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ENGLISH TRAINER

January 2021

Level Up Your Language

How to Talk About Cars

GRAMMAR

Dates and
Times

FOCUS

Covid-19 and
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NEW WORK

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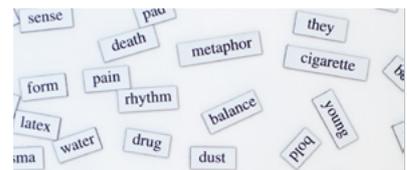
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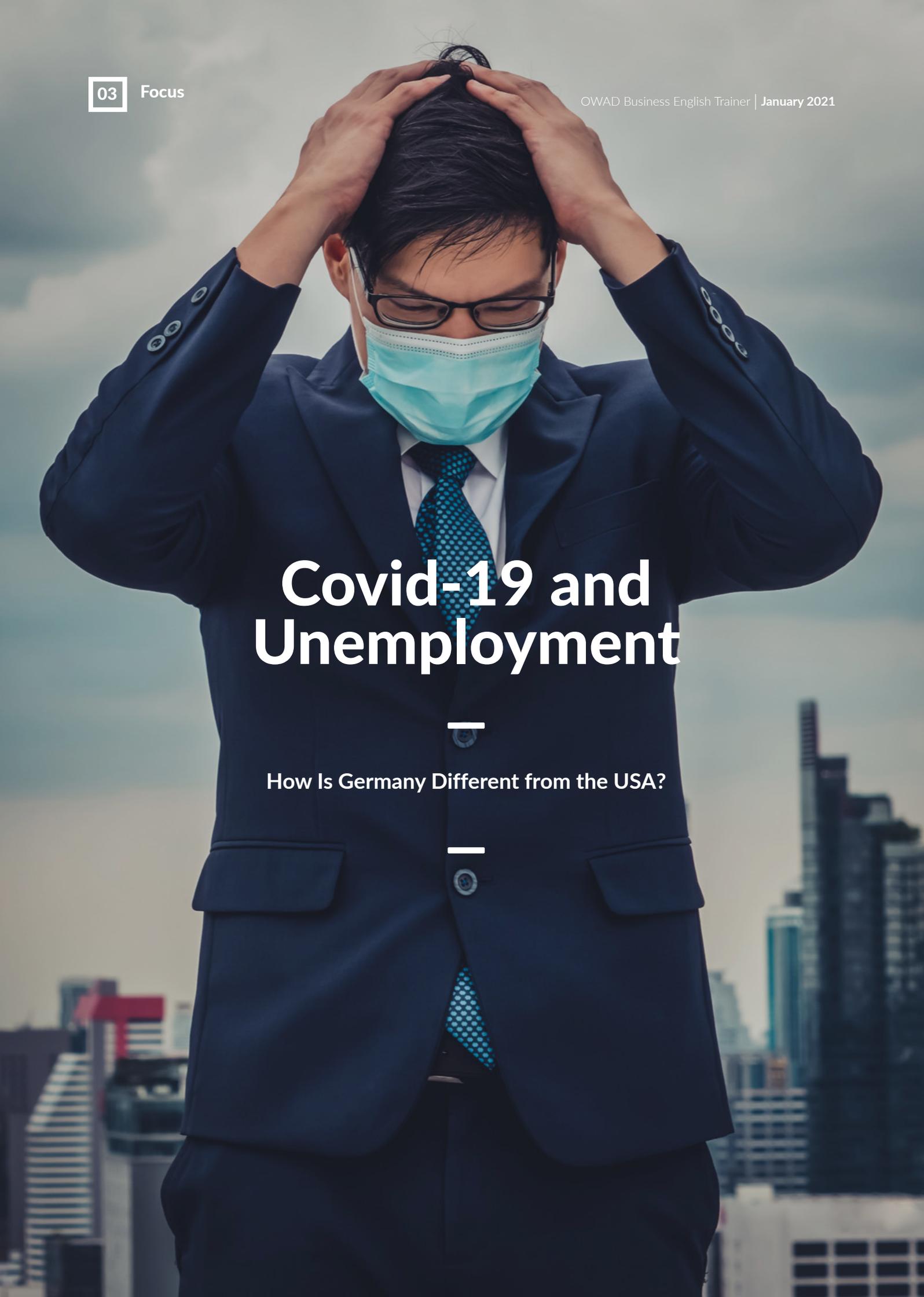
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Covid-19 and Unemployment

How Is Germany Different from the USA?

Around the world, the massive impact of Covid-19 has sent business owners and employees into a whirlwind of critical decision-making.

While every region was hit hard, fewer jobs disappeared in Europe than in the US. But why?

Kurzarbeit – known as ‘short time’ or ‘short-term work’ in English-speaking regions – **came to the rescue** for many full-time, **salaried** employees in Germany.

It’s one of the country’s most unique unemployment insurance policies, and it came fully into **the spotlight** this year as governments **grappled** with the fallout of the pandemic.

The US media covered *Kurzarbeit* more heavily than usual, due to its attractive benefits in unprecedented times.

Differences in approach

When it comes to unemployment and lay-offs in Germany and the USA, there are plenty of **stark** differences.

With German *Kurzarbeit*, for example, employers temporarily lay off their workers, who can still receive up to 67 per cent of their current salary from the government.

Similar amounts exist for the general unemployment benefits in Germany.

This is in sharp contrast to unemployment in the US, which affords fewer long-term benefits and less protection for workers: they get fired, they file for unemployment benefits, and they must look for a job.

During this process, they might lose their healthcare – and let’s not forget that getting hired again is never a guarantee.

Although the final amount of weekly compensation paid out to unemployed workers isn’t terrible (it varies from state to state, with a national average weekly payout of \$378), the process can be brutal, lengthy, and uncertain.

Furloughing does exist in the US (that is, the process of companies temporarily suspending work for their employees), but often these employees go without pay.

They may, however, keep their health employment benefits.

Finally, while the US did introduce a Covid-specific unemployment programme, the CARES Act, it was slashed in July, and millions of unemployed Americans lost their compensation of \$600 per week.

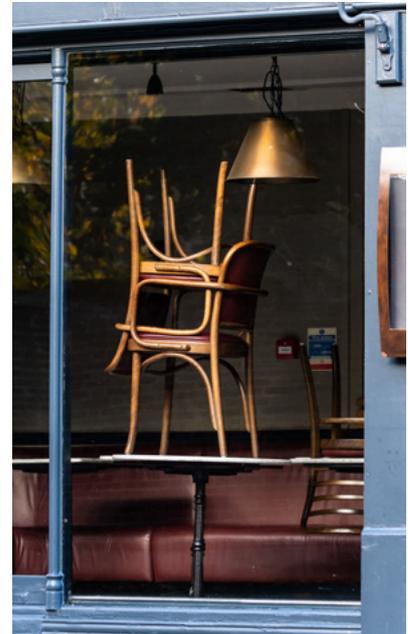
This means that many Americans are dealing with a high level of job uncertainty at an already distressing time.

Long-term workforce impact

In general, Germany affords much more protection to its unemployed workforce, which likely gives it economic returns in the long run.

After all, workers who are on *Kurzarbeit* have high hopes that they can return to their jobs without having to throw their hard-earned skills down the drain.

It’s a much more practical approach for the long-term health of a country’s economy.



In this way, Germany sets a prime example for the rest of the world.

Will other countries soon align their unemployment benefit models more closely to that of Germany?

Perhaps time – and the pandemic – will tell.

Vocabulary Trainer

• to come to the rescue	zu Hilfe kommen
• salaried	angestellt
• in the spotlight	im Rampenlicht
• to grapple	kämpfen
• stark	krass

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English in Ireland

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Why English Is Spoken in Ireland and What It's Like
—



The Emerald Isle – a wonderfully green country known around the world for its traditional music, for its Guinness, and for being the home of St. Patrick's Day. But there's much more to this island than that.

Ireland's official languages

The Republic of Ireland is a bilingual country. The first official language is Irish. Today around 40 per cent of Irish people know how to speak the language. The second official language is English, which is spoken by almost everyone. Today more English is spoken in Ireland than Irish – but that wasn't always the case.

A brief history

The story of English in Ireland begins in the late 12th century with the Norman invasion. Anglo-Normans – who spoke Old English – arrived in Ireland and started to establish territories. Ireland fell under British rule and, over the years, more and more people moved from England to Ireland. At first English was mostly spoken around Dublin, in the east of the country, but over time its influence began to **spread** further west.

In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell invaded Ireland. He killed and exiled many Irish people. People were expected to speak English and become more British in their ways. Then, in 1831, Irish National Schools were introduced by the British government – but teaching was only in English. Irish was **dealt another blow** during the **Great Famine** of 1845–49, when

speaking English was seen as a way to escape poverty, as it allowed you to emigrate. Today, Irish is taught in schools in the Republic of Ireland, but English remains the most widely spoken language.

