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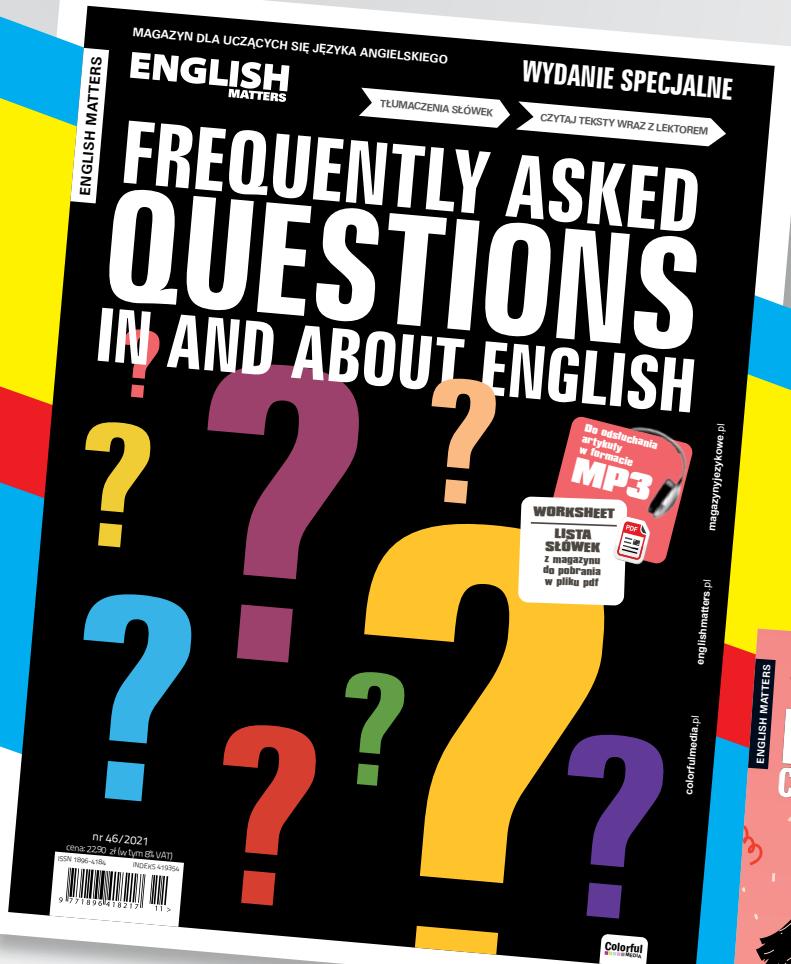


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Once again, *English Matters* presents a collection of facts which, to put it mildly, are very hard to believe. Indeed, in some cases, readers will hardly believe their eyes.

**indeed** | w rzeczy samej

## GEOGRAPHY

China's northernmost point lies on the border with Russia; it lies at a latitude of 53°33' North; therefore, China stretches further north than Szczecin, as well as Manchester in the North of England.

Russia's southernmost point is Mount Bazardüzü on the border with Azerbaijan; its latitude is 41°13' North of the Equator; accordingly, Russia stretches further south than Rome and Crescent City in California.



Norway's easternmost point is Cape Kraemerpynten on the island of Kvitøya in the Svalbard archipelago; its longitude is 33°30'58" East; as a result, Norway's territory stretches further east than Murmansk in Russia and Ankara in Turkey.

The western tip of Greenland, part of the Kingdom of Denmark, is Cape Alexander; it lies on a longitude of 78°11" West; accordingly, Danish territory stretches as far west as the Northeastern United States.

Greenland's southernmost point is Cape Farewell; its latitude is 59°46'23" North; therefore, Greenland stretches as far south as Shetland in Scotland!

**northernmost** | najbardziej wysunięty na północ

**border** | granica

**latitude** | szerokość geograficzna

**therefore** | dlatego

**to stretch** | rozciągać się

**southernmost** | najbardziej wysunięty na południe

**equator** | równik

**accordingly** | z tego powodu, więc

**easternmost** | najbardziej wysunięty na wschód

**archipelago** | archipelag

**longitude** | długość geograficzna

**western** | zachodni

**tip** | koniuszek, wierzchołek

## WORDS AND LANGUAGES

Apart from 'perestroika' and 'glasnost', one Russian word in the English dictionary is zemstvo; it is a local government institution established during the Great Emancipation Reform of 1861; this reform was introduced by Emperor Alexander II of Russia.

Although Finnish is unrelated to German, it is also full of very long words; the word *rangaistuslaukauskilpailu* means penalty shoot out in hockey; even the German football equivalent - *Elfmeterschießen* - looks comparatively short.

The Arabic language comes in many different forms: classical Arabic is the written language used in the Quran; MSA (Modern Standard Arabic) is the standard spoken language; there are also many dialects, of which Egyptian Arabic is the most widely spoken.



The most multilingual country on Earth is Papua New Guinea; 839 different languages are spoken in this country of only seven million inhabitants; the country's rough terrain has divided the nation into numerous tribes with separate languages.



The world's least multilingual country is North Korea; almost all the population is ethnically homogeneous; however, there are also tiny Chinese and Japanese minorities.

**apart from sth** | oprócz czegoś

**government institution** | instytucja rządowa

**established** | ustanowiony

**although** | chociaż

**unrelated to sth** | niepowiązany z czymś

**penalty shoot out** | *tu: seria rzutów karnych (w hokeju)*

**equivalent** | równoważnik

**comparatively** | stosunkowo

**to come in** | występować

**multilingual** | wielojęzyczny

**inhabitant** | mieszkańców

**rough** | trudny

**to divide sth into sth** | podzielić coś na coś

**numerous** | liczny

**tribe** | plemię

**homogenous** | homogeniczny, jednorodny

**minority** | mniejszość

# GIANTS AND DWARVES

According to official records, the tallest man in the world today is Turkish farmer Sultan Kösen; he was born on 10 December 1982; he measures 251 cm (8'3").

The world's tallest woman ever came from China; Yao Defen was 234 centimetres (7'8") tall; she was born on 15 July 1972 and died on 13 November 2012.

The shortest fully grown man ever was Chandra Bahadur Dangi, who came from Nepal (he died in 2015); he measured a mere 54.6 cm (1'9.5") tall; this makes him the shortest man ever measured.

The world's shortest living woman is the Indian actress Jyoti Kisange Amge; according to the *Guinness Book of Records*, her actual height is 62.8 cm (2'6"); In 2014, she appeared in the TV series *American Horror Story | Freak Show*.

The shortest ever adult female was Pauline Musters; she was only 61 cm (1'11.2") tall and was born in the Netherlands; this is ironic as the Dutch are officially the world's tallest nation!

**dwarf** | krasnal  
**according to sth** | według  
 czegoś  
**to measure** | mierzyć  
**mere** | zaledwie  
**actual** | faktyczny

**height** *haut* | wysokość  
**to appear** | pojawiać się  
**adult** | dorosły  
**female** | kobieta  
**the Netherlands** | Holandia  
**Dutch** | Holender



# SPORT

One of the shortest boxing matches ever took place on 3 September 1994; it was between Harald Geier of Austria, the reigning bantam-weight champion, and Daniel Jimenez of Puerto Rico; in 17 seconds, Jimenez knocked Geier out.

The longest ever boxing match was fought by American boxers Andy Bowen and Jack Burke; it took place in New Orleans on 6 April 1893; after 110 rounds, the referee declared the match a draw.

Officially, the world's richest professional boxer is the American Floyd Mayweather Jr; he has won championships in as many as six weight classes; he even earned \$275 million from one single bout.

The second richest professional boxer is another American, George Foreman - AKA Big George; he is known for beating the previously undefeated Joe Frazier by a TKO (technical knock-out); after retiring from boxing he became a Christian minister and a successful entrepreneur.

**to take place** | odbyć się  
**reigning** | panujący  
**to knock sb out** | powalić kogoś  
**referee** | sędzia  
**draw** *drə:* | remis  
**weight** *weit* | waga

**to earn** | zarobić  
**bout** *baut* | walka bokserska  
**previously** | uprzednio, wcześniej  
**undefeated** | niepokonany  
**to retire** | przejść na emeryturę  
**entrepreneur** | przedsiębiorca

# NATURE

The world's most common tree is the red alder tree; it is planted mainly in areas that are virtually barren; this type of tree grows very quickly so it forms lush forests within a short period of time.

Roses are widely regarded as the most common species of flower in the world; there are believed to be at least 360 species of roses; the most common colours are red, pink, peach, white and yellow.

The most heavily forested countries in the world are Finland and Sweden; 71 per cent of Finland's surface is covered by forest, while 67 per cent of Sweden's area is sylvan; this is because these countries are sparsely populated.

The world's least wooded country is the Netherlands; just eight per cent of this country is covered by forest; the reason may be that the Netherlands is Europe's fifth most densely populated country and a lot of its land has been reclaimed from the sea.

**common** | pospolity  
**red alder tree** | olcha  
**planted** | sadzony  
**mainly** | głównie  
**virtually** | praktycznie  
**barren** | jałowy  
**lush** | tu: gęsty  
**within sth** | tu: w ciągu czegoś  
**widely** | tu:powszechnie  
**regarded as** | postrzegany jako  
**species** | gatunek

**at least** | co najmniej  
**peach** | brzoskwiniowy  
**surface** *'sɜ:fɪs* / *'sɜ:rfɪs* |  
 powierzchnia  
**covered by sth** | pokryty czymś  
**sylvan** | leśny  
**sparsely** | rzadko  
**least wooded** | najmniej zalesiony  
**densely** | gesto  
**reclaimed from sth** | tu: pozyskany po  
 czymś, odzyskany

We started out in my garage /'gærɑ:ʒ/ and now we're on live television /'tcl,vɪzən/. After years of touring around the backwoods, we deserve to get some exposure /ɪks'pəʊzə/! We're gonna make rock the number one genre /'ʒɑ:gə/ again.



**backwoods** | prowincja, dziura

**exposure** | *tu:* rozmłos

**genre** | gatunek



decision

/dɪ'sɪzən/  
decyzja

abrasion

/ə'breɪzən/  
otarcie

garage

/'gærɑ:ʒ/  
garaż

amnesia

/æm'nizə/  
amnezja

beige

/beɪʒ/  
beżowy, bez

pleasure

/'plɛzər/  
przyjemność

seclusion

/sɪ'kluʒən/  
odosobnienie

### /ʒ/ formed with other letters

The /ʒ/ sound can be formed from the letter **j** only in foreign loanwords (mostly originating from French or a variety of Asian languages), such as Baton Rouge /bætən'ru:ʒ/ or Taj Mahal /tɑ:ʒ/ Mahal. There are also just two words in the whole English language in which the /ʒ/ consonant appears as **x** and **t**: luxury /'lʌgʒəri/ and equation /'kweɪʒən/.

**foreign** | obcojęzyczny

**loanword** | zapożyczenie

**to originate from sth**

| pochodzić z/od czegoś

**variety of sth**

| różnorodność czegoś

**equation** | równanie

# /ʒ/

The /ʒ/ consonant, or the tailed Z, or just Ezh is professionally called the voiced palato-alveolar sibilant. The name sure is perplexing, but the sound is not that baffling. First, let's see what hides beneath the complicated name. The voiced part should already be known - you're going to have to engage your vocal cords. Then, there's something about your palate and alveolar - between them is the spot where you're going to press your tongue against in order to make the sound. The sound being a sibilant means it's made by directing a stream of air towards the edge of your teeth.

The /ʒ/ sound can very often be heard in nouns ending with -sion, such as confusion /kən'fju:ʒən/, revision /rɪ'veʒən/ or decision /dɪ'sɪʒən/. In addition, Ezh is commonly written as su, like in measure /'mɛʒə/ or usually /'ju:ʒuəli/. The letter

g is also often pronounced as /ʒ/, especially at the end of words, like in garage /gə'raʒ/ and massage /mə'saʒ/. Tailed Z forms a consonant cluster with /d/ - in this case it can often be heard at either the beginning or end of words (i.e. damage /'dæmɪdʒ/, Jackson /dʒæk'sən/).

It's rare for English words to end with /ʒ/, and very rare to start with the sound. Words of French origin come to mind - take a look at sabotage /'sæbətɑ:ʒ/, entourage /ɒntrə'ra:ʒ/ and the name Jacques /ʒak:/.

That's it for theory - time to practice. First, the tongue. Put it between your soft palate and alveolar ridge. Clench your teeth and let out some air, while also putting your vocal cords to use. It's like you were shushing someone, but with a bit of low end coming from your vocal cords. Your mouth should be open and rounded, and your teeth should be visible while making the sound. ■

**consonant** | spółgłoska  
**tailed** | z ogonkiem  
**voiced** | dźwięczny  
**palato-alveolar** | podniebienno-dziąsłowy  
**sibilant** | spółgłoska sycząca  
**perplexing** | wprawiający w zdumienie

