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Unit 2 LOL

Humour, comedy and laughter. What makes British humour unique? What's it like to be a comedian? Which type of humour do you use and enjoy most? And what exactly is laughter yoga and is it the best medicine? You'll find out in this unit.

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1

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO

- understand important factual information in short texts
- quickly identify the relevance of articles and reports on professional issues
- follow much of what is said around you about general topics
- express your opinion on abstract or cultural topics (such as music and movies)

Grammar

- simple past
- present perfect

Vocabulary

You can learn the vocabulary with the Study box (p. 84) and the vocab trainer.

Strategies

- skimming

LISTENING

- 1-2** Watch the video online and do the assignment that you find there. You may use the writing space below.

☐ *Go to the online assignment to find these answers.*

☐
☐
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TEXT

Joking aside, the British really do have a unique sense of humour

1 A survey of more than 4,000 twins suggests that humour regarded as typically British – sarcasm and self-deprecation – is linked to genes found in British men and women, but not shared, for instance, by Americans.

While telling jokes and looking on the bright side of life – which researchers dubbed positive humour – is common to both sides of the Atlantic, only in the UK did they discover genetic links with negative humour – biting sarcasm and teasing. Experts admit that the results have left them baffled.



2 They say it may explain why the British like aggressively sarcastic or denigrating humour such as *Fawlty Towers*, *Blackadder* and, of course, *The Office*. “It is possible that differences exist between these nations in their sense of humour and that these may be the result of different genetic and environmental influences,” said Dr Rod Martin, one of the researchers.

“Negative humour appeared to be genetically linked only in Britain”

3 He highlighted the difference between Ricky Gervais’s dreadful character David Brent and his much less embarrassing US counterpart played by Steve Carell. “The British may have a greater tolerance for a wide range of expressions of humour, including what many Americans might consider aggressively sarcastic or denigrating, like *Fawlty Towers* and *Blackadder*.

In the North American version of *The Office* the lead character is much less insensitive and intolerant than in the original UK version,” he added.

4 The study looked at genetic and environmental contributions to humour in nearly 2,000 pairs of UK twins. A second US study examined the humour of 500 sets of North American twins.

The results revealed that positive humour – saying funny things, telling jokes, a humorous outlook on life – was linked to genes and was shared by twins in the UK and US.

However, negative humour – teasing and ridicule, as well as more offensive, racist or sexist forms of humour, together with self-disparaging humour – appeared to be genetically linked only in Britain.

5 Dr Martin, from the University of Western Ontario, said the aim was to find out whether humour has a genetic basis. “In North American families, there was a genetic basis to positive humour, but negative humour seems to be entirely learned. Growing up in a family where negative humour was practised was important in the development of that sense of humour.

6 “In the UK, both positive and negative styles had a genetic basis in the sample. The genetic basis to negative humour in the UK was close to 50 percent. “Certainly in the UK, TV humour is more biting, whereas in North America it tends to be blander. “One theory is that these styles of humour are associated with other personality traits that probably have a genetic basis. People who tend to be more negative, depressed and anxious tend to use that kind of humour.”

7 The comedian Charlie Higson, who helped to create the hit TV series *The Fast Show*, said yesterday: “What Americans don’t understand is the British desire to keep putting themselves down, but they fully understand irony. Their humour is considerably more sophisticated. Look at their sitcoms – the level of wit and sophistication in *Friends* – we don’t have anything to match that. Ours tend to be about silly people doing silly things, whereas in America, it’s clever people doing clever things.”

Based on: www.independent.co.uk

READING

STRATEGY Skimming – main ideas strategies - skimmen - p. 10

Skimming means reading quickly to find only the main ideas of a text. Details are not important.
So if you don't know some words, you may still understand the text.