Accents and pronunciation

Irish English is really varied in terms of accents and pronunciation. There are 32 different accents in the country – a lot for a small island. The reason for this is that it was historically a relatively poor country, so people did not travel much. This meant that local dialects and accents remained quite isolated.

Although there are so many accents, there are a few stereotypical things that **spring to mind** when one thinks of Irish English. One is that the 'th' sound is said more like 't' – so 'thing' becomes 'ting'. Another is that the final 't' in a word is soft – so that a word like 'eejit' (see below for meaning!) ends in a much softer sound than you would think from the spelling.

Major differences in accents can be heard if one compares the accents of people from Northern and Southern Ireland. Northern Irish can be quite nasal sounding and very different from the softer sounds of the Western and South-western accents.

Irish English words

Like any kind of English, Irish English has many of its own words and phrases. Here are a few to listen out for:

- **grand** – means 'great' and is the standard answer to the question 'How are you?'
- **the guards** – means 'the police' and is the informal way of referring to the Gardaí (official name for the police)
- **sure** – used in a lot of different Irish English phrases, such as 'Ah, sure look it!' (a phrase that can be used in many ways, such as to show you agree with what someone just said)
- **your man** – means 'some guy', such as 'Your man at the bar just told me a great joke!'
- **wean** – means 'child' – pronounced 'wayne'
- **eejit** – means 'an idiot', for example: 'What is that eejit doing?'
- **craic** – means 'a good time' or 'good fun' and is pronounced 'crack' – 'What's the craic?' means something like 'What's up?' or 'What's going on?'

So, if you find yourself in Ireland any time soon, listen to the English around you – and enjoy the craic!

Vocabulary Trainer

• to spread	sich verbreiten
• to be dealt a blow	einen Schlag versetzt bekommen
• the Great Famine	die Große Hungersnot
• to spring to mind	spontan in den Sinn kommen

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The End of Open-Plan Offices?

Will Open-Plan Offices Continue to Exist
in a Post-Pandemic World?

A demanding boss. Your loudly sneezing co-worker. The revolving door of visitors at the front desk.

Offices with open plans – those in which employees work alongside each other in a large, open room without cubicles or individual offices – have been criticized heavily since they began rising in popularity in the last decade.

While open-plan offices have their benefits – such as increased flexibility for the growth of a company, cost efficiency, and a more relaxed environment – a 2018 study from Harvard Business School found that they reduced face-to-face employee interactions by 70 per cent and increased messaging and emails by 50 per cent. Yikes.

In a post-pandemic world, then, how much more efficient can these offices really be when compared to remote work?

The answer is yet to be seen, but many experts are **calling for** the end of the open-office setup.

A repackaged trend

Although open-plan offices have existed since the 1940s, it was Google who led the modern rise in their popularity.

The tech giant's famous renovation of its headquarters in Mountain View, California resulted in an impressively bright, expansive floor plan that **rejected** any dark and depressing corners **in favour of** cheerful neighbourhood vibes.

Many startups wanted to be like Google, and an open floor plan seemed to require less architectural planning.

Companies could **repurpose** industrial lofts or other buildings that were never meant to be used as offices.

A new trend was born – or, should we say, repackaged – for the modern tech era.

The problem is that the new plans never quite resulted in the **soaring** communication and productivity levels that many CEOs desire.



Incompatible with Covid-19

Now that Covid-19 has swept the globe, the open office is being called into question yet again – and perhaps with a more final tone. Is this way of working totally dead?

Many workers have expressed anxiety about returning to the office, which is made worse by an open floor plan and potentially catastrophic rates of exposure to the virus.

Only with proper distancing between desks and adequate ventilation plans will open offices be able to exist again, some experts say.

At the same time, other experts argue that cubicles and small corners cause larger amounts of pathogens to remain in one single area, increasing the chances of infecting any visitors to that area.

So what is the **fate** of the open-plan office?

What seems likely is that some kind of middle ground will be found once the pandemic slows.

We don't anticipate that all businesses will **cast aside** their open office plans; some will likely resort to updating them with better safety protocols.

Either way, there will be a new way of working – and the layout of the office will come into conversation more than ever before.

Vocabulary Trainer

• to call for sth.	nach etw. verlangen
• to reject sth. in favour of sth.	etw. gegenüber etw. den Vorzug geben
• to repurpose	umfunktionieren
• soaring	aufsteigend
• fate	Schicksal
• to cast aside	verwerfen/beiseitelegen

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English Indian Food

—

England's Love of Indian Food and Where It All Began

—



Curry houses are part of the furniture in England, and the nation's love of Indian food is no secret. But where did it all begin? And why is Indian food so popular in the UK? Let's take a look.

The first English forays into Indian food

In December 1600, Queen Elizabeth I issued a royal charter to a group of English merchants, authorizing them to trade in the Indian subcontinent, then known as the East Indies, on behalf of the crown. And so, the East India Company was born, an entity that would eventually enable England to colonize the Indian subcontinent and dominate and effectively rule there for almost two centuries.

In the 18th century, many of these East India Company men – known as 'nabobs' – wanted to recreate the flavours of Indian food when they arrived back in the UK. Some brought their Indian cooks back to the UK with them, but others couldn't afford to do that – so they turned to the coffeehouses.

Curry was first seen on a menu in England in 1733, at the Norris Street Coffee House in Haymarket, London. One of the first English cookbooks to include curry recipes was Hannah Glasse's *The Art of Cookery* – published in 1747! By 1784, curry and rice were served in some of London's fashionable Piccadilly restaurants.

Back then, English curries were not very spicy and often contained more herbs than spices. By the 19th century, more spices – such as turmeric, cumin and ginger – were used.

The first Indian restaurant

The first Indian restaurant in England was opened by Sake Dean Mohamed, a Bengali immigrant who emigrated to London. He lived in a part of the city that was popular among colonial returnees and nabobs. He opened his Indian restaurant, called the Hindoostane Dinner and Hooka Smoking Club, in 1810.

Not long after that, the restaurant failed and Mohamed **went bankrupt**. In reality, he was a bit ahead of his time, as Indian food didn't become really popular in the UK until the Victorian era.

Around a century later, Indian food started to grow in popularity, and more Indian restaurants began to appear. The opening of a restaurant called Veeraswamy in Piccadilly in 1926, by a **retired** Anglo-Indian officer of the British Indian Army, revolutionized the Indian restaurant scene in London and eating Indian food became fashionable. In the 1970s, large numbers of Bangladeshis arrived in the UK. After that, the curry house industry began to really take off.

Indian food in England today

Today Indian food remains incredibly popular in the UK, where National Curry Week is celebrated each October! But the word 'curry' is not a word used in India itself; it is a – some would say colonial – British word used to describe spiced dishes that are Indian or South Asian in origin.

Perhaps the most well-known Indian dish in the UK is the chicken tikka masala. In fact, this dish is so beloved in the UK that it could almost be called an unofficial

national dish. Interestingly, no one is quite sure what the origins of the dish are – some claim it was invented in Glasgow in Scotland, whilst others **maintain** that its roots are originally Indian.

In 2016, the supermarket Sainsbury's released data that claimed that, on average, a Brit will spend a **whopping** £30,331 (around €33,885) on curry during their lifetime! But today, people in the UK aren't just eating well-known anglicized favourites like chicken tikka masala.

More and more regionally specific eateries are now springing up, such as restaurants specializing in Tamil/South Indian food or Rajasthani dishes. Interest in experiencing authentic cuisine is growing. Does this perhaps mean that common English phrases such as 'Let's go for a curry' might one day be replaced with more region-specific and dish-specific vocabulary?

Who knows what the future of curry in the UK is. Indian food has certainly come a long way since it was first introduced to the country and eating habits continue to change. But one thing seems sure: the British people's love of Indian food is here to stay!

Vocabulary Trainer

• foray into sth.	Ausflug in etw.
• to go bankrupt	in Konkurs gehen
• retired	pensioniert
• to maintain	behaupten
• whopping	kolossal/riesengroß

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Newsworthy Words

A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a blue patterned shirt, is looking at a tablet computer. The background is a blurred office environment with a desk, a laptop, and some papers. The text 'Newsworthy Words' is overlaid in large white font.

Newsworthy Words

Here we take a brief look at interesting words and phrases that have appeared in the news of late. Some have been around a while and are simply getting a lot of use at the moment, while others are not officially words yet as far as the major dictionaries are concerned.



polar vortex

a large-scale, low-pressure area of cold air surrounding the North and South Poles

A polar vortex is a wide expanse of swirling cold air. In winter, the polar vortex at the North Pole expands, sending cold air southwards, thereby triggering outbreaks of cold temperatures in various countries.

If we're lucky, we're heading for another mild winter this year due to a strong polar vortex that has now emerged over the North Pole and which is locking the brutally cold Arctic air in place there.

