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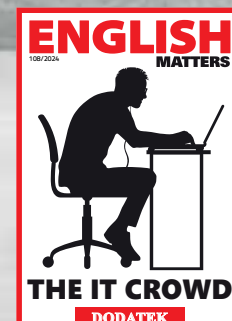
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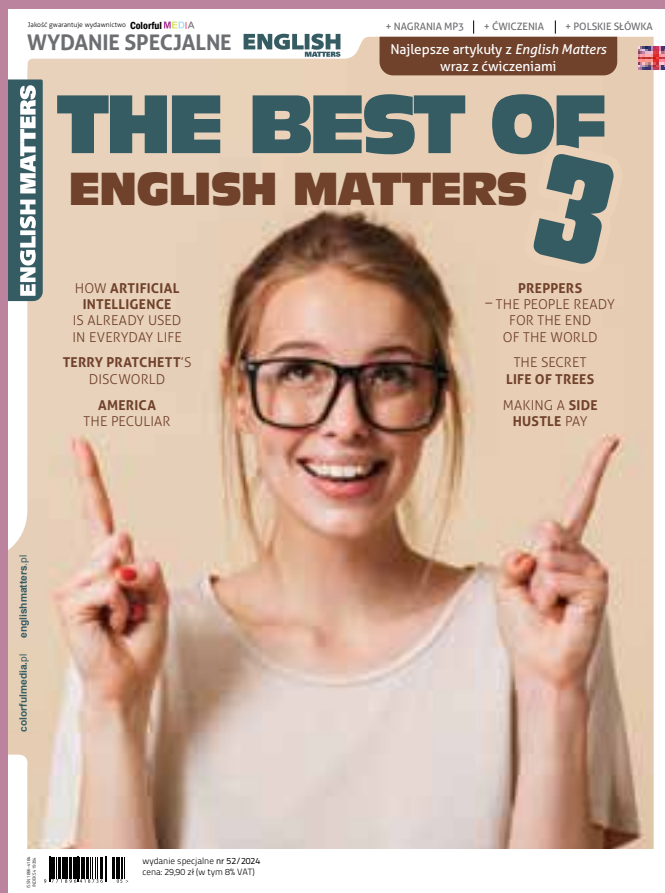
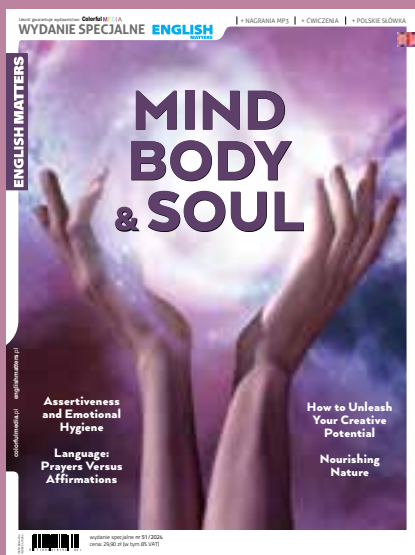
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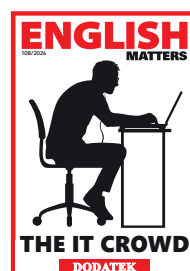
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PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLE

In this edition of
English Matters,
we present journalist
Maciej Okraszewski,
the creator of the
Foreign Affairs
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(dzialzagraniczny.pl)
– a place where you
can learn about
everything that
isn't mentioned in
mainstream media.



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*It All Adds Up:
Mathematical
Language*



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ENGLISH MATTERS

magazyn dla uczących się
języka angielskiego
dwumiesięcznik

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ENSHITTIFICATION

Enshittification is a (slightly vulgar, mind you) term referring to the gradual decline in quality of online platforms. The term was coined by a Canadian-British journalist and writer, Cory Doctorow, in 2022 and has since gained massive popularity, as it describes a previously nameless phenomenon experienced by millions of internet users on a daily basis. According to Doctorow, the *modus operandi* of the companies that own the now enshittified platforms is always the same. First, they're good to their users, then abuse their users to cater to business customers, and then swindle both the casual users and the business customers to make more money for themselves. The ongoing process of enshittification can currently be noticed in the services of platforms such as YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and TikTok. One of the most severe examples, however, is Google, which Doctorow called "the poster child of enshittification". In Doctorow's words, the "company that revolutionized the internet a quarter of a century ago with a search-engine that was so good that it felt like *magic* (...) has decayed so badly and so rapidly that whole sections of the internet are disappearing from view for the 90% of users who rely on the search engine as their gateway to the Internet". Perhaps it's time to look for an alternative?

mind you | uważaj na coś, miej coś na uwadze

gradual | stopniowy

decline | upadek

coined | ukuty

previously | uprzednio, wcześniej

phenomenon | zjawisko

on a daily basis | codziennie

according to X | według X

to abuse sb | wykorzystywać kogoś

to cater to sb | zaspokajać czyjeś żądania, potrzeby

to swindle sb | oszukiwać kogoś; wyłudzać od kogoś pieniądze

ongoing | toczący się

currently | obecnie

poster child | *tu*: podręcznikowy przykład

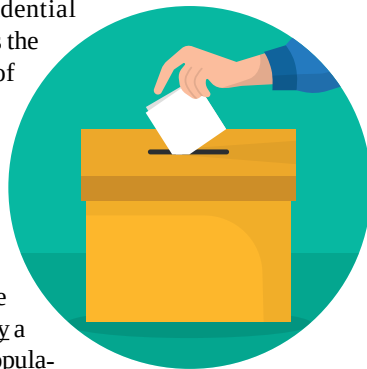
to decay | rozpadać się, *tu*: zepsuć się, pogorszyć się

to disappear from view | znikać z widoku

to rely on sth | polegać na czymś

THE YEAR OF ELECTIONS

Although the US presidential election takes the cake as the hottest political topic of 2024, the year is notable for the unusually large number of elections being held worldwide. 2024 has been dubbed the super-election year, as roughly 2 billion people worldwide (approximately a quarter of the world's population) are, or already were, eligible to vote in elections this year. Aside from the US presidential election, other notable elections that have taken place or are yet to occur in 2024 are the European Parliament election, the North Korean parliamentary election, the Iranian presidential election, the Taiwanese presidential election, and the Russian presidential election.



although | chociaż

to take the cake | *tu*: zajmować pierwsze miejsce

dubbed | nazwany

roughly | *tu*: z grubsza

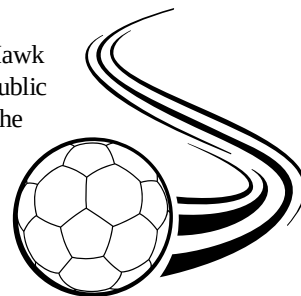
approximately | około, w przybliżeniu

eligible | uprawniony

aside from X | oprócz X

HAWK EYE

If you're a football nerd, the Hawk Eye technology used by Polish public state broadcaster TVP during the UEFA Euro 2024, might be right up your alley. The ground-breaking AI-based technology has made it possible to display additional information on-screen during matches. You can, for example, see the names of players displayed above their heads, just like in FIFA video games. Thanks to the tracker placed in the ball, viewers can also see the ball's speed and the distance of a pass or goal. On top of that, there are tons of additional stats shown on screen, such as the chance of scoring a goal from a specific position on the pitch based on historical data from hundreds of matches. For now, only TVP seems to be using the tech, but, who knows – maybe they're pioneering the future of football broadcasting.



nerd | maniak, fanatyk

right up your alley | idealny, odpowiedni dla kogoś

groundbreaking | przełomowy

to display sth | zaprezentować, pokazać coś

on top of that | poza tym

pitch | boisko

to seem | wydawać się

ABLAUT REDUPLICATION

What do the words *hip-hop*, *ding-dong*, and *shipshape* have in common? All of them follow the ablaut reduplication pattern. It's a linguistic phenomenon describing how vowels are changed when repeating words in order to create a new, 'pleasant' sounding word or phrase. Take the word *zig*, duplicate it, but change the vowel from *i* to *a*, and you end up with *zig-zag*. Sounds good, doesn't it? Way better than *zag-zig*, or *zog-zig*. For some reason, the order of *i-a-o* (like in *tic tac toe*) seems to be the most natural choice for most people. Turns out, plenty of us already know this rule and follow it instinctively – but now, you know its name.

ablaut | ablaut, przegłos
to have sth in common
| mieć coś wspólnego
vowel | samogłoska

in order to | aby, żeby
order | porządek,
kolejność

LINGUA FRANCA

English is by far the most spoken language in the world. It's currently one of the only two languages spoken by over a billion people worldwide (the other being Hindi). It's estimated that nearly 1.5 billion people could speak English as of 2023. That means that almost one in five people worldwide could understand this article. Interestingly enough, only 380 million of the total English speakers are native speakers. According to a study conducted by David Graddol of the British Council in 1997, three billion people were expected to be speaking English by 2015. Although behind schedule, we're certainly making progress in this regard.

by far | jak dotąd
nearly | prawie
behind schedule | z opóźnieniem

to make progress | robić postępy
in this regard | pod tym względem,
w tym sensie



THE CROWDSTRIKE INCIDENT

On July 19, 2024, the American cybersecurity company, CrowdStrike, rolled out an update to its software that turned out to be quite problematic, to say the least. The update caused a multitude of issues on computers using Windows as their operating system. As a result, around 8.5 million computers collectively crashed, displaying the infamous *blue screen of death*, and were unable to be restarted. Although private computers were not affected by the outage, as ordinary people don't use CrowdStrike's software, banks, airports, retail stores, hotels, hospitals and many more services and businesses suffered major issues. The 'little' setback is estimated to have cost at least 10 billion dollars in damage. The issues have since been resolved, but the incident shows just how reliant the modern world is on technology that's prone to failure. Scary!

to roll sth out | *tu*: wprowadzić, wdrażać coś
update | aktualizacja
to turn out | okazywać się
to say the least | delikatnie mówiąc
infamous | owiany złą sławą
outage | przestój, przerwa w dostawie (prądu)
ordinary | zwyczajny, zwykły
retail store | sklep detaliczny
at least | co najmniej
resolved | rozwiązany
reliant on sth | zależny od czegoś
prone to sth | podatny na coś
failure | porażka, niepowodzenie

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This is Phillip /'fɪlɪp/. He's a very playful /'pleɪfəl/ elephant /'elɪfənt/. And in the next enclosure, you can see gophers /'gəʊfəz/ frolicking /'frɒlɪkɪŋ/ with giraffes /dʒɪ'rɑ:fs/.

playful | wesoły, żwawy
enclosure | zagroda
gopher | suseł
to frolick with sb/sth | dokazywać z kimś/czymś

definition	/,dɛfɪ'nɪʃən/ definicja
first	/fɜ:st/ pierwszy
food	/fu:d/ jedzenie
graph	/grɑ:f/ wykres, graf
photo	/'fəʊtəʊ/ zdjęcie
sheriff	/'ʃerɪf/ szeryf
waffle	/'wɒfəl/ gofr, wafel

What a phenomenal /fə'nɒmɪnəl/ goal! Just look at the footwork /'fʊtɹɜ:k/ ! France /frɑ:ns/ are definitely /'dɛfɪnətli/ aiming for /fə/ the trophy /'trɒfi/ this year.

definitely | zdecydowanie

/f/

Brace yourself for another sound of the English phonemic alphabet – the /f/ sound. The voiceless labiodental fricative is a remarkably common consonant. It appears in five words in the first sentence of this article alone. It's the second most common of nine fricative sounds in the English phonemic alphabet, bested only by /s/. Thankfully, it's pretty easy to master it, as it's just as common in hundreds other languages. You've most likely used it millions of times in your native language already, but let's take a closer look at its role in English.

First of all, the sound is voiceless, which means we won't have to engage our

vocal cords to make it. The word *labiodental* tells us that the sound is made by touching our lips with our teeth. Lastly, it's a fricative. It means it's made by pushing air out through a narrow space created between our lips and teeth.

The sound is usually spelled simply with the letter *f* (fridge /fɾɪdʒ/, fun /fʌn/), but it's also common to see it spelled with the consonant cluster *ph* (philosophy /fɪ'ləsəfi/, phone /fəʊn/). Although it's less common, there are words in which the /f/ sound appears as *gh* (cough /kɒf/, enough /ɪ'naʌf/).

The consonant can appear just about anywhere in a word. It can start it (feel /fi:l/, frisbee /'frɪzbi:/), be in the middle (different /'dɪfərənt/, office /'ɒfɪs/), or at the very end of it (tough /tʌf/, laugh /lɑ:f/).

To make the sound, lightly touch your bottom lip with your upper teeth and let the air out through the narrow gap you've just created. Don't worry about your tongue – it's not participating in the process of making this particular sound. Let it rest in its neutral position.

Make sure not to make the sound voiced. If you do, you will create the /v/ sound. Another common mistake is to pronounce the sound /θ/ as /f/. The difference,

Sound & Speech

however, is that the /θ/ sound is made by placing your tongue between your upper and lower teeth. Keep that in mind when pronouncing words such as three and free. Knowing the difference is very important.

to brace oneself for sth | przygotować się na coś

voiceless labiodental fricative | spółgłoska szczelinowa wargowo-zębowa bezdźwięczna
consonant | spółgłoska

bested by sth | pokonany przez coś

to master sth | opanować coś

most likely | najprawdopodobniej

first of all | po pierwsze

vocal cords | struny głosowe

lastly | wreszcie, na koniec

cluster | zbitka spółgłoskowa

although | chociaż

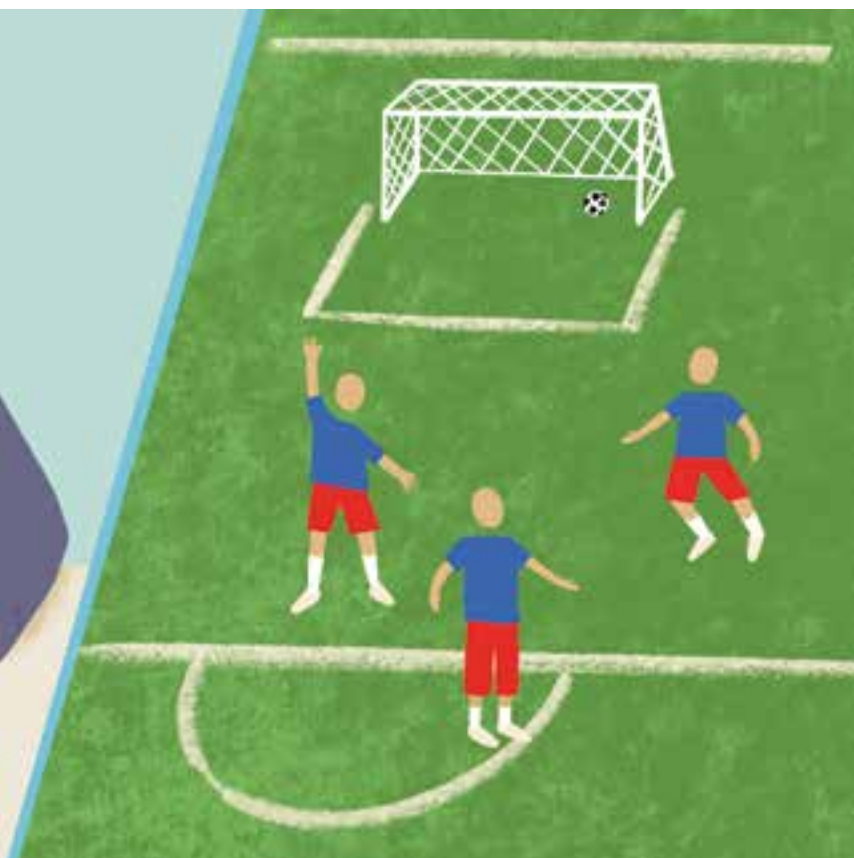
cough | kaszel

in the middle | w środku

bottom | tu: dolny

to let the air out | wypuścić powietrze

tongue | język



Foreign Affairs Department – Maciej Okraszewski tells us what it's all about

by Hanna Danielczak-Ziadi, with thanks to my son, Adam, who inspired this interview.