## Sound & Speech

**baffling** | zakakujący

**first** | po pierwsze

**to hide beneath sth** | ukrywać się, kryć się za czymś

**vocal cords** | struny głosowe

**palate** | podniebienie

**alveolar** | dziąsło

**tongue** | język

**in order to** | aby, żeby

**to direct sth towards sth** | ukierunkować coś na coś/w kierunku czegoś

**edge** | krawędź

**in addition** | ponadto

**commonly** | powszechnie

**consonant cluster** | zbitka spółgłoskowa

**either...or...** | albo...albo...

**origin** | pochodzenie

**to come to mind** | przychodzić na myśl

**to take a look at sth** | przyjrzeć się czemuś

**soft palate** | podniebienie miękkie

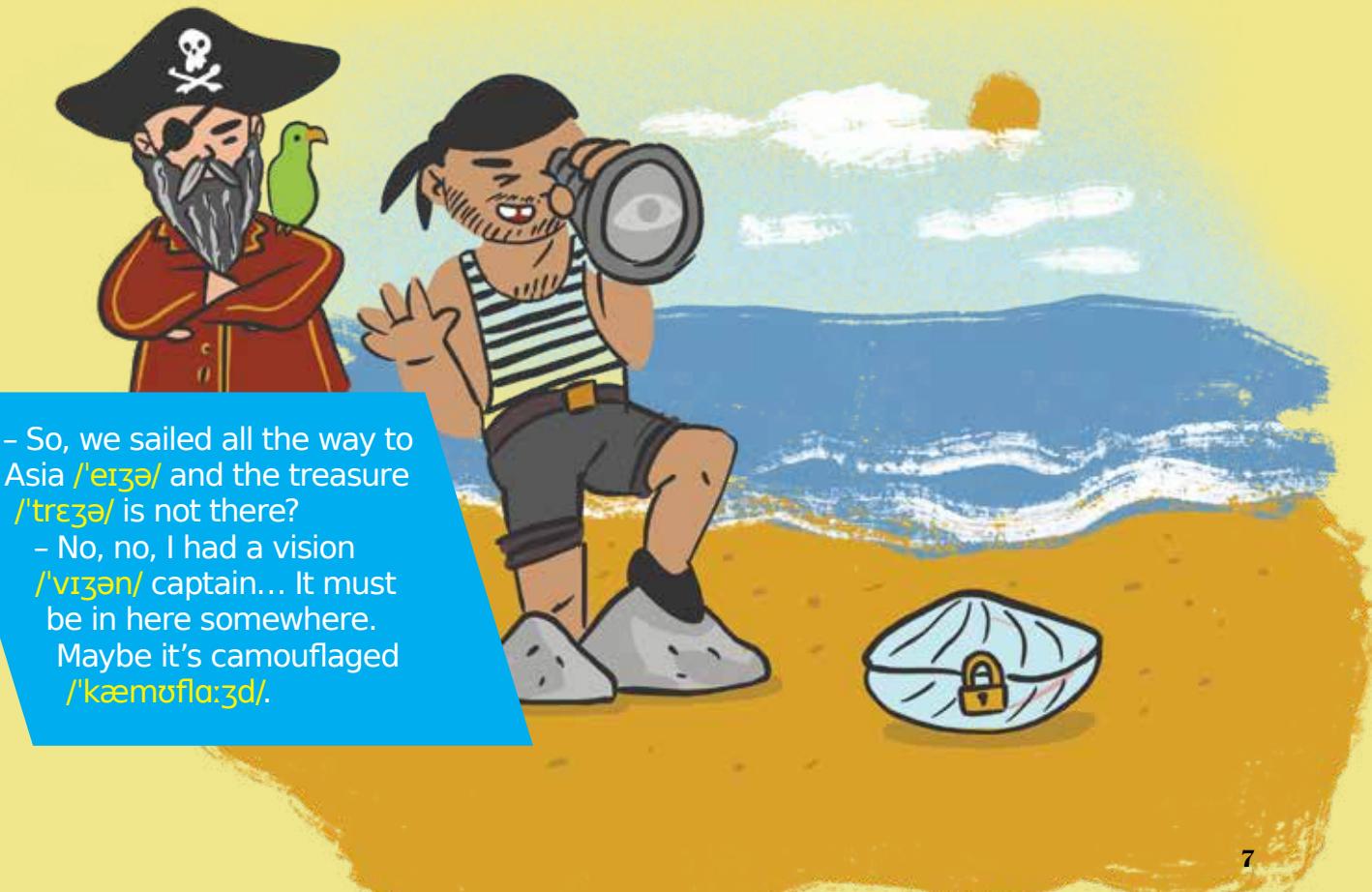
**alveolar ridge** | wał dziąsłowy

**to clench sth** | zaciśnąć coś

**to let sth out** | wypuścić coś

**to shush sb** | uciszać kogoś

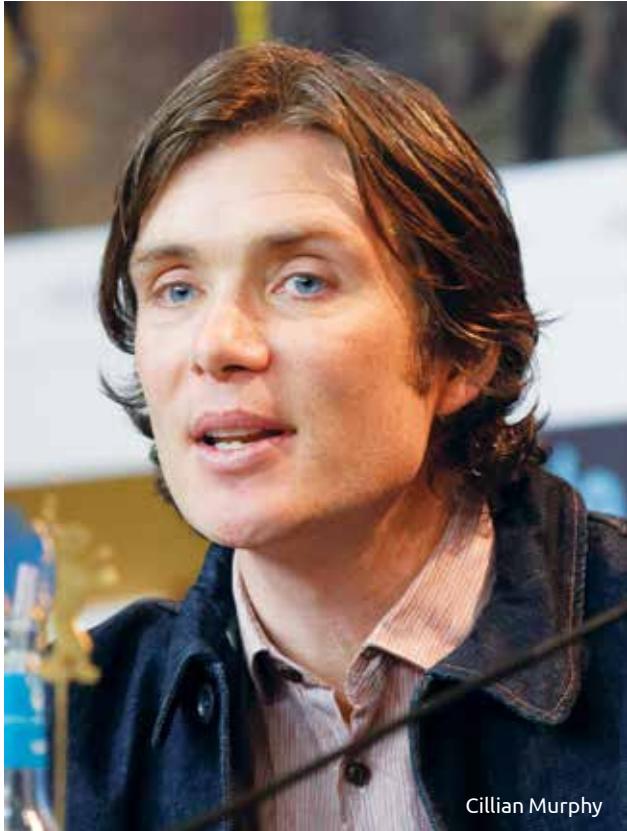
**visible** | widoczny



# Peek at Cillian Murphy

by Owen Williams

Join *English Matters* as we take a look at the Irish actor who has delivered blinding performances on screen and on stage.



Cillian Murphy

**C**illian did not start appearing on screen until he was 25, but he was no stranger to the limelight before then. Despite his fame and positive reviews, however, he is a man who reveres a private life and prefers to stay out of the papers. Since making his acting breakthrough, he's played an apocalypse survivor, a comic villain, a transgender woman

and a shivering soldier on the big screen, but he is perhaps best-known for his role in the BBC drama *Peaky Blinders*.

## Early Life

Born into a family of teachers, Cillian was the oldest of four children. He loved music from an early age and started composing and performing when he was just 10.

Along with his brother (and fellow music lover) Páidi, he performed in the band The Sons of Mr. Green Genes, and dreamed of being a rock star. The opportunity came when the duo were offered a record deal with Acid Jazz Records, but as Páidi was still in school and the monetary part of the offer was poor, the Murphy brothers declined the deal. Cillian started studying law at university, but struggled with motivation. Meanwhile, his interest in acting developed. He had previously been encouraged to pursue an acting career by his English teacher, so when the chance to join the Drama Society at University College Cork came, he took it. Acting gave Cillian a feeling of being free and alive, plus the chance to go to parties! It would also soon lead to him leaving university and his band.

## Acting Begins

After many amateur performances, Cillian talked himself into an audition for *Disco Pigs* in Cork. He was offered the role of a volatile Cork teenager as his first ever professional performance. The show was planned to run for two weeks, but was a huge success and went on to run for

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two years, touring Europe, Canada and Australia. During those two years, Cillian got an agent and was soon offered parts in other theatre productions. He also started appearing in some independent films and short films, and then reprised his role for the film adaption of *Disco Pigs*. While working on a miniseries for the BBC, the actor moved to London, from there he was offered the role for his big film breakthrough.

## Breakthrough

Murphy was cast as the lead in Danny Boyle's 2002 film *28 Days Later*. Although a horror film about zombies in a post-apocalyptic London, the film is much deeper than what zombie films had offered before. The film was received well in the UK and around the world, shortly after being released. It was also a sleeper hit in the USA, putting Cillian in front of a worldwide audience for the first time. He did not turn his back on theatre though – he appeared on stage before returning to the screen in the Irish independent film *Intermission*.

## What Happened Later

Following the success of *28 Days Later* and *Intermission*, Cillian's career reached new heights. He starred as Dr. Jonathan Crane (the supervillain Scarecrow) in director Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins*, then as evil Jackson Rippner in Wes Craven's thriller *Red Eye*. Both of these roles brought Murphy great reviews from film critics and he developed a reputation for being an on-screen baddie with killer blue-eyes.

Murphy then returned to Irish cinema, playing the transgender Irish woman Patrick "Kitten" Braden in Neil Jordan's *Breakfast on Pluto* – this performance met with mixed reviews, but did lead to a nomination for a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy.

## Career Peak

Cillian stayed at home for his next film role, playing Damien O'Donovan in *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* – a film about the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War. The film was shot in Cillian's hometown of Cork, Ireland. It won the Palme d'Or at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival. The Irish actor returned to theatre once again, before reuniting with director Danny Boyle for the film *Sunshine*. He then starred in *Watching the Detectives* and made a brief appearance in the Batman sequels *The Dark Knight* and *The Dark Knight Rises*. He played in a number of less successful films and theatre productions before rising to fame again as one of the lead characters (Thomas Shelby) in the BBC's *Peaky Blinders*. This period drama, set in early 20th-century Birmingham, received wide critical acclaim for everything, from writing, setting and cinematography to acting. At the time of writing, the final series (series six) is being produced, with plans for a film after that.

## Soldiering Forward

Cillian teamed up with Christopher Nolan again in 2017, when he played an unnamed soldier in the World

## Acid Jazz Records

This record label failed to sign Cillian and his brother on a five album deal. The London-based music company has been successful with a number of other bands though, most notably: Jamiroquai, The Brand New Heavies and Paul Weller.

### record label

| wytwórnia muzyczna  
**to fail to do sth** | nie zrobić czegoś  
**though** | jednak/że



## Sleeper Hit

A 'sleeper hit' is a film, tv show or song that is unsuccessful when initially released, but then becomes a huge success later on. Examples include the films *Forrest Gump*, *The Sixth Sense*, *Mad Max*, *The Blair Witch Project*, *Get Out*, and *Napoleon Dynamite*.

**initially** | początkowo  
**to include sth** | obejmować coś

War Two epic *Dunkirk*. He is still very active on the big screen and in theatre performances, but has not returned to his childhood dream of being a rock star (although he does enjoy creating music with his friends). Cillian lives with his wife and two sons in Dublin, where he tries to stay out of the headlines and have a normal life. //

**4 independent** | niezależny  
**to reprise sth** | powtórzyć coś  
**cast as sb** | obsadzony jako ktoś  
**lead** | główny bohater  
**although** | chociaż  
**released** | wyemitowany, wyświetlony na ekranach kin  
**to turn one's back on sth** | porzucić coś

**heights** **heights** | tu: poziom  
**on-screen** | pojawiający się na ekranie

**baddie** | BrE pot. czarny charakter

**5 peak** | szczyt  
**knight** **knat** | rycerz  
**critical acclaim** | uznanie krytyków

**setting** | sceneria, oprawa

**to soldier forward** | tu: brnąć do przodu

**to team up with sb** | współpracować z kimś  
**unnamed** | niewymieniony z nazwiska, anonimowy

**6 childhood** | dzieciństwo  
**to stay out of the headlines** | trzymać się z dala od nagłówków (zgiefku medialnego)

# Captivating Comic Cons

by Kamil Drożdżyk

Every year, millions of comic book fans open their wardrobes, dust off their superhero costumes, and take off to one of the many comic book conventions held annually across the globe. Let's look at the history, scale and appeal of comic cons.

## Comic Cons, vol. 1

Comic Cons are thought to have originated from science fiction cons, which, in turn, have been around since the 1930s. Sci-Fi Cons attracted crowds of people interested in the speculative fiction genre. Guest appearances from popular sci-fi authors were what fuelled the events' popularity and made them even more appealing. Naturally, the popularity of these conventions inspired others to organise their own themed gatherings. At the beginning of the 1960s, the first major award given for excellence in the field of comic books, called the Alley Award, was created at the initiative of Jerry Bails. Jerry Bails is nowadays known as the Father of Comic Book Fandom. Bails was one of the founders of the Academy of Comic-Book Fans and Collectors. The Academy, created in the early 1960s, was one of the first organisations to recognise the growing fandom of comic books. In 1964, when the Alley Awards grew in popularity so much that Bails found it problematic to count all of the votes himself, he invited other enthusiasts to his house in Detroit. The event became known as the first Tally Alley gathering, and remained an annual tradition throughout the '60s. The 1964 Tally Alley gathering is remembered as the earliest major get-together of the comic-book fandom. The event was attended by a number of distinguished cartoonists, illustrators and even directors, such as Grass Green, Mike Vosburg and Don Glut. The names don't ring a bell? In 1964, they rang a lot of bells.

## The Spread of Comic Cons

The 1960s were, in general, fruitful years for comic-book fans. Aside from the first Tally Alley, there was also another,

**0** comic con | zlot fanów komiksów  
**wardrobe** 'wɔ:drəb / 'wɔ:rdrəb | szafa  
**to dust off sth** | odkurzyć coś  
**to take off** | wyruszyć  
**convention** | konwent, zjazd  
**annually** | corocznie  
**appeal** | urok  
**1** **in turn** | z kolei  
**to attract sb** | przyciągnąć kogoś  
**crowd** | tłum  
**genre** 'žɔ:rə / 'žɔ:nə | gatunek  
**guest appearance** | występ gościnny  
**to fuel sth** tə 'fju:əl / 'sʌmθɪŋ | napędzać coś  
**appealing** | atrakcyjny  
**themed** | tematyczny, poświęcony jakiemuś  
 przedniemu tematowi  
**gathering** | zgromadzenie  
**award** ə'wɔ:d / ə'wɔ:rd | nagroda  
**excellence** | doskonałość  
**nowadays** | obecnie  
**founder** | założyciel  
**fandom** | społeczność fanów  
**vote** | głos  
**to invite sb** | zaprosić kogoś  
**major** | główny  
**get-together** | spotkanie towarzyskie  
**attended** | tu:odwiedzony  
**distinguished** dr'stɪŋgwɪt | wybitny, uznany  
**cartoonist** | rysownik komiksów  
**director** | tu:reżyser  
**to ring a bell** | brzmieć znajomo  
**2** **spread** | rozprzestrzenianie się  
**fruitful** | owocny  
**aside from sth** | oprócz czegoś



The years between 1938 – 1955 are nowadays considered to be the Golden Age of comic books. It was in this period when superheroes such as Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman were first introduced. More than 80 years later, and all of the characters are still extremely popular. Judging by the revenue of anything Marvel and DC-related, right now we're in the Platinum Era.

**extremely** | wyjątkowo  
**revenue** | przychód

unnamed gathering held in Chicago in 1964, which was reported to have attracted several dozen comic-book fans. Just a year later, in 1965, Bails, encouraged by the success of Tally Alley, with help from his friends, organised another convention called Detroit Triple Fan Fair. Simultaneously, another comic-book convention was held in New York. Just a couple of years later, in 1968, the first British Comic Con was held in Birmingham. Some of the conventions held in the 1960s became annual events, and a few of them have managed to survive to this day.

By the mid-1970s, thanks to the snowball effect, pretty much every major American city had its own annual comic book convention. In 1974, comic cons made their way to France, and, in the 1980s, Canadians and Swiss could enjoy their own conventions. By the 1990s, Comic Cons were a worldwide phenomenon. Nowadays, there are more than a hundred large, noteworthy comic conventions held in the bigger cities across the whole globe... And Thor only knows how many small, local gatherings take place in smaller towns.

*The Walking Dead*, Hideo Kojima, a video game designer, and Henry Cavill, who starred as Superman, but during this particular Comic Con talked a lot about his role in Netflix's *The Witcher*. As you can see, comic cons nowadays attract fans of popular shows, movies and games. And who doesn't like these?

## The Scale of Comic Cons

Needless to say, all the attractions which await at Comic Cons make the gatherings extremely popular. Currently, one of the most popular comic conventions is the San Diego Comic Con International. Every year, the event attracts more than a hundred thousand attendees, with its record being approximately 167,000 attendees in 2015. The event is so huge that its regional economic impact exceeds a hundred million dollars each year.

**3 unnamed** | *tu: bez nazwy*  
**dozen** | *tuzin*  
**encouraged by sth** | *zachęcony, zmotywowany czymś*  
**simultaneously** | *sim'l'terniəslɪ / ,sɪm'l'terniəslɪ* | *jednocześnie*  
**a few** | *kilka*  
**to manage to do sth** | *poradzić sobie, dać radę, udać się coś zrobić*  
**phenomenon** | *fə'nomɪnən / fə'nə:minən* | *zjawisko, fenomen*  
**noteworthy** | *wart/y odnotowania*  
**average** | *przeciętny*  
**alluring** | *ə'lərəŋ / ə'lərɪŋ* | *ponętny, urzekający*  
**first-hand** | *z pierwszej ręki*  
**currently** | *obecnie*  
**to handcraft sth** | *wykonać coś ręcznie*  
**to show off** | *popisać się, pochwalić się*  
**cosplay contest** | *konkurs na najlepsze przebranie*  
**valuable** | *'væljuabl* | *cenny*  
**to convince sb** | *przekonać kogoś*  
**to shift one's focus from sth** | *przenieść punkt ciężkości z czegoś*  
**4 needless to say** | *rzecz jasna, nie trzeba dodawać*  
**attendee** | *ə,ten'di:* | *uczestnik*  
**approximately** | *ə'proksɪmatli / ə'prə:ksɪmatli* | *w przybliżeniu, około*  
**to exceed sth** | *przekraczać coś*



## Your Average Comic Con

So, let's see what exactly is so alluring about those conventions. Wanna hear first-hand news about the most popular comic franchises? Comic cons deliver. Want to have a little chat with actors and actresses from the currently popular movies and shows? Most comic cons organise special panels during which you can ask the star guests anything. Maybe you handcrafted the sickest Hulk costume and want to show off? In cosplay contests you can not only show off, but also win some valuable prizes. If none of the above convinces you – you don't even have to be obsessed with comic books and superheroes to enjoy comic cons. For a while now, many comic cons have been shifting their focus from being strictly about comic books. Nowadays, a lot of the comic conventions are more oriented towards pop culture in general. Just look at some of the guest stars which showed up on the 2019 San Diego Comic Con – Camila Mendes, a *Riverdale* star, Norman Reedus from

Although San Diego Comic Con International is a well-respected and widely popular event, it is certainly not the biggest comic con in the world. Currently, the Japanese Comiket convention, held twice a year in Tokyo, is said to be the leader, attracting over half a million attendees to each event.