The **polar vortex** is approaching record strength. That's not a scary thing (Washington Post)

Aircraft spies gravity waves being sucked into Antarctica's **polar vortex** (Science Magazine)

A weak **polar vortex** will usher in record cold air (CNN)

Polar vortex returns about 19.1 million Google (.com) hits.

German translation _____

furlough

a temporary layoff from work

Furlough is a temporary leave of absence given to employees or soldiers. The word is sadly hitting the headlines a lot right now as companies lay off workers in a bid to cope with the repercussions of the global coronavirus pandemic and the related economic crisis.

Furloughed staff are kept on the payroll, although they receive less or sometimes even no income. Many employers hope that furloughing most of their staff will cut costs, retain talent and potentially protect employees from redundancy.

'Millions of jobs' at risk as **furlough** lifeline nears end (BBC News)

New lockdown will be 'very challenging' for **furloughed** staff, minister concedes (The Guardian)

Busy law firms repay state **furlough** cash (Financial Times)

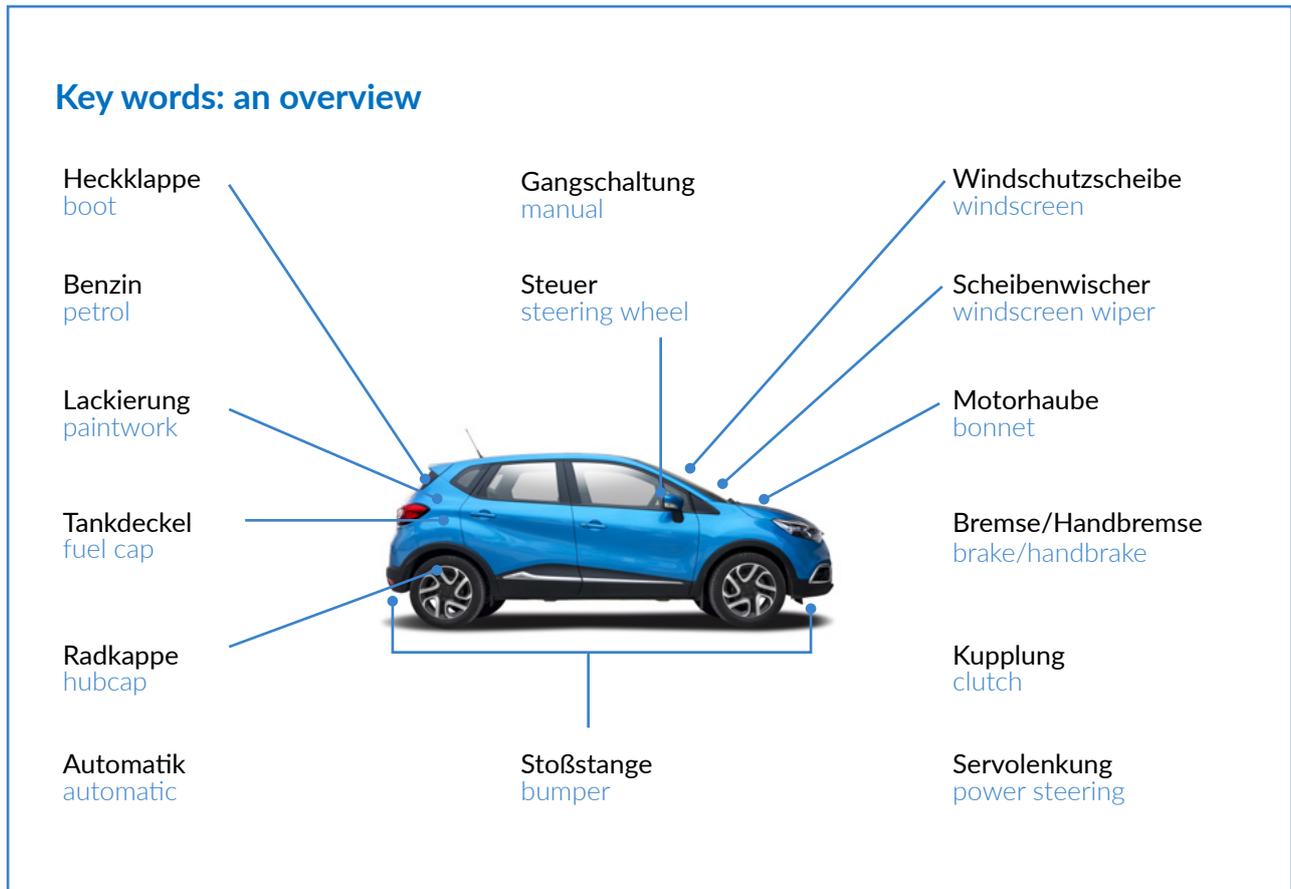
Furlough returns about 26 million Google (.com) hits.

German translation _____

How to Talk About Cars

—
Key Vocab and Useful Phrases
—

Cars. Most of us have driven one. Many of us own one. But not all of us feel comfortable talking about them in English. So let's take a look at some of the words and phrases you'll need to know if you want to have a chat about cars.



Talking about your car

So now you have some basic vocab under your belt, let's take a look at a few questions that someone might ask you about your car.

See if you can match the questions to the correct answers. The solutions are on page 34.

1. What do you drive?
 - a. I can usually do around 450 km on a full tank.
 - b. I drive an Audi/a Volkswagen Polo/a Seat Leon.
 - c. No, an automatic – it's so much easier, especially in traffic!
 - d. It was new – I don't like the idea of a second-hand car.
 - e. Petrol./Diesel./It's an electric car, so I just have to charge it.
2. What kind of fuel does your car take?
3. What's the range of your car?
4. Was your car new or used when you bought it?
5. Do you drive a manual?

Useful phrases

Read the German words in the box. Then see if you can match each German word to the bold words in the English sentences below.

The solutions are on page 34.

Reifendruck
Tankstelle
Reifenwechsel
Inspektion
Frostschutz
Alufelgen
Waschstraße
Einparkhilfe
Windschutzscheibe
TÜV-Termin
Abgassonderuntersuchung
Außenspiegel
Sommer- und Winterreifen
Öl
Werkstatt

1. My car needs to go in for a **service** tomorrow.

2. The **garage** I take my car to is just around the corner.

3. I really need to take my car to the **car wash** – it's filthy!

4. Luckily, the **wing mirrors** on my car are electric – and heated!

5. My dad's car has **parking sensors**, thank goodness – he's a terrible driver!

6. Oh no, there's a crack in my **windscreen**!

7. When's your next **MOT** due?

8. Will they do an **emissions test** as part of the MOT?

9. My car has **alloy wheels** – what about yours?

10. I check the **oil** and **coolant** levels in my car every week.

11. Don't forget you can check your **tyre pressure** at the **petrol station**.

12. Seasonal **tyre changes** are a good idea – they make driving much safer!

13. Does this car come with both **summer and winter tyres**?



British English versus American English

And finally, just to make sure you're as prepared as possible, let's take a look at a couple of differences between talking about cars in British

English and American English.

In British English, you either drive an automatic or a **manual** – but in the US, people say they drive an automatic or a **stick shift**. You might also hear phrases like 'I drive stick'.

In the UK, you open the **bonnet** if you want to take a look at your car's engine – but in the US you open the **hood**. At the rear of the car, Brits open the **boot** whereas Americans open the **trunk**.

When you're driving a car in the UK and it starts to rain, you turn on the **windscreen wipers** so that you can see through the **windscreen** better.

Across the pond, Americans turn on their **windshield wipers** so that they can see through the **windshield**.

And in the UK, you can check your **tyres** at a **petrol station**.

Not in the US! There, you would check your **tires** at a **gas station**.

So there you have it – a whole host of useful phrases to help you out the next time you need to talk about cars!

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Martin Luther King Day

America's Annual Civil Rights Holiday



Anniversaries

When speaking a foreign language, one of the most difficult things is initiating a conversation. Not only current events but also history can help you trigger a discussion. Anniversaries can be a particularly engaging approach. With that in mind, this series will commemorate an interesting historical event each month, giving you an ice-breaker and perhaps the inspiration to search for more.

On 15 January 1929, one of the world's most influential civil rights leaders, Martin Luther King Jr., was born.

Until his assassination in 1968, King led a **pivotal** movement against racial inequality – specifically advocating for Black Americans to be afforded basic civil liberties such as the right to vote and participate in a **desegregated society**.

Nowadays, King is honoured on Martin Luther King Day (MLK Day), which is observed as an American federal holiday on the third Monday of January each year.

It's one of two National Days of Service in the United States, along with 11 September. This means that, on this day, volunteer groups around the country often organize projects and events to advance causes surrounding civil rights.

The long road to MLK Day

It wasn't until 1986 that the federal government recognized Martin Luther King Day as an official holiday. That's a full 20 years after the idea was first introduced in Congress.

Even then, not all states recognized the holiday; South Carolina became the last state to do so in 2000. Strangely enough, Mississippi and Alabama even celebrate the birthday of Robert E. Lee – the Confederate general – on the same day!