In this edition of English Matters, we present journalist Maciej Okraszewski, the creator of the Foreign Affairs Department (dzialzagraniczny.pl) – a place where you can learn about everything that isn't mentioned in mainstream media. Information from the Foreign Affairs Department is usually available in several formats – podcast, video, and article. Thanks to the Foreign Affairs Department, you can find out, for example, why Germans are arguing about heating, how family returns are changing Thailand, how the “owner” of Georgia is paralysing it with massive trees, why thousands of sighthounds are abandoned in Spain, and who rules the seas and oceans. Let's get started!



mentioned | wspomniany
available | dostępny
to find out | dowiedzieć się
to argue about sth | kłócić się, spierać się o coś
heating | ogrzewanie
owner | właściciel
Georgia | Gruzja
sighthound | chart
to rule sth | rządzić czymś



Hello. I'm delighted that you could find the time for this interview.

Hello! No problem at all.

I learned about the Foreign Affairs Department from my 17-year-old son, and I must say I was impressed that he was the one to tell me about it, as well as discovering the existence of a source of information containing such original and inspiring content. Could you tell our readers a bit about yourself?

Sure. First of all, I still see myself as a simple guy from Łódź. Łódź is the most important city in my life in every way, also because it was the centre of my life for the first dozen or so years. I spent a lot of my childhood alone, as I'm an only child, and my parents worked very hard. My father would get up at 5 am, go to work, stop at a newsstand, buy Gazeta Wyborcza, come back with bread rolls and the newspaper, and when I woke up in the morning before school to make my breakfast, I would immediately open that Gazeta Wyborcza to the World section and

read what Wojciech Jagielski was writing about Afghanistan, Chechnya, or the Democratic Republic of Congo. So, when the time came later to think about what to do after high school, I knew I wanted to leave Łódź, which was also a place that most of us were trying to escape from at that time. I think that well over half of the people from my year in high school left the city, and later the country too, because it was 2003, a year before Poland joined the EU. I knew I just wanted to see the world, and I wanted to tell stories from that world to other ordinary guys from Łódź, like me, who are also sitting in their kitchens, eating bread rolls, and reading about what's happening in Congo, for example.

Were your parents involved in travel or teaching in any way?

No, my parents weren't involved in those fields. They are doctors. They never travelled very much, but when they did, it was to visit our family in Brazil.

Given that our main mission is teaching foreign languages, I would

WARTO ZAPAMIĘTAĆ!

on an ongoing basis
na bieżąco

like to ask how many languages you speak and how you assess their usefulness in accessing accurate information. Would it be possible at all to run a foreign affairs section, for example, knowing only Polish?

No. Even knowing only English, in my opinion, it wouldn't be possible. I'm proficient in English because my parents sent me to English classes. They really wanted me to know a foreign language. That was still during the PRL [Polish People's Republic]. So I've been speaking English since I was young. Later, in elementary school, my mother also decided that it would be good for me to learn German, because it's a language worth knowing. I used to speak German fluently, but I stopped using it after high school.

Of course, I also speak Spanish, and it's my favourite language.

Why is it your favourite language? When I use Spanish, my mood automatically improves. I've also heard that when you know several foreign languages, you acquire mentalities associated with those languages. They coexist within us. How is it for you?

1 containing sth | zawierający coś
content | zawartość

first of all | po pierwsze
newsstand | kiosk

2 to join sth | dołączyć do czegoś
ordinary | zwyczajny

involved in sth | zaangażowany w coś
given that | zważywszy, że

3 to assess sth | ocenić coś
to run a foreign affairs section

| prowadzić dział zagraniczny
worth sth | wart/y czegoś

fluently | biegle

to improve | polepszać się

to acquire sth | nabyć coś

When we use, speak other languages, our personality changes, and I think that my Spanish personality is simply my best personality.

Beautiful words for those who are learning Spanish.

Yes, it's my favourite language, only I speak Spanish in a strange way because I didn't really learn it formally, like I did English and German. I actually taught myself Spanish on the spot – a bit in Spain, a bit in South America.

That's probably the best way, right?

Yes, although in my case it means I mix different dialects. I can use Andalusian, Rioplatense, or sometimes I slip into "seseo"* in a single sentence. Andalusians say a lot of "s" instead of "c," for example, "muszaszo," "muszo"*** instead of "muchacho," "mucho."

So instead of "c," they say "s," right?

It depends on which ones. You know, eastern Andalusia, western Andalusia, they're not the same, and there are also urban dialects, and so on. But I actually do that too, both because of that and because I have this really strong Rioplatense accent from Buenos Aires at times, so sometimes my brain automatically switches a word to a Portuguese word from Brazil, because, for example, I have problems with Portuguese from Portugal, although I also speak it.

Portuguese is very similar to Spanish. More similar than Italian, right?

Oh, definitely.

Do you also speak Swahili?

I used to, but only in the present tense. I spent a few months in Tanzania. In Tanzania, everyone communicates in Swahili due to free and universal public education, which is quite unusual for a Sub-Saharan African country. All

primary education is conducted in this language, which served as a unifying factor for the nation, as there are over 150 different ethnic groups there.

When I arrived there and lived in the countryside, I had to learn a bit of Swahili. And since it's a language that was created as a mixture of various other languages, primarily for trade, it's incredibly simple. Like an East African Esperanto. After a few months, it allowed me to explore Zanzibar for free – everyone was shocked that I could communicate fairly fluently.

How did you come to focus on Afro-Latinos and the Iberian Peninsula?

At first, I wanted to focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. That interested me more. My trip to Tanzania was my first big, independent trip. And that's when I realised that even with the language, I still felt like an outsider. I had a great ability to fit into different environments, and I still do, but despite that openness, I still felt like I didn't belong there. And there were a few situations that made me realise I would never truly be from there. Just my skin colour shows that I don't belong. And I could surprise someone by knowing the language, by knowing a local rapper, for example. But even so, it won't be a hundred percent like being one of the guys. And in my journalism, I wanted to convey to my readers, my potential readers out there, intimate information about the place where I am. I didn't want to write about politics, I wanted to tell stories about what people are going through. In Sub-Saharan Africa, there are so many languages and dialects, people spend years studying these languages and still don't fully master them. So at that stage, I decided it didn't make sense.

How did you deal with rejections when submitting your articles to various

editorial offices, where you often heard, "Polish readers aren't interested in this"?

I continued working on things that didn't satisfy me, but every time I managed to tell a story about something that I thought was interesting, it actually gave me satisfaction. In the media, as a regular contributor, I persevered for many years, of course also doing various things on the side, because I couldn't survive financially. I was a copywriter in an advertising agency and did a few other things along the way, and in the afternoons I wrote my own texts – about what really interested me.

So, in short, you accepted the sad reality, the rejection, but you kept doing your own thing. And without a plan for whether it would work out or not, you just intuitively followed your own path.

Yes, I thought that if it interested me, it would probably interest some other people as well.

When did you start your blog?

In 2011.

So the podcast came a few years later, right?

Yes, the blog started in 2011 and gradually developed. I wanted to have a place where I could write something for myself. At first, I only wrote for a handful of friends. But over time, to my surprise, many people started appearing there – first a few dozen, then a few hundred, and towards the end even a few thousand. So after a few years, I started writing more articles than blog posts. I started the podcast in mid-2019, and in July, I published the first episode.

Was the podcast your idea?

I was burned out from commissioned journalism and writing. My partner told me then to start recording a podcast, and

4 on the spot | na miejscu

although | chociaż

to mix sth | mieszać coś

to slip into sth | tu: przerzucać się na coś

instead of sth | zamiast czegoś

to depend on sth | zależeć od czegoś

urban | miejski

to switch sth into sth | przerzucać coś na coś

definitely | zdecydowanie

due to sth | z powodu czegoś

5 primary education | podstawowa edukacja

conducted | prowadzony

in the countryside | na wsi

primarily | głównie, przede wszystkim

to allow sb to do sth | pozwolić komuś na z/robienie czegoś

to realise | zdać sobie sprawę

to fit into sth | dopasowywać się do czegoś

despite sth | po/mimo czegoś

a few | kilka

to convey sth to sb | przekazywać coś komuś

to master sth | opanować coś

rejection | odmowa

to submit sth to sb | dostarczać coś komuś

6 contributor | tu: współpracownik

to persevere | wytrwać

without sth | bez czegoś

whether | czy

gradually | stopniowo

handful of X | garstka X

dozen | tuzin

burned out | wypalony

commissioned | na zlecenie

I kept arguing – I said that in Poland, nobody knows what a podcast is and nobody listens to podcasts. In the end, I decided okay, I'll do it for a change of pace, so I'll completely change the form of the content, while keeping the content itself, that is, my information to the world. An additional incentive for change was that I was constantly being invited to Tok FM, Polish Radio, TVN, Polsat, and so on, to comment on the events I specialise in, only that everywhere I got a maximum of about ten minutes. I was known, let's say, in the environment of people dealing with foreign affairs, because I did what I did well, so if someone else was also doing it, they knew my name and once, twice, three times I ended up in front of a microphone, it turned out that I was able to quite efficiently and quickly summarise the relevant information. I decided that I wanted to create a programme where we could sit down and talk about a topic for 40 minutes, for example, not for five. And that's how the podcast started, but it wasn't meant to be a professional job. It was supposed to be something I would do after hours, which is why I started Patreon, mainly at my partner's suggestion. I was initially against this idea, because I thought that since my work is pro bono, I can't be paid for it. But on the other hand, you have to live from something, right? I was still looking for work. I still held on to the idea that I was going to work in a corporation, and after hours, in the afternoons, make the programme for myself.

You didn't consider it as a source of income at all?

No, not at all, there was no such idea. However, what happened was that I uploaded this podcast, which almost no one listened to at the beginning because no one listened to podcasts. So, when I published the first episode, I think about 100 people listened to it in the first week. When I published, say, the second, third, it was already about 200-300, but it was still a relatively small number. Then



I also started on Patronite – when the first payments appeared, I was surprised.

The situation changed during the pandemic, suddenly the number of orders for all the things I was doing dropped. Everything was focused on the coronavirus, I could write about the coronavirus, but it could also be done with agency materials, so I was no longer so needed. Secondly, the rates in the media were also lowered. For example, at Gazeta Wyborcza, I suddenly received only a quarter of my salary. That's a big

reduction. And at the same time, it was also the time when Spotify started literally forcing podcasts on users in Poland. Many people only then found out that something like a podcast even exists.

So a corporate job was definitely not for you.

Exactly. I figured, if that's the case, I'll go all in on it, and a few years later, thanks to that, I'm still the only person doing it full-time, but I actually collaborate with seven different people on a contract basis.

7 for a change of pace | dla odmiany
incentive | bodziec
to turn out that | okazać się, że
initially | początkowo
on the other hand | z drugiej strony
to look for sth | szukać czegoś
source of income | źródło dochodów

to upload sth | przesłać coś na stronę
a payment | *tu:* wpłata
order | zamówienie
to drop | *tu:* odpadać
focused on sth | skupiony na czymś, skoncentrowany wokół czegoś
rates | *tu:* stawki

lowered | obniżony, obcięty
quarter | jedna czwarta
9 literally | dosłownie
to force sth on sb | *tu:* wmuszać coś komuś
to figure | stwierdzić
on a contract basis | na umowę zlecenie

Listening to your interview with Maciej Orłoś, I came across an interesting part where you mentioned dividing your financial income into different categories. You mentioned that one-third of the income goes towards living expenses, one-third goes to collaborators, and one-third is a savings fund – I thought then about travel – how did you get funds for that?

Travel was a big problem at every stage, and paradoxically, it still is now, only for completely different reasons. At the beginning, I could count on the support of my parents. Additionally, I worked – when I came to Warsaw, I quickly found a job and earned about 2,500 zloty a month, sometimes more, sometimes less, but on average I earned that 2,500, and that was 20 years ago, and 2,500 zloty for me was really a lot of money back then, which I mostly didn't spend because I have a rather frugal lifestyle. I wouldn't say minimalist, but, for example – I'm talking to you wearing pants that I've had for about 5 years, a T-shirt that's probably 10 years old, and on the chair hangs a sweatshirt that I've also had for about 10 years. I don't have big consumer needs, I only spent on things that I really needed.

So that's how you got money for travel?

Yes, but also an important element of those trips was that they were absolutely low-cost, I would just go somewhere, quickly meet someone, stay with those people, we would share food, I always ate very little, I just adapted flexibly to the situation. Someone had a piece of floor and I slept on that floor, but it's also important to note that it's completely different when you're 25 years old and

completely different when you're 40, like I am now. I agree that around 40 you feel travel differently.

Do you still travel or is it no longer necessary now?

Travel is still absolutely necessary. You have to be on the spot, talk to people, check for yourself how something looks and works, and so on. Nothing can replace that, no source of information. You need to have contacts, you need to travel. I'm abroad at least once a month. I just returned from Italy, I'm going to Budapest next week, next month I'll be in London, in June I'll be in Paris, and these are just the trips that are already booked.