## (C)on-line

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the major comic cons have recently been held exclusively on-line, while others have been indefinitely postponed. While this is clearly a blow both to the comic book fandom and comic con industry, thanks to the Internet it's still possible to tune in and watch the on-line versions. The feeling of festivity, as well as the ability to meet fellow comic geeks, get lost in translation though, sadly. Despite that, on-line comic cons are still a viable way to keep up with all the important pop culture news and announcements.

5 although | chociaż



## Back on Track?

The future of comic cons is uncertain as of now, however the organisers are keeping their fans updated and are trying to ensure that by 2022 everything will get back on track. Will this be a sign of comic cons in their usual form slowly returning after a nearly 2-year absence? We'll see. All we can do is wish them luck. ■

6 due to sth | z powodu czegoś

7 indefinitely | na czas nieokreślony

8 postponed | przełożony

9 geek | maniak

10 despite sth | po/mimo czegoś

11 viable 'vəɪəbl | realny, wykonalny

12 to keep up with sth | być na bieżąco z czymś

13 announcement | obwieszczenie, ogłoszenie

14 to keep sb updated | informować kogoś na bieżąco

15 to announce that... | ogłaszać, że...

16 absence | nieobecność

## Konkurs "Lekcja z English Matters"

Jesteś nauczycielem lub lektorem języka angielskiego i korzystasz przy tym z English Matters? Pokaż nam jak to robisz i zainspiruj innych!

Weź udział w konkursie na najlepszy scenariusz zajęć językowych z English Matters.

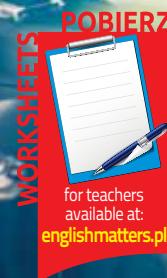
Prześlij nam mailem (konkurs@colorfulmedia.pl) plan zajęć oparty o dowolny artykuł z magazynu i wygraj roczną prenumeratę wybranego przez Ciebie czasopisma do nauki języka obcego wydawanego przez Colorful Media.



Regulamin konkursu dostępny jest na stronie [www.englishmatters.pl](http://www.englishmatters.pl)



POBIERZ ZAŁOŻENIA KODOWE  
COLOFONMEDIA.PL/ZPU



Culture

# Deceived by Appearances

by Owen Williams

Image editing goes beyond applying a filter to one of our mobile pics. It's a practice that can produce digital artwork and stunning imagery, or can deceive the public and fuel mass manipulation.

**D**o you know the famous picture of The Beatles walking across the Abbey Road zebra crossing? It's from the cover of the Abbey Road album. In the original, Paul McCartney is holding a cigarette, yet, when the image was made into a poster in the USA in 2003, the cigarette had magically vanished. This magic is photo editing. Whether you think it was good to remove Paul's cigarette or not, there are some far

more serious consequences of changing images. Some are so serious in fact, that there are now laws in place that dictate how and when such edits can be made.

**0** **deceived by sth** | oszukany przez coś, zwiedziony przez coś  
**appearances** | pozory  
**to apply sth to sth** | zastosować coś w stosunku do czegoś  
**stunning** | zdumiewający

**imagery** | obrazy, wizerunki  
**to deceive sb** | oszukać kogoś  
**to fuel sth** | napędzać coś

**1** **abbey** | opactwo

**zebra crossing** | BrE przejście dla pieszych  
**cover** | okładka

**poster** | plakat

**whether** | czy

**to remove sth** | usunąć coś

**2** **law** | prawo

**in place** | obowiązujący

## A New Picture

Although we often associate photoediting with technology and software, the practise isn't actually a new one. Photo editing has existed since the 1860s (the first known example of editing is a photo of Abraham Lincoln). Back then photographs were analogue, so they were edited by hand, using ink and brushes. Multiple images were also sometimes pasted together. It wasn't until the 1980s that photo editors became available on personal computers, although at the time most photographs were still taken and developed using analogue techniques. In 2011, the first photo editing app for mobiles was released on the App Store, following the popularity and advancements of mobile phones and digital cameras.

## The Bomb

Basic photo editors now come as standard on phones, providing the ability to crop, brighten and adjust images. Social media apps like Instagram provide further features and filters, while dedicated photo editing apps allow you to do almost anything with digital images. The ability to turn average photos into something amazing is very useful. Especially if you accidentally spill something on your top before an excellent photo of you is taken, or if someone photobombs an otherwise fantastic composition. However, there's also a downside to the practice, especially when it comes to the mental health of vulnerable minds wanting their lives to be the sparkly, ideal image that they see on screens, or the physical health of people who harm themselves in a bid to look like their favourite social media influencers.

## Picture Imperfect

There are professional versions of photo editing software that provide even more options to the people whose job it is to edit photos. It's very useful for media outlets who want to give their pictures an extra pop, or when it's necessary to remove brand logos because they are copyrighted. Naturally, many magazine

producers want their models to look perfect\* so they edit anything that doesn't conform to their idea of what perfection looks like. It's understandable; if you're trying to sell makeup, you want the effect to look amazing, and photo editing can help you achieve that. There comes a point where we should draw the line on photo editing, though. Media outlets, especially those connected to fashion and beauty, have a huge influence over their readership and the public – if they are publishing edited images of people and portraying them as real, normal or perfect, this can have bad consequences for impressionable consumers.

## The Law

In a response to the body pressure in society that edited photos can exacerbate, there have been calls for influencers and media outlets (especially those which are fashion-related) to promote a more realistic view of the human body. In Norway, this pressure is now the law!

3 although | chociaż

to associate sth with sth | kojarzyć coś z czymś

software | oprogramowanie

actually | w rzeczywistości

analogue 'ænəlɒg / 'ænəlɔ:g | analogowy

ink | atrament

brush | pociągnięcie pędzla, pędzel

multiple | liczny

to paste sth together | posklejać coś

available | dostępny

app | pot. aplikacja, apka

released | wypuszczony na rynek

advancement | postęp

providing sth | dostarczając czegoś

to crop sth | tu: kadrować, przycinać coś

to brighten sth | rozjaśniać coś

to adjust sth | dopasować coś

to provide sth | dostarczać czegoś

feature | tu: funkcja

to allow sb to do sth | pozwalać komuś na zrobienie czegoś

average 'ævərɪdʒ | przeciętny

to spill sth on sth | rozlać coś na czymś

to photobomb | pojawiać się znienacka w tle

otherwise | w innym przypadku

downside | minus

when it comes to... | jeśli chodzi o...

vulnerable 'vəlñərəbl | podatny

sparkly | błyszczący

## Photobomb

A 'photobomb' is where an uninvited participant jumps into the back of a photo, often pulling a funny face. The practice became popular around the year 2010 while the word was the Collins English Dictionary's Word of the Year in 2014!

uninvited | niezaproszony

participant | uczestnik



physical | fizyczny

to harm oneself | skrywdzić siebie

in a bid to | próbując, szukając

to look like sb | wyglądać jak ktoś

media outlet | środek masowego przekazu

to remove sth | usunąć coś

brand | marka

4 to conform to sth | pasować do czegoś

understandable ,ʌndə'stændəbl / ,ʌndər'stændəbl | zrozumiały

to achieve sth | osiągnąć coś

to draw the line tə drɔ: ðə lain | wyznaczyć granicę, nie pozwalać sobie

though | aczkolwiek

connected to sth | związany z czymś

influence | wpływ

readership | czytelnicy

impressionable im'preʃənəbl | na którego łatwo wywierać wpływ, podatny na wpływy

to exacerbate | pogarszać, zaostrać

\*This is a subjective view, of course – a fashion editor's view of the perfect body is not the same as a doctor's idea of the perfect body. This writer believes we should strive to be happy, healthy, and genuine, no matter what images we're presented with.

subjective səb'dʒektiv | subiektywny

to strive to sth | dążyć do czegoś

genuine | prawdziwy

no matter | nieważne

In July 2021, Norway's parliament passed a new law that requires content creators to disclose when they have retouched, or if they've added a filter to a photo – similar to the 'this video contains a promoted product' message we are now all used to seeing. Specifically, the law states that paid images where a body's shape, size or skin has been changed through photo editing (including using a filter) must be marked with a government-approved label. This law is aimed at reducing the pressure on young people to achieve an impossible ideal of beauty. It is hoped that the move will help with the mental health and self-esteem of youngsters.

## The Final Edit

Photo editing software can be very useful, and there's no reason not to use it to make your home photos as good as they can be. There are also fun filters and apps that can be used for entertainment and there's nothing wrong with that. However, when software is used behind the scenes and edited images are portrayed to the public as real, it can have disastrous effects for society. It's important to be aware of what is possible using photo editing software, so we are not misled by the images we see on our screens and in magazines. As technology develops, the possibilities become greater and greater, if laws are not passed to protect the public, there may come a point where we're unable to tell what is real and what is not. ■

**to pass sth** | *tu:* uchwalić coś

**to require sth** | wymagać czegoś

**to disclose sth** | ujawniać coś

**to retouch sth** | retuszować coś

**to contain sth** | zawierać coś

**size** | rozmiar

**including sth** | włącznie z czymś

**government-approved** | zatwierdzony przez rząd

**to achieve sth** | osiągnąć coś

**self-esteem** | samoocena

**entertainment** | rozrywka

**disastrous** | katastrofalny

**to be aware of sth** | być świadomym czegoś

**misled by sth** | wprowadzony przez coś w błąd

**there may come a point** | może wystąpić sytuacja

**unable** | niezdolny

## Top Five Photo Editing Apps (according to cnet.com)



Snapseed (free)



Lightroom (basic version free)



Adobe Photoshop Express (free)



Prisma (paid)



Bazaar (iOS only, paid)

## Top 10 Free Photo Editors for PC (according to techradar)



GIMP



Ashampoo Photo Optimizer



Canva



Fotor



Photo Pos Pro



Paint.NET



PhotoScape



Pixlr X



Adobe Photoshop Express Editor



PiZap

## Copywriter vs copyright

Although these words sound quite similar, they are very different. A copywriter is a person whose job it is to write copy (text that is used for advertising or marketing). Copyright, on the other hand, is a mark denoting ownership of intellectual property (saying an image is owned by someone).

**advertising** | reklamowanie, reklama

**on the other hand** | z drugiej strony

**denoting sth** | oznaczający coś

**ownership** | własność (bycie

właścicielem czegoś)

**owned by sb** | posiadany przez kogoś



# Focus on Language

## Grammar Focus – it's vs its

The article starts a few sentences with “it's”: “It's from the cover of the Abbey Road album,” “It's been going on since the 1860s” and “It's very useful for media outlets.” This word is the shortened version of ‘it is’ or ‘it has.’ It's a homophone of the word *its* (the third person possessive pronoun), as in “...gets its name from the street.” The two words are often confused, with many people incorrectly using “it's” as a possessive pronoun.

If you're ever unsure of which word to use, see if the sentence makes sense with the long version of “it's” (“it is” or “it has”) – if it does, use “it's” if it doesn't, use “its.” Here's a short exercise – choose “it's” or “its” to fill in the blanks.

### Exercise

1. We love the restaurant, ..... our favourite place for pizza.
2. Oh, the pizzeria is fantastic, it gets ..... ingredients from Italy.
3. The company has ..... headquarters in Chicago.
4. ..... a very old company, ..... been making pens for 200 years!

Answers: 1. it's, 2. its, 3. its, 4. It's, it's



### A Note on Filters

A filter automatically adjusts the settings of most of an image's properties (brightness, contrast etc.). There are many filters to choose from in most camera apps and on all image-based social media apps. The filters themselves have different names (the most popular filter on Instagram is named ‘Clarendon’) – for best results, click through the different filter options and choose the one you like best. //

## Vocabulary Spotlight – Photo Editing Terms

**raw** – an image that has not been edited

**pixel** – the tiny square of colour that makes up part of an image

**resolution** – the quality of an image (the number of pixels it contains)

**crop** – change the dimensions of an image

**adjust** – change the angle of a picture (rotate, or invert, for example)

**white balance** – the ‘temperature’ of a picture (you can adjust from red to blue)

**exposure** – the brightness of an image

**contrast** – the number of black and white pixels in an image

**highlights** – the light parts of an image (you can make them brighter or darker)

**shadows** – the dark parts of an image (you can make them brighter or darker)

**saturation** – the magnitude of the colours in an image

**cover** | okładka

**media outlet** | środek masowego przekazu

**shortened** | skrócony

**possessive** *pə'zesɪv* | dzierżawczy

**pronoun** | zaimek

**confused** | mylony

**ingredient** *ɪn'grɪ:dɪənt* | składnik

**headquarters** | główna siedziba

**raw** *ro:* | surowy, nieobrobiony

**to make up sth** | tworzyć coś

**resolution** | rozdzielcość

**to contain sth** | zawierać coś

**to crop sth** | kadrować coś, przycinać coś

**dimension** | wymiar

**to adjust sth** | dostosowywać coś

**angle** | kąt

**to rotate sth** | obracać coś

**to invert sth** | odwrócić coś

**exposure** | *tu:* naświetlenie, ekspozycja

**brightness** | jasność

**saturation** | nasycenie

**magnitude** | wielkość, stopień nasycenia

**settings** | ustawienia

**properties** | właściwości

# Batory – the Lucky Ship

by Katarzyna Szpotakowska

MS Batory – a legendary Polish ocean liner – was launched in 1935, and by 1939 had carried more than 30,000 passengers. The vessel was 160 metres long and, initially, could transport 760 passengers and 300 crew members.

Culture



**liner** | liniowiec

**launched** | bəntʃt | tu: zwodowany

**vessel** | statek

**initially** | początkowo

**crew member** | członek załogi

**S**he was built in Italy in exchange for five years of coal shipments. The liner was really luxurious, with each and every detail of the interior carefully planned. There were, among other things, a swimming pool, a library and a gym. The MS Batory's best known route was the Gdynia - New York run. The voyage lasted from eight to nine days, with a stop in Copenhagen. The liner travelled that route 39 times before the beginning of the war. In 1939, Witold Gombrowicz was a passenger, who travelled to Argentina, where he went on to live in Buenos Aires for the next 23 years. Interestingly, the voyage inspired Gombrowicz to write the novel *Trans-Atlantyk*.

During WWII MS Batory served as a troop ship and hospital ship. Moreover, a lot of people were evacuated on her deck. The liner secretly shipped many Polish treasures abroad, as well as some British gold reserves to Canada. She was used during the evacuation of Dunkirk and the evacuation of British children to Australia, as well as the allied invasion of Oran.

Depending on the period of time, MS Batory travelled between Gdynia and New York, Pakistan and India, between Gdynia through Copenhagen and Southampton to Montreal, or from Gdynia to Bombay. During the communist era, the liner transported oranges to Poland before Christmas. The liner was in use until 1969, then she served as a floating hotel in Gdynia. Finally, she was scrapped in the early '70s in a Hong Kong shipyard. Her successor was called the TSS Stefan Batory.