Ultimately, MLK Day became the first holiday **dedicated to** a national figure who was not a president and who was African-American. Some members of Congress found it difficult to accept that a holiday would recognize someone they felt was a **troublemaker**, referring to the fact that King organized marches and demonstrations to advance his cause.

Nevertheless, King's widow, Coretta Scott King, continued to fight hard for the holiday, and in 1983 President Ronald Reagan finally signed a bill for its commencement in 1986.

What happens on MLK Day?

For many Americans, Martin Luther King Day is a holiday free from work or school obligations. Around 42 per cent of US businesses give their employees the day off.

Speeches, parades, and demonstrations take place to remember King's legacy and how it impacts the world today. Around 500 US national parks offer free admission – just one of four days during the year when this happens.

Despite this, only a small percentage of Americans spend this day in service or reflection of the cause.

Perhaps this is changing, however, as Martin Luther King Day takes on a **renewed** importance with the Black Lives Matter (BLM)

movement. Many BLM activists and protestors link past civil rights protests to today's fight to end systemic racism and police brutality in the US.

Because Black History Month is also celebrated in February, the first quarter of each year is often a time when civil rights messages **gain momentum**.

King's work and teachings, coupled with the messages of modern-day civil rights groups, have the potential to create an amplified message that could be heard around the globe, and there's no more pivotal time for this to happen than in 2021.

Vocabulary Trainer

• pivotal	entscheidend
• desegregated society	Gesellschaft in der die Rassentrennung aufgehoben ist
• to be dedicated to sb.	jdm. geweiht sein
• troublemaker	Unruhestifter
• renewed	erneut
• to gain momentum	in Schwung kommen

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Troublesome Translations



For native German speakers, finding the right translation, from German to English or vice versa, can sometimes be a challenge. Here are some examples to help you figure out how to say certain words. And to make sure you keep yourself out of trouble.

Many or much?

There are many examples of people confusing *many* with *much*.

Much precedes uncountable nouns – if you can't make the noun plural, then it's an uncountable noun. *Much* also indicates a large quantity and can normally be replaced by 'some' or 'a lot of'. For example, 'Is there *much* food in the fridge?'

Many precedes countable nouns – if a number can come before the noun, then the noun is countable. It can be replaced by 'a lot of' or 'several'. For example, 'There are *many* snacks in the fridge.'

1. I don't have _____ time, and you don't have _____ money. (Ich habe nicht viel Zeit und du hast nicht viel Geld.)
2. We have _____ friends, in _____ different countries all over the world. (Wir haben viele Freunde in vielen verschiedenen Ländern auf der ganzen Welt.)
3. How _____ did you pay for that car? It looks top of the range. (Wie viel hast du für das Auto bezahlt? Es sieht erstklassig aus.)
4. There are almost as _____ Americans here as there are in California. (Es gibt hier fast so viele Amerikaner wie in Kalifornien.)

Fewer or less?

In the same way, it's easy to mix up *fewer* and *less*.

Fewer is used for countable nouns and *less* is used for uncountable nouns. For example, if there were *fewer* cars in the world then there would be *less* pollution.

1. I wish you would turn off the light, so we could use _____ electricity. (Ich wünschte, Sie würden das Licht ausschalten, damit wir weniger Strom verbrauchen könnten.)
2. This car park is too crowded. I wish there were _____ cars. (Dieser Parkplatz ist zu voll. Ich wünschte, es gäbe weniger Autos.)
3. There are now _____ than five children living in my house, so there is _____ noise than before. (In meinem Wohnhaus leben jetzt weniger als fünf Kinder, sodass weniger Lärm herrscht als früher.)
4. I have _____ pairs of shoes than I used to have but more clothes so there is still _____ room in my wardrobe. (Ich habe weniger Paar Schuhe als früher, aber mehr Kleidung, sodass in meinem Kleiderschrank immer noch weniger Platz ist.)

The solutions are on page 34.



However hard you try, carrying out an English conversation can sometimes be a bit tricky. With a little practice though, you can easily impress friends and colleagues. Below is an example of 'how not to say it' and 'how to say it'. In many instances, it's not about whether something is grammatically correct. Rather, it simply comes down to how native speakers express themselves. And it often involves very nuanced differences that will help you sound professional.

In the dialogue below, Katia has just started a new job at a new company and is meeting her team manager, Martin, and other team members for a meal after work.

Wrong!

M: Thanks for coming along this evening, Katia. I saw it as a good opportunity for you to get to know the other members of your new team. Did you find the restaurant OK?

K: I'm still having trouble to use the underground and getting to know the city so I got lost at first. With luck, I took a decision to leave home early tonight so I still got here in time at 18.30 p.m.

M: Tell us a little bit more about yourself, Katia. For instance, what are your hobbies?

K: Actually, I'm interested to find a new hobby. In late times, I've just been working all the time. That's why I considered in taking a new job.

M: Well, welcome to the team! We're glad to have you onboard. Tell us more about your new responsibilities?

K: Basically, I have to take care about our company finances and balance the books.

M: Excellent, that sounds like just what we need. We look forward to working with you!

Right!

M: Thanks for coming along this evening, Katia. I saw it as a good opportunity for you to get to know the other members of your new team. Did you find the restaurant OK?

K: I'm still having trouble using the underground and getting to know the city so I got lost at first. Luckily, I made the decision to leave home early tonight so I still got here on time at six thirty.

M: Tell us a little bit more about yourself, Katia. For instance, what are your hobbies?

K: Actually, I'm interested in finding a new hobby. Lately, I've just been working all the time. That's why I considered taking a new job.

M: Well, welcome to the team! We're glad to have you. Tell us more about your new responsibilities?

K: Basically, I have to take care of our company finances and balance the books.

M: Excellent, that sounds like just what we need. We look forward to working with you!

Next Stop, Frankfurt

EPISODE 13
Happy New Year!

This is the ongoing story of Jenny Wilson, a 31-year-old project manager from England who has decided to relocate to Germany. In this episode Jenny celebrates New Year's Eve in Germany.

'Surprise!'

Jenny opened her eyes and looked around her living room. It was all set up ready for a dinner party, it seemed.

Six places were set at the table, and what she vaguely recognized as a raclette set stood in the middle.

She looked at Seb questioningly.

'We're throwing a New Year's Eve party for our friends tonight – but I wanted to surprise you, so you wouldn't have to worry about planning it. I figured you'd be pretty tired after your late flight last night – so everything's ready to go! Lena helped me.'

Jenny shook her head in disbelief. She had got back from the UK really late last night, and she'd spent most of the morning snoozing in bed.



Seb, a **busy bee** by nature, had clearly been working hard.

'Oh Seb, what a fantastic idea! Thank you so much!'

'You're welcome. It's going to be fun – your first ever German New Year's Eve!'

'Can't wait!' Jenny replied, with a grin.

Ready for raclette

A good few hours later, Jenny and Sebastian were sat around the table with Jenny's work friends Mateo and Monique, as well as her flat-mate Lena and her boyfriend Jens.

'I cannot believe I've never had raclette before!' exclaimed Jenny, as she **set about** loading up her next little raclette pan. 'It's delicious!'

'Welcome to German New Year's Eve!' said Lena, laughing. 'Next stop: *Bleigiessen*!'

'Well actually, we'll be doing it with wax,' Seb explained, taking another slice of cheese and delicately laying it on top of the vegetables in his pan. 'Real *Bleigiessen* has been banned since 2018, you know!'

'I **haven't got the foggiest idea** what you guys are talking about!' Jenny exclaimed, looking from Seb to Lena and back again.

'It's an old German tradition to melt little pieces of lead on New Year's Eve, drop them into ice-cold water, and see what shapes they create. It's kind of a way of telling the future!' Lena exclaimed.

'Right,' Sebastian added. 'But melting lead is not exactly good for your health – so we'll be doing it with wax instead!'

'Oh, I see!' said Jenny, grinning. 'Sounds fun!'

Punch all round

'More punch?' Jenny asked a while later, dipping the ladle into the big bowl and looking expectantly around the room. 'Anyone for more Bowle from the bowl?' She chuckled at her own little language joke and **proceeded to** top up everyone's glasses.

'So how will people be celebrating in the UK tonight, Jen?' asked Monique, swirling the colourful punch around in her glass before taking a delicate sip.

'Well, I don't think we have as many traditions as the Germans do,' Jenny began. 'No melting of lead, no New Year's Eve punch. Some people go to house parties, or to pubs – they'll often put on special New Year's Eve parties, but the tickets for those events often **cost an arm and a leg.**'

'What about food?' asked Mateo, gesturing to the table. 'Is there anything traditional?'

'No, not really,' Jenny replied. 'I think the biggest tradition is probably singing Auld Lang Syne.'

'Oh right, you told me about that,' Seb began. 'Don't you sing it in the street or something?'