Do you always go abroad with a specific idea in mind?

I go for specific purposes, but I divide trips into those that will yield material and those that won't, which is – and this is the problem I mentioned earlier – if I'm going to do a report, I have to be prepared for it and I have to have time allocated for it, now, in addition, I never travel alone anymore, I always travel with an operator who records video, because the report is created in three versions: in written form, in audio form and in video form.

You've lived in different countries – which place do you think is the best place to live?

Finland, Denmark, generally these Nordic countries with very developed systems of social care. However, the question arises whether we would really want to live there and whether these people are happy.

Empirical experience shows that Spaniards are much happier, even though objectively speaking it is not the best country to live in, because it has a multitude of different structural problems, starting with unemployment, social

inequality, and so on, and of course corruption, which can even lead to something like the resignation of the king. On the one hand, we have objective factors, and on the other hand, a completely subjective, individual approach.

And personally, where was it best for you?

In Spain, without a doubt. I hope to return there permanently someday.

The world is obsessed with AI, chat-GPT, and so on. Do these tools help you in creating your foreign affairs section? And in general, do you rely on them?

No, not at all, these tools don't help me from a substantive point of view. From a substantive point of view, I actually discourage everyone from using AI, because it's a tool that can't be trusted in that regard. However, in my work, these tools greatly improve the speed of translations. Because, as we discussed about languages earlier, I know several languages and I use them on an ongoing basis, on my own, but I also draw a lot of information from parts of the world where my dominant languages are not popular. Previously, I used Google Translator, which was very imperfect. ChatGPT is better in that regard.

Is there anything else you would like to tell our readers?

One thing I would like to convey is that, in my opinion we are on the verge of a great revolution in artificial intelligence, especially with regard to language systems – the way we communicate with people speaking other languages is literally going to be transformed. For example, there are already smartphones on the market where I can speak Polish and the smartphone repeats what I said, for example, in Kyrgyz. And it's a very good

10 to come across sth | natknąć się na coś

to divide sth into sth | dzielić coś na coś

to count on sth | liczyć na coś

on average | przeciętnie

to earn | zarabiać

pants | spodnie

sweatshirt | bluza

low-cost | niskokosztowy

flexibly | elastycznie

11 to replace sth | zastąpić coś

abroad | za granicą

at least | przynajmniej

booked | zarezerwowany

to yield sth | dostarczać czegoś, skutkować czymś

social care | opieka społeczna

however | jednak/że

to arise | *tu*: nasuwać się

Spaniard | Hiszpan

unemployment | bezrobocie

11 on the one hand | z jednej strony

objective | obiektywny

approach | podejście

without a doubt | bez wątpienia

to rely on sth | polegać na czymś

not at all | wcale nie, w ogóle nie

from a substantive point of view | z merytorycznego punktu widzenia

to discourage sb | zniechęcać kogoś, odradzać komuś

in that regard | pod tym względem

on an ongoing basis | na bieżąco

to draw sth | *tu*: uzyskiwać coś

previously | wcześniej, uprzednio

to be on the verge of sth | być bliskim czegoś

translation – I checked based on other language versions. I don't know if this is already in Poland, but they definitely have it in the UK, because I saw it just recently when I was there.

You can trust this device, but despite that, I strongly recommend everyone to learn a foreign language on their own, because translating the message literally is one thing – and this will certainly improve our communication to an absurdly good degree – but the machine will never translate the context. It will never translate a conceptual joke or subtext. And this can only be learned and understood by knowing a language very well. I'm not talking about language perfection, but about knowing certain tricks. For example, when I go to Andalusia, it's enough for me to say "no ni ná***" and every Andalusian knows what I mean, that you can talk to me differently. A machine will never translate that.

Thank you very much for your time. I wish you many successes. All the best. Until next time.

Greetings. Greetings to your son as well. Thank you very much.

* seseo – seseo is a phonetic phenomenon occurring in the Spanish language, which consists of pronouncing the letters "c" (before the letters "e" and "i") and "z" as the letter "s". In other words, people who use seseo do not distinguish between the sounds of these letters and always pronounce them as "s".

** "muszaszo, muszo" is the phonetic transcription of the words "muchacho" (boy) and "mucho" (much) in a variety of Spanish that exhibits the phenomenon of seseo.

*** „no ni ná” – this is said only in Andalusia, commonly. It seems like a triple negation, but in reality, it is a lively affirmation of something. For example, person A says: "Did that really happen?"; person B replies: "No ni ná!" and in practice it means: "Oh yes, definitely!"

13 device | urządzenie
certainly | na pewno
conceptual joke | żart sytuacyjny
greetings | pozdrowienia

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The Origins of Scouting

by Owen Williams

From a camping trip for 20 boys, to a global movement with over 46 million active Scouts, the Scout Movement has brought fun and education to countless young people since its beginnings just over 100 years ago.

The Scout Movement is a global youth organisation focused on outdoor education through activities like camping, hiking and sports. It provides informal training and social exercises for young people all over the world. Scouts are characterised by their uniform, acceptance of people from all walks of life, and their promise of doing good. Membership is entirely voluntary and remarkably affordable. In the UK – where Scouting originated – the Scout Movement operates under the patronage of the reigning Monarch (currently King Charles III). In the UK, and indeed around the world, there have been many Scouts that have gone on to become famous in professions ranging

from musicians to astronauts! Let's take a look at the man who started it all.

Robert Baden-Powell

The father of the Scout Movement, Robert Baden-Powell was a British Army Scout who literally wrote the book on scouting! Fascinated by outdoor pursuits from a young age, Baden-Powell joined the army at 19 and soon impressed his superiors enough to get promoted. He travelled in India, Malta and many parts of Africa, often performing clandestine reconnaissance work. He quickly garnered a reputation for having excellent intelligence-gathering and map-drawing

- 1** countless | niezliczony
to focus on sth | skupić się na czymś
outdoor | na zewnątrz, poza domem
hiking | piesza wycieczka; chodzenie po górach
from all walks of life | ze wszystkich środowisk społecznych i zawodowych
voluntary | ochotniczy
affordable | przystępny cenowo
currently | obecnie
indeed | w rzeczy samej
to range from X to Y | mieć zakres od X do Y, obejmować od X do Y
- 2** literally | dosłownie
to join sth | tu: wstąpić do czegoś
to get promoted | awansować
clandestine | sekretny, tajny
reconnaissance work | praca wywiadowcza, zwiad
to garner sth | zdobyć coś

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to get promoted

awansować

during their time in Africa. The scouting skills that Burnham had learnt in America intrigued Baden-Powell and complemented the skills that he employed in his military role. Recognising that the wars in Africa were changing, and that the British Army was untrained in many of these skills, the two friends noted that the Army needed to adapt. They discussed the idea of a comprehensive training programme for young men which would concentrate on exploration, tracking, fieldcraft and self-reliance — an idea that would later lead to the instructions for Scouts.

However, when the Boers retreated, it was not the victory itself that was significant for scouting (nor was it particularly significant for the outcome of the war), but it was Baden-Powell's observation of the Mafeking Cadet Corps that was of note. These cadets (of boys aged 12 to 15) were not old enough to fight, but they stood guard, carried messages, assisted in hospitals and performed various other duties, so that the adult men were free and able to fight the war.

The First Boy Scouts

After Mafeking, Baden-Powell had become a national hero, and a book about scouting he had written for soldiers was being used to teach members of boys' clubs. He decided to rewrite the book specifically for youngsters (removing the military aspects) and to take a group of 20 boys on a camping trip to test his ideas. The week-long trip was to Brownsea Island in Dorset. It involved boys from different social backgrounds who were instructed to form small groups and elect a leader. They were taught the principles of scouting by Baden-Powell, to great success.

The Siege of Mafeking

Three years after learning the American scouting skills and discussing a training programme with Burnham, Baden-Powell commanded a military force based in Mafeking, South Africa. This town was besieged by Boer forces in 1899 and successfully defended by Baden-Powell for 217 days. The siege gained a lot of press coverage back in England because important people (including the prime minister's son) were in Mafeking at the time, and the odds were stacked in the Boers' favour due to their far greater number of troops.



Robert Baden-Powell

skills, but it was his time fighting the Second Boer War in South Africa that would lead to his fame and the eventual establishment of Scouts.

Army Scouting and Friendship

The role of military scouts is to explore an enemy area and obtain information about the enemy forces, terrain and civilian pursuits. To perform such a role, it's important to travel undetected and survive outdoors with minimal resources. Baden-Powell became great friends with the American-born Chief of Scouts for the British Army, Frederick Russell Burnham

3 to lead to sth | prowadzić do czegoś
eventual | ostateczny
to obtain sth | uzyskać coś
civilian | cywilny
pursuit | *tu*: zajęcie
undetected | niewykryty, niezauważony

4 to employ sth | za/stosować coś, wykorzystać coś
to recognise sth | uznawać coś
comprehensive | kompleksowy
fieldcraft | umiejętności związane z przetrwaniem w terenie
self-reliance | samodzielność
siege | oblężenie
to command sth | dowodzić czymś
to be besieged by sb | być obleganym przez kogoś
defended by sb | o/broniony przez kogoś
press coverage | relacja w mediach, prasie
including sb | włącznie z kimś
prime minister | premier
the odds are in somebody's favour | mieć przewagę
due to sth | z powodu czegoś
5 troops | wojska
however | jednak/że

to retreat | wycofać się
outcome | wynik, rezultat
to be of note | być godnym uwagi, być wartym odnotowania
to stand guard | stać na warcie
adult | dorośli
to remove sth | usuwać coś
to involve sb | obejmować kogoś
background | *tu*: środowisko
to elect sb | wybrać kogoś

What Is Patronage?

Patronage is when someone rich or powerful supports and helps out organisations or artists (like musicians, painters and sculptors) by providing financial aid. Throughout history, this support has come from rulers, religious leaders and other wealthy figures.

sculptor | rzeźbiarz
ruler | władca
wealthy | bogaty, zamożny

Brownsea Island



This tiny island off the coast of England measures only 1.4 square kilometres. As well as being famous as the birthplace of Scouts, it is also well known as a nature reserve where red squirrels can be found.

off the coast of X | u wybrzeży X
birthplace | miejsce narodzin

Scouting for Boys

Following the successful trial, Baden-Powell was convinced young boys could benefit from scouting skills, so he published *Scouting for Boys* – a book describing the activities, skills and attributes he thought young boys should know and follow. It was a huge success and soon became a global phenomenon. Although he intended the book to be used by existing organisations (such as the YMCA and the Boy's Brigade), in a very short time, Scout Patrols were created up and down the country, all following the principles of *Scouting for Boys*. The movement continued to spread and soon required a central organisation. The book, meanwhile, has since been translated into 87 languages and is apparently the fourth-best-selling title of all time!

The Organisation

In 1909, the first Scout Rally was held at Crystal Palace in London. 11,000 Scouts attended, including some girls who called themselves "Girl Scouts", but these Scouts still had no official organisation.

As the author of the book, and a famed leader, Baden-Powell was soon inundated with requests for assistance in Scout Patrols. So, following a discussion with King Edward, he retired from the army and established The Boy Scouts Association in the UK (he later established The Girl Guides). The same year, The Boy Scouts Association's first census showed it already had over 100,000 Scouts! A year later, another rally was organised – this time over 26,000 boys attended, giving thanks to the King and their leader, Baden-Powell. It wasn't just the UK though, soon there were Scout organisations set up in Argentina, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA. By 1922, there were more than a million Scouts in 32 countries, and by 1939 the number had grown to more than 3.3 million.

Modern Day Scouting

Since those early days, Scouting has gone from strength to strength. As of 2019, there are over 46 million registered Scouts from 216 countries around

the world. The main principles set out in *Scouting for Boys* are still followed to this day, with the exception of pledging allegiance to God (as modern Scouts are free to follow any or no religion). Since Baden-Powell's death, a Scout Leader has been elected as Chief Scout (leader of the organisation) – the current one is celebrity Bear Grylls.

The Future of Scouting

In a world where young people are increasingly staying indoors and interacting online rather than socialising in real life, it may look like the days of Scouting are numbered. However, many Scouting units are oversubscribed, and have waiting lists of many young people wanting to participate! So, Scouting isn't going anywhere – if you know a young person who may benefit from joining, why not look up your nearest unit and get involved?

Enjoyed this article? Make sure to check out part two in the next English Matters where we'll take an in-depth look at modern day Scouting – from Scout law to famous former-Scouts!

- 6 trial** | próba
convinced | przekonany
phenomenon | zjawisko, fenomen
to require sth | wymagać czegoś
meanwhile | w międzyczasie
apparently | *tu*: podobno
of all time | wszechczasów
to be held | odbywać się
to attend sth | uczestniczyć w czymś
7 to be inundated with sth | zostać zalany, zasypany czymś (np. prośbami)
to retire | przejść na emeryturę
census | spis (ludności, członków organizacji etc.)
though | jednak/że
to go from strength to strength | rosnąć w siłę
8 with the exception of sth | z wyjątkiem czegoś
to pledge allegiance to God | ślubować wierność Bogu
increasingly | rosnąco
to be numbered | być policzonym
oversubscribed | z nadmiarem chętnych w stosunku do wolnych miejsc
to get involved | zaangażować się
law | prawo
former | były

Speed Puzzling

by Owen Williams

Jigsaw puzzles are no longer just a relaxing pastime put together over a few days. They're now the basis of a competitive event where speed is of the essence. Surprised? Let's go through it piece by piece.

jigsaw puzzle | puzzle, układanka

pastime | rozrywka

competitive | konkurencyjny,
oparty na rywalizacji

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pro
zawodowiec, profesjonalista

Have you ever completed a jigsaw puzzle? How many pieces did it have? How long did it take you? For the average adult, the answers to those questions are, “Yes. 1,000. I don’t know exactly, maybe a few days?” And it’s true – the average person doesn’t time themselves when completing a jigsaw; the challenge itself is just completing it! Although the jigsaw solver does try to complete the jigsaw as quickly as possible, it’s on a whole different level to a professional speed puzzler! A speed puzzler could complete a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle in a few hours, and if they’re good enough, they could have the certificates to prove it!

What Is Speed Puzzling?

Speed Puzzling has three classes: singles, pairs and teams, but the simple format stays the same for all – give people copies of the exact same jigsaw puzzle, then watch them race to complete it! Small competitions take place all over the world, while the world championships are held in Valladolid, Spain.

Where Did Jigsaw Puzzles Originate?