- 3** Skim the text. Then put the following pieces of paragraph information in the order of the text by ordering the sentences from 1 to 7.
- There are two versions of this series. 3
 - Examples are given of the two types of humour. 4
 - There may be a link between type of humour and somebody's personality. 6
 - A comedian argues American humour is more complicated than British humour. 7
 - Specialists find the outcome of their study hard to understand. 1
 - A researcher speculates on why Brits prefer certain types of humour. 2
 - The study focused on two factors. 5
- 4** What does the “survey” suggest in §1?
- ☒ Sarcastic humour is something that British children inherit from their parents.
 - ☐ The main reason for the experts' surprise is that British humour is often so sarcastic.
 - ☐ There is no similarity between Brits and Americans with regard to humour.
- 5** What phrase in §1 does ‘it’ in “They say it may explain” in §2 refer to?
- ☐ “Experts admit that the results have left them baffled.”
 - ☒ “... only in the UK did they discover genetic links with negative humour ...”
 - ☐ “... telling jokes and looking on the bright side of life ...”
- 6** What can be concluded from §3?
- ☒ Steve Carell's version of David Brent is less tactless and more accepting than Ricky Gervais's version of Brent.
 - ☐ The “greater tolerance for a wide range of expressions of humour” is to be seen in the North American version of *The Office*.
 - ☐ The writer prefers Steve Carell's version of David Brent to Ricky Gervais's version of the same character.
- 7** Answer the questions about §4.
- a** In which country / countries was harmless humour something that was apparently inherited, according to the study? In the US / UK / US + UK.
 - b** In which country / countries was insulting humour something that was apparently inherited, according to the study? In the US / UK / US + UK.
- 8** Quote the phrase, which consists of seven words, that indicates that in North America the insulting kind of humour, such as ridicule and sarcasm, is not inherited but gradually picked up and used.
- “negative humour seems to be entirely learned.”
- 9** Is the following statement true or false? Quote the first two words of the sentence that contains the answer.
- “It is currently speculated that using negative humour reflects your state of mind.”
- ☒ true ☐ false
- “People who”

- 10** Choose the correct answer. Quote the first two and the last two words from the paragraph to support your answer.

Charlie Higson finds American humour of a better / lower quality than British humour.

"Their humour ... more sophisticated."

VOCABULARY

- 11** Fill in the correct word and use the right form. Choose from the list. There are two words too many.

accomplish – alternate – conduct – crack down on – dub – edit – reside – reveal

- a It's very difficult to accomplish what Ricky Gervais has managed to do in the world of comedy.
- b I don't think that an illusionist will ever reveal the secrets of his incredible tricks.
- c In that sitcom the humour alternates between offensive sarcasm and innocent jokes.
- d When did Dr Martin conduct a survey on positive and negative types of humour?
- e Does she edit books for more than one publisher?
- f To dub him 'the best comedian of the decade' is exaggerated, I think.



- 12** Finish the collocations by filling in the correct verbs. Choose from the list. You have to use some verbs more than once.

to come – to get – to go – to keep – to pay

- a Pay **attention** to the teacher, or you'll never learn.
- b In dangerous situations you should always try to keep **calm**.
- c You'll need a lawyer if you want to get **a divorce**.
- d You said you'd help me, and I want you to keep **your promise!**
- e If her sight gets any worse, she will go **blind**.
- f My granddad is in hospital. I will pay him **a visit** tomorrow.
- g I can't wait to get **started** with my new project.
- h To me it's clear that their children always come **second**.

GRAMMAR

Simple past and present perfect

grammar - 3 & 5 - p. 56 & p. 57

Last week Dr Martin **said** the aim **was** to find out whether humour has a genetic basis.

Certainly, TV humour **has always been** more biting in the UK than in the USA.

- 13** First, underline the English adjunct of time that indicates why either the *simple past* or the *present perfect* has to be used. Then, choose between the *simple past* and the *present perfect*. Finally, write down the correct form of the words in brackets.

- a I (to watch) a *Fawlty Towers* episode last night called 'The Germans'.

Tense: present perfect / simple past: watched

b How long (you - to have) that 3D TV of yours?

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *have you had*

c When (you - to buy) that DVD box set of *The Office*?

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *did you buy*

d How many seasons of *South Park* (you - to see) so far?

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *have you seen*

e Justin (to spend) a few weeks in America last summer.

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *spent*

f Eve (to sit) on the sofa watching *Family Guy* all morning.

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *has sat*

g I'm afraid the dog (just + to tear) a few pages from your book.

