



Spotlight

20 Seiten
Sprachtipps &
Übungen



GREAT STYLE
Design
and architecture
in Britain

THE MAGIC OF IRELAND

A trip from Galway to the Ring of Kerry

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The west of Ireland — a little bit of heaven



They say the clouds are lower in Ireland. I say Ireland is closer to heaven.” This quote, which I read somewhere recently, seems like a good way to introduce our travel story about a journey down the west coast of Ireland. Anyone who has visited these landscapes will surely agree that they are uniquely beautiful and interesting places. In “A family adventure in Ireland’s west”, writer Jessica Mann travels from Galway to the Ring of Kerry with her family, looking at cliffs, castles and caves and discovering that there is something for everyone to enjoy. Our feature begins on page 28.

For hundreds of years, Britain has been — and still is — famous for its lovely architecture and innovative design. In this issue, beginning on page 14, we look at the history of British style and present the designers and architects who are working there today. From William Morris to Bethan Gray, discover what makes British style great.

Finally, if you haven’t yet taken a closer look at our regular section “Grammar Tales”, I urge you to do so now. The idea of rewriting a traditional story for children in modern language and using it to explain a point of grammar goes back to my time as an English teacher. Author Dagmar Taylor’s interpretation of these old stories for *Spotlight* is funny and useful at the same time. You’ll find “The three little pigs” on pages 22–24.

cave [kɛv]

• Höhle

uniquely [juˈni:kli]

• einmalig, besonders

urge [ɜːdʒ]

• bitten, drängen



Inez Sharp

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A young British family needs more space: learn words and expressions connected with building new rooms on to a home. Do the exercises to test what you have learned.



Fotos: Ian Dagnall/Alamy Stock Photo; Nelosa/Stock.com

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Family fun in Ireland



Going on holiday with a small child? No problem! Jessica Mann shows you how it's done with a memorable trip to explore Ireland's spectacular Atlantic coast.



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Great British design



A design report for fans of Britain's sensational style, from St Paul's Cathedral to the iconic red double-decker bus and the "Strawberry Thief", a famous fabric pattern by Arts and Crafts master William Morris.



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ABOUT THE LANGUAGE LEVELS

The levels of difficulty in Spotlight magazine correspond roughly to The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:

EASY **MEDIUM** **ADVANCED**
A2 B1-B2 C1-C2



Big man: the 182-metre-high statue of politician Vallabhbhai Patel in India

INDIA

Tallest of them all

EASY

China, Myanmar and Japan have the second, third and fourth tallest statues in the world — with likenesses of Buddha. But it is a mighty figure of Vallabhbhai Patel (died 1950), one of India's founding fathers, that now claims to be the tallest.

Completed this winter, the 182-metre-high monument — four times as tall as the Statue of Liberty — stands near a dam on the River Narmada in Patel's home state of Gujarat, Western India. Known popularly as “sardar”, or “chief”, he played an

instrumental role in India's independence movement and in uniting its 562 princely states, helping to form the Republic of India in 1947. He then served as first deputy prime minister of that country.

Called the Statue of Unity, the concrete, steel and bronze sculpture took five years to complete at a cost equal to \$430 million. The BBC reports that the project honouring the “Bismarck of modern India” was of special importance to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



concrete ['kɒŋkri:t]
• Beton-

deputy ['depjuti]
• stellvertretend

founding ['faʊndɪŋ]
• Gründungs-

mighty ['mɜ:ti]
• gewaltig

princely ['prɪnsli]
• Fürsten-

JAPAN

Island no more

ADVANCED

“If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?” This clichéd philosophical question has a modern-day counterpart. If a small island disappears into the ocean, and no one notices, does it really matter?

In the case of Esanbe Hanakita Kojima, a rocky islet once located 500 metres off the coast of Japan, it does. Its proximity to Hokkaido, Japan’s second-largest island, was important for maintaining the maritime border of that country. The rocky outcrop was one of nearly 160 uninhabited islands to which Japan made a point of giving official names five years ago in an effort to define its territorial waters better.

Back then, Esanbe Hanakita Kojima poked 1.4 metres above the surface of the Sea of Okhotsk between Japan and Russia. CNN announced that it was an author researching a book about hard-to-find islands who reported this island as “missing”. Whether its disappearance was caused by erosion or seismic activity is not clear.

counterpart
[ˈkaʊntəpɑːt]
• Gegenstück

islet [ˈaɪlət]
• kleine Insel

outcrop [ˈaʊtkrɒp]
• einzeln stehender Felsen

poke: ~ above [pəʊk]
• herausragen

proximity [prɒkˈsɪməti]
• Nähe

territorial waters
[ˌtɛrəˈtɔːriəl ˈwɔːtəz]
• Hoheitsgewässer

“
Trump is
solidifying
power
as a means
of self-
defense.
[His]
strategy
is to
survive at
all costs.
”



– Opinion writer Charles M. Blow in *The New York Times*

BRITAIN

On pointe

MEDIUM

Pointe shoes are pink, right? If your skin is light, the answer is “yes”. If it is caramel, dark brown or near black, the response is less automatic. Ask people of colour who dance ballet: it makes more sense for their shoes to match their skin. Some suppliers of pointe shoes are now providing alternatives long missing from the dance-shoe market.