The first ever jigsaw puzzle was made in 1760 by cartographer (a person who creates maps) John Spilsbury in London. It was literally a cut up map that people were challenged to put back together. This is why jigsaw puzzles were originally called “dissected maps” or “dissections”. The idea spread and jigsaws became more complicated and diverse. Now, an estimated 1.8

billion jigsaws are sold each year in the USA alone! They have pictures of everything from baked beans to famous paintings on them. It’s even reported that Queen Elizabeth II was a fan! And a hardcore fan at that – she never used the accompanying image to help her solve the jigsaw as she claimed this made it too easy!

When Did It Become Competitive?

For the average person, a jigsaw puzzle is only a competition against themselves and their patience! Or, for those completing a jigsaw with their friends and family, perhaps there’s a little competition in who gets to put in the last piece. However, Speed Puzzling competitions are highly competitive. Their current form originated in 2019 in Spain, where the first ever world championships were held. In Valladolid, various organisations (including the United States Jigsaw Puzzle Association and Australian Jigsaw Puzzle Association) came together to form the World Jigsaw Puzzle Federation and start the world ranking for jigsaw competitions.

The World Jigsaw Puzzle Championships

The official name of the yearly competition in Spain is the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championships. Although it started in 2019, 2024 will be the fourth competition in history as the Covid-19 pandemic put a halt to the 2020 and 2021 competitions. The three events are as follows:



team event: teams of four people, representing one country, solve multiple jigsaws (1,000 or 1,500 pieces)



pairs event: two people complete a single jigsaw (500 or 1,000 pieces) together



individual event: individual participants complete a 500-piece jigsaw

Originally, there was just one round (with the fastest person/team being crowned champion), but as the competition has increased in popularity, more

Jigsaw vs Puzzle

There are many types of puzzles. The word “puzzle” can also be a verb in English, meaning to confuse. So, when referring to the type of puzzle made of numerous pieces that need to be put together, English speakers say ‘jigsaw puzzle’ or ‘jigsaw’ for short (not usually ‘puzzle’). You may also recognise the word jigsaw as the name of the antagonist in the Saw films – so called because he creates puzzles for his victims!

to confuse | wprowadzać w zakłopotanie, z/dezorientować

numerous | liczny

to recognise sth | rozpoznać coś

saw | piła

victim | ofiara



Jigsaw Puzzle Records

- Fastest 250-piece: 9 minutes 58 seconds
- Fastest 500-piece: 54 minutes 10 seconds
- Fastest 1,000-piece: 1 hour 40 minutes
- Most pieces: 551,232
- Most expensive: \$27,000
- Hardest: Although subjective and debated, general consensus says a double-sided picture of sweets

consensus | zgodna opinia, jednomyślność

double-sided | dwustronny

1 average | przeciętny

adult | dorosły

a few | kilka

to time oneself | mierzyć sobie czas

although | chociaż

to prove sth | udowodnić coś

to race | ścigać się

to take place | odbywać się

to originate from X | pochodzić z X

literally | dosłownie

cut up | pociąć

originally | początkowo, pierwotnie

dissected | pocięty na kawałki

to spread | rozpowszechniać się, rozprzestrzeniać się

diverse | różnicowany

estimated | szacowany

2 baked beans | fasolka w sosie pomidorowym

however | jednak/że

current | obecny

including sth | włącznie z czymś

to put a halt to sth | zatrzymać coś

3 multiple | liczny, *tu*: z dużą ilością elementów
single | pojedynczy, *tu*: z mniejszą ilością elementów

participant | uczestnik

round | runda

to be crowned | zostać u/koronowanym

to increase in popularity | stawać się coraz bardziej popularnym

rounds have been added. In 2022, a semi-final round was introduced to all events (where the fastest competitors from the first round go on to the final). Then, in the 2023 competition, due to a further increase in the number of individual participants, another round was introduced prior to the semifinals of the individual event. For the upcoming Championships this year, a first round will also be added to the pairs event.

Reigning Champions

Like the Olympics, the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championships have a medal table with columns for gold, silver, bronze and total medals. The current world champions (and also the country with the most cumulative medals ever) are Spain. At the 2023 event, Spain won two gold medals and one bronze, placing them first overall. The Czech Republic came second, the USA third, and Norway came fourth – no other countries were awarded medals. Looking at the overall medals tally, counting up all the medals that have ever been awarded, there are only seven countries present – Poland is one of them. The other countries are: Spain, Czech Republic, Russia, USA, Norway and Germany.

The World's Largest Jigsaw Puzzle

On September 24, 2011, 1,600 students spent 17 hours completing a 551,232-piece puzzle at Vietnam's University of Economics in Ho Chi Minh City. The completed jigsaw depicted a lotus flower and measured 14.85 x 23.2 metres!

to depict sth | przedstawiać coś
to measure X | mierzyć X

Interesting Words

Enigmatology is the study and science of puzzles of any kind.
Dissectologist is a term used to describe jigsaw puzzle solvers.

enigmatology | enigmatologia
dissectologist | dyskolog



Small competitions take place all over the world, while the world championships are held in Valladolid, Spain.

Winning Strategies

Think you might have what it takes to reach the finals? Or would you just like to shorten the time it takes you to complete a jigsaw puzzle at home? Well, who better to learn from than the professionals? Let's delve into some of the tips, tricks and strategies that the competitors use. Practise – pro puzzlers complete two to three 500-piece jigsaws a day! But, much like athletes, they also put rest days into their schedule. They specifically practise turning pieces the right way up and using two hands at once. It's also important not to neglect physical training, especially training of the core to prevent back pain. Finally, top strategies include dividing the jigsaw into sections, sorting the pieces into those sections and then completing them one by one starting with the main feature (not the edge as most

amateurs do). Whatever strategy you choose, if you are in a competition, remember to stay calm and focused.

A Piece of Cake

Although it's gaining in popularity, the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championships are still relatively new and therefore not massively over-subscribed. So, if you do want to try your luck and get to the finals, putting all the pieces together may not be that hard. However, speed puzzling is just a new take on jigsaw puzzles – if you enjoy relaxing while completing a jigsaw, and completing it quickly isn't important to you, feel no pressure. When completing a jigsaw – as with life itself – just make sure you place the most important parts first.

4 added | dodany
due to sth | z powodu czegoś
further | dalszy
prior to sth | wcześniejszy od czegoś
semifinals | półfinały
upcoming | nadchodzący
overall | w sumie, ogólnie
to come second | zajmować drugie miejsce
tally | *tu*: zestawienie
to count up sth | z/liczyć coś
5 to delve into sth | zagłębić się w coś
tip | wskazówka
pro | zawodowiec, profesjonalista
athlete | sportowiec
schedule | grafik
at once | jednocześnie, na raz
to neglect sth | zaniedbać, zlekceważyć coś

physical training | trening fizyczny
core | *tu*: kręgosłup
to include sth | obejmować coś
to divide sth into sth | dzielić coś na coś
feature | cecha, charakterystyka
edge | *tu*: ramka, obramowanie
6 focused | skupiony
a piece of cake | łatwizna, bułka z masłem
to gain in popularity | zyskiwać na popularności, stawać się coraz bardziej popularnym
relatively | względnie
therefore | dlatego
over-subscribed | z nadmiarem chętnych w stosunku do wolnych miejsc
take on sth | spojrzenie na coś

Public Art



by Paul Martin from www.go-native.pl

WARTO
ZAPAMIĘTAĆ!

environs
okolice

According to the office of London Mayor Sadiq Khan, “art can inhabit any public space – streets, squares, hospitals, train stations, facades, screens, parks and car parks. Not to mention plinths”. But public art isn’t always popular. Paul Martin examines different perspectives, and showcases notable examples.

One Man’s Treasure

When you think of public art, you might picture grand statues in parks or city squares. But it’s so much more than that. It’s a colourful graffiti mural on the side of a building you pass on your way to work each day, or a collection of whimsical miniature sculptures that hide in plain sight as you go about your day-to-day

- o according to sth | według czegoś
- to inhabit sth | zamieszkiwać coś, tu: zajmować coś
- square | plac
- screen | ekran
- not to mention X | nie wspominając o X
- plinth | plinta, podstawa kolumny
- to showcase sth | przedstawiać, prezentować coś
- notable | godny uwagi
- 1 to picture sth | wyobrazić sobie coś
- to pass sth | mijać coś
- whimsical | dziwaczny
- sculpture | rzeźba
- to hide | ukrywać się
- in plain sight | na widoku
- to go about | robić coś w sposób, w jaki zawsze się to robi
- 2 to come in | występować
- to require sth | wymagać czegoś
- to experience sth | doświadczać czegoś
- to wonder | zastanawiać się
- to spark conversations | inicjować rozmowy, wywoływać dyskusje
- to brighten up sth | rozświetlać, ożywiać coś
- 3 to invite sth | *tu:* zapraszać do czegoś
- to turn sth into sth | przekształcać coś w coś
- to bring sb together | łączyć kogoś
- to provide sth | dostarczać czegoś

business. Whatever form it comes in, public art is art that doesn’t require a museum ticket; it’s right there for us to experience as we live, work and play.

But you might wonder why you should care. Those trying to persuade you will tell you that public art does more than decorate; it sparks conversations, brightens up less-loved spaces and can even make us think about big issues in new ways.

- sense of place | poczucie (przynależności do) miejsca
- environs | okolice
- to enjoy sth | cieszyć się czymś
- reflective | odbłaskowy; refleksyjny
- surface | powierzchnia
- not only... but also... | nie tylko... lecz także...
- to allow for sth | pozwalać na coś
- to mirror sth | odzwierciedlać coś
- perception | postrzeganie
- trash | śmieci, odpady
- straightforward | *tu:* prosty
- take | *tu:* weźmy
- steel | stalowy
- bone of contention | kość niezgody
- to disrupt sth | zakłócać, zaburzać coś
- pedestrian | przechodzień
- fierce | zaciekle
- bold | śmiały
- urban | miejski
- landscape | krajobraz
- outcry | głosy protestów
- eventually | w końcu, ostatecznie, koniec końców
- to lead to sth | prowadzić do czegoś
- removal | usunięcie
- resistance | opór, sprzeciw
- tank | czołg
- vivid | jaskrawy

Interactive installations, like Jeppe Hein’s Please Touch the Art in Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York, invite public engagement, turning the work into a shared experience that brings people together.

Similarly, Michel Corajoud’s Miroir d’Eau in Bordeaux, France, or Anish Kapoor’s Cloud Gate in Chicago, have not only become popular tourist attractions, but they have also provided a sense of place to their environs that locals can enjoy, with their reflective surfaces not only allowing for playful interactions, but also symbolically mirroring their city skylines and transforming perceptions of the built environment.

One Man’s Trash

But discussions around public art are not always straightforward, and public art is as much about the debates around it as it is about the art itself.

Take, for example, Richard Serra’s Tilted Arc in New York City’s Federal Plaza. Introduced in 1981, this massive steel sculpture became a bone of contention for New Yorkers, disrupting the daily paths of pedestrians and sparking fierce debate over its place in the public sphere. The controversy surrounding Tilted Arc wasn’t just about its bold, abstract form; it became a conversation about the public’s right to choose their urban landscape. The outcry eventually led to the sculpture’s removal.

In Europe, art student David Černý’s Pink Tank (1991) told a story of political resistance. By transforming a Soviet tank monument in Prague into a vivid



Pierre Vivant



Faith47



Shepard Fairey



David Černý



Banksy



Maurice Agis

pink symbol and adding an obscene one-fingered gesture to the turret. Černý turned a symbol of imperial oppression into one of liberation. The government's attempt to undo this overt political statement was met with a public chorus of support for Černý's vision, and the tank was promptly repainted pink by newly elected politicians protected by parliamentary immunity. In 2011, the tank was given a public viewing once more when it was sailed down the Vltava River on a barge.

Who Pays?

But who decides what art goes up in our public spaces, and who pays for it? These questions, and their answers will often inform public perceptions. Naturally, if an artist's work has been publicly funded, a much greater degree of scrutiny is placed upon it. But does that mean that a publicly funded artist has a greater degree of responsibility to please as many people as possible?

Speaking in 2013, at an event in central London, Claire Lilley, the then-Director of Programmes at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, an open-air art exhibition space in northern England, gave an interesting perspective on this issue of public consultation. She said, "You don't

necessarily have to consult the public [when producing public art]. Who are the public? They aren't simply a single entity. Consultation is difficult because lots of people might not go for the idea. They sometimes feel hostile and ambivalent as though someone is trying to get one over on them. We have a responsibility to manage this."

Certainly, if a private benefactor, or even a company, decides to commission an artist to fill a public space, then perhaps there is an argument that the artist's responsibility to please is diminished. But can it really be said that privately-funded artwork is truly public? Perhaps instead it might feel more like an elitist stamp on the landscape, a kind of high-end advertisement, as opposed to something produced purely for the public good.

Street Art Superstars & Local Legends

You may well have heard of Banksy, the mysterious artist whose work pops up unannounced, and whose true identity remains the subject of much debate. His art, often humorous and thought-provoking, turns ordinary walls into tourist attractions overnight, and is often infused with

satire and political commentary. Famous Banksys include Girl with Balloon or the striking Dismaland – Bemusement Park installation that turned a former outdoor swimming pool into a kind of dystopian Disneyland.

Other notable figures include Shepard Fairey, known for his Obey campaign and the iconic Hope poster of Barack Obama; JR, a French artist famous for monumental black and white photographic installations in urban environments; Maya Haduk, and her bold, colourful, optimistic murals that often feature intricate patterns; and Faith47, a South African artist whose work explores themes of nature and human connection.

But the beauty of public art is that it's not just about the big names. In cities like Philadelphia and Melbourne, local muralists have transformed entire neighbourhoods into vibrant outdoor galleries, with their works often depicting local history, social issues, or community figures to foster a sense of identity and pride.

