sent off.*

**To dribble the ball:** This is when a player keeps kicking the ball over a distance and stays with the ball. ([Here's a video on how to do it](#))

Example: *He dribbled the ball past the defender and then took a shot at goal.*



**To tackle:** This is when two opposing players try to get possession of the ball. ([Here's a video on how to do it](#))

Example: *The other player managed to tackle the ball away from me.*

**To cross the ball:** This is when you pass the ball to another player on your team. It is often over quite a large distance. ([Here's a video on how to do it](#))

Example: *He crossed the ball to me but the defender got to it first.*

**The keeper:** This means 'goal keeper', the player that defends the goal. They are also sometimes called the 'goalie'.

Example: *The keeper has had a great game and has made some excellent saves.*

**To be off side (the off side rule):** When the ball goes into play, the defense must be between the goal and the 'attacking' side. This rule is a little complicated but it stops players just waiting by the goal; they have to get past the other team's defense first.

Example: *The goal was not allowed because the striker was offside when the ball was passed to him.*

**To volley (the ball):** This is when the ball comes to you in the air and you kick it without it touching the ground. ([Here's a video on how to do it](#))

Example: *He volleyed the ball right at the goal, but unfortunately the goalie (goal keeper) caught it.*

**To foul:** This is when one player physically obstructs/strikes another player. ([Here's a video with some terrible fouls](#)).

Example: *He was a good player but he was always fouling, so he'd get sent off early.*

**A penalty:** If a player fouls or breaks the rules within their own goal keeper's box then the other team gets awarded a direct shot at goal. Also, if the game has no winner at the end, and there needs to be a winner, then they will have a penalty shootout to decide the winner. ([Here's a video of a penalty shootout](#)).

Example: *If he scores this penalty they will win the game.*

# CARS

## PART ONE

Buying a car can be quite fun but it can also be a bit frustrating. Especially if you have no idea of what to look for. Last time I bought a car, instead of just looking for 'any' car, I decided to write out a check-list to help me get exactly what I was after.

**Item One.** Price: What type of car could I afford?

First I had to decide on the price range of the car I was looking for. I knew that if I spent too little I'd end up with a clapped out old banger which wouldn't be road worthy, and definitely wouldn't pass its MOT. On the other hand if I bought a higher priced car I would have to take out financing which I definitely didn't want to do. So in the end I decided on a second hand car at the middle price range of the market.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Price range:** This is the space between the lowest and highest price you are willing to spend on an item.

Example: *I would like to buy a sports car but they're a little out of my price range.*

**Clapped out (UK):** This means old and probably close to the end of its usefulness.

Example 1: *My car is completely clapped out. It's time I brought a new one.*

Example 2: *I used to be good at sports, but I'm a bit clapped out now.*

**An old banger:** An old car which is in bad condition.

Example: *My dad always used to drive old bangers. Even if he had money to buy a decent car he never would.*

**To be road worthy:** When a car is in an acceptable condition to be driven on the road. It is not dangerous.

Example: *I kept on telling him that his car wasn't road worthy. It was no surprise when it broke down.*

**M.O.T:** This is a UK test to check that cars are safe to be on the road. All cars must 'pass their M.O.T' to get insurance, and you must have insurance to drive a car.

Example: *My car failed its M.O.T so it's going to cost a fortune to get it fixed.*

**Financing:** This is a loan to buy an expensive item. It is sometimes called 'HP' or 'hire purchase' in the UK.

Example: *I had to get financing to buy my car. I knew I couldn't afford it but I needed a decent car for work.*

**A second hand car/a used car:** This is a car which has been previously owned by someone else.

Example: *Buying a second hand car is always a risk as it may have problems that you don't know about.*

## PART TWO

**Item Two.** What do you need the car for?:

There are lots of different makes and models of cars so it's important to choose one that suits your purposes. Do you want a coupe, a 4x4 or a hatchback? Maybe you want a nippy little run-around for just doing the shopping and going on short journeys. If you do I would suggest an automatic rather than a manual car. This is because if you are constantly speeding up and slowing down (like when you drive around town) it can be annoying constantly having to change gears. If on the other hand you are doing longer journeys, you may want a manual as they get more miles-per-gallon and you will save money on petrol. Also if you are going on long journeys you will want to be comfortable so it may be an idea to get a car with a high spec and lots of safety features such as airbags.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Make and model:** A 'make' is the 'brand' of car. The model is the 'version' of the car.