MS Batory was called 'a lucky ship' and 'a singing ship'. Apart from Gombrowicz, other famous passengers included Roald Dahl, Wojciech Kossak, Mieczysław Fogg, Anna German and the Polish band Skaldowie. The liner featured in many movies and was immortalised in numerous books. For her passengers, she was a symbol of luxury, comfort and splendour with its aromas of oranges, expensive perfumes and foreign cigarettes. ■

**1 in exchange** | w ramach wymiany za, w zamian  
**coal shipment** | dostawa węgla  
**luxurious** *lʌg'zʊəriəs / lʌg'zʊriəs* | luksusowy

## Did You Know?

Although in the English language 'it' is normally used to refer to things and objects, whereas 'he' and 'she' are used to talk about people, ships and boats constitute an exception to this rule. They are often treated as feminine nouns, therefore when describing ships and boats the pronoun 'she' is traditionally used. There is no single explanation for this exception. However, it is reckoned that it may be connected with the fact that the crews of ships in the past consisted of men, and because men were attached to their ships and loved them, the vessels were viewed as feminine. Other possible explanations refer to the Latin origin of the word, or religion.

**although** | chociaż  
**whereas** | podczas gdy  
**to constitute sth** | stanowić coś  
**therefore** | dlatego  
**it is reckoned that...** | przypuszcza się, że...  
**crew** | załoga  
**feminine** | kobiecy, rodzaju żeńskiego  
**Latin** | łaciński  
**origin** | pochodzenie

**interior** | wnętrze  
**carefully** | dokładnie  
**swimming pool** | basen  
**library** *'laibrəri / 'laibrɪ* | biblioteka  
**gym** | sala gimnastyczna, siłownia  
**voyage** *'voɪɪdʒ* | podróż  
**to last** | trwać  
**to go on** | kontynuować  
**troop ship** | statek wojskowy  
**to ship** | przewozić  
**abroad** | za granicę  
**allied** | aliancki  
**depending on sth** | w zależności od czegoś  
**floating** | unoszący się na wodzie  
**scrapped** | zezłomowany  
**shipyard** | stocznia  
**successor** | następca  
**apart from sb** | oprócz kogoś  
**to include sb** | obejmować kogoś  
**to feature** | występować  
**immortalised** | unieśmiertelniony, uwieczniony  
**numerous** | liczny  
**foreign** | zagraniczny



# Spooky Fears

by Jonathan Sidor

We may not like talking about them, but we've all got one or two phobias that send shivers down our spine. Come along with *English Matters* as we brave the things that scare us most.



spooky | upiorny, straszny  
fear | strach, obawa  
phobia |fəʊbiə | fobia

to send shivers down one's spine | sprawiać, że ciarki chodzą komuś po plecach

to brave sth | stawiać czemuś czoła  
to scare sb | przerażać kogoś

## Scared Synonyms

- I'm afraid of spiders.
- Are you frightened of anything?
- There's nothing there. I'm just a bit panicky.
- Don't tell ghost stories around him. He's too jumpy.
- Their Halloween decorations are amazing. They really had the neighbours spooked.
- Horror movies leave me terror-stricken.

to be frightened of sth | tə bɪ 'fraitnd əv  
'sʌmθɪŋ | bać się czegoś  
jumpy | nerwowy  
neighbour | sąsiad  
to spook sb | przestraszyć kogoś  
terror-stricken | przerażony

## Other Words for Scary

- That film is truly terrifying.
- Her Halloween costume is petrifying.
- A blood-curling scream interrupted the silence.
- That author's books are hair-raising.
- He's a great storyteller. His ghost stories are so spine-chilling.
- This place seems a little eerie to me.
- That creepy guy talked to me again.

scary | przerażający  
petrifying | paralizujący  
blood-curling | mrożący krew w żyłach  
to interrupt sth | przerywać coś  
hair-raising | sprawiający, że włosy stają dęba  
storyteller | gawędziarz  
spine-chilling | mrożący krew w żyłach  
to seem | wydawać się  
eerie |'erɪ / 'ɪri | upiorny  
creepy | budzący grozę; odrażający

## Idioms for Being Scared

- This house gives me the heebie-jeebies.
- That movie made my blood run cold.
- Don't jump out at me. You scared the living daylights out of me.
- I just want to get this job interview over with. They've got me shaking in my boots.
- Everything scares him. He's afraid of his own shadow.
- I think I saw a rat in the kitchen. I'm scared stiff.

heebie-jeebies | pot. ciarki, niepokój  
to make one's blood run cold | mrozić komuś krew w żyłach  
to jump out at sb | wyskakiwać na kogoś  
to scare the living daylights out of sb | przestraszyć kogoś na śmierć  
to shake in one's boots | trząść się ze strachu  
to be scared stiff | śmiertelnie się czegoś bać

## Common Phobias

- I 100% have acrophobia. I'm terrified of heights.
- Does anyone else feel claustrophobic in here?
- I'm up to date with all my vaccines, but I'm still terrified of injections.
- The most common fear is arachnophobia, or a fear of spiders.
- I never knew the fear of public speaking had a specific name—glossophobia.
- I feel very uncomfortable talking to others. My shrink says I have social anxiety disorder.

**acrophobia** | akrofobia, lęk wysokości

**height** *haɪt* | wysokość

**to be up to date with sth** | być na bieżąco z czymś

**vaccine** *'vækseɪn* | szczepienie

**injection** | zastrzyk

**common** | powszechny

**arachnophobia** | arachnofobia

**glossophobia** | strach przed mówieniem

i/lub publicznymi wystąpieniami

**uncomfortable** *ʌn'kʌmftəbl* | niezręcznie

**shrink** | pot. psychiatra

**social anxiety disorder** | fobia społeczna

## Scary Things

- Do you think ghosts are real?
- I can't stand zombie movies.
- I'm obsessed with vampires.
- They say this house is haunted by a witch.
- My daughter always holds my hand when we take a look at the mummy in our local museum.
- She believes our planet has already been visited by aliens.

**can't stand sth** | nie znosić czegoś

**haunted by sb** *'həʊntɪd baɪ 'sʌmbədi* | nawiedzany przez kogoś

**witch** | czarownica

**alien** *'eɪliən* | obcy, kosmita



## What We Do when We're Scared

- I let out a shriek that I'm pretty sure woke all of my neighbours.
- This film's got my hands shaking. I can't control it!
- Whenever I'm afraid, my teeth start chattering uncontrollably.
- I'm freaking out! I may be hyperventilating.
- I tear up whenever I feel scared.

**to let out a shriek** | wydać z siebie pisk/wrzask

**to wake sb** | o/budzić kogoś

**to chatter** | szczekać

**to freak out** | wariować ze strachu, panicznie się czegoś bać

**to hyperventilate** | oddychać szybko, gwałtownie i głęboko z powodu nagłego ataku paniki

**to tear up** | mieć łzy w oczach, rozklejać się

## Verbs Linked to Fear

- I shudder when I see scary images.
- I'm repulsed by films like that.
- I cringe at the thought of reading that whole book.
- You can't make your Halloween decorations too scary. Then you'll have people cowering before you.
- He dreads horror films.

**to shudder** | drżeć (z zimna lub strachu)

**repulsed by sth** | r'pʌlst baɪ 'sʌmθɪŋ | zrażony do czegoś

**to cringe at the thought of sth** | wzdrygać się na myśl o czymś

**to cower** | kulić się ze strachu

**to dread sth** | obawiać się czegoś



## WATCHING A SCARY FILM

**Alice:** Come on in, guys. The popcorn's in the microwave and the movie's ready to go.

**Greg:** You finally settled on that vampire flick, right? I'm not looking forward to this.

**Alice:** Oh, come on. What's the problem? Does someone have the heebie-jeebies?

**Greg:** Of course I do. These kinds of movies terrify me. Just thinking about them makes my skin tingle.

**Alice:** Relax. None of it's real. Besides, my younger cousin already saw this movie, and she's barely a teenager.

**Greg:** That doesn't help one bit. Listen, everyone's got their biggest fear. Mine might be vampires. There might not be anything we can do about it.

**Alice:** Why do you think they creep you out so much?

**Greg:** No clue. When I was younger, I used to have nightmares about getting bitten. Maybe it stems from that.

**to settle on sth** | ustalić coś, zdecydować się na coś

**flick** | pot. film

**to make one's skin tingle** | sprawiać, że przechodzą kogoś ciarki

**besides** | poza tym

**barely** | zaledwie

**teenager** | nastolatek

**to creep sb out** | przerząć kogoś

**nightmare** | koszmar

**to get bitten** | zostać ugrzyzionym

**to stem from sth** | wynikać z czegoś

## PHOBIAS AT SCHOOL

**Teacher:** I want to ask everyone a question. What's your biggest fear?

**Conrad:** I have a fear of heights. I dread them.

**Teacher:** Interesting. That's called acrophobia. Tim, what about you?

**Tim:** Hmm, I never really thought about it. Maybe spiders?

**Teacher:** Ah, and that one's arachnophobia. That's one of the most common fears out there.

**Penelope:** I guess I'm afraid of public speaking. But why are you asking us?

**Teacher:** Penelope, your answer is exactly what I was looking for. Fear of speaking in front of large audiences, glossophobia, is another common fear among young people.

**Conrad:** Yup. That definitely petrifies me.

**Teacher:** Well, let's look at some basic tips on how to reduce these worries we have concerning presentations...

**common** | tu: powszechnie występujący

**definitely** | zdecydowanie

**tip on sth** | wskazówka dotycząca czegoś

**concerning sth** | dotyczący czegoś

# SCARY STORIES

**George:** Welcome to the campfire, everyone. I hope you're nice and comfy, because it's time to go around and tell some spine-chilling ghost stories.

**Peter:** Oh no. I'm already shaking. I'm not sure I can handle these.

**Molly:** I'd like to go first. It was a dark and stormy night, and all the campers were getting ready for bed...

**Peter:** Oh, this is so nerve-wracking. I'm about to shriek.

**Molly:** Suddenly, the power went out. Everything was pitch black. There was a loud knock at the door of one of the cabins.

**Peter:** Ah, I think I'm going to hyperventilate. Here, I'm going to need to hold someone's hand.

**Molly:** The camp counsellor decided to open the door. He put his hand on the doorknob, turn it, and...

**Peter:** AHHH! I just can't take it! This suspense is killing me. I'm sorry, Molly, this is absolutely bone-chilling.

**campfire** | ognisko

**comfy** | wygodnie

**spine-chilling** | mrożący krew w żyłach

**to handle sth** | znosić coś

**nerve-wracking** | wykańczający nerwowo, stresujący

**to be about to do sth** | być o krok od zrobienia czegoś

**to shriek** | piszczeć, wrzeszczeć

**power** | prąd

**to go out** | paść

**pitch black** | całkowicie ciemno

**doorknob** | klamka

**bone-chilling** | mrożący krew w żyłach

## Fear vs Phobia

According to psychologists, fears are essentially more rational than phobias. In a recent survey, respondents indicated that their most common fears are corrupt government officials, a loved one dying, and a loved one becoming seriously ill. Phobias, though, are things that still cause anxiety but typically don't pose a realistic threat to a specific person. Apprehension towards meeting new people would be considered a phobia because it's not the specific act of meeting someone that frightens us. It's the potential judgment or humiliation that might emerge from such a situation that we fear so much.

One of the most-Googled phobias is the fear of blood. This is often expanded to include injuries or injections of any kind. People with this phobia are known to faint at the sight of blood. Another strange yet widespread phobia is tryptophobia, an aversion to clusters of small holes. Experts believe this fear to be "prepared," meaning that it arose from an evolutionary need.

**according to sb** | według kogoś

**survey** | 'sɜːveɪ / 'sɜː:rveɪ | ankietka

**to indicate that** | wskazywać, że

**government official** | urzędnik państwowaty

**ill** | choroby

**though** | jednak/że

**anxiety** | æn'zaiəti | niepokój

**threat** | zagrożenie

**apprehension towards sth** | lęk przed czymś

**to frighten sb** | przerażać kogoś

**judgement** | osąd

**humiliation** | ośmieszenie, poniżenie

**to emerge from sth** | wynikać z czegoś

**expanded** | poszerzony

**to include sth** | obejmować coś

**injury** | obrażenie, zranienie

**injection** | zastrzyk

**to faint** | mdleć

**at the sight of sth** | na widok czegoś

● **widespread** | szeroko rozpowszechniony

**tryptophobia** | tryptofobia

**cluster** | tu: skupisko

**hole** | dziura

**to arise from sth** | wynikać z czegoś





## Mad About Horror

Horror films might not get the critical acclaim other genres boast, but they're gaining in popularity. You don't want to fall out of the loop by refusing to ride. If the world of horror is new for you, here are the top-grossing films from the world of horror:

*I Am Legend* - Will Smith takes on zombies during the apocalypse. Grossed over 585 mln dollars.

*War of the Worlds* - Fans of Tom Cruise will likely enjoy this family-centric alien flick. Grossed 600,000,000 dollars.

*The Sixth Sense* - A film that many people would hail as having the first modern plot twist. Earned 672,000,000 dollars.

*It* - From 2017, this movie is credited with kickstarting the present resurgence of horror films. Brought in over 700 mln dollars. //

**critical acclaim** | uznanie krytyków

**genre** | gatunek (np. filmowy, muzyczny)

**to boast sth** | szczerzyć się czymś

**to gain in popularity** | zyskiwać popularność

**to fall out of the loop** | zostać wykluczonym z grona wtajemniczonych

**to refuse to do sth** | odmawiać zrobienia czegoś

**top-grossing** | najlepiej zarabiający

**to gross over X dollars** | zarobić ponad X dolarów

**alien flick** | film o kosmitach

**to hail sth** | okrzyknąć coś

**plot twist** | zwrot akcji

**to earn** | zarobić

**to credit sth with sth** | tu: przypisywać coś czemuś

**kickstarting** | rozpoczęcie

**resurgence of sth** | odrodzenie się czegoś

**to bring in over X dollars** | zarobić ponad X dolarów



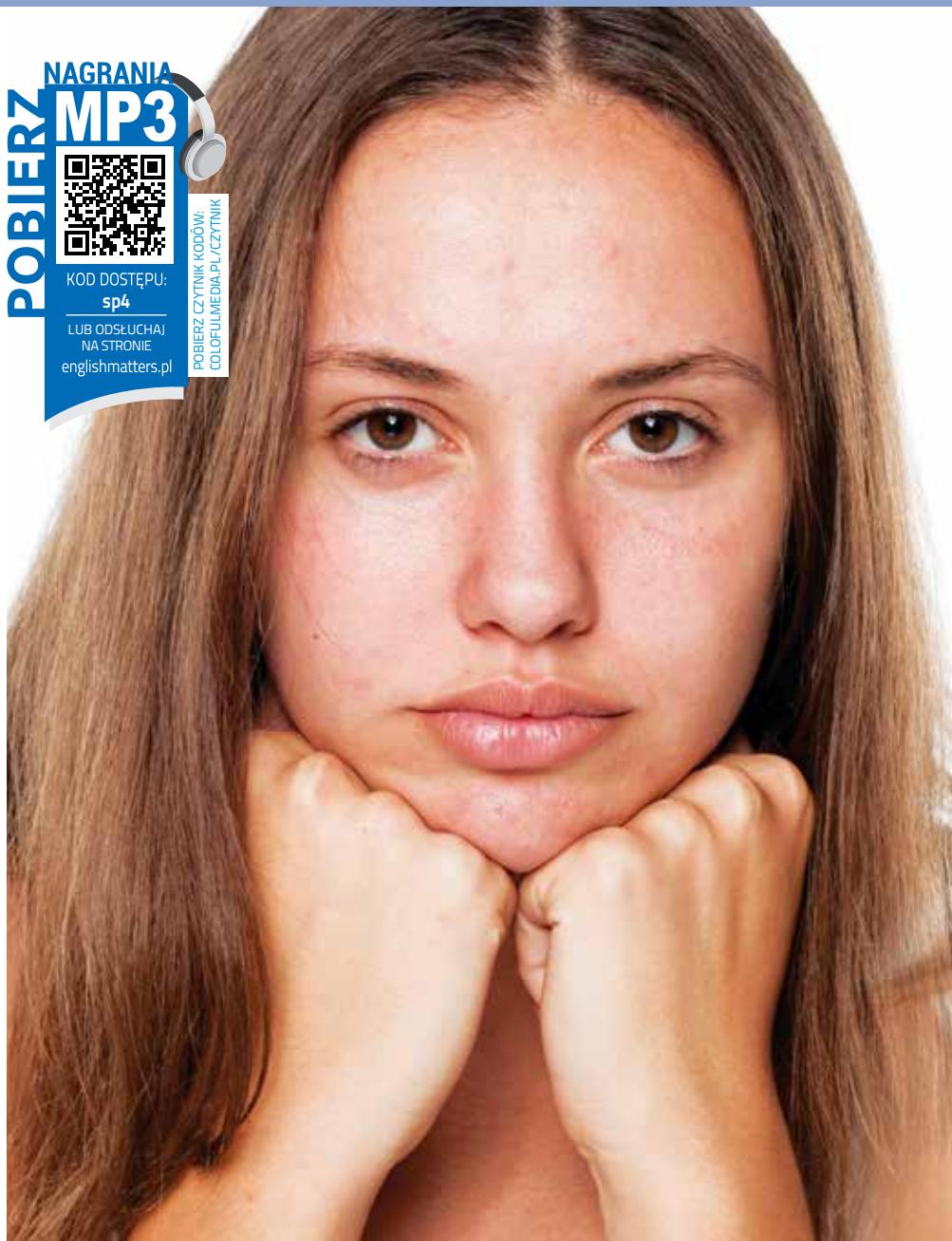
# Ethics of Photo Editing

by Ewelina Błońska

Colour correction, removing the background or proper image cropping: can you imagine a world without photo editing? Is it digital enhancement, generating complex imagery, or maybe it's just straightforward manipulation? Today, we are talking about the pros and cons of retouching pictures.