If you're looking for a destination where you can immerse yourself in a culture of authentic public art for yourself, consider Wynwood Walls in Miami and its riot of colourful murals. Or perhaps Berlin, where the East Side Gallery stands as a poignant testament to history and hope,

4 obscene | nieprzyzwoity
turret | *tu*: wieża w czołgu
attempt | próba, usiłowanie
to undo sth | *tu*: cofnąć, zniweczyć coś
overt | jawny, wyraźny
promptly | bezzwłocznie, natychmiast
newly elected | nowo wybrany
parliamentary immunity | immunitet parlamentarny
to give sth a public viewing
 | umożliwiać publiczne obejrzenie czegoś
to sail down | spływać (w dół rzeki)
barge | barka
publicly | publicznie, *tu*: z publicznych pieniędzy
degree of sth | stopień czegoś
scrutiny | analiza, obserwacja, przypatrywanie się czemuś
5 single entity | jednostka, jednolity byt
hostile | wrogi, *tu*: nieprzyjazny czemuś
ambivalent | ambiwalentny; sprzeczny; *tu*: wahający się, niezdecydowany

as though | jakby
to get one over sb | oszukać kogoś
to manage sth | *tu*: poradzić sobie z czymś
certainly | na pewno
to commission sb | dawać komuś zlecenie
to fill sth | wypełnić, zapełnić coś
diminished | umniejszony, zmniejszony
instead | w zamian
high-end | z górnej półki
advertisement | reklama
mysterious | tajemniczy
to pop up | pojawiać się
unannounced | nieogłoszony, niezapowiedziany
identity | tożsamość
thought-provoking | skłaniający do refleksji, dający do myślenia
ordinary | zwykły, zwyczajny
overnight | z dnia na dzień
6 infused with sth | mieszaný z czymś
to include sth | obejmować coś
striking | uderzający

former | były
outdoor | zewnętrzny
dystopian | dystopijny, ponury
poster | plakat
to feature sth | *tu*: zawierać coś
intricate | zawiły, misterny
entire | cały
neighbourhood | sąsiedztwo
vibrant | żywy, dynamiczny, jaskrawy
to depict sth | przedstawiać coś
social issues | sprawy społeczne
community figures | znane osoby, osobistości związane z daną społecznością
to foster sth | wspierać coś, sprzyjać czemuś
sense of identity | poczucie tożsamości
to look for sth | szukać czegoś
to immerse oneself in sth | zanurzyć się w czymś, zagłębić się w coś
to consider sth | rozważyć coś, *tu*: brać coś pod uwagę
riot | *tu*: bogactwo
poignant | przejmujący

ART-JECTIVES

When talking about art, using the right adjectives can greatly enhance your descriptions and help convey your thoughts and feelings more accurately.

Style and Composition

- **Abstract:** Art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, colours and textures.
- **Realistic:** Art that aims to depict subjects as they appear in real life.
- **Surreal:** Art that blends dreamlike, fantastical elements with reality.
- **Minimalist:** Art that is stripped down to its most fundamental features.
- **Ornate:** Highly decorated and detailed art.

Colour and Light

- **Vibrant:** Bright and striking colours that draw attention.
- **Subdued:** Muted or restrained colours that create a soft or calm effect.
- **Warm:** Colours that evoke warmth, such as red, orange and yellow.
- **Cool:** Colours that evoke coolness, such as blue, green and purple.
- **Luminous:** Emitting or reflecting light; glowing.

Mood and Emotion

- **Eerie:** Art that creates a sense of unease or fear.
- **Serene:** Art that evokes a calm, peaceful feeling.
- **Melancholic:** Art that conveys a deep, pensive sadness.
- **Joyful:** Art that expresses happiness or delight.
- **Provocative:** Art that challenges the viewer, often eliciting strong reactions.

Technique and Texture

- **Intricate:** Art that is very detailed and complex.
- **Bold:** Art that is striking or prominent in appearance.
- **Fluid:** Art that appears to flow smoothly and effortlessly.
- **Textured:** Art that has a distinct feel or physical quality on its surface.
- **Polished:** Art that is smooth and refined.

Overall Impact

- **Captivating:** Art that holds the viewer's attention through its beauty or fascination.
- **Monumental:** Art that is grand or impressive in scale or significance.
- **Understated:** Art that is subtly expressive; not overly showy.
- **Dynamic:** Art that conveys a sense of energy or motion.
- **Timeless:** Art that remains relevant and appreciated across different periods.

to enhance sth | polepszyć, poprawić coś

to convey sth | przekazywać coś

to attempt to do sth | próbować coś zrobić

external | zewnętrzny

to seek | szukać

to achieve sth | osiągać coś

to blend sth with sth | mieszać coś z czymś

to be stripped to sth | sprowadzony do czegoś

bright | *tu:* jasny

to draw attention | przyciągać uwagę

subdued | *tu:* przygaszony

muted | *tu:* stonowany, zgaszony

restrained | *tu:* stonowany, przygaszony

to evoke sth | przywoływać coś

luminous | lśniący, olśniewający

reflecting sth | *tu:* odbijający coś

eerie | upiorny, pełen grozy

sense of unease or fear | odczucie niepokoju lub strachu

serene | pogodny

pensive | melancholijny

delight | zachwyt

to elicit sth | *tu:* wzbudzać, prowokować coś

prominent | wybitny; wydatny

smoothly | gładko

textured | teksturalny

polished | *tu:* wytworny, elegancki

smooth | gładki

refined | *tu:* subtelny, wytworny

overall | całościowy

impact | wpływ

captivating | urzekający, zniewalaający

understated | powściągliwy (w środkach)

subtly | subtelnie

overly | nadmiernie

showy | *tu:* krzykliwy, efektowny

timeless | ponadczasowy

relevant | właściwy, relewantny, znaczący

appreciated | doceniany

NAGRAŃIA
MP3KOD DOSTĘPU:
49g3LUB ODSŁUCHAJ
NA STRONIE
englishmatters.plPOBIERZ CZYTNIK KODÓW:
COLORFULMEDIA.PL/CZYTNIK

painted on the remnants of the Berlin Wall, of further-afield, try Barranco in Lima, Peru, with its bohemian vibe and streets bursting with colour and culture. There are so many to choose from.

Art in the Open

Ultimately, as with all art, the experience is subjective. For some, Pierre Vivant's Traffic Light Tree (1998) is an intriguing commentary on the removal of trees from urban landscapes. For others it's a prescient visualisation of the idea of a restless modern city. But for those less in favour, it's merely a confusing nuisance to local road users.

Public art can also combine the structural with the experimental, and occasionally this has led to injury, or even in rare cases, tragedy. In 2006, Dreamspace V by artist Maurice Agis, a large inflatable structure that people could enter and

walk around, broke free from its moorings in a park. The incident resulted in two fatalities and several injuries, and was witnessed by the artist himself, who vowed never to create such a large work again, before being fined £10,000 for Health and Safety violations.

But public art could also save your life. In 2020, a Dutch tram driver had a lucky escape when his tram overran and crashed through barriers at De Akkers station in Rotterdam, which is built over water. Luckily, placed beyond the barriers was Walvisstaarten (2002), a reinforced polyester sculpture of two whale tails by the artist Maarten Struijs. Images of the stricken tram resting precariouly but safely on top of one of the tails appeared in newspapers around the world the following day.

So, next time you're out and about, consider what might be being presented to you. And whatever you think of it – think something. That's kind of the point.

7 remnants | pozostałości
further-afield | dalej
to be bursting with sth | pękać od nadmiaru czegoś
in the open | na zewnątrz, na dworze
ultimately | ostatecznie
subjective | subiektywny
prescient | proroczy
restless | nerwowo, niespokojny
to be in favour of sth | być zwolennikiem czegoś
merely | jedynie
confusing | mylący, dezorientujący
nuisance | utrapienie
to combine sth with sth | łączyć coś z czymś
injury | krzywda, uszkodzenie, uraz
inflatable | nadmuchiwany
to break free from sth | uwolnić się od czegoś

8 mooring | cuma, *tu*: olinowanie, mocowanie
to result in sth | poskutkować czymś
fatality | ofiara śmiertelna; śmiertelny wypadek
to witness sth | być świadkiem czegoś
to vow | obiecać, zaklinać się
to fine sb | ukarać kogoś mandatem, grzywną
violation | pogwałcenie
to overrun sth | najechać na coś, przejechać przez coś
luckily | na szczęście
reinforced | wzmocniony
whale tails | ogony wielorybów
stricken | uszkodzony
precariouly | niepewnie
to be out and about | *tu*: być poza domem
That's kind of the point. | Dokładnie o to chodzi.

People Who Hate People



by Paul Martin
from www.go-native.pl

NAGRAŃIA
MP3KOD DOSTĘPU:
j4kkLUB ODSŁUCHAJ
NA STRONIE
englishmatters.plPOBIERZ CZYTNIK KODÓW:
COLORFULMEDIA.PL/CZYTNIK

“A virus with shoes.” That’s how the caustic, misanthropic American comedian Bill Hicks once described the human race. Paul Martin discovers how some people come to hold their fellow beings in such contempt, as well as how these views shape wider perspectives on gender and society.

Original Sin

We all have days when other people disappoint us, maybe after a tough day at work or during a particularly grim news cycle. But these fleeting feelings are nothing compared to the deep, enduring disdain for humanity that defines misanthropy. For true misanthropes, this isn’t a momentary mood but a core part of their worldview woven deeply into their everyday experiences.

- o caustic** | *tu:* zjadliwy
- to come to hold** | zacząć uważać, dojść do wniosku
- contempt** | pogarda, lekceważenie
- gender** | płeć (biologiczna lub gramatyczna)
- 1 original** | *tu:* pierwotny
- sin** | grzech
- to disappoint sb** | rozczarować kogoś
- grim** | *tu:* ponury
- fleeting** | przelotny, ulotny
- compared to sth** | w porównaniu z czymś
- enduring** | trwały, niezniszczalny
- disdain for sth** | pogarda dla czegoś

1

Stemming from the Greek words “miso” (hatred) and “anthropos” (man), misanthropy manifests in various ways; from a kind of subdued, brooding dissatisfaction, to the active shunning of social interaction, or even to something more aggressive.

Historically, misanthropy has been linked to certain religious doctrines, especially the Christian concept of original sin. This belief holds that we all inherit a flawed nature from the first humans, Adam

- misanthropy** | mizantropia (nienawiść do ludzi)
- core** | rdzeń, jądro
- woven deeply into sth** | głęboko wpleciony w coś
- 2 to stem from sth** | wynikać z czegoś, mieć źródło w czymś
- hatred** | nienawiść
- subdued** | stłumiony, przygaszony
- brooding** | zamyślony, pogrążony w rozmyślaniach
- shunning of sth** | unikanie czegoś, stronienie od czegoś

2

and Eve, due to their disobedience in the Garden of Eden. This concept of humanity’s inherent sinfulness has greatly influenced Western thinking, contributing to a simmering misanthropy over many years.

Modern Misanthropy

During the Enlightenment, thinkers like Jean-Jacques Rousseau challenged these biblical ideas. Rousseau argued

- to hold that** | utrzymywać, że
- to inherit sth** | o/dziedziczyć coś
- flawed** | wadliwy
- 3 due to sth** | z powodu czegoś
- disobedience** | nieposłuszeństwo
- inherent** | wrodzony
- sinfulness** | grzeszność
- to influence sth** | wpływać na coś
- to contribute to sth** | przyczyniać się do czegoś
- simmering** | *tu:* stopniowo przybierający na sile
- Enlightenment** | oświecenie
- to argue that** | argumentować, że

3

that it's society, not inherent human nature, that corrupts our innate virtues, whereas other philosophers like Arthur Schopenhauer and Friedrich Nietzsche suggested that human behaviour is naturally and biologically irrational, self-centred, and delusional.

Nowadays, misanthropy has broadened from individual cynicism to a wider phenomenon that is influenced by reactions to contemporary moral questions. Environmental, animal rights, and peace movements have each given fresh impetus to misanthropic thought, provoking despair and anger over how humans treat the planet and their fellow creatures.

21st century misanthropes may also express their deep frustration at humanity's perceived failure to live up to its potential. If we can send astronauts to the moon, yet at the same time build intercontinental weapons capable of mutual annihilation, perhaps it does beg the question whether we, with our glaring contradictions, invite our own scorn?

Susceptibility

Individuals may be more susceptible to misanthropic feelings thanks to a complex interplay of psychological and social factors.

4 innate | wrodzony

whereas | podczas gdy

delusional | urojeniowy

nowadays | obecnie

to broaden | poszerzyć, rozszerzyć się

phenomenon | zjawisko

contemporary | współczesny

impetus | pęd; impet; bodziec

to provoke sth | powodować coś

despair | rozpacz

fellow creature | istota tego samego rodzaju lub rasy

failure | porażka, niepowodzenie

to live up to sth | spełniać oczekiwania, żyć zgodnie z czymś

capable of sth | zdolny do czegoś

mutual | wzajemny

annihilation | zniszczenie, unicestwienie

to beg the question | nasuwać pytanie

glaring | *tu*: rażący, oczywisty

contradiction | sprzeczność

scorn | pogarda

susceptibility | podatność

susceptible to sth | podatny na coś

Socio-economic inequality, living under oppressive regimes and personal disappointments can foster a perception that people are inherently selfish or exploitative, leading to a generalised distrust and disdain. Additionally, negative life events, particularly those perceived as being caused by other people, such as betrayal or injustice, can intensify these fester feelings.

Misanthropy is often reinforced by cultural narratives and prevailing attitudes. For example, if societal norms promote cutthroat competition or rampant individualism, this can erode community bonds and foster a dog-eat-dog environment in which only the strong survive. Additionally, media that highlights the worst of human behaviour, through news cycles or dystopian portrayals in film and literature, further skews perceptions towards the negative.

Gendered Hate

Misogyny and misandry, often considered subbranches of misanthropy, focus specifically on contempt directed towards a particular gender. Misogyny, the hatred of women, has deep historical roots and has been institutionalised in various cultures, affecting legal systems,

5 inequality | nierówność

disappointment | rozczarowanie

to foster sth | wspierać coś

selfish | samolubny

exploitative | wyzyskujący, wykorzystujący

disdain | lekceważenie, pogarda

betrayal | zdrada

fester | zaostrzający się

reinforced by sth | wzmocniony przez coś

prevailing | panujący, aktualny; przeważający

cutthroat competition | bezwzględna

konkurencja

rampant | *tu*: nieokiełznany, nieopanowany

bond | więź

dog-eat-dog | bezpardonowa walka

to highlight sth | podkreślać coś

to skew sth | wypaczać coś

perception towards sth | postrzeganie

czegoś

gendered | charakterystyczny dla danej płci

misandry | mizandria, mizoandria, nienawiść do mężczyzn

subbranch | podbranza

to focus on sth | skupiać się na czymś

employment practices and interpersonal relationships. It manifests in numerous ways, from overt violence and discrimination to subtle forms of prejudice and exclusion.

Misandry, the counterpart hatred of men, though less historically and socially pervasive, also exists and can be seen in cultural stereotypes that portray men as inherently violent or incapable of emotional depth. Both misogyny and misandry contribute to the broader misanthropic perspective by highlighting the perceived flaws and failings of specific groups.