Example: *There are lots of makes and models of Japanese cars but I like the 'Hybrids'.*

**A coupe:** A two door car.

Example: *Coupes are not really suitable if you have children.*

**A hatchback:** A hatchback is a car which has a door at the very back that gives you access to the car. This is different to a trunk (US)/boot (UK), which is an enclosed storage compartment.

Example: *Hatchbacks are excellent for moving, because you can put the seats down for extra storage space.*

**Nippy:** Here this means small and quick. Very good at manoeuvring quickly.

Example: *I love small cars because they are so nippy.*

**A run-around:** A car that you use for short distances. A town car.

Example: *I just need a run-around for picking up the kids from school and doing the weekly shopping.*

**An automatic car:** A car that automatically changes gears for you.

Example: *I love automatic cars, all you have to do is point them in the right direction and then just press the pedal.*

**A manual (UK)/ Stick (US):** A car where you have to change the gears by yourself.

Example: *Manuals are much more popular in Europe than in America.*

**To change gears:** Cars have different 'driving modes' called 'gears'. For example if you are going slow or up a hill you want a low gear, but if you are going fast or on a flat road you will need a higher gear. So you need to 'change' between the 'gears'.

Example: *I like changing gears myself rather than using an automatic car. It gives me more of a feeling of control.*

**Miles-per-gallon:** This is how far the car can 'run' on a gallon of fuel. Sometimes called 'fuel consumption'.

Example: *How many miles-per-gallon can this car do?*

**Petrol (UK)/ Gas (US):** Fuel for cars etc.

Example: *They call petrol 'gas' in America.*

**Spec (specifications):** The details of the car. For example, the weight, size and safety features.

Example: *If you don't understand the car specs you should get a mechanic to explain them to you before you buy the car.*

**An airbag:** This is a safety feature. It is a bag that appears if you have a crash and stops you from hitting the front of your steering wheel and the window.

Example: *Having both driver's side and passenger airbags has saved a lot of lives.*

## PART THREE

**Item Three.** Do you like it?

Once you have decided on the price range and roughly what type of car you want, you then need to take a few cars out for a spin to check their road handling. By that I mean, how fast do they accelerate? How well do they corner? Is it comfortable?

Once you have been through this check-list and taken a few cars out for a test drive you should be ready to make a decision.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**To take a car for a spin:** This means to take a quick drive. Usually there is no real destination, you are just driving for fun.

Example: *I don't have anything to do this morning so why don't we take a quick spin around the countryside?*

**Road handling:** This is the performance of the car on the road.

Example 1: *The car scored top marks on road handling in that car magazine.*

Example 2: *This car handles pretty well in the rain.*

**To accelerate:** To increase speed.

Example: *This car accelerates really quickly.*

**To corner:** This is the verb used for turning corners.

Example: *This car corners pretty well.*



**To test drive (a car):** To take a car out for a drive before you decide to buy it.

Example: *You'd have to be crazy to buy a car without test driving it first. I mean, what if you didn't like it?*

Need some more help? Here is [a video about choosing a car](#).

## EXTRA PRACTICE

If you are not particularly interested in cars then I would suggest that you watch [Top Gear](#). This show is probably about the most popular car shows ever. Even people who hate cars like this show because it is so entertaining.

### **YouTube Car Channels.**

[Top Gear.](#)

[What Car.](#)

# WILDLIFE

## PART ONE

If someone says the word ‘animal’ I immediately think about a ‘dog’ or some other domesticated pet. After that I then think about different breeds of livestock roaming around on a rural farm somewhere. Then I might think of animals that I have seen in captivity such as lions and giraffes. I should imagine for a lot of people their experience of animals would be much the same as mine. So why are most television programmes about animals in the wild?

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Domesticated animals:** These are animals that have been tamed by humans. This includes pets and animals that are used for food.

Example: *Probably the only non-domestic animal most people see on a daily basis are birds.*

**A breed of animal:** A type of animal. For example within cows there are lots of different ‘types’ or ‘breeds’.

Example: *My favourite breed of dog is the dachshund.*

**Livestock:** These are animals that are bred for food. So, cows=beef, pigs=pork etc.

Example: *Most farms have one or two different breeds of livestock.*

**Rural:** This is an adjective meaning ‘countryside’.

Example: *I always wanted to live a rural lifestyle.*

**In captivity:** A 'captive' is 'a prisoner' or someone/thing that has been caught and is no longer free. So 'captivity' is when someone/thing is not free. Animals that are 'in captivity' are in zoos or wildlife parks and not in the wild.