**I**t is commonly known that image manipulation has been with us since the earliest days of photography. Nowadays, many applications and filters are used to impart both subtle and dramatic effects to images, and the range of options has expanded dramatically with in-camera digital effects. Is it a good idea to retouch a photo before publishing? Take a look at some of the divided opinions.

- to remove sth | usuwać coś
- background | tło
- cropping | kadrowanie, przycinanie
- without sth | bez czegoś
- digital enhancement | cyfrowe ulepszenie/poprawka
- imagery 'ɪmɪdʒəri | obrazy, wizerunki
- straightforward | prosty, bezpośredni
- pros and cons | za i przeciw
- to retouch sth | retuszować coś
- 1 commonly | powszechnie
- nowadays | obecnie
- to impart sth | dodawać czegoś
- subtle 'sətl | subtelny, delikatny
- to expand | poszerzać się
- to take a look at sth | przyjrzeć się czemuś
- divided | podzielony



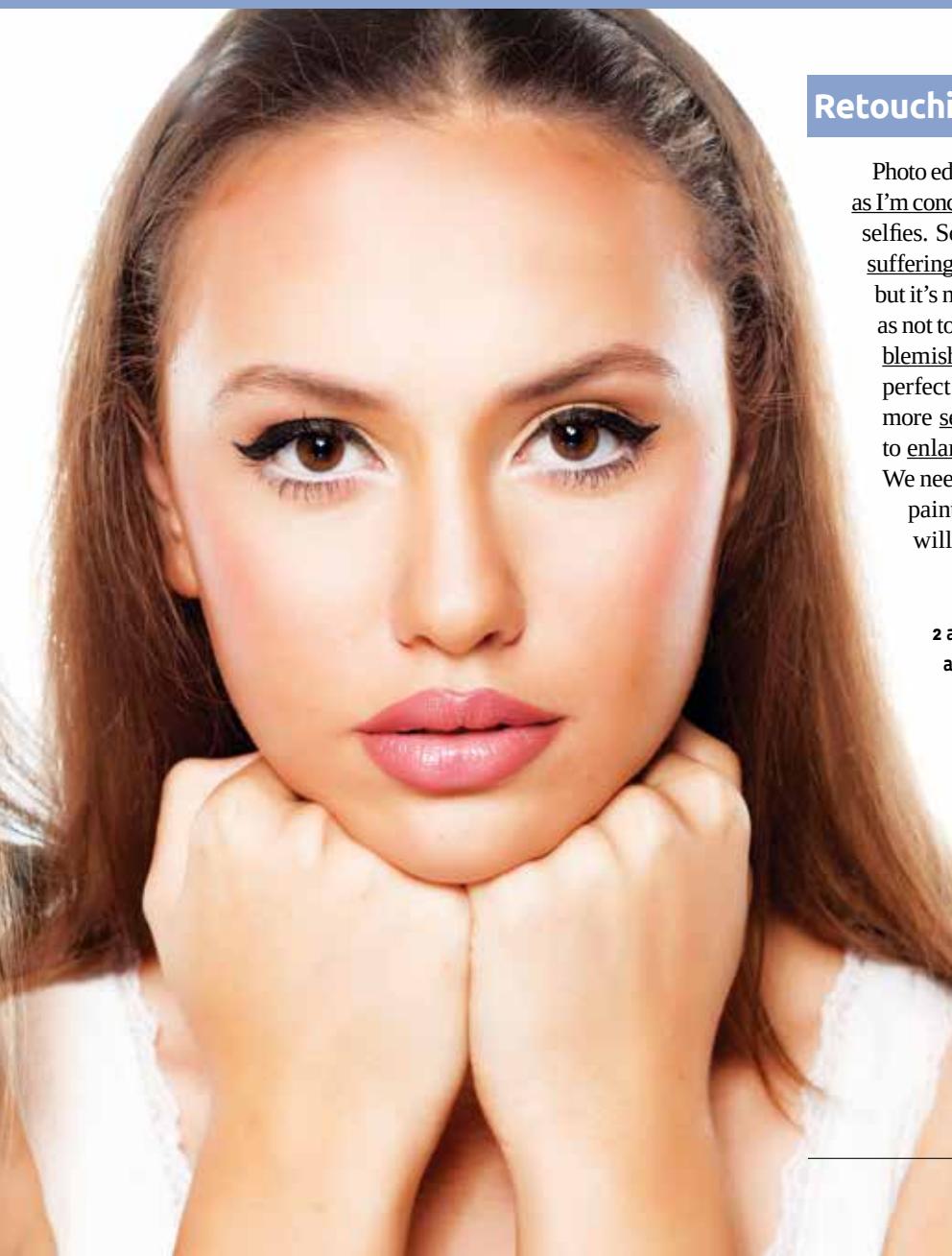
## Photo

Here are some important verbs and nouns connected to photography.

- **to take a photo** - to point a camera at an object and press the shutter.
- **to develop a photo** - to treat a film with chemicals in order to make the photographic image visible.
- **to crop** - to trim a photo to the required size and composition (usually electronically).
- **to capture** - to catch something in an everlasting form.
- **tripod** - a support with three legs, used to support a camera.
- **darkroom** - a special room with only red light or no light, where film from a camera is turned into photographs.
- **monochrome** - photographs that are black and white, or sepia. Sepia tones have a hue that resemble the effect of ageing in old photographs (different shades of brown).



**to point sth at sth** | skierwać coś na coś,  
 wycelować coś w coś  
**shutter** | migawka  
**in order to** | aby, żeby  
**to trim sth** | przycinać coś  
**required** | wymagany  
**everlasting** | wieczny  
**tripod** | trójnóg, statyw  
**darkroom** | ciemnia  
**to resemble sth** | przypominać coś  
**ageing** | starzenie się, postarzenie czegoś



## Retouching Aficionados...

Photo editing is becoming really popular today. As far as I'm concerned, I'm fond of taking pictures, especially selfies. Some nasty friends might comment that I'm suffering from selfitis. Of course, I snap a lot of selfies but it's not an addiction. Then I retouch them a bit, so as not to show my flaws, like puffy eyes, wrinkles or blemishes. And it's cheaper than plastic surgery. A perfect picture boosts my confidence and gives me more self-esteem. I wouldn't however use an app to enlarge my breasts, if that's what you're asking. We need to remember that portraits, sculptures and paintings of human beings have always been and will be idealised for good or bad.

– Sara

**aficionado** | fan, zwolennik  
**as far as I'm concerned** | jeśli chodzi o mnie  
**to be fond of sth** | lubić coś  
**nasty** | złośliwy  
**to suffer from sth** | cierpieć na coś  
**to snap sth** | strzelać coś, pstrykać  
**addiction** | uzależnienie  
**flaw** | niedoskonałość  
**puffy** | podpuchnięty  
**wrinkle** | zmarszczka  
**blemish** | krosta, pryszcz  
**plastic surgery** | operacja plastyczna  
**to boost sth** | wzmacniać coś  
**confidence** | pewność siebie  
**self-esteem** | samoocena  
**to enlarge sth** | powiększać coś  
**sculpture** | rzeźba

I work in an advertising agency and editing photos is our daily bread. A good ad needs excellent images when launching a product and also builds a reputation for the company. In business, you can use different tricks to make your product more appealing or user-friendly. Did you know that a big picture of a juicy hamburger is so shiny because a food stylist painted the meat with oil or maybe lacquer? Another example is models in magazines - dilated pupils are considered more attractive, feminine and soft. Apart from that, you can use different backgrounds, colour variations or cropping style and other graphic properties for each marketing platform you would like to use. Voila!

– **Mark**

As a professional photographer I need to admit that editing photos is unavoidable nowadays. I reckon that in the 21st century the divide between 'true' and 'manipulated' images has become blurred. Photoshopping is like art, thanks to which I can transform an image into something that is even more creative and expressive. I can't imagine my work without enhancements to my photos. Most people can recognise images that have been altered by filtration and accept the practice as 'artistic', and highly manipulated landscapes often earn fortunes for their producers, because the buying public has a taste for colourful, digitally-enhanced shots.

– **Cynthia**

**3 advertising agency** | agencja reklamowa  
**to launch sth** *ta lə:ntʃ'ʌmθɪŋ* | wypuścić coś na rynek  
**appealing** | pociągający  
**user-friendly** | przyjazny dla użytkownika, łatwy w obsłudze  
**juicy** | soczysty  
**shiny** | błyszczący  
**dilated** *daɪ'leɪtɪd* | rozszerzony  
**considered** | uważany  
**feminine** | kobiecy  
**apart from sth** | oprócz czegoś  
**graphic properties** | właściwości graficzne  
**to admit that...** | przyznawać, że...  
**unavoidable** *ʌnə'veɪdəbl* | nieunikniony  
**to reckon that...** | sądzić, że...

I use social media a lot. I even started building in some extra cash flow thanks to Instagram. How is it possible? Eye-catching images on social media give you a head start over your competition. The more people the alluring images attract, the more prospective clients you gain. You can advertise a lot of products but you need to be careful, as your products can't be divorced from reality. There is nothing worse than a disappointed customer and negative comments on the Internet. Then, you will immediately lose your followers. In order to make money from social media, you have to make sure the followers keep coming. The golden rule is: don't overedit your pics!

– **Peter**

**digitally-enhanced** | ulepszony cyfrowo  
**shot** | fotka

**4 cash flow** | przepływ gotówki

**eye-catching** | przyciągający wzrok

**competition** | konkurencja

**alluring** | urzekający

**to attract sb** | przyciągać kogoś  
**prospective** | potencjalny

**to advertise sth** | reklamować coś

**to be divorced from sth** | odbiegać od czegoś

**disappointed** | rozczarowany

**in order to** | aby, żeby

**to make money from sth** | zarabiać na czymś



## Image Editing as Hideous Manipulation...

I'm dead against retouching pictures. Today, with the use of photography post processing services, a lot of people have been cheated into thinking that perfect beauty of body and face does happen. But in reality, this kind of perfection is simply impossible. Even superstars have some flaws and imperfections, like flab or cellulite, but that's not what we often see in the magazines. As a result of these ubiquitous flaw-less bodies and faces, many young women may suffer from eating disorders or depression. Skinny figures are not healthy and shouldn't be promoted as a canon of beauty. That's my humble opinion.

– Ulas

5 **hideous** 'hīdēəs | ohydny  
to be dead against sth  
| być zdecydowanie  
przeciwnym czemuś

I loathe flagrant retouching but sadly so many bad commercials do it these days, and it looks downright creepy. I don't really mind the use of Photoshop to slightly enhance a picture, however I often don't see the need. For instance, some shots of Angelina Jolie who normally looks stunning in the original pictures, make her look plastic in the edited version. I honestly don't understand why people think that's prettier. I like my celebrities to resemble humans, so I don't buy all these artificial alterations. Oh, I almost forgot, photo manipulation is time consuming and it requires a lot of space on your laptop or computer.

– Maja

I'm not an editing aficionado. For me, retouching photos is a lie. Although a lot of young and tech-savvy people are aware of these methods already, it can create a false and unrealistic body image. Seeing only perfect models on drastically retouched pictures distorts people's perception of beauty and can lower our self-esteem and confidence, and hence build unnecessary pressure to conform to the advertised ideals. Life is too short to spend it on crash diets. Of course, I don't mind some minimal touch-ups, but using tools that make you look slimmer and taller in just a few clicks is too much for me.

– Vita

6 **to be cheated into sth** | zostać zmanipulowanym  
**flab** | tłuszczyk, obwiesłe ciało  
**cellulite** | cellulit  
**ubiquitous** ju: 'bīkwītəs | wszechobecny  
**flawless** | bez skazy  
**eating disorders** | zaburzenia żywienia  
**humble** | skromny  
7 **to loathe sth** | nie cierpieć czegoś  
**flagrant** | rażący  
**commercial** | reklama  
**downright** | wręcz  
**creepy** | przerażające  
**to mind sth** | mieć coś przeciwko czemuś  
**slightly** | lekko, trochę  
**to enhance sth** | poprawiać coś  
**stunning** | oszałamiająco  
**to resemble sb** | przypominać kogoś  
**artificial** | sztuczny  
**alteration** | zmiana, przeróbka  
**to require sth** | wymagać czegoś  
**although** | chociaż  
**to be aware of sth** | być świadomym czegoś

A lot of people mistake photo manipulation and photo enhancement to be the exact same things; yes, they are analogous, but in my opinion, they are not one and the same. Photo enhancement is where minimal changes to the image are made, such as removing red eye and other discolourations, whereas in manipulation, the editor can make drastic changes in the image, wherein the person can either make it look disturbing, stunning, or just unrealistically handsome. It is often used for advertising campaigns. I don't support any of these changes as I believe in the natural charm and beauty of both landscapes and people.