'Exactly! We usually go outside around ten to midnight with a glass of bubbles in hand, and then we form a circle. Everyone crosses their arms and holds

hands with the people either side of them. Then, when the clock strikes 12, we start to sing Auld Lang Syne – although half the time, people don't know all the words! As you sing, you walk towards the middle of the circle and then back out again. And you all kind of shake your hands up and down at the same time. Then at the end you all wish each other 'Happy New Year' and hug and kiss.'

'That sounds ... very British!' said Lena, grinning.

'It's fun!' Jenny replied. 'Although I have to say that German New Year's Eve is turning out to be pretty great too!'

Firework fun

At five to midnight, they all made their way out onto the balcony, glasses of champagne in hand. Jenny waited **with bated breath** to see what would happen at midnight. She had heard stories of how crazy the Germans were about setting off fireworks on New Year's Eve – not something that was anywhere near as popular in the UK – and she was looking forward to the pyrotechnic display.

And she didn't have long to wait. As the clock struck midnight, they all **clinked glasses** and wished each other 'Frohes neues Jahr!' and watched as the sky lit up with fireworks. A few people were setting them off down on the street below, and there were lots coming from along the river. Church bells were sounding all across the city, and the combination of that and the sights and sounds of the fireworks made for a breathtaking display.

Jenny stood with her arm around

Seb, excited to be bringing in a new year in Germany for the first time and wondering what the year would bring.

Interesting idioms

to be a busy bee – someone who is always busy and industrious and likes enjoying doing lots of things

not to have the foggiest idea – to not understand something at all or have no idea whatsoever about something

to cost an arm and a leg – to be incredibly expensive

with bated breath – in an excited, eager or anxious way

Amy Koerner is a freelance writer, editor and proofreader originally from the UK but now based in Frankfurt am Main.

Vocabulary Trainer

• **to set about doing sth.** sich daranmachen, etw. zu tun

• **to proceed to do sth.** sich anschicken, etw. zu tun

• **to clink glasses** die Gläser klingen lassen

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Dates and Times

Top Tips to Help You Get Them Right, Every Time



The punctuation of dates and times often leads to confusion. There are differences between English and German, and further differences between British and American English. The fact that both are used on the Internet, and often even mixed, can leave even native speakers perplexed. Here are the rules to use.

The date

In British English, the standard date format in business is DD Month YYYY:

22 January 2021

There is no internal punctuation, and the month is always spelled out in full.

Note that the format in North America is different. There, the month comes first and there is always a comma before the year:

January 22, 2021

It is acceptable in both dialects to leave the year out, but the remaining ordering of information must remain the same. If the day name is used, it is placed before the date and followed by a comma:

Friday, 22 January 2021

Friday, January 22, 2021

The only time to use *th*, *rd*, and *nd* after the date is when the date is used alone:

We plan to meet on the 18th.

In this case, the *th*, *rd*, or *nd* should be superscript, like in the example above.

When expressing dates in numeric format, the solidus (forward slash) is used:

26/01/2021

Once again, British English requires the ordering DD/MM/YYYY (extended format, e.g. 26/01/2021) or DD/MM/YY (short format, e.g. 26/01/21). American English requires MM/DD/YYYY (e.g. 01/26/2021) or MM/DD/YY (e.g. 01/26/21).

If you use the numeric format, you risk not being properly understood. For example:

The meeting will take place on 5/12/2021.

Here it is not clear whether the meaning is 5 December or 12 May. Even if you correspond with a firm in the UK, the date is not safe. Many Americans work in the UK.

The right thing to do is to avoid this format altogether in emails and letters. Stick to DD Month YYYY, as this will be understood in North America as well.

The time

In British English, the time is expressed with a full stop:

8.30

America and Scandinavia always use a colon instead of a full stop. Internet English, for the most part, does the same.

As a general rule, time is never expressed in 24-hour format except in military correspondence and documentation. This means that unless the time is clear from

the context, you need to use *a.m.* and *p.m.* to differentiate between morning and evening. Also, *a.m.* and *p.m.* are always lowercase, always use two full stops, and always have a space in front of them.

Tip

A round hour time may be expressed without the full stop and zeros: *4 p.m*

The video conference will be held at 7.15 a.m. on Tuesday.

To express context, instead of using *a.m.* and *p.m.*, use:

in the morning/afternoon/evening/night

If you are being less formal, it is traditional to express the time of day in words and stick to whole hours or fractions of an hour. For whole hours, *o'clock* is less often used. When using *o'clock*, the hour should be written with a word, not a number, and the *o* is always lowercase (except at the beginning of a sentence):

See you at eight o'clock.

O'clock is not used with *a.m.* and *p.m.*, and it is never used for times that are not round hour times.

Fractions of an hour

Half is used to mean thirty minutes, *quarter* for fifteen minutes.

Could you call me at four?

Our appointment is at three o'clock.

Meet me for lunch at a quarter to four.

We got there at half past three.

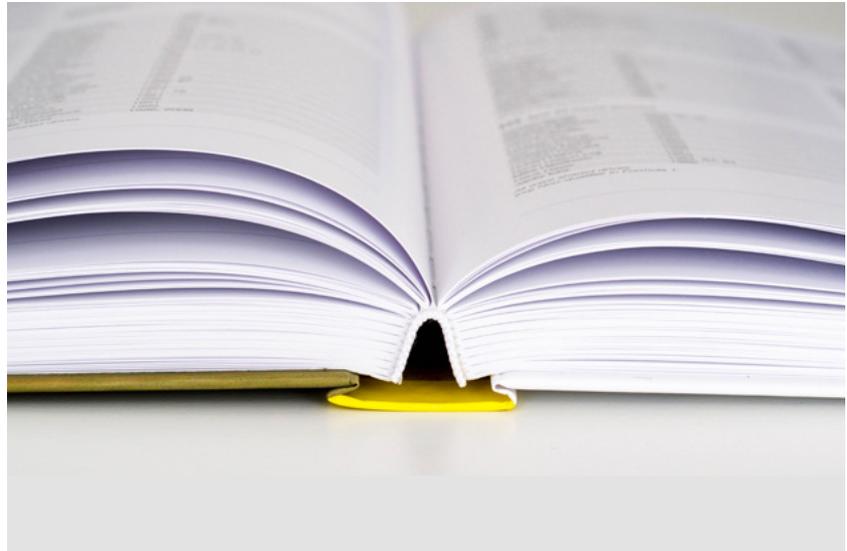
Important!

When using phrases like *a quarter to three*, do not use hyphens. *A* is often used before *quarter* (although in informal situations it doesn't have to be), but it is never used before *half*. So the following sentences are all correct:

Meet me at a quarter past three.

Meet me at quarter to three.

Meet me at half past three.



I arrived at a quarter past six yesterday evening.

I'll arrive at 7 tomorrow morning.

12.45 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time
Three o'clock Eastern Standard Time
3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Warning

Sometimes the British use the expression *half* without any additional words: *I'll meet you at half three*. Unlike in German, the meaning of this construct is past. The meaning of the above is thus:

I'll meet you at 3.30.

Avoid using this way of expressing time in business correspondence as it will confuse people from many parts of the world, especially North Americans and even some Britons. Always use *past* to ensure maximum clarity:

Let's meet at half past 4.

Punctuality and clarity

To underscore that you will be punctual, you can use *sharp* or *on the dot*:

I'll arrive at 7 tomorrow morning on the dot.

The meeting will start at 8.30 sharp, so don't be late.

Some speakers aren't clear that 12 a.m. is midnight and 12 p.m. is noon. It's an easy mistake to make. If you're referring to one of these times, it's a good idea to add the word *midnight* or *noon* to underscore your meaning. In this case, leave out the *a.m.* or *p.m.*:

I arrived at 12 noon.

Time zones

Time zones, which are always placed after the time, are always capitalized when spelled out:

Their abbreviations are likewise capitalized:

12.45 p.m. GMT

3 p.m. EDST

Typically, if the time is spelled out in words, the time zone should be spelled out as well, not abbreviated.

Note that in American English, the time zones are often not capitalized when they are spelled out.

Tip

Unlike in German, the seasons in English are not capitalized:

spring, autumn, fall, winter, summer

Note that British people would say *autumn* whilst North Americans would say *fall*.

The Name Game

—
Not Everyone Is Named Smith
—



Daniel Hawpe is a freelance translator and copywriter and an editor for OBET. The US native has lived and worked in Germany for more than 25 years.

Hopping mad

If I had ten cents for every time I had to tell someone how to pronounce my name, I would have already surpassed Jeff Bezos as the richest person on the planet. Or is it Bill Gates?

My general practitioner's office has an automated, AI-based system that calls out the patients' names over an intercom and tells you which examination room to go to. Being a German-language system, of course it assumes the 'w' is pronounced like a 'v' in German, meaning with the English 'v' sound, like in *valley*.