The idea, in aesthetic terms, is for the dancer’s body to present an unbroken “line” while in motion. This does not happen if shoes of a different colour create a sudden contrast at the feet. Cira Robinson of UK dance company Ballet Black told *The New York Times* that she used to buy make-up and paint her shoes with it (a gooey mess) to bridge the colour gap. Dancers need new shoes all the time, and it cost her a small fortune for something white dancers did not have to think about.

Freed of London and Gaynor Minden have begun selling pointe shoes in bronze and brown. For some dancers, it has been a revelation. “This isn’t about shoes. This is about who belongs in ballet and who doesn’t,” Virginia Johnson of the Dance Theater of Harlem told *The Times*. “It’s a signal that the world is open to you.”

gap [gæp]
• Differenz

gooey [ˈguːi] *ifml.*
• klebrig

pointe shoe [ˈpwænt ʃuː]
• Spitzenschuh

revelation [ˌrevəˈleɪʃən]
• Offenbarung



THE NEWCOMER

Harmony Nice EASY

Age: 21

From: Norfolk, England, UK

Background: At 14, Harmony Nice became interested in Wicca, a form of modern paganism, after her mother told her that her great-grandmother was a witch.

Famous because: She now has more than 320,000 followers on Instagram and

460,000 subscribers on YouTube, where she talks about being Wiccan. She has also written a book called *Wicca: A Modern Guide to Witchcraft and Magick*.

Quote: Harmony told the BBC, “It’s more of a philosophy like Buddhism. All it really is, is just having, like, a love for the Earth.”



subscriber [səbˈskraɪbə]
• Abonnent(in)

witch [wɪtʃ]
• Hexe

WHO EXACTLY IS...

Germaine Greer?

EASY



A new biography about Germaine Greer is out, but she doesn't want you to read it — not because she thinks it's bad, but because she hates biographies. She said this with the use of expletives in the new documentary *Germaine Bloody Greer*, and she expressed the idea that if you want to know people, you should read what they've written and not the books that people have written about them.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, and educated in her home country and later in the UK, Greer, who celebrated her eightieth birthday in January, became famous for the first book she wrote, *The Female Eunuch*. Published in 1970, it analysed the role of women in society and claimed that the modern family repressed women sexually, making them female eunuchs. The book became an important part of what's known as "second-wave feminism", and it established Greer as an internationally known author and feminist.

She went on to write many more books — mostly about women — and to have a successful journalistic and academic career. But she has often been criticized for using expletives and for things she has said, including comments in recent years about transgender women, the #MeToo movement and rape. Her new book, *On Rape*, was published in September last year and has provided fresh material for international debate.

expletive [ɪk'splɪ:tɪv]
- Kraftausdruck

rape [reɪp]
- Vergewaltigung

repress [rɪ'pres]
- unterdrücken

transgender
[ˌtrænz'dʒendə]
- transsexuell

SOUTH AFRICA

Me and Mandela

EASY

Probably nobody in Hollywood understands Nelson Mandela better than Idris Elba. That's because Elba, 46, played Mandela in the 2013 biographical film *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*. A year later, Elba released *mi Mandela*, an album of South African and British music dedicated to the political leader. Now, the actor has co-written a play about life in South

Africa after Mandela, who died in 2013. The play, called *Tree*, combines drama, music, dance and film. It will debut at Upper Campfield Market Hall in Manchester at the end of June as part of this year's Manchester International Festival. From 30 July to 24 August, it will be shown at the Young Vic in London, the artistic director of which co-wrote the play with Elba.



debut ['deɪbjʊ:]
- uraufgeführt werden

dedicate ['dedɪkeɪt]
- widmen

play [pleɪ]
- Theaterstück

release [rɪ'li:s]
- veröffentlichen

Actor Idris Elba as Nelson Mandela in the 2013 film *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*



BRITAIN

Scream yourself skinny

ADVANCED

It's a small study, but a really fun one: a paper issued recently by the University of Westminster in London has horror fans screaming for more film tips. It seems that watching very scary movies can help some people to lose weight.

Seeing frightening scenes tends to increase the heart rate and release adrenaline into the system, which, in turn, burns more calories, says the paper. As *The New Zealand Herald* reports, *The Shining*, a terrifying film starring Jack Nicholson, "was found to burn an average of 184 calories, nearly the equivalent of a half-hour brisk walk". Other top movies likely to scare the kilos away include *Jaws* (161 calories), *The Exorcist* (158 calories), *Alien* (152 calories) and *Saw* (133 calories).

brisk [brɪsk]
- flott

frightening
['fraɪtənɪŋ]
- angsteinflößend

release [rɪ'li:s]
- freisetzen

scary ['skeəri] *ifml.*
- Grusel-

Fotos: Colin McPherson/Getty Images; ddp/INTERTOPICS