– Joshua

## To Sum Up...

Nowadays, thanks to the tremendous milestones in terms of technological advancement, people are more skilled and able to retouch photos more effectively and convincingly. There is no doubt that digital photo editing has a great impact on both the subject and the viewer, since it actually helps the person gain self-esteem by giving a virtual makeover; however, the fact that it could also destroy a person's confidence in real life, generate false self-acceptance, and distort people's perception of beauty should also be considered. ─

**to distort sth** | zniekształcać coś  
**perception** | postrzeganie  
**hence** | stąd, dlatego  
**crash diet** | intensywna dieta odchudzająca  
**a few** | kilka  
7 **to mistake sth** | mylić coś  
**analogous** ə'næləgəs | analogiczny, podobny  
**whereas** | podczas gdy  
**wherein** | w którym, w czym  
**either... or...** | albo..., albo...  
**handsome** | przystojny  
**to support sth** | popierać coś  
**charm** | wdzięk, urok  
**tremendous** | kolosalny, ogromny  
**milestone** | kamień milowy  
**in terms of sth** | pod względem czegoś  
**advancement** | postęp  
**convincingly** | przekonująco  
**doubt** | wątpliwość  
**impact on sth** | wpływ na coś  
**actually** | w rzeczywistości  
**to gain sth** | zdobyć coś  
**makeover** | całkowita przemiana wyglądu  
**to generate sth** | tworzyć, wytwarzanie czegoś

# Lucky 7

by Ewelina Błońska

Struggling to keep track of all your to-do lists? Want to know what that street sign says? Or maybe you want to get fit, but can't afford a personal trainer? Don't worry! This time, *English Matters* presents some apps that will make your life much easier.



## Check out!

Apart from the applications mentioned in the article, check out the following ones, which:

- can help you keep track of your pet's needs, like Map My Dog Walk or Wag!
- enhance your smartphone photos, like Snapseed or VSCO, best for creating beautiful edits with elegant filters
- can help you identify songs and stream your favourite albums (Shazam or Spotify)

apart from sth | oprócz czegoś  
to enhance sth | polepszyć coś (np. jakość)

to struggle to do sth | zmagac się  
to keep track of sth | kontrolować coś  
to get fit | nabierać kondycji  
to afford sth | pozwolić sobie na coś (finansowo)  
app | pot. aplikacja

**N**owadays, people are living fast, and time has become the most valuable commodity. So, many of us are looking for new ways to maximise our productivity and live smarter. How can we do this? Is it possible to save some of our precious time? Well, fortunately, thanks to digital innovation, there is now an influx of smartphone apps available on the market designed to simplify our lives, both professionally and personally. Let's take a look at some of them.

## 1. To Do

To Do, which is the natural successor to Wunderlist, as Microsoft built it based on Wunderlist's features, should be especially appreciated by all to-do list lovers. Why is this app so helpful? It lets you create to-do lists from scratch, or even import tasks from other tools like Outlook, or reminds you about self-imposed deadlines. It can also be used to share lists and collaborate on projects. As physical lists can pile up, be misplaced, forgotten or outdated, this is the perfect place to keep all your lists in one place. To Do is available for free download on iOS and Android, or as a web app.

1 nowadays | obecnie  
valuable | cenny  
commodity | towar  
to look for sth | szukać czegoś  
precious | cenny  
fortunately | na szczęście  
digital | elektroniczny  
influx | napływ  
available | dostępny  
to simplify sth | uprościć coś  
both | zarówno

successor | następca  
feature | tu: funkcja  
appreciated | doceniany  
from scratch | od zera  
to remind sb about sth | przypominać komuś o czymś  
self-imposed | narzucony samemu sobie, wyznaczany samemu sobie  
to share sth | dzielić się czymś  
physical | fizyczny  
to pile up | na/gromadzić się, piętrzyć się w stosy  
to be misplaced | zawieruszyć się  
outdated | zdezaktualizowany  
to download sth | pobierać coś

## 2. Google Translate

Thanks to this app, you can avoid those awkward situations when you're overseas in a restaurant and struggle to order anything because there is no English menu available. The Google Translate app not only allows you to translate between more than 100 languages by typing, but also offers instant camera translation, which allows you to see the world in your language by just pointing your camera lens at the foreign text. Sounds great, doesn't it?

## 3. Spendbook

This is applicable for all those who love spending money like water and have problems managing their finances on their own. This IOS app is designed to make tracking your finances simple and fuss-free. With a sleek and user-friendly interface, you can easily record your daily expenses and organise your spending into different categories. For a deep dive into your finances, access intuitive and interactive charts, or have your everyday expenses and income summarised in a calendar.

## 4. 7 Weeks

7 Weeks is an app that is a simple goal tracker perfect for those trying to kick a habit, like smoking, drinking alcohol or eating fast food. However, it can also be useful for implementing good habits in your life, like working out or drinking more water. It gets its name from the 7 weeks, which is the time it takes to break a bad habit. Every day that you complete successfully, simply mark the day as complete! The app is very intuitive, as well as increasing your motivation, willpower and discipline.

## 5. Quizlet

Do you want to pass an exam with flying colours? Undoubtedly, there is a myriad of apps helping to master particular subjects. Quizlet, which is described as the easiest way to study, practice and master what you're learning, enables you to create your own flashcards, or choose from millions created by other students. With the Quizlet app you can, for instance, learn with flashcards, race against the clock in a game of Match, learn foreign

languages, science, maths, history and much more. This is a great tool for both students and teachers.

## 6. Headspace

Are you living in constant stress, suffering from insomnia or anxiety? It's high time you managed your mental health. Thanks to this app you will learn meditation and mindfulness skills. Sounds unbelievable? Just try! Meditation has been shown to help people stress less, focus more and even sleep better. You can choose from hundreds of guided meditations, mood-boosting mindful workouts, or sleep sounds and winding down music. You can even buddy up with friends and motivate each other along the way. 2-3-minute mini-meditations for a quick mental reset or "SOS" sessions for moments of panic, anxiety and stress can be really beneficial in our tough times. You definitely deserve a healthier, happier, more enjoyable life.

## 7. MyFitnessPal

If you are aiming to be as fit as a fiddle, this is something for you. With it, you'll be able to track daily food and beverage intake, monitor your fitness progress, and track your exercise routines. Moreover, you can find nutrition facts for over 2 mln kinds of foods there. Thanks to that, you will find out what your diet is missing, or where you need to cut back a little. The best of all, MFP is free to download and use.

Smartphone applications have become so ubiquitous that it's difficult to imagine what the world would be like without them. They definitely make our lives easier, but we need to remember how to use them smartly and effectively, so as not to become enslaved by technology. Moreover, the rule of thumb is not to download or use apps that come from suspicious sources. Also, it's vital to check the rankings and reviews for every app before you download it from Google Play, Microsoft Store or iTunes. //

2 **to avoid sth** | uniknąć czegoś  
**awkward** *ɔ:kwed* | dziwny, dziwaczny  
**overseas** | za granicą  
**to order sth** | zamawiać coś  
**to allow sb to do sth** | pozwalać komuś na zrobienie czegoś  
**instant** | natychmiastowy

**to point sth at sth** | skierwać coś na coś  
**camera lens** | obiektyw  
**foreign** | zagraniczny  
**applicable** *ə'plɪkəbl* | odpowiedni, stosowny  
**to spend money like water** | szastać pieniędzmi  
**to manage sth** | zarządzać czymś  
**fuss-free** | wolny od zamieszania  
**sleek** | elegancki  
**to record sth** | *tu:* odnotowywać coś  
**expenses** | wydatki  
**deep dive** | *pot.* głęboka analiza  
**chart** *tʃa:t / tʃa:rt* | wykres  
**income** | dochód  
**to kick a habit** | zrywać z nałożkiem  
**to implement sth** | wprowadzać coś w życie  
**to break a bad habit** | zerwać ze złym nawykiem  
**to mark sth** | zaznaczyć coś, odhaczyć  
**to increase sth** | powodować wzrost czegoś  
**willpower** | siła woli  
**discipline** *'dɪsəplɪn* | dyscyplina, rygor  
**to pass an exam** | zdać egzamin  
**with flying colours** | śpiewająco, na piątkę  
**undoubtedly** | niewątpliwie, bez wątpienia  
**myriad of sth** | mnóstwo, ogrom czegoś  
**to master sth** | opanować coś  
**to enable sb to do sth** | umożliwiać komuś zrobienie czegoś  
**flashcard** | fiszka  
**to race against sth** | ścigać się z czymś  
**3 science** *'saɪəns* | *tu:* przedmiot ścisły  
**insomnia** | bezsenność  
**anxiety** | niepokój  
**mindfulness** | uważność  
**unbelievable** *ʌnbɪ'lɪ:vəbl* | niewiarygodny  
**to focus** | skupiać się, koncentrować się  
**guided** | z przewodnikiem  
**mood-boosting** | polepszający nastrój  
**mindful** | świadomy  
**workouts** | ćwiczenia  
**winding down** | relaksacyjny  
**to buddy up with sb** | zaprzyjaźnić się z kimś  
**tough** | trudny  
**definitely** | zdecydowanie  
**enjoyable** *ɪn'dʒɔɪəbl* | radosny  
**to aim to do sth** | mieć na celu zrobienie czegoś  
**as fit as a fiddle** | zdrow jak ryba  
**beverage** | napój  
**intake** | spożycie  
**moreover** | ponadto  
**to find out** | dowiedzieć się, dowiadywać się  
**to miss** | *tu:* brakować  
**to cut sth back** | ograniczyć coś  
**ubiquitous** | wszechobecny  
**to become enslaved by sth** | stać się niewolnikiem czegoś  
**rule of thumb** | sprawdzona zasada  
**suspicious** *se'spɪʃəs* | podejrzany  
**vital** | kluczowy, zasadniczy

# Situations

by Jonathan Sidor

## You're extremely happy?

- I'm jumping for joy.
- I'm on cloud nine.
- I'm over the moon.

## Your computer isn't working?

- My computer's acting up.
- It's very buggy.
- I think I need to reboot it.

## You want to thank someone?

- You have my sincere gratitude.
- I really appreciate it.
- I'm very grateful.

## You're very thirsty?

- I'm parched.
- I need to wet my whistle.

## You're ordering a pizza over the phone?

- I'd like to place a take-away order.
- Can I get a large pizza with pineapple and anchovies?

## You're extremely sad?

- I'm down in the dumps.
- I've got a case of the blues.
- I'm completely crestfallen.

## You want to ask somebody how they're doing?

- How's it hanging?
- What's up?
- What's happening?

## You want to say that someone's crazy?

- He's off his rocker.
- She's not right in the head.
- He's a basket case.

## You want to say something very romantic?

- You are the light of my life.
- I want to pour my heart out to you.
- When I look at you, my heart skips a beat.

## You want to say that you strongly dislike something?

- I detest/loathe that.
- I find it repugnant.
- That makes me recoil.

## You want to root for your team at a sporting event?

- Let's blow them out of the water.
- Let's show them who's boss.
- They don't stand a chance.

1 **extremely** | wyjątkowo, niesamowicie  
to **jump for joy/to be on cloud nine/to be over the moon** | być przeszcześliwym  
to **act up** | *tu:* nawalać  
**buggy** 'bʌgi | postrzelony, *tu:* zawirusowany, zawierający błędy  
to **reboot sth** | ponownie coś uruchomić  
**sincere** sin'siə(r) / sin'sir | szczerzy  
**gratitude** | wdzięczność  
to **appreciate sth** | doceniać coś  
**grateful** | wdzięczny  
**parched** pa:tʃ / pa:tʃɪ | spragniony  
to **wet one's whistle** tə wet wənз 'wɪsl | *pot.*  
napić się, przepłukać gardło  
to **order sth** | zamawiać coś  
to **place sth** | *tu:* złożyć coś  
**take-away** | na wynos  
**order** | zamówienie  
**pineapple** | ananas  
**anchovy** | sardela, anchois  
**I'm down in the dumps.** | Jestem w dołku.  
Mam doła.

## You ask someone to be quiet?

- I don't want to hear a single peep.
- I want it so quiet that you can hear a pin drop.
- Zip it!

## You feel a little cold?

- It's a bit chilly today.
- It's feeling a little nippy this morning.

## You want to say that you'll be right back?

- I'll be back in two shakes of a lamb's tail.
- Don't wait up for me. I won't be gone long.

3 **I don't want to hear a single peep.** | Nie chcę słyszeć ani jednego słówka/dźwięku.  
**so quiet that you can hear a pin drop** | cisza jak makiem zasiął  
**Zip it!** | *pot.* Zamknij się!  
**to feel nippy** | być komuś chłodno  
**in two shakes of a lamb's tail** | za moment



# What Do You Know About the Apostrophe's?

by Joanna Naporowska

The apostrophe 's can stand for different grammatical forms, and making sure we are able to distinguish between them is crucial for language development and awareness. Let's analyse three most common situations in which all English speakers use this apostrophe.

## Possessive's

Although this grammatical aspect may seem a very basic concept covered on the elementary levels of any English course, there are some things worth remembering.

First of all, we use possessive 's to say that something or someone belongs to a person, another thing, or a place. We show the relation between the two nouns, for example:

- *Sam's car*
- *the company's clients*
- *Rome's museums*
- *Joanna's brother*

When a singular noun ends with the letter *s*, most people would still advise using the apostrophe with *s*, for example: *The series's pacing was good.*

However, some guidelines tell us to use a one-syllable rule, especially for names and places:

If a noun is one-syllable, use 's:

*Mr Jones's car has been stolen.*

If a noun has more than one syllable, it's ok to use just the apostrophe, without *s*:

*Mr Matthews' car has been stolen.*

When something belongs to more than one person and we give a list of names, we put 's on the last name.

- *Sam and Emma's tent*

With regular plural nouns we use only the apostrophe:

- *They're my parents' friends.*

With irregular plural nouns we use 's.

- *These are my children's toys.*

## 's for plurals

Basically apostrophes shouldn't be used to make words or abbreviations plural, e.g CDs, 1990s, t-shirts. However, there are some exceptions in the situation when we want to avoid confusion or ambiguity. This applies mostly to single letters such as *a, i or u*:

*When I was at school I never got a's.*

*There are two u's in the word continuum.*

## Short Verb Forms

Another situation when 's is used is for the contracted form of the verb *is*:

*She's (She is) so courageous. I would have never done it myself.*

*My sister's travelling in Australia now (my sister is travelling).*

*Here's Jack. (Here is)*

*When's your birthday? (When is)*

*How's your sister? (How is)*

*It's so sunny today. (it is)*

In spoken English, contractions can be made with any noun followed by the third person form of *to be*. However, this is informal speech:

*Their dog's taken from the animal shelter. (is taken)*

*My idea's more plausible.*

*This building's new.*

Remember that it's incorrect to use the contraction with the past form *was*:

*She's writing letters all day yesterday (she was).-*

The second contracted verb form made with the apostrophe 's stands for the verb *has* either in *has got* or as an auxiliary verb.

*She's got (she has got) a lovely hairstyle. She must've been at the hairdresser's.*

*He's done his work and gone home (he has done).*

*It's been ages since we saw each other (It has been)*

*What's happened (what has happened)?*

Remember that *has* can never be contracted with its subject (he, she, or it) when it is the main verb in the sentence and is in the present tense.