For emphasis, it then adds the 'pe' at the end. So phonetically it sounds like this: 'Herr Hav-peh, bitte ins Zimmer zwei.' Like I tell at least five people a day, you have to imagine that the 'e' is missing. When pronounced, my name then sounds something akin to 'hop'.

I caught a lot of ribbing from school classmates, with constant references to 'hopping' bunny rabbits or mean-spirited comments like 'So why don't you just hop along?'

That would make me 'hopping mad' sometimes ...

Tongue-twister

At least I have the benefit of having a one-syllable surname, like Smith. Other people in the US don't have it so easy.

With one of the largest immigrant

populations in the world, the days when a teacher could breeze through the morning roll call by merely sounding a few Smiths, Johnsons, Millers, and Jones are a thing of the past. Now they have to figure out how to pronounce tongue-twisters like Nguyen, Rautakallio, Tjarnqvist, Mukherjee, or Czyżewska.

But because many immigrant families have been living there for several generations, some bestow 'normal' first names on their children. The effect is that teachers have pupils with names like Amy Nguyen, Mark Rautakallio, or Kathleen Czyżewska.

That makes things a bit easier for the teacher since they are on a first-name basis with their pupils anyway. The challenge is conducting a phone conversation or face-to-face meeting with a parent, which can require several minutes practicing how to pronounce the surname so as to avoid an embarrassing gaffe.

Our European roots

Despite the proliferation of non-English-sounding names, data from the US Census Bureau still illustrates our heavy English, Irish, and Scottish heritage. According to the census carried out in 2010, the five most common surnames, ranked in order, were Smith, Johnson, Williams, Brown, and Jones.

In another indication of the country's ethnic make-up, Garcia was listed as the 6th most common, followed by Miller and Davis. Rodri-

guez and Martinez round out the top ten.

Names also got altered during the great European immigration rush that took place in the 18th and 19th centuries. This was because immigration officers often misheard the name or failed to write down the proper spelling.

DNA testing traced my father's side of the family back to Switzerland and the name 'Haab', for instance. It's not hard to imagine that the immigration authorities simply transposed some letters when the original Mr Haab entered the country.

But as the Great Bard William Shakespeare said, 'A rose by any other name spells as sweet ...'

Vocabulary Trainer

• akin	ähnlich
• ribbing	Neckerei
• roll call	Namensaufruf
• tongue-twister	Zungenbrecher
• gaffe	Fauxpas
• proliferation	starke Zunahme/ Ausbreitung
• to trace sth. back	zurückverfolgen
• to transpose	vertauschen

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How Dark Is Your Humour?

—
Gallows Humour and Ironic Jokes –
Something to Laugh At?
—



Want to learn a new English word every day? If so, check out: www.owad.de

At his public execution, the murderer William Palmer is said to have looked at the trapdoor on the **gallows** and asked the hangman, 'Are you sure it's safe?'

Another murderer, James French, shortly before his death by electric chair, said to curious journalists: 'How's this for a headline? "French Fries."'

Are you in some way amused by these examples of 'gallows humour', or does your dark go in a different direction?

Curious readers can check out their humour style online at: <http://www.humorstyles.com/>

The sense of humour is a natural human instinct found in different cultures throughout recorded history.

For example, in ancient Rome, Saint Lawrence was executed by being roasted on a gridiron over red-hot coals.

After the martyr had suffered great pain for a long time, the legend **concludes** with him cheerfully declaring: 'I'm well done. Turn me over!'

This is how St. Lawrence became the patron saint of cooks, chefs, and comedians.

Robert-François Damiens, a Frenchman who attempted to assassinate King Louis XV, was **sentenced** on 26 March 1757 to a most horrible execution involving having his skin ripped off at the breast, arms, and legs, having his right arm burnt with **molten** lead,

boiling oil, burning pitch, wax, and sulphur, then being dismembered by four horses, burnt to ashes, and scattered in the wind.



After hearing the gruesome sentence, Damiens is reported to have replied: 'Well, it's going to be a tough day.'

When the destroyer HMS Sheffield was struck by an Exocet cruise missile on 4 May 1982 in the Falklands War, her crew sang the immensely popular Monty Python song 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' while waiting to be rescued from their sinking ship, with the line from the song 'Worse things happen at sea, you know' being especially ironic.

Can dark humour have a deep meaning? Professor and writer Wylie Sypher once said, 'To be able to laugh at evil and error means we have **surmounted** them', and this also seems to apply to our fear of death.

In 2005, a survey by Music Choice showed that 'Always Look on the

Bright Side of Life' was the third most popular song Britons would like played at their funerals. By 2014, it was the most popular.

If you feel a **twinge of guilt** about finding bad things funny, take consolation from a recent study published in the Journal of Cognitive Processing **entitled** 'Cognitive and emotional demands of black humour processing: the role of intelligence, aggressiveness and mood' – it concluded that 'people with dark humour may have higher IQs, show lower aggression, and resist negative feelings more effectively than people who turn up their noses at it'.

Paul Smith

P.S. If you have any comments or questions about this article, just drop me a line at: paul@smith.de. I'm always happy to hear from you.

Vocabulary Trainer

• gallows	Galgen
• to conclude	enden
• to sentence	bestrafen
• molten	geschmolzen
• to surmount	überwinden
• twinge of guilt	Anflug eines schlechten Gewissens
• entitled	mit dem Titel

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Telephoning

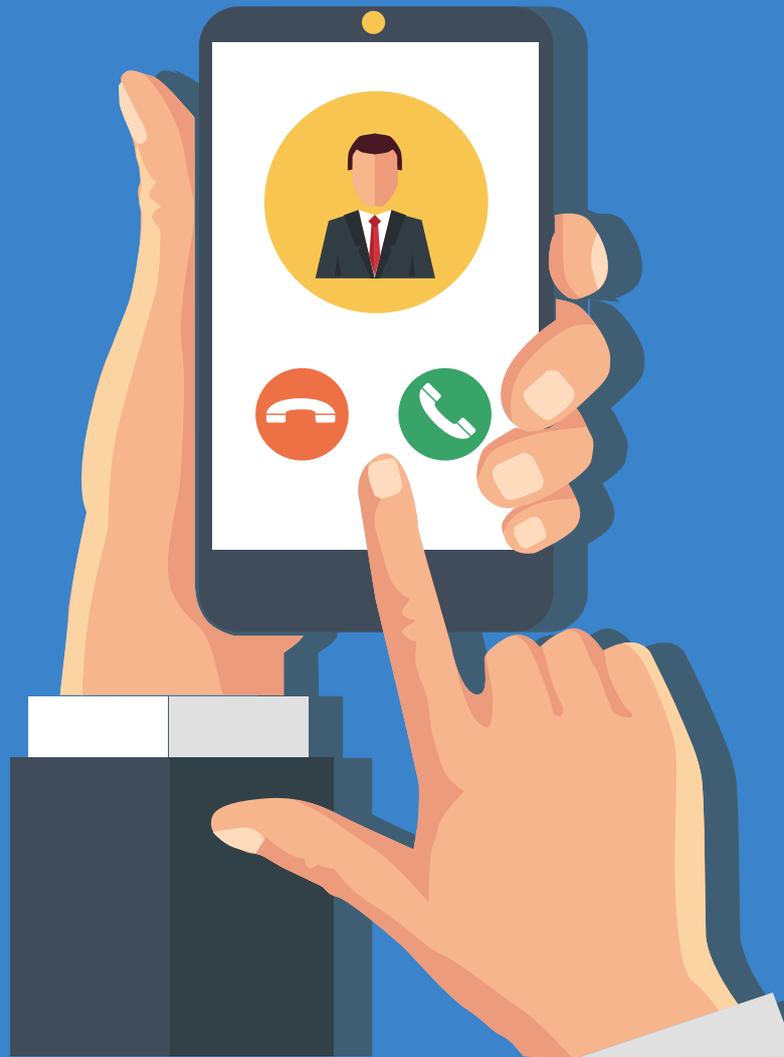
Bausteine & Dialoge

Liebe Obet-Leser,
wenn ich die Teilnehmer meiner Seminare gefragt habe, was ihnen im Englischen am meisten Probleme bereitet, so war die Antwort in den meisten Fällen: Telefonieren. Dies erstaunt nicht, da es einfach ungemein schwieriger ist, sich mit jemandem zu unterhalten, dessen Mimik und Gestik man nicht sieht.

Für die kommenden Ausgaben unseres OWAD Business English Trainers habe ich solche Situationen identifiziert, die im Geschäftsleben immer wiederkehren. Für diese Situationen habe ich Textbausteine geschaffen, die Sie je nach Ihrem Sprachvermögen einsetzen können. Verbunden mit realen Dialogen, wie man sie rund um den Globus jeden Tag millionenfach hört.

Zunächst beschreiben wir Ihnen stets eine Telefon-Situation, wie sie häufig in Ihrem Job vorkommen wird. Bei den Bausteinen zeigen wir Ihnen dann als Erstes, wie Sie diese Situation am Telefon mit einem Basiswissen meistern können. Wir erläutern Ihnen aber auch, wie ein Advanced-Speaker und darüber hinaus ein Insider diesen Satz-Baustein formulieren würde.