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *has just torn*

h Yesterday, the teacher (to teach) us what irony was.

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *taught us*

i At what age (you - to decide) to become a stand-up comedian?

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *did you decide*

j (you - already + to take) a picture of that comedian?

Tense: present perfect / simple past: *Have you already taken*

SPEAKING

14 **PAIR WORK** Watch an episode of the British (not American!) series of *The Office*, *Blackadder* or *Fawlty Towers*. Discuss the episode of the sitcom that you have watched with a classmate. Take turns and use the following suggestions to structure your discussion. Prepare yourself and write down 30-40 keywords.

- Use 2-3 minutes to tell your classmate what the episode was about.
- Then, analyse the characters that are funny and why you think so. Also, describe the characters that are the 'victims' of the comedy, if any.
- Give examples of the sort of humour (dry, intelligent, sarcastic, making fun of yourself, making fun of others, dirty jokes, etc.) you have come across in the two episodes.
- Say what you recognised from the article *Joking aside ...* in the sitcom you have seen.
- Discuss the differences between the British sense of humour and the sense of humour you have heard in Dutch or American comedy shows and say which you prefer.

EXTRA READING & WRITING

15 Find an article of at least 500 words about American and/or British comedy.

Then, write a 350-400-word text in which you include the following.

- Mention the source (name of the website, newspaper, etc.) of the article, the date when it was written / published and the author.
- Write a 150- to 175-word summary of the article.
- Relate the contents of your article to what you have heard in exercise 1 and to the article *Joking aside ...*:
- What information was new to you? Were you surprised? Explain.
- What information was not new to you? Explain why.
- Does the writer arrive at a conclusion in the final paragraph? Comment on what he says there.

2

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO

- understand the main theme and arguments in simple texts
- understand important factual information in short texts
- give detailed accounts of experiences, describing feelings and reactions

Grammar

- comparisons
- adjectives
- adverbs

Vocabulary

You can learn the vocabulary with the Study box (p. 85) and the vocab trainer.

TEXT

The fascinating life of comedians

by Gil Greengross PhD

Why is stand-up comedy so hard to do?

1 Being a stand-up comedian is a very tough job. Standing in front of people is never easy, but standing in front of people who judge everything you say and expect to laugh every few seconds is much harder. We are used to hearing about famous, successful comedians such as Chris Rock, Ricky Gervais and Sarah Silverman, but there are thousands of other comedians in various stages of their career and many thousands more of aspiring, amateur comedians who, most likely, will never reach the success or fame they wish for.

2 As someone focusing on humor research, I find stand-up comedy fascinating. I wanted to know more about the business and especially about the comedians themselves. What motivates them to become comedians? Do they have unique personalities? Are they more intelligent than ordinary people? What are the daily lives of comedians like? Unfortunately, there are very few studies that have investigated the life of comedians, maybe because they are considered non-serious people to study. For some reason, there is much more research on other artistic and creative groups such as writers, poets, musicians, actors and dancers – all very serious people! My research on comedians was the first scientific study on that group in 30 years!

3 As light-hearted as it seems to study comedy, comedians and humor in general, it is important to note that studying stand-up comedians is a serious business that has important implications for understanding humor and creativity in general. While professional comedians may not embody ordinary uses of humor, studying

extreme levels of humor ability could still shed light on everyday humor. Comedians may not represent the average person, but studying comedians can help illuminate what people find funny and what they don't, and also help understand the creative process in general.

4 One of the things that I was curious to find out about comedians was what distinguishes them from other artistic vocational groups. Artists differ from each other in many ways, and one important distinction is between creators and performers. Creators are people that produce a work of art that others usually perform or do not need a performer, such as writers, poets, composers, and choreographers. Performers are people that use their artistic skills to perform other people's work, such as musicians, actors, and dancers. Granted, sometimes a person could be both at the same time as in the case of singers singing their own songs,



but this is not a requirement of the profession. Comedians, on the other hand, are different. Virtually no other art, besides stand-up comedy, requires that the artist will both create and perform his own act.