*He has lots to do. He's lots to do.*

*She has her own flat. She's her own flat.*

**apostrophe** *ə'pɔ:trəfi /*

*ə'pɔ:strəfi* | apostrof

**to stand for sth** | oznaczać

coś

**to distinguish between sth**

**and sth** | rozróżniać między

czymś a czymś

**awareness** | świadomość

**to analyse sth** *tu: ənəlaɪz*

*'sʌmθɪŋ* | analizować coś

**common** | powszechny,

typowy

**although** | chociaż

**to seem** | wydawać się

**covered** | *tu: opisany,*

omówiony, objęty

**worth sth** | wart/y czegoś

**first of all** | po pierwsze

**to belong to sb/sth** | należeć

do kogoś/czegoś

**to advise sth** | doradzać coś

**pacing** | tempo

**however** | jednak/że

**guideline** | wytyczna,

wskazówka

**abbreviation** | skrót

**exception** | wyjątek

**to avoid sth** | uniknąć czegoś

**confusion** | zamieszanie

**ambiguity** | dwuznaczność

**to apply to sth** | stosować się

do czegoś

**single** | pojedynczy

**continuum** | ciągłość

**contracted** | ściągnięty,

skrócony

**courageous** | odważny

**contraction** | forma

ściągnięta, kontrakcja

**animal shelter** | schronisko

**plausible** | przekonujący,

wiarygodny, sensowny

**auxiliary** | posiłkowy

**hairstyle** | fryzura

**at the hairdresser's** |

u fryzjera

**it's been ages** | kopa lat

**subject** | *tu: podmiot*

**main** | główny

**flat** | mieszkanie

# What Do You Know About the Apostrophe 's? | EXERCISES

## A

Punctuate the following sentences with apostrophes:

1. Whos the partys candidate for president in 2021?
2. Our friends car is an old Mitsubishi, and its just about to break down.
3. The Jones children looked so disappointed when we told them there would be no trip at the weekend.
4. Its important that the puppy is fed naturally.
5. She pretended not to hear her childrens crying.
6. My credit card number has three 1s, and Tims phone number has four 2s.
7. Womens clothing is on the first floor, and the mens department is on the second.
8. The dogs bark was so loud that I couldn't fall asleep.
9. He said that he had spent his two weeks vacation at the seaside.
10. I always make a mistake in your surname putting two as in middle of the word.

## B

Decide whether the apostrophe 's' is possessive 's' or it stands for has/is.

1. Anna's already left.
2. Tom's driving to Portugal now.
3. She's just finished her performance.
4. That's my bike next to the fence.
5. Anna's already outside.
6. The printer's manual is not clear.
7. Katie's taking yoga classes.
8. He's been very loud lately, I'm fed up with him.
9. Lilly's friend is already waiting outside.
10. Tim's got an intelligent daughter.
11. Bruce's last name is Smith.
12. It's my job to hire new employees.
13. The show is called America's got Talent.
14. There is a strange noise coming from the neighbour's property.
15. The tournament's leader for now is John Smith.

**A** to break down | zepsuć się

disappointed | rozczałowany

fed | karmiony

to pretend | udawać

department | dział

bark | szczekanie

to fall asleep | zasypiać

in the middle of sth | w środku, pośrodku czegoś

performance | występ

printer | drukarka

manual 'mænjuəl | instrukcja obsługi

to be fed up with sb | mieć kogoś dosyć

to hire sb | zatrudnić kogoś

employee | pracownik

property | tu: nieruchomości, posiadłość

**B** 1. Who's 2 is 3 has 4 is 5 is 6 possessive 7 is 8 has 9 possessive 10 has 11 pos-

sessive 12 is 13 has 14 possessive 15 possessive

of the word.

10. I always make a mistake in your surname putting two **a's** in middle

9. He said that he had spent his two **weeks** vacation at the seaside.

8. The **dog's** bark was so loud that I couldn't fall asleep.

7. **Women's** clothing is on the first floor, and the **men's** department is on

the second.

6. My credit card number has three 1s, and **Tim's** phone number has four 2s.

5. She pretended not to hear her **children's** crying.

4. **It's** important that the puppy is fed naturally.

3. The **Jones'** children looked so disappointed when we told them there

would be no trip at the weekend.

2. Our **friends'** car is an old Mitsubishi, and it's just about to

break down.

1. **Who's** the **party's** candidate for president in 2021?

**Answers key**



# A Weekend in Budapest

by Katarzyna Szpotakowska

*English Matters*  
presents: Budapest –  
a gem on the Danube.  
An entertaining and  
mesmerising city  
which is affordable  
for everyone.

o the Danube ðə 'dæn.ju:b | Dunaj  
mesmerising | zachwycający, urzekający  
affordable | dostępny cenowo

Travel



Budapest

Hungary

**English Matters:** What are your suggestions for spending a weekend in Budapest?

**Anna P.:** Budapest has plenty to offer tourists, lots of places to see, interesting bars and a fantastic atmosphere. It's worth adding that it's a city you can visit on a tight budget. My last weekend trip there, for 3 days and 2 nights, came to less than 700 zł (including the flight and a 4\* hotel in a great location close to the underground that trams).

**EM:** What attractions should be on everyone's must-see list?

**AP:** Budapest has a lot of places to see, as well as the grand Parliament building on the Danube, which is really impressive, Buda Castle, which you can reach by 19th century funicular railway (the entire Castle Hill is on the UNESCO World Heritage List), the Fisherman's Bastion and Gellért Hill, it's also worth going to the thermal baths, for which Hungary is renowned. It's also worth walking through the backstreets of the city, or take a ride on the underground (the second oldest system in Europe after London), which is a very shallow system, go down only 20 steps and you find yourself on the platform, which fits only two carriages. And, talking about the underground, Budapest possibly has the fastest escalators, really long and really fast - I always struggle to keep my balance on them.

**EM:** What are the places of historical significance in Budapest?

**AP:** The whole of Budapest is full of historic buildings, there aren't any tall, glass skyscrapers, but there are hundreds of historic tenements, squares and other buildings. Of course, Buda Castle is the main attraction. It's from around the 14th century. During the 2nd World War it was almost totally destroyed, but it was rebuilt. The holocaust memorial is interesting and worth seeing (rows of metal shoes by the Danube) it's a new memorial, but as part of the shared historical memory, it evokes a sense of the past.

**EM:** What places can you visit for free?

**AP:** Most of the historic buildings cost to get in, but you can visit the churches for free, St. Stephen's Basilica, or walk down the Vaci utca, the city's most



famous street. It's worth going to the top of Gellért Hill. One of the first places you should visit is the bar Szimpla Kert. It's one of the most popular places in Budapest, known as a ruin pub, which has got a bit of everything. The decor is completely made out of old objects. All this colourful recycled stuff makes a huge impression.

**1 it's worth adding that...** | warto dodać, że...

**tight** | tu: ograniczony  
**including sth** | włącznie z czymś  
**flight** | lot  
**underground** | metro  
**must-see list** | lista rzeczy, które koniecznie trzeba zobaczyć  
**funicular** | kolejka linowo-szynowa

**heritage** **heritidz** | dziedzictwo, spuścizna

**renowned** | znany, słynny

**to take a ride** | przejechać się

**shallow** | płytka

**to fit** | mieścić

**carriage** | wagon

**escalator** | schody ruchome

**to struggle** | zmagać się

**to keep one's balance** | utrzymać równowagę

**significance** | znaczenie

**skyscraper** | drapacz chmur

**tenement** | kamienica

**row** **rəʊ** | rząd

**shared** | dzielony, wspólny

**to evoke sth** | przywoływać coś

**to get in** | wchodzić

**2 made out of sth** | zrobiony z czegoś  
**stuff** | rzeczy

The Church of the Assumption of the Buda Castle, more commonly known as the Matthias Church, is a Roman Catholic church located at the heart of Buda's Castle District.



**3 breath-taking** | zapierający dech w piersiach  
**in terms of sth** | pod względem czegoś  
**actually** | rzeczywiście  
**to sway beneath sb** | kołyśać się pod kimś  
**sightseeing point** | punkt widokowy  
**spread out** | rozpostarty  
**to chat with sb** | gawędzić z kimś  
**famed for sth** | słynący z czegoś  
**leavened** | na zakwasie  
**deep-fried** | smażony na głębokim tłuszczu  
**4 garlic** | czosnek  
**to come in** | występować  
**to abound** | obfitować  
**dessert** | deser  
**when it comes to...** | jeśli chodzi o...  
**to stock up on sth** | zaopatrywać się w coś  
**spices** | przyprawy  
**cheerful** | radosny  
**saying** | powiedzenie  
**appropriate** | właściwy, odpowiedni

**EM:** What is the most breath-taking bridge in Budapest?

**AP:** I think the best-known one in terms of tourism is Széchenyi Chain Bridge, with its night-time illuminations, lion statues and an ideal view of castle hill. But my personal favourite is Elisabeth Bridge, because when you walk across it, you can actually feel the bridge swaying beneath you.

**EM:** Can you see a difference between Buda and Pest?

**AP:** The main difference is their locations. Most of Buda is high up, on hills, with the castle or other sightseeing points, from where you can see all of Pest spread out before you. You can also see a difference in the public transport. You get around Pest mostly on the underground. But it does go to Buda, too. I get the impression that Buda is more touristy and has more places to see.

**EM:** Can you communicate easily in English in the city?

**AP:** Yes, it's easy to get by in Budapest speaking English. Most people speak pretty good English and are quite happy to chat with you in it. In my four visits there, there's never been a problem with it.

**EM:** Are restaurants expensive? What dishes would you recommend?

**AP:** Let's start with alcohol. The best known wine is Tokaj. You can buy an original bottle of white, Hungarian Tokaj in a store for as little as 5 zł. As for the food in Hungary, they're famed for their goulash, the street food called lángos (flat leavened breads, usually deep-fried and

**crowded** | zatłoczony  
**without sth** | bez czegoś  
**in the background** | w tle  
**to come off sth** | tu: zrywać się  
**sweltering** | upalny  
**if you don't mind** | jeśli nie masz nic przeciwko  
**to disturb sb** | przeszkadzać komuś  
**to be in love with sth** | być w czymś zakochanym  
**objective** | obiektywny  
**love at first sight** | miłość od pierwszego wejrzenia  
**to chill out** | zrelaksować się  
**above all** | przede wszystkim, nade wszystko  
**to draw back** | przyciągać z powrotem

served with garlic, cream and cheese, and kalach (traditional Hungarian cake which comes in many flavours). Meat dishes abound, meat is the main component of most meals. Prices in the bars in the tourist areas are around 40 zł for a main meal with something to drink, dessert and a coffee come to around 20 zł. Budapest isn't expensive when it comes to shopping in supermarkets, and it's worth stocking up on some spices, especially Hungarian paprika.

**EM:** What is your personal opinion of Hungarians?

**AP:** Hungarians are open, cheerful and helpful. They like Polish people, so I get the impression that the old saying about the Hungarian and Pole, brothers in arms and in drink is quite appropriate. They're easy to get to know.

**EM:** Are there a lot of tourists in Budapest? Is the city crowded?

**AP:** My first trip to Budapest was in 2013, and the last time was in 2020. The city hasn't really changed much in that time, but the number of tourists has clearly grown, and there are more and more visitors from Asia. It's always crowded in the main tourist spots, the popular bars, like Szimpla. You can't take a selfie without other people in the background.

**EM:** What is the best time of the year to visit the city?

**AP:** In winter, it gets really cold and there's a cold wind that comes off the Danube, and in the summer it's sweltering, but if you don't mind the heat, the views from the hill are fantastic.

**EM:** Was there anything that disturbed you in Budapest?

**AP:** I've been in love with Budapest for years. Budapest is one of my top three favourite places in Europe. I can't be objective, because I really can't think of anything I dislike!

**EM:** What makes you go back to Budapest again and again?

**AP:** I can't even put it into words. It was love at first sight. Budapest is great for relaxing, walks, chilling out, it's got the perfect atmosphere. For me, above all, it's the atmosphere that keeps drawing me back. I ♥ Budapest.

# Cool Coldplay

by Kamil Drożdżyk

Don't let the name fool you – Coldplay has put out some hot hits these past decades. Let's see how a small-time college group rose to be one of the most iconic British bands of the 21st Century.



Leisure

**I**t was 1996 when Chris Martin, the soon-to-be lead vocalist of what would be Coldplay started studying at University College in London. There, during his orientation week, he met and befriended Johnny Buckland – the Johnny Buckland, nowadays best known as Coldplay's lead guitarist.

They quickly acknowledged their passion for music, and so a band called Pectoralz was formed. Later during the year they got themselves a bassist – Guy Berryman. As a trio, they played a couple of small gigs in some of Camden's many clubs. Later in 1996, the band was renamed Starfish. In 1997, William Champion, despite having no previous experience playing percussion, took up the role of drummer. Since the band's popularity was steadily growing, they also recruited Phil Harvey, Chris Martin's school friend, as the group's manager. They also ditched Starfish, and chose Coldplay as their name.

**0 to put sth out |**  
wyprodukować,  
opublikować coś

**small-time |** mało znaczący,  
drugorzędny  
**to rise to be |** stać się

## Breaking the Ice

The beginnings were far from fancy. A gig once in a blue moon in some dusty dive bar was all the band initially could hope for. At the beginning, Coldplay didn't even have a good

**1 lead vocalist |** główny wokalista  
**to befriend sb |** zaprzyjaźnić się z kimś  
**nowadays |** obecnie  
**to acknowledge sth |** tu: zauważać coś  
**gig |** pot. występ  
**to rename sth |** zmienić nazwę czegoś  
**starfish |** rozgwiazda  
**despite sth |** po/mimo czegoś  
**previous |** uprzedni, wcześniejszy

**to take up sth |** podjąć się czegoś  
**drummer |** perkusista  
**steadily |** stale  
**to ditch sth |** zarzucić coś  
**to break the ice |** przełamywać lody  
**2 fancy |** wyszukany, wymyślny  
**once in a blue moon |** od wielkiego dzwonu  
**dusty |** zakurzony  
**dive bar |** speluna  
**initially |** początkowo

## EP or LP?

EP and LP, which stand for Extended Play and Long Play, are names used to describe the length of a music record. EPs are usually much shorter than LPs and are more of a musical appetiser than the main dish. Both names come from the vinyl era. In the streaming era, however, artists can label an hour long record an EP, and call a 20-minute album an LP – it's all about how they want fans to perceive their projects.

to stand for sth | oznaczać coś

Extended Play | minialbum, epka

Long Play | płyta długogrająca

appetiser | przystawka

to perceive sth | postrzegać coś

Chris Martin cold shouldered William Champion and fired him from Coldplay. A rock band without anyone to man the drums doesn't sound like a great idea, though, so soon enough, Chris regretted his decision, went on a drinking binge and finally begged William to come back. Thankfully, the band got its drummer back, and the album got finished. From then on, the band's members agreed they wouldn't ever have a leader – everyone in Coldplay would be equal, and all future disputes would be solved together.

## Coldplay's Breakthrough

Although the second EP wasn't a smash hit, things started to look up for Coldplay after its release. They got more and more shows, more radio play, and along with that, of course, more fans. It was high time to record their debut long player – Parachutes. Before the album came out in UK in July 2001, two singles were released – Shivers and Yellow – and both of them hit the charts. Shivers landed at 35th on the UK Singles Chart, while Yellow marks the band's first appearance in the top 5 of the UK Singles Charts, peaking at number 4. If that doesn't impress, then maybe the fact that the whole album itself debuted at the very top of the UK Album Charts will do.

So, there they were, the most popular band in UK at the time. Where does Coldplay go from there? They go and conquer the rest of the world, of course. In November, Parachutes was released in the US and, although it took a while, the album

place to practise, not to mention a proper studio. In one interview, Johny Buckland admitted that, at the beginning, thanks to his understanding neighbours, the band was allowed to practice in his flat.

Coldplay's first EP, Safety, was recorded in just one weekend, somewhere around May 1998. The tracklist comprised of just three songs and the record was no longer than 15 minutes. The EP was a demo disc, which was distributed among recording labels, radios and friends of the members of the band. At the end of the day, just around 50 copies of Safety were sold in music stores.

## A Big Deal about a Big Deal

The demo-sending strategy adapted by Coldplay with their first EP seems to have worked. Just a few months later, in early 1999, they struck a deal with a record label, and a big one at that – Parlophone Records, the label which released all of the Beatles' studio albums. The band signed a five-album contract, which was a pretty good deal considering that, at the time, they were still greenhorns. The burdens of finding money to rent a recording studio, promoting their music and finding a publisher were taken right out of their hands.