Die Insider's Formulierung dieser Situation greifen wir dann in den Dialogen wieder auf und setzen sie in einen Kontext. Nehmen Sie an, Ihr Gegenüber wäre ein Native-Speaker, Sie selbst verwenden die Bausteine des Insider's. Neben den aufgeführten Dialogen finden Sie an der Seite immer den Hinweis darauf, welcher Part von Ihnen gelernt werden sollte. Diesen haben wir mit einem „You“ gekennzeichnet.



Mein Ziel ist es, dass Sie britische und amerikanische Native-Speaker besser verstehen und Ihrem eigenen Englisch mehr Präzision, Tiefe und Stil verleihen. Mit diesem Wissen ist Ihnen nicht nur die Anerkennung Ihrer Gesprächspartner sicher, vielmehr erreicht Ihr Englisch ein neues Niveau an Professionalität und Authentizität.



Ich wünsche Ihnen viel Erfolg und vor allem Spaß!

**Ihr
Paul Smith**

owad
FOR BUSINESS



Organizing

OFFERING TO EMAIL DIRECTIONS -
HOW TO FIND US

Components _____



Basic
Level

Would you like me to email you instructions on how to find our office?

Advanced
Level

Do you know how to find us? I'd be happy to send you an email with directions to our office.

Insider's
Level

Our office is in an old part of town and can be quite hard to find. The streets around here are an impossible jumble. Should I email you a document containing directions on how to get here?

Dialogue _____

Hello, this is Andreas at SoftSolutions. I'd like to confirm my meeting with Jay Humboldt today. Can you let him know I'll be there as planned?



Andreas



You

Of course. Have you been here before? **Our office is in an old part of town and can be quite hard to find. The streets around here are an impossible jumble. Should I email you a document containing directions on how to get here?**

Thanks, but that won't be necessary. I visited Jay a few times last year and know how to get there.



Andreas



Organisieren

ANBIETEN, PER E-MAIL EINE
WEGBESCHREIBUNG ZU SENDEN

Bausteine _____



Basic
Level

Möchten Sie, dass ich Ihnen per E-Mail eine Wegbeschreibung zu unserem Büro sende?

Advanced
Level

Wissen Sie, wie Sie zu uns kommen? Ich kann Ihnen gerne eine E-Mail mit der Wegbeschreibung schicken.

Insider's
Level

Unser Büro liegt in der Altstadt und ist nicht so einfach zu finden. Die umliegenden Straßen sind ein unmöglicher Wirrwarr. Soll ich Ihnen per E-Mail ein Dokument mit der Wegbeschreibung schicken?

Dialog _____

Hallo, hier ist Andreas von SoftSolutions. Ich möchte gern meinen heutigen Termin mit Jay Humboldt bestätigen. Können Sie ihm ausrichten, dass ich zur verabredeten Zeit da sein werde?



Andreas



You

Natürlich. Waren Sie schon einmal bei uns? **Unser Büro liegt in der Altstadt und ist nicht so einfach zu finden. Die umliegenden Straßen sind ein unmögliches Wirrwarr. Soll ich Ihnen per E-Mail ein Dokument mit der Wegbeschreibung schicken?**

Danke, aber das wird nicht nötig sein. Ich habe Jay letztes Jahr ein paarmal besucht und weiß, wie ich zu Ihnen komme.



Andreas



Organizing

ASKING TO BE PICKED UP FROM A TRAIN STATION

Components _____



Basic
Level

Could you pick me up from the main train station at 2:15?

Advanced
Level

I should be at the main train station at 2:15. Would you be able to collect me?

Insider's
Level

My train's scheduled to arrive at the main station at 2:15. Since we've already planned to drive to the customer together, maybe you could save me a trip to the office and swing by to collect me on the way?

Dialogue _____

Good morning, Berndt. I'm just polishing the slides for our presentation this afternoon. When will you be arriving?



Andreas



You

My train's scheduled to arrive at the main station at 2:15. Since we've already planned to drive to the customer together, maybe you could save me a trip to the office and swing by to collect me on the way?

No problem, I was hoping it would work that way. Wait at the east entrance, I'll hook up with you there.



Andreas



Organisieren

BITTEN, VOM BAHNHOF ABGEHOLT ZU WERDEN

Bausteine _____



Basic
Level

Könnten Sie mich um 14:15 Uhr vom Hauptbahnhof abholen?

Advanced
Level

Ich müsste um 14:15 Uhr am Hauptbahnhof sein. Wäre es Ihnen möglich, mich abzuholen?

Insider's
Level

Mein Zug sollte planmäßig um 14:15 Uhr am Hauptbahnhof ankommen. Da wir ja schon verabredet haben, gemeinsam zum Kunden zu fahren, könnten Sie mir vielleicht den Weg ins Büro vorher ersparen und mich auf dem Weg abholen?

Dialog _____

Guten Morgen, Berndt. Ich gebe gerade den Folien für unsere Präsentation heute Nachmittag den letzten Schliff. Wann kommen Sie an?



Andreas



You

Mein Zug sollte planmäßig um 14:15 Uhr am Hauptbahnhof ankommen. Da wir ja schon verabredet haben, gemeinsam zum Kunden zu fahren, könnten Sie mir vielleicht den Weg ins Büro vorher ersparen und mich auf dem Weg abholen?

Kein Problem, ich hatte schon gehofft, dass wir es so machen können. Warten Sie am Ostausgang, ich treffe Sie dann dort.



Andreas

Crossword Puzzle

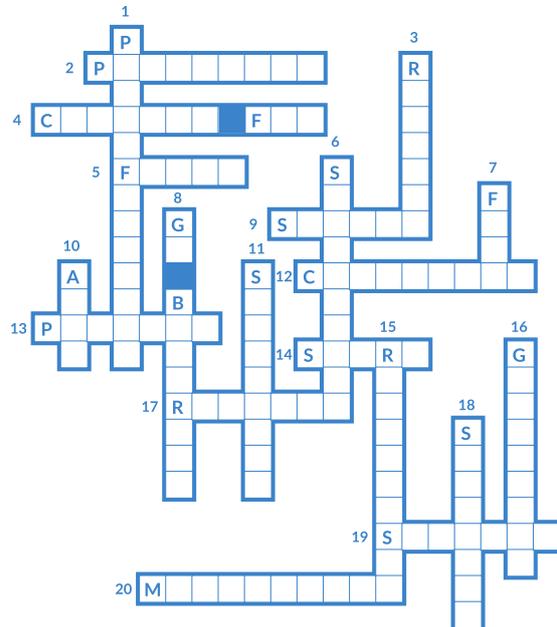
These standard business words may be advanced, but they are frequently used, even in conversation. Practise first with the attached flashcards, and then test your new vocabulary here!

You may need to decline and conjugate.

The answer might consist of a phrase or two words.

Down

1. The _____ of social media platforms has created new marketing possibilities. (*starke Zunahme/Ausbreitung*)
3. After his holiday, he went about his work with _____ enthusiasm. (*erneut*)
6. As a team, we have _____ a number of challenges and difficult situations. (*überwinden*)
7. After a catastrophic year, the _____ of the company remains unclear. (*Schicksal*)
8. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many businesses to _____. (*in Konkurs gehen*)
10. His boss could be difficult, but today he felt something _____ to sympathy for her. (*ähnlich*)
11. Once my boss had welcomed everyone, it was my turn in the _____. (*im Rampenlicht*)
15. The space had been _____ and was now another meeting room. (*umfunktionieren*)
16. He had been _____ with the complicated task all day. (*kämpfen*)
18. The CEO announced that all _____ employees would get a bonus. (*angestellt*)



Across

2. My boss then _____ to explain exactly what he needed me to do. (*sich anschicken, etw. zu tun*)
4. Some people are _____ the right to work from home, even after corona. (*nach etw. verlangen*)
5. After a brief _____ into politics, he decided it wasn't for him. (*Ausflug in etw.*)
9. The news about the management buyout _____ quickly around the office. (*sich verbreiten*)
12. The presentation _____ with a short video. (*enden*)
13. It was a _____ moment for the startup and its founders. (*entscheidend*)
14. In _____ contrast to her colleagues, she was happy to do some more overtime. (*krass*)
17. I know a few _____ people who spend every winter abroad. (*pensioniert*)
19. Their project manager was really worried about the _____ costs. (*aufsteigend*)
20. She _____ that she knew nothing about the missing file. (*behaupten*)

The solutions are on page 34.

Grammar

Exercise 1

Correct the times and dates in the following sentences as needed. Follow the British English rules.