5 Comedians come in all forms and shapes. There is no formal education or specific course work you need to take in order to become a comedian, and I have met comedians that were high school dropouts on the one hand, and others that hold a PhD degree on the other. Their level of formal education tells us nothing about how good they are as comedians.

6 Many people want to become a comedian, but very few succeed or have the endurance to overcome failures. Stand-up comedy is a very competitive field with little job security. You might be considered a great comedian today, but nothing guarantees that the audience will love you tomorrow or next month. Each performance on stage is unique with its own interaction with the crowd. Jokes that put the audience on the floor one night, may not work the next night at the same club.

“Each performance on stage is unique with its own interaction with the crowd”

7 There are different levels of comedians. If you are an aspiring comedian you might want to submit a video of your act to a local comedy club. Most clubs hold amateur nights where basically anyone can come and perform on stage for 2-3 minutes. If you are good, you might be invited to become an opener for a show. An opener performs the first act that usually lasts between 10-15 minutes. He or she also serves as the emcee for the evening. These are comedians in the early stages of their career, and they usually receive very little compensation, if any. If you are good as an opener (and that might take several years to master), you could advance to the next level and become the feature guy. These are experienced comedians that have been in the business for several years, and their act is usually about half an hour. The next level is the headliner, the guy that is advertised in all the billboards by the club prior to the show. He or she performs between an hour to an hour and a half. It might take 15-20 years to become a headliner, and most comedians will not reach that level of success. But if you become one, you are at the

pinnacle of the comedy profession. This is a typical setting for a comedy club.

8 It goes without saying that if you are Chris Rock or Ricky Gervais, you often perform in huge venues, and then there is usually just an opener before you go on stage. Nonetheless, even very successful comedians such as Jerry Seinfeld, cannot come up with an hour of material without testing it on smaller crowds. They will often go and perform short acts of new material in small comedy clubs, as they build their way into a full act.

9 Besides the grueling career that is awaiting the aspiring comedians, their everyday life is not easy either. Most comedians do not have agents to manage their career and have to do everything by themselves. That means that they have to promote themselves, book their shows with the club managers, write and practise their materials, all of this while getting relatively low pay and often having to work at another job. It might take an average of 10-15 years for a comedian to be able to live off of comedy alone. And they have to do all of this without union support, as there is no union for comedians. Heck, there isn't even a list of all clubs and comedians that allows managers and comedians to connect with each other. Reputation is key, and if you are a good comedian, club managers will spread the word about you to other managers, who will then invite you to perform in their clubs.

10 Oh, have I mentioned the extensive travel involved? To succeed in the business you must travel a lot. It is one thing to be funny in front of your friends or at a friendly club where everyone knows you, but it is a different thing to go on the road and perform in front of new crowds that have never heard of you and have a completely different demographic. For example, older and more traditional audiences can have completely different tastes than young and liberal ones. Great comedians will know to adjust and succeed almost everywhere, but this takes time and experience. Many comedians will travel between 40-50 weeks a year, usually performing Thursday to Sunday (staying often at a not so pleasant condo owned by the club to save money). These half-week at home, half-week on the road schedules make it very difficult to sustain a home life or another job. And imagine how hard it is to maintain a steady relationship with so much traveling. You sometimes wonder why on earth people want to become a comedian in the first place!

Based on: www.psychologytoday.com

READING

1 Read just the first sentence of each paragraph. Afterwards, indicate which of the questions below will (probably) be answered in the rest of the paragraph.

- a Where do famous successful comedians' performances take place? 8
- b What's the use of humour research? 3
- c In what way are comedians different from other artists? 4
- d How important is it for ambitious comedians to be on the road? 10
- e How hard is it to be a stand-up comedian? 1
- f What sort of things was the author interested in finding out? 2
- g What sort of comedians are there? 5
- h How do ambitious comedians spend their time when they're not performing? 9
- i How hard is it to remain a comedian for a long time and deal with disappointments? 6
- j What are the possible stages of a comedian's development? 7

2 Find the words in the text that mean the following. There is one word in each paragraph and the words are in the order of the text.

