What do we call a comfortable bus that takes tourists on long journeys?

A: a couch  B: a carriage  C: a coach  D: a wagon

You’ll find the answer on page 3.
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**July 2017**

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### Travel test

Take this test to find out if your English is fit for travelling the world. Practise your vocabulary and try some fun quizzes.
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**Happy birthday, Canada!**

Canada turns 150 this month. We take a tour to the parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan where dinosaurs once roamed and cowboys write verse.

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**Improve your English**

**Spotlight plus**
Practise the language and grammar of Spotlight with the exercise booklet plus. For the pages in the magazine marked with this symbol **PLUS** there are additional exercises in plus.

**Spotlight Audio**
Enjoy interviews and travel stories and try the exercises on the monthly 60-minute CD/download. Look for this symbol **AUDIO** in the magazine.

**Spotlight in the classroom**
Teachers: this six-page supplement will provide great ideas for classroom activities based on the magazine. Free for all teachers who subscribe to Spotlight.

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**Welcome to Peggy’s Place**

Are you a fan of Spotlight’s monthly soap about a British pub? We take you behind the scenes of Peggy’s Place to learn more about pub culture.

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For more information and exercises, see:
www.spotlight-online.de
www.facebook.com/spotlightmagazine

**ABOUT THE LANGUAGE LEVELS**
The levels of difficulty in Spotlight magazine correspond roughly to The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:

- **EASY** A2
- **MEDIUM** B1–B2
- **ADVANCED** C1–C2
Indigenous Australian poet Ali Cobby Eckermann didn’t know who she was until she was in her thirties. That’s when she found her family. In an interview on the Poetry International website, she said: “I still remember seeing my mother’s eyes for the first time. They were my own eyes, which I saw when I looked in the mirror.”

Eckermann, born in Adelaide in 1963, was a member of the Stolen Generations — as were her mother and her son, whom she had when she was 19. All three were taken from their biological families as babies and sent to live with non-indigenous families. Eckermann had a good adoptive family, but always wanted to meet her mother. She spent 16 years searching for her.

She often writes about this experience and about the history and exploitation of Australia’s indigenous peoples in her poetry, which was published in a book for the very first time in 2009. She says: “As my reconnection with family took me further and further into the desert and back to traditional Yankunytjatjara roots, the poetry sang louder, and I began to discover who I was born to be.”

This year, she won the biggest literary prize of her career — the Windham-Campbell Prize, worth around €150,000. Eckermann, who was jobless and living in a caravan at the time, told the BBC that she plans to use the money to buy a house for her family, and that she also plans to write a novel.

You don’t have to be Native American to fight for the rights of these peoples. Shailene Woodley hopes we may all learn that lesson from her arrest last October. The 25-year-old actress was one of 27 people who were arrested at Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota for trying to stop the construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline there. Many Native American groups have protested against the pipeline’s construction on the reservation. They say it is a threat to its only water supply and to its historic land.

Woodley, who is not expected to go to jail, said in a statement that she hopes her arrest will motivate other people to fight for the rights of Native Americans. To her, any threat to the environment is a threat to everyone.

If you want to know which author the UK is commemorating in 2017, look at that country’s new £10 banknote, which will be released this year. It has a portrait of the writer Jane Austen (1775–1817) on it. Austen was born in Hampshire, England, and is best known for her six novels, which include Sense and Sensibility (1811) and Pride and Prejudice (1813). These works were often critical of the life of the gentry in the early 1800s, especially the role of women. Sadly, her family destroyed much of her personal writing because they didn’t agree with her opinions. Austen died on 18 July 1817, at the age of 41. This year, the UK is honouring the 200th anniversary of her death with talks, tours and a permanent exhibition at Winchester Cathedral, where the author is buried.

water supply [ˈwɔːtə sa:plai] ➔ Wasserversorgung

indigenous [ɪnˈdɪdʒənəs] ➔ eingeboren, indigen

exploitation [ˌɛksploʊˈteɪʃən] ➔ Ausbeutung, Ausnutzung

novel [ˈnɒvl] ➔ Roman

commemorate [kəˈmeməreɪt] ➔ gedenken, feiern

gentry [ˈgɛntri] ➔ Oberschicht

release [rɪˈliːz] ➔ herausgeben
Gill Sims from Scotland goes online and writes about murdering her husband and abandoning her children — and her followers love it. Sims is joking, of course. The mother of two children, she has become famous for writing funny anecdotes about the reality of family life on her Facebook page, called "Peter and Jane", which has more than 250,000 followers. Sims writes about everything from postnatal depression to going on holiday — with wit, humour and lots of swearing. She told BBC Scotland that she began writing the blog after joking about how much she swears, and she can’t believe how popular it has become. “I do it because it’s so nice to see that there are many people [who] are feeling the same,” she said.