Dark Side

Historically, some of the most chilling examples of the dark side of misanthropy are found in the ideologies behind mass violence and genocides. Despots like Adolf Hitler and Pol Pot, driven by deeply misanthropic beliefs, viewed large swathes of humanity as inferior, corrupt or even subhuman, and sanctioned horrific acts of systemic violence under the guise of purifying or improving society. Even less controversial politicians may seek to tap into and manipulate misanthropic societal undercurrents to their electoral advantage.

contempt | pogarda

to affect sth | wpływać na coś

6 employment practices | praktyki zatrudnienia

in numerous ways | na wiele sposobów

overt | otwarty, jawny

subtle | subtelny, delikatny

prejudice | uprzedzenie

exclusion | wykluczenie

counterpart | odpowiednik

incapable of sth | niezdolny do czegoś

flaw | skaza, niedoskonałość

genocide | ludobójstwo

driven by sth | napędzany czymś

swathe | *tu*: część

inferior | *tu*: gorszy

under the guise of sth | pod pozorem czegoś

to purify sth | oczyścić coś

to improve sth | poprawić coś

to seek | szukać

to tap into sth | wykorzystać coś, czerpać

z czegoś

undercurrent | ukryty nurt

to their electoral advantage | dla własnej korzyści politycznej

The dark side of misanthropy can also be seen in the rise of lone-wolf attacks and mass shootings. Individuals who harbour a deep-seated hatred for humanity sometimes externalise their feelings through violent acts aimed at inflicting maximum harm. Manifestos and online postings often reveal a misanthropic rationale behind such attacks, where perpetrators express a desire to exact revenge against a world they feel alienated from. These acts of violence are not only tragic in their immediate effects but also sow fear and distrust within wider communities and further fragment the social fabric.

Echo Chambers

The digital age has facilitated the spread of misanthropic ideologies, allowing individuals with hateful tendencies to find like-minded communities online. While the digital sphere can provide a helpful space for the venting of frustrations, it can also radicalise individuals, reinforce harmful views and sometimes even overtly encourage acts of violence. The challenge lies in addressing these ideologies without infringing on free expression.

A notable recent example of this phenomenon is Andrew Tate, a controversial and undeniably misogynistic figure whose online presence has sparked wide-spread debate over the influence of digital platforms in spreading misogynistic

views. Tate, who has been vocal about his contentious and violent opinions on gender roles and relations, has amassed a significant following, part of which includes impressionable young men who may view his rhetoric as validation of their own prejudices, or as a model to emulate.

Accentuate the Positive

Critics point out that misanthropes tend to emphasise the worst aspects of human behaviour, and focus disproportionately on extreme cases of cruelty, greed and corruption. This perspective can lead to a warped understanding of humanity and overshadow the many virtues and positive traits that humans also exhibit. Acts of kindness, altruism, creativity and cooperation demonstrate the capacity for goodness and progress inherent in human nature. So, perhaps a more balanced view, which acknowledges both the flaws and strengths of human beings, is essential for fostering a realistic and hopeful perspective on human potential and social progress.

Dealing with a friend or loved one who appears to hold misanthropic, misogynist or misandrist beliefs can also be challenging, but there are several practical steps you can take to address these issues. By offering a caring ear without judgement, you can create space for them to express

their feelings, or perhaps help build a path towards encouraging them to see a professional therapist to take their self-discovery further. Ironically, for the typical misanthrope, hater of millions, it could actually only require the intervention of just one friendly face to help them turn the tide.

Famous Misanthropes in Art

Literature

- Holden Caulfield (The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger): Holden is a quintessential teenage misanthrope who expresses deep cynicism and dissatisfaction with the “phoney” adult world, reflecting his struggle with identity and belonging.
- Gulliver’s Travels (by Jonathan Swift): This satirical novel features Lemuel Gulliver, whose journeys expose him to various corrupt societies, ultimately leading him to develop a misanthropic view of humanity.

Film, TV & the Stage

- Travis Bickle (Taxi Driver): Portrayed by Robert De Niro, Travis is a disillusioned taxi driver whose contempt for the perceived decay of New York City drives him toward a violent climax.
- Gregory House (House M.D.): The brilliant but misanthropic doctor, played by Hugh Laurie, is known for his sharp wit and scepticism towards patients and colleagues, often highlighting the flaws and follies of those around him.
- William Shakespeare: Many of Shakespeare’s plays feature misanthropic characters, such as Timon in Timon of Athens, who retreats from society.

phoney | fałszywy, udawany

to reflect sth | odzwierciedlać coś

identity | tożsamość

belonging | poczucie przynależności

disillusioned | rozczarowany, pozbawiony złudzeń

climax | *tu*: punkt kulminacyjny

folly | *tu*: szaleństwo, głupota

to retreat | wycofać się, uciec

7 rise | wzrost

to harbour sth | żywić coś (np. uczucia)

deep-seated | głęboko osadzony

to externalise sth | wyrazić coś na zewnątrz

to inflict sth | zadawać coś (np. ból)

to reveal sth | ujawniać coś

rationale | przesłanki, powody

perpetrator | sprawca

to exact sth | wymagać czegoś, wymuszać coś

revenge against sth | zemsta za coś

to sow sth | zasiać coś (np. niezgodę)

to facilitate sth | ułatwić coś

spread of sth | rozprzestrzenianie się czegoś

to allow sb to do sth | pozwolić komuś coś z/robić

like-minded | podobnie myślący

to vent sth | dać upust czemuś (np. gniewowi)

to reinforce sth | wzmocnić coś

to encourage sth | zachęcać do czegoś

without sth | bez czegoś

to infringe on sth | naruszać coś

undeniably | niewątpliwie

to spark sth | zapoczątkować coś

widespread | rozpowszechniony

a contentious | sporny

to amass sth | zgromadzić coś

to include sth | uwzględnić coś

validation | potwierdzenie

to emulate sth | naśladować coś

to emphasise sth | podkreślić coś

cruelty | okrucieństwo

greed | chciwość

to overshadow sth | przysłonić coś

to exhibit sth | wykazywać się czymś, prezentować coś

to acknowledge sth | uznawać coś

challenging | wymagający

to address sth | zająć się czymś

9 actually | faktycznie, rzeczywiście

to require sth | wymagać czegoś

to turn the tide | odwrócić bieg rzeczy

Wonderful Weddings

by Jonathan Sidor

They say your wedding day is supposed to be the happiest day of your life. If that's the case, learning the lingo of matrimony is bound to pay off. Whether you're saying *I do* or just schmoozing by the dancefloor, check out *English Matters'* comprehensive guide to wedding vocabulary.

Typical Wedding Features

Wedding receptions in the US and UK tend to start with the newlyweds entering the wedding venue, with either the best man or maid of honour (or both) delivering a poignant toast. The bride and groom then have their first dance. Wedding menus can vary when it comes to what kind of food they're serving, but a decadent wedding cake is a popular highlight.

Entertainment also plays a crucial role, as a live band or DJ keeps the dance floor packed. Interactive elements like photo booths are becoming more popular, while traditional activities like the bouquet toss and a garter toss are still commonly experienced. At the end of it all, the newlyweds usually depart to cheers and a shower of rose petals and well wishes as they embark on their new journey together.

wedding | ślub

lingo | język, żargon

to pay off | opłacać się

to schmooze | gawędzić, gadać

comprehensive | kompleksowy, obszerny

poignant | *tu:* wzruszający

to vary | różnić się, być zróżnicowanym

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

highlight | *tu:* główna atrakcja

crucial | kluczowy

photo booth | fotobudka

bouquet toss | rzucanie bukietu

garter toss | rzucanie podwiązki

to depart | odjeżdżać

to cheers and a shower of rose petals and well wishes |

w atmosferze wiwatów, deszczu różanych płatków

i dobrych życzeń

to embark on a journey | wyruszać w podróż



PLANNING THE CEREMONY

Sarah: Have you chosen your wedding venue yet?

Emily: Yes, we've found the perfect place that's both elegant and intimate.

Sarah: That sounds blissful! Have you thought about your vows?

Emily: Yes, we'll be writing our own to make the ceremony more heartfelt.

Sarah: Excellent. And who's going to be your officiant?

Emily: We chose a close family friend.

Sarah: I'm sure the whole thing will be beautiful. Are you sending out invitations soon?

Emily: We plan to send them all out next week. I can't wait!

Vows and Verbs

- How did he propose?
- I married my second husband in 2006.
- The two were wed aboard a cruise ship.
- Let's toast to the new couple.
- We didn't want a big ceremony, so we eloped without telling a soul.
- Entering into wedlock is a huge commitment.

vow | przysięga

to propose | oświadczać się

to be wed aboard a cruise ship | brać ślub na statku

rejsowym

to toast to sb | wznosić toast na czyjaś cześć

to elope | uciec, żeby pobrać się w tajemnicy

wedlock | związek małżeński

commitment | zobowiązanie

Nouns and Nuptials

- How do you know the bride and groom?
- The wedding ceremony was beautiful, but the reception was an absolute blast.
- Harvey's my best man, and Angela is the maid of honour.
- I wonder what they'll do for their honeymoon.
- I think they chose a superb officiant.
- My favourite things were the catering and the venue itself.

nuptials | ślub, wesele, zaślubiny

bride | panna młoda

groom | pan młody

reception | przyjęcie

blast | *tu:* dobra zabawa, odłot

best man | świadek

maid of honour | drużna, świadkowa

honeymoon | podróż poślubna

superb | doskonały, pierwszorzędny

officiant | kapłan

venue | miejsce (np. ślubu)

CHATting AT THE RECEPTION

Tom: This wedding reception is really something. Did you try the catering?

Lisa: Wow, this food is definitely amazing. The venue itself is stunning, too.

Tom: Did you get to see the bride and groom exchange their vows?

Lisa: Yes, it was so moving. I was bawling!

Tom: I always get gushy at weddings.

Lisa: Same here. And did you catch the maid of honour's speech?

Tom: Oh yes. Quite heartfelt, yet hilarious. What a combination!

Lisa: I missed it, but I heard it was recorded on video. I've been told the toast is worth checking out.

definitely | zdecydowanie

stunning | zachwycający

moving | wzruszający

to bawl | ryczeć (płakać)

hilarious | zabawny

worth sth | wart/y czegoś

WARTO
ZAPAMIĘTAĆ!

wedlock

związek małżeński

Amorous Adjectives

- What a memorable event.
- This evening has been totally blissful.
- I want to give the newlyweds my heartfelt congratulations.
- I prefer intimate weddings instead of those crowded banquets.
- Her dress is so elegant and chic.
- I don't mean to sound sentimental and gushy, but I always cry at weddings.

amorous | miłosny

blissful | niebiański

newlyweds | nowożeńcy

heartfelt | płynący z głębi serca, serdeczny

instead of sth | zamiast czegoś

crowded | zatłoczony

chic | elegancki

gushy | egzaltowany

Phenomenal Phrasal Verbs

- Did your father walk you down the aisle?
- I love weddings, but I hate dressing up.
- How many invitations did you send out?
- Do you think you'll ever get hitched?
- I fell for you the moment I met you.
- I let my wife pick out everything for the reception: flowers, cake, you name it.

to walk sb down the aisle | prowadzić kogoś do ołtarza

to get hitched | pot. pobrać się, chajtnąć się

to fall for sb | zakochać się w kimś

to pick out sth | wybrać, wybierać coś

you name it | do wyboru, do koloru, co tylko dusza zapagnie

BASIC DETAILS

Mark: So, how did Jake propose?

Jessica: He proposed during a sunset hike. It was utterly unexpected.

Mark: That sounds like a scene from a movie. Have you set a date yet?

Jessica: Yes, we're planning for next spring, so we have enough time to prepare properly.

Mark: Smart move. Are you looking to have a big wedding or something more intimate?

Jessica: We're opting for a small ceremony, certainly nothing where our guests will feel cramped.

Mark: I completely understand. And have you picked out your dress yet?

Jessica: Not yet, but I've narrowed it down to a few ideas that I find quite chic.

sunset hike | wędrówka o zachodzie słońca

utterly | całkowicie

certainly | na pewno

to narrow sth down | zawęzić coś, ograniczyć coś

a few | kilka

Cute Collocations

- Now the bride and groom would like to exchange their vows.
- What song will play during your first dance?
- Remember, nothing is official without a marriage licence.
- She insisted on holding a bridal shower.
- I always aspired to be a wedding planner.
- We go out for dinner each year for our wedding anniversary.

to exchange their vows | wymienić się przysięgami

to insist on sth | nalegać na coś

bridal shower | impreza przedślubna, która ma na celu zapewnienie pannie młodej prezentów i zabawę z przyjaciółmi, zazwyczaj w mniejszym gronie

wedding anniversary | rocznica ślubu

Inspirational Idioms

I'm not ready to tie the knot yet.

When did he pop the question?

She said yes, so he was finally able to seal the deal.

They really are a match made in heaven.

Do you think she'll get cold feet?

Look at those two lovebirds. They're really over the moon.

to tie the knot | pobrać się

to pop the question | oświadczyć się

to seal the deal | sfinalizować umowę

match made in heaven | idealna para, dobrana para

to get cold feet | stchórzyć

to be over the moon | być w siódmym niebie, nie posiadać się z radości

Unique Customs from Around the World

Diverse cultures from across the globe give their wedding ceremonies a rich, unique flavour. In India, for example, intricate henna designs are often applied to the bride's hands and feet in a ritual that's both artistic and symbolic. The designs are believed to bring good luck and play a major role in pre-wedding celebrations. Over in Finland, a bride frequently carries a traditional bridal crown, which she passes around to her unmarried friends, indicating the transfer of good fortune.

Certain communities in Kenya have a fascinating custom where elders bless the couple by spitting on their heads and feet. While unusual, this act is seen as a sign of goodwill and luck. In Germany, newlyweds might participate in a log-sawing ceremony where they work together to saw a log in half, embodying their ability to overcome obstacles as a team.

intricate | misterny

bridal | ślubny, dla panny młodej

to indicate sth | wskazywać (na) coś

community | społeczność

elders | starsi

to bless sb | błogosławić komuś

to spit on sth | pluć na coś

goodwill | dobra wola

log-sawing | piłowanie kłód

to embody sth | uosabiać coś

to overcome sth | przezwyciężać coś

obstacle | przeszkoda



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The Upsides and Downsides of Online Dating

by Ewelina Błońska

Logging in, searching and matching up – sounds like a perfect recipe for a romantic relationship. With just a few clicks, singles can explore a vast sea of potential partners, making romance more accessible than ever before. This time English Matters delves into the question of how couples meet and fall in love in the 21st century.