Description	Word in text
parts of process (§1)	<u>stages</u>
examined (§2)	<u>investigated</u>
make clear (§3)	<u>illuminate</u>
abilities (§4)	<u>skills</u>
particular (§5)	<u>specific</u>
regarded as (§6)	<u>considered</u>
a number of (§7)	<u>several</u>
large groups of people (§8)	<u>crowds</u>
because (§9)	<u>as</u>
continue (§10)	<u>sustain</u>

3 (§1) What will probably be the case concerning the majority of beginning comedians?

They will never reach the success or fame they wish for.

4 (§2) Complete the following sentence so that it matches the text.

The fact that comedians are not regarded as serious people could be ...

the reason that there are very few studies about them / their lives.

- 5** (§3) According to the writer, studying stand-up comedians is a serious business. Which of the following reason(s) is / are in line with the text? Answer with yes or no.
- a** To discover what is commonly considered humorous. yes / no
 - b** To find out the difference between professional and non-professional comedians. yes / no
 - c** To gain insight into the relationship between humour and the ability to use one's imagination to produce something. yes / no
 - d** To acquire a greater appreciation of the hard work of comedians. yes / no
- 6** (§4) Considering the writer's definition of 'creators' and 'performers', explain if the following artists are nearly always creators, performers or both. Choose the correct answer.
- a** Painters are nearly always ... creators / performers / both

 - b** Actors are nearly always ... creators / performers / both

 - c** Stand-up comedians are nearly always ... creators / performers / both

- 7** (§5) "Comedians come in all 'forms and shapes'." Quote all the 'forms and shapes' mentioned in this paragraph.
- "high school dropouts", "others that hold a PhD"*
-
- 8** (§6) Complete these sentences so that they match the text.
- Not many aspiring comedians can deal with *failures* . It is *the audience* that decides to a very large degree if *jokes* are appreciated or not.
- 9** (§7) Mention the "different levels of comedians" at a comedy club.
- Opener, feature guy, headliner.*
-
- 10** (§7) Which of these comedians will provide their audience with info throughout the evening?
- The opener who is also the emcee.*
-
- 11** (§8) How else could the last sentence "They will ... full act." start without changing the meaning of the sentence?
- ☒ As a result, they will ...
 - ☐ However, they will ...
 - ☐ Nevertheless, they will ...
 - ☐ On the other hand, they will ...
- 12** (§9) Are these statements true or false?
- a** Comedians have to have another job for at least ten years. true / false
 - b** The word 'Heck' expresses surprise. true / false
 - c** The only thing that can help aspiring comedians is good luck. true / false
- 13** (§10) Use the information in the last three sentences of this paragraph. How else could the first sentence "Oh, have I ... travel involved?" start without changing the meaning of the sentence?
- ☒ And if all this is not bad enough, have I ...
 - ☐ Fortunately, there is also a positive side to all this because have I ...
 - ☐ I think I have forgotten to mention something. Have I ...

VOCABULARY

- 14** Indicate which synonym or description comes closest to the underlined word.
- a** You ought to be glad that such liberal parents as yours allow you to become a comedian.
- ☐ friendly
☒ open-minded
☐ supportive
- b** What sparked the protest from that woman in the audience?
- ☐ controlled
☐ prevented
☒ produced
- c** She has a genuine admiration for that comedy actress.
- ☐ exaggerated
☐ fake
☒ real
- d** This event tests both physical and mental endurance.
- ☐ the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles
☒ the ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long period of time without complaining
☐ the ability to put effort and enthusiasm into an activity
- e** I've had a grueling day. Time to see a good comedy.
- ☐ disappointing and awful
☒ difficult and tiring
☐ lonely and boring
- f** He virtually accused the stand-up comedian of racism.
- ☐ hardly
☐ openly
☒ practically

VOCABULARY EXTRA

Negative prefixes

We can form the opposite of many adjectives or give them a negative meaning by adding a negative prefix, such as un-, dis-, im-, mis- and -ir.

Most aspiring stand-up comedians will remain unsuccessful.

It will take an inexperienced comedian many years to acquire a name for himself.