Whenever Katie Cooke has an epileptic seizure, her running partner tells everyone not to help her. That’s because he’s a doctor, and he knows that Cooke will recover by herself. Cooke, 19, from Dublin, Ireland, was diagnosed with frontal lobe epilepsy when she was nine. She became very sick in her early teens and couldn’t walk for a while. However, now she is a competitive marathon runner. Her consultant neurologist, Dr Colin Doherty, offered to become her running partner after she complained that people always intervened when she had a seizure. Although she has around 15 seizures a day, often while running, she recovers from them very quickly — and then continues to run.

Names: Oxford Bulls
Who they are: A team of young footballers with Down’s syndrome
From: Londonderry, Northern Ireland
Background: When manager Kevin Morrison asked via social media for opponents for his team to play, James McClean, a football player from the Republic of Ireland, offered to help and made a video.
Famous because: the video went viral, and the Oxford Bulls now have opponents lined up for the next two years.
Hearing you loud and clear

UNITED STATES Eighty percent of older Americans are affected by hearing loss. Most of them just ignore it. Why? Cost is one factor, coolness another. No one wants to pay for a hearing aid, let alone wear one and look, well, old.

Kristen Liu of Doppler Labs hopes to change this. Her company is working to provide the market with “personal sound amplification products” (PSAPs) that look good and are priced at a fraction of what hearing aids cost. In the same way that in-ear wireless headphones look hip, these attractive little hearing helpers would take the stigma out of having a hearing problem. “And no one is going to know the difference,” Liu told NPR. “So you’re wearing technology in your ear proudly.”

PSAPs are for people with moderate hearing loss, and would cost around $300. They could be sold over the counter. Liu says — as opposed to hearing aids, which cost around $6,000, require a prescription, and are not covered by insurance. Doppler Labs is waiting for a change in the law that regulates how hearing aids are sold before bringing its products to market.
Sick and fired

Dieses Mal sorgen Neuigkeiten von Peggy’s Tochter Jane für eine Menge Wirbel in Spotlight’s eigener Kneipe. Von INEZ SHARP

PEGGY’S PLACE

“She was sick on the woman’s strawberries”

Sean: That’s terrible!
Peggy: Yeah, she won’t even get a single day’s pay.
Sean: Probably didn’t get many tips either, did she?
Peggy: It was her first customer, and some of the sick ended up in the woman’s designer handbag.
Sean: Ouch!
Peggy: So now she’s got a cleaning bill to pay, too.
Phil: Hi, everyone! Where the hell is Jane? The school just called and asked me to pick up Simone from the school trip because they couldn’t reach her mother.
Peggy: Jane’s probably at home in bed resting.
Phil: One day at work, and she’s already exhausted. That doesn’t bode well for your daughter’s career in hospitality. Hi, George!
George: It’s a real scorcher out there. Give me a shandy, will you? I’m parched.
Peggy: Coming up.
George: How’s Jane’s new job going?
Peggy: Coming up.
Phil: Is that your phone, Peggy?
Peggy: Yes. I’ll take the call in the kitchen.
George: You’re saying she’s pregnant?

Peggy’s the one I feel sorry for. In all the years I’ve known Jane, it’s been one disaster after another.
Phil: My concern is for Simone. Jane is such an unreliable mother, and you can see Simone always trying to manage her expectations.

Sean: Well, see it this way: at least she has just the one kid. One is not too much work for you and Peggy.
Phil: You’re right there.
George: Sometimes, it’s better if there are more siblings for support.
Phil: Believe me: that would have been a disaster.

Sean: From what Peggy was saying, Jane made it worse by blaming the woman.
Phil: How did she manage that?
Peggy: Jane turned towards the woman and said, and I quote: “It was that silly cow’s cheap scent that made me puke.”
George: She does have an amazing talent for making a bad situation worse.

Sean: Yes, she was fired on the spot.
Phil: Is that your phone, Peggy?
Peggy: Yes, she was fired on the spot.
George: Things will look better in a few days, Peggy. Let’s put it this way: Jane will feel better, but it could take, let’s see, about seven months — if you get my drift.

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VOCABULARY

Hiking

If you enjoy hiking, you’re not alone.

ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about this popular leisure activity.

MEDIUM PLUS

Off we go!

Alex: We’re in luck. The weather forecast is excellent: bright sunshine all day!

Pat: We’d better take sun hats. Are you ready? Off we go!

Pat: Mind you don’t get stuck in the mud. The ground’s a bit boggy underfoot.

Alex: Yeah, it’s all moorland around here. Wait! I think this is where we turn off. Can I have a look at the map?

Pat: Let’s ask that man over there. — Excuse me, is this the way to Burgh Castle?

Man: Yes, that’s right. It’s about another mile. Follow the footpath until you reach a fork. Then bear left. It should be signposted.

Alex: Phew! I’m absolutely exhausted. I didn’t realize it would be all uphill. And I’ve got a blister on my heel. Ouch!

Pat: But look at the view! Isn’t it stunning? Where are the binoculars?

Pat: How’s your foot? Do you want to go back the way we came?

Alex: No, let’s do the full circuit. It’s no problem with a blister plaster.
PRACTICE

Now, try the following exercises to practise talking about hiking.