Example: *I always feel bad when I see a huge animal like an elephant that is in captivity.*

## PART TWO

I think it's because although most of us live relatively safe lives and actually like it that way, we all have a certain sense of adventure. So although we wouldn't like to meet a wild animal in real life, we do like seeing them on television. We love to watch programmes about predators stalking their prey, lions roaring and growling and eagles soaring in the air, because it excites a wonder in us. I think that although we do live safe lives, we also have animal instincts. So when we watch a programme about animals hunting in the wild we feel a weird mix of excitement and empathy for the prey. Even though we know that they will probably get caught and eaten we still hope that they will get away.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**A predator:** An animal (or human) that hunts another.

Example: *Sharks are almost perfect predators.*

**To stalk:** To follow someone/thing (usually) secretly with the intention to attack them.

Example: *Wolves stalk their prey for hours before making the kill.*

**Prey:** This is the animal that is being hunted.

Example: *The prey often stands completely still hoping that the predator hasn't seen it.*

**Roaring/growling:** 'Roaring' is a loud noise that some animals make. Growling is a little quieter but still sounds aggressive. ([Here is a video of a lion roaring](#) and another one of [a dog that is always growling](#)).

Example: *I don't know what is more frightening, when the lion roared or growled.*

**To soar:** To increase in height very quickly. This is when a bird or a plane goes very high into the air very quickly.

Example: *Eagles soar into the air and then look for prey on the ground.*

**Animal instincts:** These are 'base' instincts that help animals stay safe from danger.

Example: *Even humans have some animal instincts that help us avoid danger.*

## NATURE

While there is a lot of terrible stuff on TV I think one of my favorite types of shows, are nature programmes. Of course there is nature all around us, especially if you live in the countryside but the programmes I particularly like are the ones that show beautiful, bountiful rain forests. Actually I watched a programme yesterday that was about a sanctuary for endangered species of plants. They are brought from all around the surrounding area in order to preserve them from ecological devastation and to save them from extinction.

### Vocabulary and Phrases:

**Bountiful:** To have plenty of a good thing. It is often used in connection to plants that produce food.

Example: *It was a really bountiful harvest this year.*

**A sanctuary:** An area which is safe. These are areas that are made to protect certain things; animals, plants etc.

Example: *There is a very famous bird sanctuary near my house.*

**Endangered species:** Species (of animals and plants) that are in danger of dying out completely. Species that may become extinct if they are not protected.

Example: *There are thousands of endangered species in the Brazilian rainforest.*

**To preserve (something):** To save something. To maintain something so it remains in a good condition. A 'nature preserve' is an area specially for protecting nature or certain wild animals.

Example: *The purpose of a nature preserve is to help protect certain animals and plants.*

**Ecological:** This is a word to describe the natural environment.

Example: *The ecological effects of the oil spill have been devastating.*

**Extinction:** When a species or group completely dies out. No longer exists.

Example: *The Dodo is extinct.*



## EXTRA PRACTICE

There are whole TV channels devoted to wildlife and nature programmes.  
For example [National Geographic](#) and the [Discovery Channel](#).

**Also I would recommend these BBC documentary series.**

[Planet Earth](#).

### **Nature/Wildlife Youtube Channels**

[Animal Planet](#).

[National Wildlife](#).

[Texas Parks and Wildlife](#).

[BBC Earth](#).

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## CONCLUSION

J'espère que vous avez apprécié ce livre et que vous regarderez certaines des émissions proposées dans la section « Entraînement supplémentaire », car cela vous aidera à parler couramment de ces sujets.

Rappelez-vous : Si vous apprenez un peu tous les jours, vous atteindrez votre objectif de parler couramment.

Si vous avez aimé ce livre et pensez qu'il peut être utile aux autres, veuillez prendre quelques instants pour **écrire** une critique. Les petits éditeurs comme moi ne peuvent pas commercialiser nos livres comme les grandes entreprises, alors nous comptons sur les critiques pour faire passer le mot.

J'ai beaucoup d'autres excellents livres, alors jetez un coup d'œil à [ma page d'auteur](#).

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