With the development of numerous dating platforms, it has become easier than ever to connect with potential partners from the comfort of one's home. However, like any significant shift in social behaviour, online dating comes with its own set of advantages and disadvantages.

A Perfect Match

For me, one of the most significant advantages of online dating is the convenience and accessibility it offers. Users can browse through profiles and communicate with potential partners at any time, and from anywhere. I work as a bank manager so this accessibility is particularly beneficial for me, as an individual with busy schedules who might not have the time to meet people through traditional means.

- Amanda

I tried it during the pandemic when we had to stay at home. I just created my account, added some pics and then started getting messages. It was a lot of fun! Chatting all the time with different flirtatious guys. Moreover, online dating platforms provide access to a much larger pool of potential matches than one might encounter in daily

o upside | plus, pozytywna strona

downside | minus

a few | kilka

to delve into sth | zagłębiać się w coś

to fall in love | zakochiwać się

1 numerous | liczny

dating platform | platforma do randkowania

however | jednak/że

shift | zmiana, przesunięcie

advantage | korzyść, zaleta

disadvantage | niekorzyść, minus

match | dopasowanie

convenience | wygoda, udogodnienie

to browse | przeglądać, przeszukiwać, rozglądać się

schedule | grafik

means | środek, sposób

account | konto

moreover | ponadto

to encounter sb | natknąć się na kogoś, spotkać kogoś



WARTO
ZAPAMIĘTAĆ!

definitely
zdecydowanie

life. This is especially useful for people living in small towns, or rural areas where the dating pool is limited. Additionally, these platforms allow users to connect with people from different geographical locations, broadening their opportunities for finding a compatible partner.

- Sara

What's all the fuss about? Studies suggest that online dating is the third most common way to meet a partner in Germany and the US now. Many online sites and apps use sophisticated algorithms to match users based on compatibility factors such as interests, values and personality traits. These algorithms can help users find more suitable partners and increase the likelihood of forming a successful relationship. Fortunately, we went from this situation where it was considered to be weird, stigmatised and taboo to being a very normal way to meet people.

- John

Online dating allows individuals to maintain a level of anonymity until they feel comfortable enough to share personal information. This can provide a sense of security, especially for those who may feel vulnerable or anxious about dating. Moreover, I'm not going to date a girl from my university because I don't want to see her every day if it doesn't work out. I 'm not willing to see her with another boy either. That's why I use online apps to avoid these complications.

- Mark

Many people on dating platforms are explicit about their intentions, whether they are looking for a serious relationship, casual dating or friendship. This clarity can save time and reduce misunderstandings, allowing users to connect with others who have similar goals. Some dating apps can pair you up with people with similar interests. I think it allows young people to feel more comfortable going into a setting where they know a person is looking for the same things they are. It takes some of the pressure off the process of exploring that and having those challenging conversations.

- Daniel

2 rural | wiejski

to allow sb to do sth | pozwolić komuś na z/robowienie czegoś

to broaden sth | poszerzyć coś

fuss | zamieszanie

sophisticated | wyrafinowany

personality traits | cechy osobowościowe

to increase sth | zwiększać coś

likelihood | prawdopodobieństwo

fortunately | na szczęście

weird | dziwaczny, osobliwy, dziwny

to maintain sth | utrzymać, zachować coś

vulnerable | podatny, wrażliwy

anxious about sth | zaniepokojony czymś, niespokojny

explicit about sth | otwarty, bezpośredni w kwestii czegoś

to look for sth | szukać czegoś

Downsides of Online Dating

This way of dating is definitely not for me. One of the biggest drawbacks is the potential for misrepresentation. People may present themselves inaccurately by using outdated or heavily edited photos and providing false information about their age, interests or relationship status. This can lead to disappointment and mistrust when meeting in person. Once I tried, and this handsome man who I romanticised in my mind turned out to be an obese, balding, middle-aged oddball. So, you can imagine that there was no chemistry when we met in person. Never again!

- Daria

While having a large pool of potential matches can be beneficial, it can also be overwhelming. The paradox of choice suggests that having myriads of options can lead to decision paralysis and dissatisfaction. Users may find it difficult to commit to one person, always wondering if there is a better match just around the corner. As a psychologist I always recommend a technique called: "prioridating", which is dating with a purpose, the purpose being to find someone who fulfils the one most important thing you need in a relationship.

- Martha

Despite the anonymity offered by online dating, there are safety risks involved. Users may encounter individuals with malicious intent, such as scammers or predators. It is essential to be cautious and take necessary precautions, such as not sharing personal information too soon and meeting in public places for the first few dates. That's without mentioning how stressful these first dates are! You can resonate with the person while writing to each other, but in-person dates can turn out to be a total flop.

- Stewart

The worst thing for me is that you're not bumping into love – you're searching for it and it's so artificial and shallow. Communicating through messages and profiles can sometimes lead to a lack of authentic connection. Non-verbal cues, body language and real-time reactions are crucial components of forming a genuine bond, which in my opinion can be difficult to achieve through a screen.

- Steve

I used to be an online dater, and from the time perspective I need to admit that endless swiping has been bad for my mental health. The process of online dating was emotionally exhausting for me. The repeated cycles of matching, messaging and potentially facing rejection took a toll on my emotional well-being. This fatigue led to burnout and discouragement, making it harder to stay positive and motivated in the search for a future partner.

- Sofia

To Cut a Long Story Short...

Online dating has undoubtedly transformed the landscape of modern relationships, offering unparalleled convenience and access to a diverse range of potential partners. However, it is essential to navigate this digital dating world with awareness and caution. By understanding the pros and cons, individuals can make informed decisions and use online dating platforms effectively to find meaningful connections. Whether one chooses to embrace online dating or stick to traditional methods, the ultimate goal remains the same: finding a compatible partner with whom to share a fulfilling and loving relationship.

3 **definitely** | zdecydowanie
drawback | minus
misrepresentation | fałszywy obraz; wprowadzenie w błąd
outdated | przestarzały, nieaktualny
mistrust | brak zaufania
in person | osobiście
to turn out | okazać się
obese | otyły
balding | łysiejący
middle-aged | w średnim wieku
oddball | dziwak
overwhelming | przytłaczający
myriads of sth | mnogość czegoś, niezliczona ilość czegoś
to commit to sb | *tu*: zaangażować się w kogoś
to fulfil sth | spełniać coś
despite sth | po/mimo czegoś
with malicious intent | ze złymi intencjami
scammer | oszust, naciągacz
predator | drapieżnik, *tu*: sęp (osoba szukająca korzyści)
cautious | ostrożny
to resonate with sb | *tu*: dogadywać się z kimś
flop | *tu*: klapa, fiasko
4 **to bump into sth** | wpaść na coś

artificial | sztuczny
lack of sth | brak czegoś
cue | wskazówka
genuine | prawdziwy
bond | więź
to admit that | przyznawać, że
swiping | *tu*: przesuwanie palcem profili osób
exhausting | wyczerpujący
to face sth | mierzyć się z czymś
rejection | odrzucenie
to take a toll on sth | niekorzystnie się na czymś odbijać
burnout | wypalenie
discouragement | zniechęcenie
in the search for sth | w poszukiwaniu czegoś
to cut a long story short | krótko mówiąc
undoubtedly | niewątpliwie
unparalleled | nie mający równych
digital | cyfrowy
awareness | świadomość
the pros and cons | za i przeciw
to embrace sth | przyjąć coś
to stick to sth | trzymać się czegoś
ultimate | ostateczny

Phrasals with Take

by Kamil Drożdżyk

Phrasal verbs are combinations of verbs with adverbs or prepositions. There are thousands of phrasal verbs, and they're strikingly common in everyday speech. Understanding their meaning is crucial to improving your English fluency. Let's take a gander at some of the most common phrasals with the word *take*.

Many phrasal verbs look exactly the same, but have drastically different meanings. *Take somebody out* might mean either take somebody somewhere (i.e. for dinner), or kill somebody. Pretty different, isn't it? Check the meaning of some more *take* phrasals.

adverb | przysłówek

preposition | przyimek

strikingly | uderzająco

common | powszechny

crucial | kluczowy

to improve sth | polepszyć, poprawić coś

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

Take Out

to remove something

- I had my old furnace taken out of the basement.

to arrange something with e.g. a bank, or a company

- Josh took out a loan to pay for his surgery.

to go out with someone (take out to or take out for)

- I took her out to the theatre.

to kill or destroy somebody or something

- It's said the Jersey mob got Francesco taken out.

to release anger on somebody (take sth out on sb)

- How come you always take your anger out on me?

furnace | piec

basement | piwnica

i.e. = łac. id est | to jest

loan | pożyczka

surgery | zabieg chirurgiczny

mob | *tu:* mafia

to release anger on sb | wyładować na kims gniew

Take In

to allow somebody to stay at your place

- I knocked, said I had nowhere else to go, and they took me in.

to take for questioning, to arrest

- Multiple witnesses saw Robert taking off from the crime scene. The police took him in.

to be fooled, deceived by somebody (take in by sb)

- Richard told me he would make me rich. I can't believe I got taken in by a con artist.

to fully understand something

- *Art of War* is such a difficult book. I only took it in after my third reread.

to allow sb to do sth | pozwalać komuś coś z/robić

to knock | za/pukać

questioning | przesłuchanie

witness | świadek

deceived by sb | oszukany przez kogoś

con artist | *pot.* kanciarz, oszust

Take Off

to lift off (speaking about planes)

- I realised I had left my purse at the airport, but the plane had already taken off.

to become successful or popular

- Prince's career took off after the release of 1999.

to leave unexpectedly

- Shane took off the moment we started talking about politics.

to remove a piece of clothing

- Take that jacket off, it's almost 20 degrees.

to lift off | wystartować

to realise | zdać sobie sprawę

release | *tu:* publikacja, wydanie, premiera

unexpectedly | nieoczekiwanie

degree | stopień

Take Away

to remove something

- The room is much more spacious now that we've taken the wardrobe away.

to subtract

- What's 32 take away 16?

to obtain an information; to get the meaning of something

- What did I take away from *Rocky*? Never give up!

to detain, to arrest, to take somebody, i.e. from home to lock them up

- Michael broke down in the middle of the street. Paramedics came and took him away to a psychiatric hospital.

spacious | przestronny

to subtract | *tu:* odejmować

to give up | poddać się

to detain sb | zatrzymywać kogoś

in the middle of sth | pośrodku czegoś, na środku czegoś

paramedic | ratownik medyczny

Take Down

to remove something, i.e. from a wall

- I took down the old painting. It was creeping me out.

to defeat or kill somebody

- I got the target in my sights. Should I take him down, chief?

to write something down

- He scratched my car, but I managed to take his registration down.

to creep sb out | przyprawiać kogoś o dreszcze

to defeat sb | pokonać kogoś

to get sb/sth in one's sights | *tu*: mieć kogoś/coś na celowniku

to scratch sth | podrapać, zadrapać coś, zarysować

to manage | poradzić sobie

to begin to use, have or do something

- James's face took on a concerned look.

to agree to do sth | zgodzić się na zrobienie czegoś

to face sth | z/mierzyć się z czymś

to employ sb | zatrudnić kogoś

concerned | zatroskany

Take Over

to become more successful or powerful than somebody else

- Did Taylor Swift take over Drake as the most popular artist in the world?

to replace somebody in a position

- After Felicia's retirement, Anna took over as the team leader.

to seize control of something, i.e. a business

- Google took over YouTube in 2006.

to replace sb | zastąpić kogoś

retirement | przejście na emeryturę

Take Up

to start a hobby or a particular activity

- I want to take up diving, but the equipment is way too expensive.

to use space

- This table takes up half of the room.

to take a certain amount of time

- I won't take up much of your time.

discuss something with somebody (usually about discussing a complaint with somebody in a higher position)

- I'm done talking to you. I will take the matter up with your manager.

diving | nurkowanie

equipment | wyposażenie

complaint | skarga, zażalenie

I'm done | Mam dosyć/Skończyłem/am

Take On

to agree to face a challenge

- George Foreman took on Muhammad Ali, but he lost in the 8th round.

to employ somebody

- Riley was taken on as the executive producer.



Practice

1. Fill in the gaps with the correct phrasal verb. Remember about the correct tense.

- They fired my previous manager and asked me to _____.
- It _____ to five hours to assemble the desks for the entire office.
- I _____ my parents _____ for dinner.
- After they broke up, she _____ all the photos of him from the wall.
- I'm starting to think my neighbour is a criminal. It's the fifth time the police have _____ him _____ this month.

Answer Key: a. take over; b. takes up; c. took ... out; d. took down; e. taken ... in

to fire sb | *pot.* wyłączyć kogoś, zwolnić kogoś

previous | poprzedni

to assemble sth | *tu:* zmontować, złożyć coś

2. In which of these sentences are incorrect phrasals used? Which phrasal verbs should have been used instead?

- My company was taken on by Samsung.
- He took down an underground fighting ring by himself and got promoted to sergeant.
- I took away Spanish classes. I can't wait until I can hablar español!
- He couldn't afford another night in the hotel, so I took him in.
- Take over your sunglasses, it's not even sunny.

Answer Key: a. taken on taken over; c. took away took up; e. take over take off

instead | w zamian

to get promoted to sb | zostać awansowanym na kogoś

hablar español! | *hiszp.* mówić po hiszpańsku!

to afford sth | móc pozwolić sobie na coś finansowo

3. Which of these sentences change meaning completely if you consider the part in brackets? How does the meaning change?

- The boss was disappointed with his performance, so he took him out (for dinner to discuss how to improve).
- Apple took over Shazam in 2017 (and it was a smart business decision).
- The man was loitering on the street, so they took him in (for questioning).
- The Boeing 737 took off (in the late 1960s, when the world's biggest airlines started purchasing the model en masse).

Answer Key: a. Without the part in brackets, the sentence reads like a dark crime scenario. *Taken out* might be understood as killed. When we add the part in brackets, the sentence gets a much more positive meaning | a boss tried to help his employee; b. This sentence doesn't really change, aside from adding an opinion; c. Without the part in brackets, the sentence might be understood as a description of a good deed | somebody noticed a wandering person and decided to help them out by inviting them home. With the part in brackets, it becomes obvious the man was taken in by the police; d. If we ignore the part in brackets, the sentence means that the particular plane lifted off the runway. If we take the parts in brackets into consideration, however, the sentence changes meaning | it tells us why and when the particular model of the Boeing planes became popular.

to loiter | waleśać się, sterczeć

4. Which meaning of the phrasal verb take away is used in each sentence?

- If you take away 35, you're only left with 10.
- What I took away from *The Road* is that humanity will try and persevere, no matter what.
- He ran onto the pitch during the penalty shoot out and security took him away.
- The office space here feels cluttered, but we can't really take anything away.