Exercise 1

Cross out the one word or phrase in each line that does not belong in the same category as the others.

A. Things that you wear:
   - a fleece jacket
   - a sun hat
   - binoculars
   - walking boots

B. Things that you carry:
   - a blister
   - a pocket knife
   - a rucksack
   - a thermos

C. Things that contain something:
   - a first-aid kit
   - a thermos
   - a waistpack
   - sunscreen

D. Things that help you find your way:
   - a map
   - a plaster
   - a signpost
   - a waymark

Exercise 2

Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right.

A. A circuit...
   1. is wide open countryside covered with rough grass and heather.

B. A fork...
   2. is a place where a path divides into two parts to form a Y-shape.

C. Moorland...
   3. is wet earth that has become soft and sticky.

D. Mud...
   4. is a path or route that starts and ends in the same place.

Exercise 3

Complete the sentences with the words from the list.

bear | luck | mind | turn

A. Do we ________ off here, or do we keep walking straight on?

B. ________ right when you reach the fork.

C. ________ you don’t fall. It’s slippery.

D. We’re in _________. There’s a pub ahead.

Exercise 4

Complete the following sentences with words from the dialogue on the opposite page.

A. I can’t believe it’s raining. The ________ said it would be sunny all day.

B. The walk was all ________, but we were rewarded with a fantastic view of the countryside when we got to the top.

C. The ground’s likely to be wet ________, so I wouldn’t wear sandals if I were you.

D. Oh, look! There’s the castle. Can you pass me the ________ so I can get a better view?

E. We were lucky we didn’t get lost. The footpath wasn’t very well ________.

Hiking

“Hike” is a verb as well as a noun. Here are some examples of how the word is used:

- We hiked the South West Coast Path all the way to Land’s End.
- We went hiking in the Scottish Highlands last summer.
- The weather’s lovely. Let’s go for a hike!
- We could walk to the next town, but it’s quite a hike.

VOCABULARY
Exercise 1

What do these expressions mean? Match each statement on the left to the correct word or phrase on the right.

A. I’m trying to keep my head above water.
B. I’m sure it will go swimmingly.
C. We decided to splash out.
D. I think you should take the plunge.

1. spend a lot of money
2. take a big decision
3. survive
4. be successful

Water under the bridge

What water expressions do you understand and use in conversational English? Look at the examples, read the explanations and try the exercises. By ADRIAN DOFF

Water

Water is everywhere, so it’s not surprising that there are many different expressions in which it occurs. Here, we look at some of them, including idioms connected with water.

Water can come in many different forms. Your home almost certainly has running water (= it comes through pipes), which is also drinking water (= you can drink it). In a cafe, you might ask for bottled water, which can be either sparkling (or fizzy) or still. But if you don’t want to pay for a bottle, you could ask for tap water. In nature, you can find fresh water (in streams and lakes) and salt water (in the sea).

Idioms connected with water

If an idea doesn’t hold water, it’s not practical:

- His design for an air-powered car simply doesn’t hold water.

If you pour/throw cold water on an idea, you are negative about it:

- I wanted to open a cafe, but my wife poured cold water on the idea.

If something is water under the bridge, it’s in the past and not important any more:

- My brother and I used to fight a lot, but that’s all water under the bridge now.

Entering the water

There are different ways to enter the water: you can wade in (= walk), you can jump in (= feet first), you can dive in (= head first) or you can plunge in (= quickly, either jumping or diving). If you plunge into water, you will probably make a splash (= the water flies in all directions).

If you go swimming, you might stay in your depth (= where you can stand) or go out of your depth (= in deeper water). Most people want to keep their heads above water so that they can breathe, but some can swim underwater, too.

The following words and phrases are also used in idioms:

wade in = say something without being careful
- She just waded in and said exactly what she thought.

take the plunge = decide to do something after hesitating
- It was a big risk, but I took the plunge and bought a house.

make a splash = make everyone notice you
- She wore a pink miniskirt at her wedding. It made quite a splash.

Exercise 2

Choose the best option in bold in each sentence below.

A. The interview went swimming / swimmingly, and I got the job.
B. I decided to take the dive / plunge and move to Berlin.
C. I gave up studying physics. I found I was way out of / over my depth.
D. Why do you pour cold / hot water on all my ideas?
E. I don’t like swimming in the sea. I prefer to swim in fresh / sweet water.

Splash out = spend lots of money

- We splashed out and spent the weekend at a five-star hotel.

Be out of your depth = not have enough knowledge of a subject

- The minister tried to answer questions about the economy, but he was out of his depth.

Keep your head above water = survive

- He’s not earning much, but he’s just managing to keep his head above water.

Finally, we know that you can go swimming (= an activity) or go for a swim (for a shorter time); but there is also an expression go swimmingly, which means “go well or easily” (as if you were moving smoothly through water):

- I felt nervous about inviting my boss to dinner, but fortunately, it all went swimmingly.