1. March 1, 1984 _____
2. 14. December, 2021 _____
3. We're scheduled to meet on the 8th of November. _____
4. The conference starts at 7 a.m. o'clock. _____
5. My train arrives at half six. Could you pick me up? _____
6. Thursday, the 22nd of April, 2021 _____
7. The international teleconference will start at 12:45 PM gmt. _____
8. We'll head out for lunch at 12 p.m. _____
9. Could we meet at a half until 4? _____
10. My favourite season is Summer. _____
11. The email was dated 3.00 eastern daylight savings time. _____
12. The ceremony will take place at eight p.m. on the morning of 8. June. _____

Exercise 2

Carry out the following tasks.

1. Write this date in short numeric format: Friday, August 13, 2021 _____
2. Express the following times in words. We've done the first one.
8.15 a.m (a) quarter past eight in the morning
12.00 p.m. _____
6.30 p.m. _____
9.45 a.m. _____
3. Where is the error? 8:30 CET May 30 2021 _____
4. Do you know or can you guess the meaning of these time zones and where they are? If not, look them up for fun.
GMT _____ JST _____ WST _____
PDST _____ NZDT _____ IST _____
EET _____ WEST _____

The solutions are on page 34.

Solutions

Newsworthy Words (page 12)

polar vortex = *der Polarwirbel*

furlough = *der (Zwangs-)urlaub*

Crossword Puzzle (page 32)

Level Up Your Language (pages 14 & 15)

Talking about your car

1. b; 2. e; 3. a; 4. d; 5. c

Useful phrases

1. Inspektion; 2. Werkstatt; 3. Waschstraße;
4. Außenspiegel; 5. Einparkhilfe;
6. Windschutzscheibe; 7. TÜV-Termin;
8. Abgassonderuntersuchung;
9. Alufelgen; 10. Öl, Frostschutz;
11. Reifendruck, Tankstelle;
12. Reifenwechsel; 13. Sommer- und Winterreifen

Troublesome Translations (page 18)

Many or much?

1. much, much; 2. many, many;
3. much; 4. many

Fewer or less?

1. less; 2. fewer; 3. fewer, less; 4. fewer, less

Grammar (page 33)

Exercise 1

1. 1 March 1984 – 2. 14 December 2021 – 3. We're scheduled to meet on 8 November. – 4. The conference starts at 7 a.m. – 5. My train arrives at half past five/half past six. Could you pick me up? 6. Thursday, 22 April 2021 – 7. The international teleconference will start at 12.45 p.m. GMT. – 8. We'll head out for lunch at 12 noon (12 p.m. is OK, but 12 noon is clearer) – 9. Could we meet at half past three? (or just 3.30; p.m. is not needed because 3.30 a.m. is very unlikely) – 10. My favourite season is summer. – 11. The email was dated 3.00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time. – 12. The ceremony will take place at eight a.m. on the morning of 8 June (or you might have written 8 p.m. on the evening of 8 June).

Exercise 2

1. 13/08/21 (short format would leave out the day name) – 2. twelve noon, half past six in the evening, (a) quarter to ten in the morning – 3. 8.30 CET 30 May 2021 – 4. Greenwich Mean Time (UK); Pacific Daylight Savings Time (Los Angeles, US); Eastern European Time (Lithuania, Ukraine, Greece, Turkey); Japan Standard Time (Japan has no daylight savings time); New Zealand Daylight Time (New Zealand); Western European Summer Time (Canary Islands, Morocco); Western Standard Time (Perth, Australia, but it could also mean Western Sahara Summer Time) or West Samoa Time; India Standard Time or Israel Standard Time



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Viel Spaß beim Lernen.

Ihr OWAD Business English Trainer-Team.

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to come to the rescue	zu Hilfe kommen	
I had no idea what I was doing, but luckily my colleague came to the rescue!		

1

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
salaried	angestellt	
The CEO announced that all salaried employees would get a bonus.		

2

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in the spotlight	im Rampenlicht	
Once my boss had welcomed everyone, it was my turn in the spotlight.		

3

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to grapple	kämpfen	
He had been grappling with the complicated task all day.		

4

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
stark	krass	
In stark contrast to her colleagues, she was happy to do some more overtime.		

5

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to be dealt a blow	einen Schlag versetzt bekommen	
The industry will be dealt a serious blow by this development.		

6

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to spread	sich verbreiten	
The news about the management buyout spread quickly around the office.		

7

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
the Great Famine	die Große Hungersnot	
The Great Famine is sometimes also called the Irish Potato Famine.		

8

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to spring to mind	spontan in den Sinn kommen	
As I listened to the client, two questions immediately sprang to mind.		

9

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to call for sth.	nach etw. verlangen	
Some people are calling for the right to work from home, even after corona.		

10

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to reject sth. in favour of sth.	etw. gegenüber etw. den Vorzug geben	
Unfortunately, my idea was rejected in favour of one from my colleague.		

11

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to repurpose	umfunktionieren	
The space had been repurposed and was now another meeting room.		

12

© Paul Smith

soaring

aufsteigend

Their project manager was really worried about the soaring costs.

13

© Paul Smith

fate

Schicksal

After a catastrophic year, the fate of the company remains unclear.

14

© Paul Smith

to cast aside

verwerfen/beiseitelegen

I tried to cast aside my own feelings about the project and get on with the work.

15

© Paul Smith

foray into sth.

Ausflug in etw.

After a brief foray into politics, he decided it wasn't for him.

16

© Paul Smith

to go bankrupt

in Konkurs gehen

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many businesses to go bankrupt.

17

© Paul Smith

retired

pensioniert

I know a few retired people who spend every winter abroad.

18

© Paul Smith

to maintain

behaupten

She maintained that she knew nothing about the missing file.

19

© Paul Smith

whopping

kolossal/riesengroß

My new position comes with a whopping 20% pay rise!

20

© Paul Smith

pivotal

entscheidend

It was a pivotal moment for the startup and its founders.

21

© Paul Smith

**desegregated
society**

**Gesellschaft in der
die Rassentrennung
aufgehoben ist**

Some would say that modern-day America is
still not a fully desegregated society.

22

© Paul Smith

**to be dedicated
to sb.**

jdm. geweiht sein

The book was dedicated to the author's mother.

23

© Paul Smith

troublemaker

Unruhestifter

I was a bit of a troublemaker in school, but
luckily I grew out of that phase!

24

© Paul Smith

renewed

erneut

After his holiday, he went about his work
with renewed enthusiasm.

25

© Paul Smith

**to gain momen-
tum**

**in Schwung kom-
men**

Thanks to the new marketing campaign,
the business is gaining momentum.

26

© Paul Smith

**to set about doing
sth.**

**sich daranmachen,
etw. zu tun**

After lunch, she set about tidying her desk.

27

© Paul Smith

**to proceed to do
sth.**

**sich anschicken,
etw. zu tun**

My boss then proceeded to explain exactly
what he needed me to do.

28

© Paul Smith

OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to clink glasses	die Gläser klingen lassen	
We clinked glasses and toasted the success of our new compnay.		

29

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akin	ähnlich	
His boss could be difficult, but today he felt something akin to sympathy for her.		

30

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ribbing	Neckerei	
My colleagues gave me a good ribbing when they heard what had happened.		

31

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roll call	Namensaufruf	
They gathered for the roll call in the morning and at midday.		

32

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tongue-twister	Zungenbrecher	
I find the word 'squirrel' hard to say - it's a real tongue-twister!		

33

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gaffe	Fauxpas	
She made a real gaffe - she called her new manager by the wrong name!		

34

© Paul Smith

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proliferation	starke Zunahme/ Ausbreitung	
The proliferation of social media platforms has created new marketing possibilities.		

35

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OWAD Business English Trainer Vokabelkarten		01 2021
to trace sth. back	zurückverfolgen	
They traced the issue back to an accounting mistake that had been made the year before.		

36

© Paul Smith

to transpose

vertauschen

He realized he had accidentally transposed two digits in the phone number.

37

© Paul Smith

gallows

Galgen

Today there is nothing to mark where the gallows once stood.

38

© Paul Smith

to conclude

enden

The presentation concluded with a short video.

39

© Paul Smith

to sentence

bestrafen

He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

40

© Paul Smith

molten

geschmolzen

When molten metal cools down, it starts to solidify.

41

© Paul Smith

to surmount

überwinden

As a team, we have surmounted a number of challenges and difficult situations.

42

© Paul Smith

twinge of guilt

Anflug eines schlechten Gewissens

I felt a twinge of guilt as I headed out the door, leaving my team still working hard.

43

© Paul Smith

entitled

mit dem Titel

The book was entitled '50 Creative Solutions for Leaders of Challenging Teams'.

44

© Paul Smith



Impressum

OWAD Business English Trainer

ISSN-Print: 2364-8740
ISSN-Internet: 2364-8759

Verlag und Druck:

Cologne Publishing Group GmbH
Unter Käster 1, D-50667 Köln
Telefon: +49 221 2585-265
Fax: +49 221 2585 -266

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<https://www.insiders-english.de/obet>

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Quellennachweis für redaktionell

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Printed in Germany

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