Answer Key: a. to subtract; b. to get the meaning of something; c. to detain, to arrest, to take somebody; d. to remove something

to persevere | wytrwać

pitch | *tu:* boisko

penalty shoot out | seria rzutów karnych

cluttered | zagracony

Charming Chernobyl

by Kamil Drożdzyk

Travel

Nearly 40 years ago, on 26 April 1986, at 1:23 in the morning, the Soviet Ukrainian city of Chernobyl was collectively woken up by an explosion. At the time, none of the onlookers knew they were witnessing one of the most devastating nuclear disasters to date, which was yet to take many lives, and turn Chernobyl and Pripjat into ghost towns.

Entering *The Zone*

Chornobyl (as that's the name the town regained in 1991 when Ukraine declared independence) is nowadays a popular travel destination. Although it's been open for visitors since 2011, the derelict city became a hotspot for tourists back in 2019 after *Chernobyl*, a hugely successful HBO show depicting the aftermath of the disaster, was released. That year, a whopping 124,000 visitors decided to take a closer look at the Soviet time capsule. For reference, a year before, in 2018, the number barely surpassed 71,000.

Because of the ongoing armed conflict, visiting Chornobyl is currently impossible. Before the Russian invasion, however, you

could only enter the so-called Exclusion Zone as part of a guided tour. Most of the companies offering to take you on a trip to the deserted city organise a meet-up in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, from which they

o nearly | prawie
onlooker | naoczny świadek
to witness sth | być świadkiem czegoś
to date | do dnia dzisiejszego
1 nowadays | obecnie
although | chociaż
derelict | opuszczony, porzucony
hotspot | *tu*: popularne miejsce
to depict sth | przedstawiać coś, odmalowywać coś
aftermath of sth | następstwo czegoś
released | wyemitowany

drive the tourists to the spot. The drive takes around two hours. At one of the checkpoints located on the outskirts of the Zone, you have your passport checked and are given a radiation dose meter, which

whopping | ogromny
barely | ledwo, zaledwie
to surpass X | przekroczyć X
ongoing | toczący się
currently | obecnie
2 guided tour | wizyta z przewodnikiem
deserted | opustoszały, porzucony
meet-up | spotkanie
3 checkpoint | punkt kontrolny
outskirts | przedmieścia
radiation dose meter | miernik napromieniowania, dozymetr

WARTO ZAPAMIĘTAĆ!

whopping
ogromny

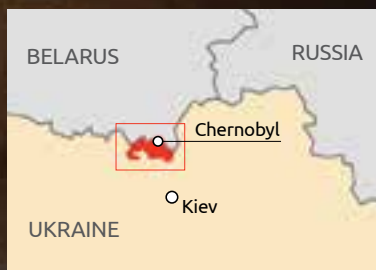
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- 4 to get irradiated | zostać napromieniowanym
puddle | kałuża
power plant | elektrownia
major | główny
settlement | osiedle
to include sth | obejmować, włączać coś
guard | strażnik
administrative employee | pracownik administracji
firefighter | strażak
5 to put sth out | u/gasić coś
urbex | eksploracja miejska
heaven | niebiosa, raj
unfortunately | niestety
looter | szabrownik
scrap collector | zbieracz złomu, złomiarz
ransacked | splądrowany
stripped of sth | ogołcony z czegoś

will tell you how irradiated you got during your visit. Don't worry, as long as you stay close to your guide and don't drink from the puddles, the radiation you accumulate throughout your visit is minimal, and so not dangerous.

Chornobyl

Although the whole area surrounding the Power Plant is often just called Chornobyl, for simplicity, and because the Power Plant's full name was Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, the city of Chornobyl itself is the smaller of two major settlements which had to be abandoned because of radiation. Back in 1986, around 14,000 people lived in the town.

Nowadays, there are close to a thousand people living in Chornobyl. The number includes the guards and administrative employees stationed in the city. One of the most interesting things to see there is a statue dedicated to the firefighters who lost

to be deemed valuable | zostać uznanym za cenne

despite sth | po/mimo czegoś

well-preserved | dobrze zachowany

at least | przynajmniej

stuck in sth | który utknął w czymś

superficially | powierzchownie

to spot sb | dostrzec kogoś

inhabitant | mieszkaniec

to lean out of sth | wychylać się z czegoś

to go on stroll | iść na spacer, spacerować

to take a break | robić sobie przerwę

to house sb | mieścić kogoś

formerly | kiedyś

must-see | obowiązkowy do zobaczenia

unmistakable | nie do pomylenia

ferris wheel | diabelski młyn

bumper car | samochodzik elektryczny

in wesołym miasteczku

paratrooper ride | karuzela z parasolami

funfair | wesołe miasteczko

to be a sight to behold | stanowić

niesamowity widok

creepy | przyprawiający o gęśią skórę, upiorny

to bustle with life | tętnić życiem

nonetheless | niemniej jednak

worth sth | wart/y czegoś

shooting range | strzelnica

intact | nietknięty

pine tree | sosna

bark | kora

to turn ginger-brown | stać się rudobrazowym

their lives as a result of trying to put out the radioactive fire on the night of the explosion.

Other than that, the city is an urbex heaven. There are thousands of abandoned buildings to explore. Unfortunately, they are hardly untouched. The city had a problem with looters and scrap collectors. Many houses were ransacked and stripped of anything that could be deemed valuable. Despite this, the city is still relatively well-preserved (at least on the outside) and is quite unique. There aren't many Eastern European towns stuck in the '80s left out there.

Fun fact – you can superficially explore the town using Google Street View. The Gamma Travel team went through the city in June 2015 and documented their journey. The city is surprisingly clean and appears lived in. It's far from being crowded, but you can easily spot inhabitants leaning out of their windows, going on strolls or taking breaks on benches.

Prypiat and More

The Zone of Alienation, however, is not limited to the city of Chornobyl. Another prominent settlement, which housed almost 50,000 inhabitants before to the disaster is called Prypiat (formerly Pripyat).

One of the must-see places located in Prypiat is the iconic Pripyat Amusement Park, with its unmistakable ferris wheel, the Autodrome bumper cars and the Chamomile paratrooper ride. The rusty, abandoned funfair is a sight to behold. A little creepy if you consider it was once bustling with life, but charming, nonetheless, in its Soviet vibe.

Another place worth checking out in Prypiat is the Energetik Palace of Culture. The building is an amazing example of imaginative Soviet architecture. Inside, you will find a cinema, a swimming pool, a boxing ring, a gym, a shooting range – or at least what's left of them. Still, it's a beautiful piece of the '80s Soviet era with some neat wall mosaics left pretty much intact. It's a must-see if you're planning to take a trip to Prypiat.

There's also the Red Forest – a ten-square-kilometre forest surrounding the Zone which got its name thanks to the fact the trees died after the heavy radiation. The pine trees lost their green needles, stopped producing new ones and their bark turned ginger-brown. Because of this, the forest looks like it's always stuck in autumn.

It's still considered to be one of the most radioactive regions of the 30-Kilometre Zone, so taking a walk there is out of the question. You can, however, take a look at it en route from the checkpoint to the safer places in the Exclusion Zone.

In February 2022, Russian troops used the Red Forest as a supply route and a place to dig entrenchments, which resulted in kicking up irradiated dust. The troops reportedly withdrew from the area soon after experiencing symptoms of radiation sickness.

There's even more to see outside Chernobyl. There's the enormous Duga radar situated around ten kilometres away from the Power Plant and the Jupiter factory close to Prypiat. Even some parts of the Power Plant itself are today open for visitors. Reactor 4, the source of the disaster, however, is nowadays buried deep in its sarcophagus – a giant structure designed to limit radioactive contamination.

A Very Unique Vacation

You don't have to be a sucker for Soviet aesthetics, a historian, an avid urbex lover or an apocalyptic media enjoyer to find beauty in the derelict streets, forests and meadows of the Exclusion Zone. If you're looking for an unusual holiday destination, and the crowded beaches of Greece don't do it for you anymore, treat yourself to an unmatched experience of an area which hasn't moved an inch since 1986. Satisfaction guaranteed!

to be out of the question | być wykluczonym

en route | po drodze, w drodze

troops | wojska

supply route | droga zaopatrzeniowa

to dig sth | wy/kopać coś

entrenchment | okop, umocnienie

to kick sth up | *tu*: wzbijać coś

irradiated dust | pył radioaktywny

reportedly | rzekomo, według doniesień

to withdraw from sth | wycofać się z czegoś

buried | zakopany

sucker for sth | miłośnik czegoś

avid | zagorzały, zapalony

enjoyer | osoba czerpiąca z czegoś przyjemność

meadow | łąka

crowded | zatłoczony

unmatched | niezrównany,

bezkonkurencyjny, jedyny w swoim rodzaju

Virtual Tourism

If you're unsure if you'll dig the Chornobylian vibes, you can use media that focus on the area to see if the Exclusion Zone floats your boat.

TV:

Chernobyl (2019) – although the miniseries was mostly shot in Lithuania, various interiors and exteriors were prepared to resemble those of actual ones in the Exclusion Zone.

Video Games:

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare (All Ghillied Up, 2007) – this iconic campaign mission in the renowned first-person shooter will take you on a thrilling stealth operation taking place in Prypiat.

The S.T.A.L.K.E.R. series (2007-2009) – the survival horror games take place in a fictionalised version of the Zone, however you can explore a lot of locations based on the real areas surrounding Chernobyl.

DayZ (Pripyat Map Mod, still in production) – the modification for the 2013 online survival game takes on the impressive task of recreating the entire Zone on a 1:1 scale. The beta version of the map is almost 420 square-kilometres in size and features nearly four million individually placed objects.

Vlogs:

bald and bankrupt (*Inside Chernobyl's Abandoned Ghost Town, 2020*) – prepare to hear some neat history facts, see Prypiat through the lens of a GoPro cam, and visit some of the current inhabitants of the Zone.

Yes Theory (*50 Hours Inside the Most Radioactive Place on Earth, 2021*) – an informative vlog embellished with stunning drone shots, interviews with Chernobyl locals and historical footage of the area from before the disaster.

to float one's boat | być tym,

co ktoś lubi lub czym się

interesuje

shot | na/kręcony,

zrealizowany

interiors | wnętrza

exteriors | plenery

to resemble sth

| przypominać coś

renowned | znany

thrilling | ekscytujący

stealth | skradanka, rodzaj

gry komputerowej, w której

należy wypełnić cel misji nie

zostając wykrytym

to feature sth | *tu*:

zawierać coś

embellished with sth

| upięszony czymś

footage | materiał

filmowy



Rack Your Brain

by Kamil Drożdżyk

1. True or False

- a. Speed Puzzling has two classes – singles and pairs.
- b. The word blissful has a positive connotation.
- c. The Scout movement is over a century old.
- d. An estimated 1.8 billion jigsaws are sold each year in the UK.
- e. Scouting has become a worldwide phenomenon.

Answer Key: a. false; b. true; c. true; d. false; e. true

2. Match the words with their antonyms.

crowded, superb, voluntary, dividing, strength

- a. weakness
- b. uniting
- c. deserted
- d. compulsory
- e. poor

Answer Key: a. strength; b. dividing; c. crowded; d. voluntary; e. superb

3. Fill in the gaps with the correct word.

challenged, catch, bawled, complete, remove

- a. Pro puzzlers _____ two to three 500-piece jigsaws a day.
- b. I didn't _____ the maid of honour's speech.
- c. Did Baden-Powell _____ the military aspects from his book?
- d. People were _____ to put together a cut up map.
- e. I _____ my eyes out when he proposed.

Answer Key: a. complete; b. catch; c. remove; d. challenged; e. bawled

4. What was Robert Baden-Powell's profession?

- a. a spy
- b. a military scout
- d. a trapper
- e. a cartographer

Answer: b

5. What is the name of a party held by or organised for a groom-to-be?

- a. a honeymoon
- b. tying the knot
- c. a stag do
- d. a sunset hike

Answer: c

6. Which of these words can be both a noun and a verb?

- a. puzzle
- b. solve
- c. jigsaw
- d. strategy

Answer: a

7. Which of these statements about Scouting for Boys is NOT true?

- a. It's the fourth-best-selling title of all time.
- b. It was written during the Siege of Mafeking.
- c. It was written by Baden-Powell.
- d. It has been translated into over 80 languages.

Answer: b

8. What is the meaning of the idiom to go from strength to strength?

- a. to be increasingly more successful
- b. to quickly increase in value
- c. to escalate a conflict
- d. to become known for physical prowess

Answer: a

ERRATUM

Dear Readers,
we'd like to apologise for the error that appeared in EM 107.

In question no. 8 (in quiz) How should the sentence sleep orders don't exist in a vacuum be interpreted? the word „sleep orders” should be replaced with „sleep disorders”.

The Editors

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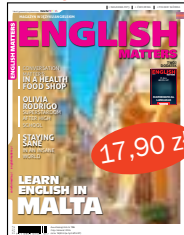


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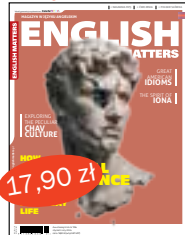
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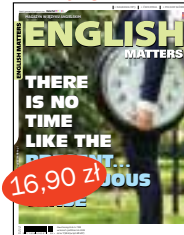
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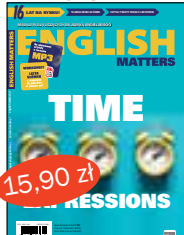
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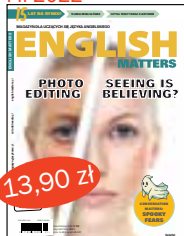
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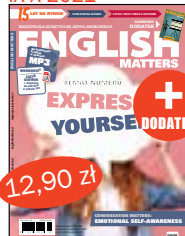
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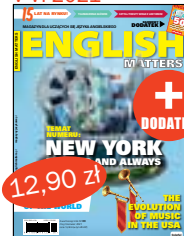
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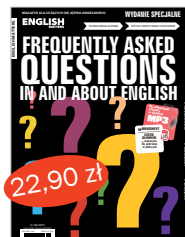
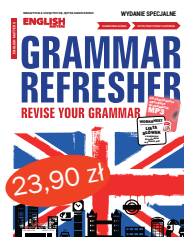
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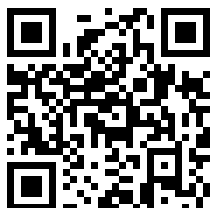
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