The year 1999 also marks the band's first major show at the Glastonbury Festival, one of the most important annual music festivals in Great Britain. Coldplay did not appear on the main stage (which was that year occupied by much bigger bands and artists such as REM, Lenny Kravitz and Blondie) and, well... their name was written in a rather small print on the line-up poster. They played their gig in an area called the New Tent, which was a place for new and upcoming artists to play their music in front of a larger audience. That year, Muse, another popular British band nowadays, also played in the New Tent.

With some more experience under their belts, as well as a fresh record deal which made a lot of things much easier for Coldplay, the band's members decided to record another EP – The Blue Room. It was... an interesting time for the musicians.

3 not to mention | nie

wspominając

to admit that... | przyznać, że...

to allow sb to do sth |

pozwolić komuś coś

zrobić

EP | minialbum

safety | bezpieczeństwo

to comprise of sth | składać

się z czegoś, obejmować

coś

to seem | wydawać się

a few | kilka

to strike a deal with sb

| podpisać z kimś umowę

record label | wytwórnia

muzyczna

to release sth | wydać coś

greenhorn | żółtodziób

burden 'bɜ:dən / 'bɜ:rdn |

ciężar, obciążenie

major | większy

annual | coroczny

to appear | pojawiać się

print | czcionka

line-up poster | plakat

z programem wydarzeń

upcoming | nadchodzący,

zblizający się

to have sth under one's belt

| mieć coś na swoim koncie

4 to cold shoulder sb | chłodno

kogoś potraktować

to fire sb from sth | wyrzucić

kogoś z czegoś, zwolnić kogoś

without sb | bez kogoś

to regret sth | pożałować

czegoś

binge bindʒ | popijawać

to beg sb | błagać kogoś

to agree | zgodzić się,

uzgodnić

equal | równy

solved | rozwiązywany

breakthrough | przełom

smash hit | przebój

to look up | wyglądać coraz

lepiej

parachute 'pærəfju:t

| spadochron

shiver | dreszcz

to hit the charts | podbić listy

przebojów

to mark sth | odnotować coś

appearance | pojawienie się

to peak | tu:skoczyć

to conquer sth | podbić,

podbiąć coś



Parachutes won numerous awards, with the most important ones being the Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album and Best British Album at the 2001 Brit Awards.

ultimately gained some recognition there... And then even more... And more... Until it went double platinum.

Parachutes also won numerous awards, with the most important ones being the Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album and Best British Album at the 2001 Brit Awards.

## Continuity is Key

From then on, the group's position was more or less solidified in the music industry. After Parachutes, came A Rush of Blood to the Head, which brought the band two more Grammies and two more awards at the 2003 Best British Albums. Two of the band's biggest hits, *Clocks* and *The Scientist* can be heard on their second album.

The following years were even more fruitful for Coldplay, with their third LP, *X&Y* topping the charts in twenty countries. In 2008, after two years of hard work, the band's fourth full-length studio album came out. It featured production from a legendary ambient producer – Brian Eno. Once again, it quickly took the charts by storm and yet another three Grammies found their way onto the band's shelf. The fifth LP spawned another big hit – *Paradise*, and the Mylo Xyloto Tour turned out to be one of the biggest tours of 2011 with over 170 million dollars made on ticket sales.

The next albums – *Ghost Stories*, released in 2014, and *A Head Full Of Dreams* which came out just a year later, were also commercially successful. Millions of copies were sold and individual tracks from the albums occupied the tippy-tops of the charts all over the world for a long while.

## Coldplay Today

Coldplay's last but one album, *Everyday Life*, came out in November 2019. It is, perhaps, their most experimental album to date. It received majorly positive reviews – the critics appreciated the band's venture to explore and connect other genres with rock, as well as the album's lyrics, which put great focus on current social issues.

Their newest release – *Music of The Spheres* – has just recently come out and is still being discussed in the music world. If you're a fan, you've surely heard it by now. If not, maybe you'd like to give it a go?

5 **ultimately** | w końcu, ostatecznie

**to gain recognition** | zyskać uznanie

**continuity** | ciągłość

**solidified** | umocniony, ugruntowany

**to top the charts** | być numerem jeden na listach przebojów

**ambient producer** | producent nastrojowej muzyki

**to take sth by storm** | z/robić furorę

**to spawn sth** | spłodzić coś

**to turn out** | okazać się

**tippy-top** | najwyższe miejsce

6 **to date** | do chwili obecnej

**to appreciate sth** | doceniać coś

**venture** | przedsięwzięcie, podejmowanie się czegoś

**genre** | gatunek

**lyrics** | słowa

**to put focus on sth** | kłaść nacisk na coś

**current** | obecny

**social issue** | sprawa/kwestia społeczna

**to give sth a go** | spróbować czegoś

# A Personal Glance at the US

by Katarzyna Szpotakowska

*Ameryka i My* (America and Us) written by Lidia Krawczuk and Paweł Żuchowski is a personal account of the life and work of two journalists in the USA. It is a book about famous places, prominent figures and memorable events in contemporary American history.

**E**ight chapters of the book focus consecutively on the White House, Hollywood, NYC, a high-wire artist, the presidential election, the space shuttle, natural disasters and finally funerals. All the chapters are unique and very personal. Interestingly, they present the points of view, observations and remarks of both authors separately.

## Earthquakes & Hurricanes

The 7th chapter – the one about natural disasters – is really remarkable, and gives the reader a lot of food for thought. We all have seen movies or series about earthquakes, floods or perhaps an avalanche, with their dramatic action and rapidly developing plots. However, the picture of a natural disaster as depicted by Lidia and Paweł seems, in fact, to be different from what can be seen on the big screen. It focusses on the response and measures taken by different American governments when faced with such a calamity. In this chapter, you will also learn about the places in the US which are most frequently exposed to



natural disasters, American citizens' attitudes to life's challenges and adversities, the meaning of a helping hand when a hurricane strikes, and the safety measures and procedures applied by state authorities. All in all, it is a valuable account straight from the horse's mouth.

**0** glance at sth | rzut oka na coś  
**account** | relacja  
**journalist** | dziennikarz  
**prominent** | wybitny  
**memorable** | pamiętny  
**contemporary** | współczesny  
**1 chapter** | rozdział  
**to focus on sth** | skupiać się na czymś

**consecutively** *kən'sekjətivli*

| kolejno, z rzędu

**high-wire** | lina do balansowania

**space shuttle** | wahadłowiec, prom kosmiczny

**natural disaster** | katastrofa naturalna

**funeral** *'fju:nərəl* | pogrzeb

**remark** | uwaga

**separately** | osobno

**earthquake** | trzęsienie ziemi

**hurricane** *'hʌrɪkən / 'hɜːrɪkən* | huragan

**food for thought** | coś

zmuszającego do refleksji, materiał do przemyśleń

**flood** | powódź

**avalanche** *'ævələ:nj / 'ævəlæntʃ* | lawina

**plot** | fabuła

**depicted** | przedstawiony, odmalowany

**to seem** | wydawać się

**measure** | środek

**calamity** | klęska, katastrofa

**exposed to sth** | narażony na coś

**2 attitude to sth** | nastawienie względem czegoś

**adversity** | przeciwność

**safety measures** | środki bezpieczeństwa

**applied by sth** | za/stosowany przez coś

**state authorities** | władze państwowie, organy państwa

**all in all** | ogólnie rzecz biorąc

**straight from the horse's mouth** | z pierwszej ręki



## The Ambassadors of Hollywood

If you want to experience the real Hollywood, you'll definitely want to watch the documentary *The Ambassadors of Hollywood* about the people dressed up as movie characters who earn their living by greeting and taking photos with tourists on the Walk of Fame. They're a group of eccentrics, outcasts and oddballs who live from hand to mouth, wait for tips and are actually despised by the police and city officials. They're controversial individuals that are considered adorable by some, but for others may, in fact, seem quite creepy. Watch the documentary and experience the memorable walk on the Walk of Fame with its bizarre inhabitants.



**definitely** | zdecydowanie

**to earn one's living** | zarabiać na życie

**outcast** | wyrzutek

**oddball** | dziwak

**to live from hand to mouth**

| klepać biedę

**tip** | napiwek

**actually** | w rzeczywistości

**despised by sb**

| znienawidzony przez kogoś

**creepy** | odrażający

**bizarre** | dziwaczny, osobliwy

**inhabitant** | mieszkańców

**3 in close-up** | z bliska, w zbliżeniu  
**furthermore** | ponadto  
**to broaden sth** | poszerzyć coś  
**in order to** | aby, żeby  
**head of state** | głowa państwa  
**public health campaign** | społeczna kampania zdrowotna  
**last but not least** | ostatnie, ale nie mniej ważne  
**to hesitate** | wahać się  
**without sth** | bez czegoś  
**glitz and glamour** | blichtr i przepych  
**to strip sth of sth** | odzierać coś z czegoś  
**to turn out** | okazywać się

**4 average-looking** | przeciętnie wyglądający  
**pavement** | chodnik  
**lingerie shop** | sklep z bielizną  
**ordinary** | zwyczajny, zwykły  
**homeless** | bezdomny  
**dressed up as sb** | przebrany za kogoś  
**nicknamed** | nazywany, o ksywce  
**to live up to sb's expectations** | spełniać czyjeś oczekiwania  
**to appreciate sth** | doceniać coś  
**disappointed** | rozczarowany  
**to get down to sth** | zabrać się do czegoś  
**available** | dostępny



## America in Close-up

**Furthermore, Ameryka i My** provides a great opportunity to broaden your knowledge about the country's culture. For instance, in the first chapter, the authors describe the tradition of the State Dinner – a dinner held in order to honour a head of state that is visiting the US – as well as the White House Rose Garden, the Turkey Pardon Event, the White House East Room and Blue Room, the Let's Move! public health campaign, the White House bees and last but not least Jacqueline Kennedy's White House restoration project. If you are curious to learn more about these things, don't hesitate to reach for the book.

which is visited by millions of people every year, turns out to be an average-looking pavement next to an average-looking street surrounded by night clubs, lingerie shops as well as other ordinary stores. When they visited, there were some homeless people there, as well as some people dressed up as film characters, nicknamed 'the ambassadors of Hollywood.' Even the Kodak Theatre and the famous red carpet, which in fact turned out to be a piece of red floor-carpeting, did not live up to the journalists' expectations.

## 270 pages

All in all, *Ameryka i My* is a book for everyone, for those who are mad about the US and those who appreciate quiet moments spent on the sofa with a nice book to read. You'll not be disappointed that you took it down from the bookstore's shelf, and later on you may even decide to get down to listening to some of Lidia's podcasts *Ameryka i ja* (America and Me) that are available online.

# Rack Your Brain

by Katarzyna Szpotakowska

## 1. Decipher the words from the text Deceived by Appearances.

b b a e y \_\_\_\_\_  
 le u f \_\_\_\_\_  
 a v i n h s \_\_\_\_\_  
 a b l e v u l n e r \_\_\_\_\_  
 i m p r s e s o i n b a e l \_\_\_\_\_  
 y b e a u t \_\_\_\_\_  
 u o s d s i s a r t \_\_\_\_\_  
 t e n b r i g h \_\_\_\_\_  
 a l h t u o g h \_\_\_\_\_  
 e d c e v e i \_\_\_\_\_

deceived *dɪ'si:vɪd* | oszukany

appearances | pozory

Answer key: a. *abbey*, f. *fuel*, v. *vanish*, v. *vulnerable*, i. *impressible*, b. *beauty*, f. *disastrous*, b. *brighten*, d. *although*, h. *deceive*

## 2. Read *Lucky 7*. Find the synonyms for the following words/expressions.

a. valuable - \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. item, product - \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. tricky, inconvenient - \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. smooth, glossy - \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. cost, fee - \_\_\_\_\_  
 f. earnings - \_\_\_\_\_  
 g. enlarge, expand - \_\_\_\_\_  
 h. multitude - \_\_\_\_\_  
 i. worry, apprehension - \_\_\_\_\_  
 j. omnipresent - \_\_\_\_\_

**inconvenient** | niedogodny, niewygodny  
**smooth** | gładki  
**fee** | opłata

**earnings** | zarobki  
**apprehension** | *tu:łek*, obawa  
**omnipresent** | wszechobecny

g. increase, h. myriad, i. multitude, j. ubiquitous  
 Answer key: a. *precious*, b. *commodity*, c. *awkward*, d. *slim*, e. *expenses*, f. *income*,

## 3. Match the picture with the right word.

landscape pupil blurred slim gig parachute



## 4. Use the words from activity 1 to fill in the gaps.

a. It must have been a ghost or an extraterrestrial creature. It was standing right here, in front of me, and then literally ..... into the air.  
 b. He is at such an ..... age. He doesn't want to listen to his parents at all. He listens only to his friends.  
 c. ..... is in the eye of the beholder.  
 d. She didn't take any warm clothes, ..... she knew it would be very cold there.  
 e. Have you ever been to Westminster ..... ?  
 f. The consequences of the reform may be v to the local community.  
 g. Within the next few days, we'll experience a shortage of ..... and supplies.  
 h. The sky hasn't ..... yet, let's wait inside.  
 i. Don't give him too much negative feedback. He is really ..... to criticism.  
 j. You might have been able to ..... others, but not me. I see through you.

**extraterrestrial** | *ekstrateryestriski*

| pozaziemski

**literally** | *literyalni* | dosłownie

**at all** | w ogóle

**beholder** | obserwator

**community** | społeczność

**shortage of sth** | brak, niedobór

**czegoś**

**supplies** | zaopatrzenie, prowiant

**criticism** | *kritisizam* | krytyka

**I see through you.** | Przejrzalem cię na wylot.

Answer key: a. *vanished*, b. *impressible*, f. *disastrous*, c.

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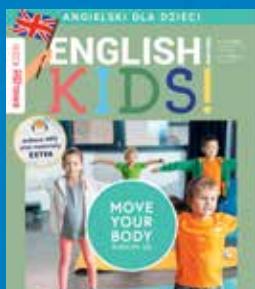
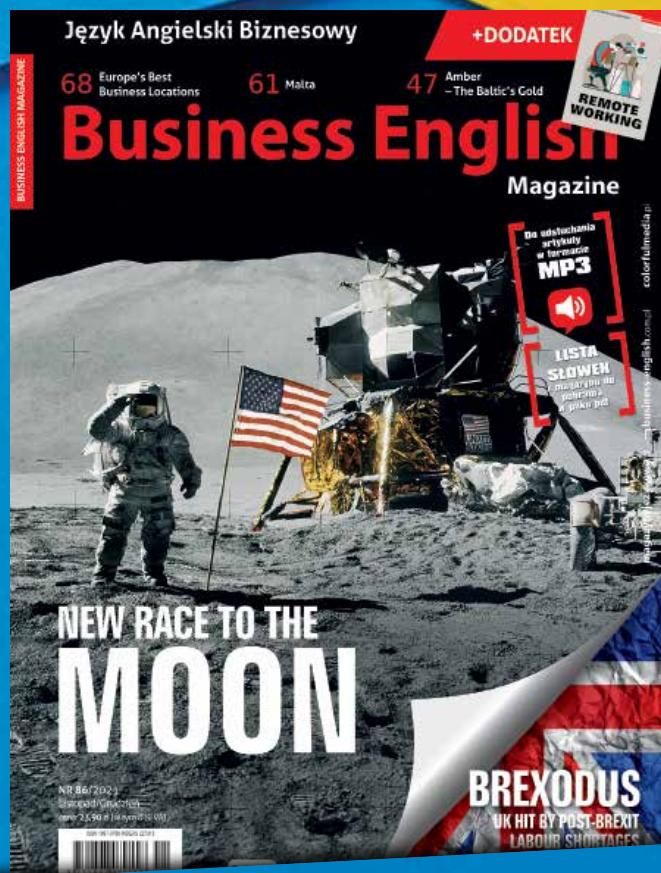


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