- 15** Make opposites with the adjectives given. Use one of the prefixes, and a hyphen, if necessary:
 dis- / in- / im- / ir- / mis- / non- / un-

pleased – likely – regular – sufficient – serious – patient – understand

dis _____ pleased

non- _____ serious

un _____ likely

im _____ patient

ir _____ regular

mis _____ understand

in _____ sufficient

STRATEGY Prefixes and suffixes

When changing words to fit a gap in an exercise, you can use both prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes can give a word its opposite meaning, as you saw in a previous exercise. Affixes allow you to turn one type of word into another. For example: you can turn the verb 'to wonder' into an adjective by adding the suffix '-ful': 'wonderful'.

C

- 16** Change the words given so that they fit in the gaps.

One of the most famous comedians of all time was Tommy Cooper. His act of the completely (a success) *unsuccessful* magician made him (b credible) *incredibly* popular. But this is what he is most famous for: One evening in 1984, he fell over on stage during a live BBC broadcast. Understandably, the audience (c understand) *misunderstood* what was happening – they thought he was joking. In reality, he had had a heart attack. He died backstage minutes later. It sounds (d believe) *unbelievable*, but believe me, it is (e fiction) *non-fiction*. In fact, clips can still be found on YouTube, although some feel this is extremely (f respect) *disrespectful*, even (g moral) *immoral*, and they ought to be removed. But they appear to be (h resist) *irresistible* – one clip has over 250,000 views.

GRAMMAR**Comparisons**

grammar - 17 - p. 68

Are comedians **more intelligent than** ordinary people?

A comedian's situation might be **worse than** other people's because he usually has to have two jobs to survive.

- 17** Complete the sentences with the right forms of the words in brackets.

- a Being a stand-up comedian is a tough job and much (difficult) *more difficult than* most people may think.
- b Do you think Chris Rock is (good) *as good as / better than* Ricky Gervais?
- c Why do you find stand-up comedy the (fascinating) *most fascinating* profession there is?
- d You should drive (carefully) *more carefully* if you want to see that stand-up comedy show in one piece.
- e This young comedian is becoming (steeds grappiger - funny) *funnier and funnier* every time I see him. I look forward to seeing his next show.
- f The (far) *farthest* place she had to travel to for her show was 200 km from her own town.
- g In his (late) *latest* show his jokes weren't (funny) *as funny as* I had hoped.

- h If you planned your work (efficiently) *more efficiently than* _____ you have been doing so far, you would feel less tired every day.
- i What you say is (easy) *easier* _____ said than done.
- j The (bad) *worst* _____ thing that can happen is that your audience does not even laugh at what you thought were your (good) *best* _____ jokes.

Adjectives and adverbs

grammar - 15 - p. 65-66

Studying stand-up comedians is a serious business.

Many aspiring men and women are seriously trying to become successful comedians.

- 18** Read the interview with stand-up comedian Katherine Ryan. With each item, as in the examples above:
- First, put a circle around the word(s) that the adjective or adverb refers to.
 - Then, underline the correct answer.
- Sometimes you are simply asked to choose the correct adjective.

Katherine Ryan interview: "I'd only go back to Canada if I was terminally ill."

"I (**a** sure / surely) wouldn't have wanted to be a woman 30 years ago," says the Canadian stand-up comedian Katherine Ryan. "Now is the perfect time, (**b** particular / particularly) in comedy," she says.

For as long as anyone can remember, (**c** successful / successfully) female comedians have been denied the same level of exposure as their male counterparts. Since February last year, the BBC has made some (**d** serious / seriously) attempts to address the problem by (**e** slow / slowly) banning all-male line-ups on panel shows such as *Mock the Week* and *Have I Got News for You*. Sounds (**f** good / well), doesn't it? Comedians including Sarah Millican and Josie Long have (**g** late / late) started getting the recognition that they had been waiting for.

(**h** Fortunate / Fortunately), you can now add to that list the name of Katherine Ryan.

Her performance last year on BBC One was (**i** great / greatly). Her (**j** choose the right adjective: seven-minute / seven minutes) set, in which she bounced through material on immigration, the royal family and Beyoncé Knowles, was (**k** theatrical / theatrically) and full of inspired impressions. It was clear she had prepared her show very (**l** good / well).

As an outsider, the (**m** 32 years old / 32-year old / 32-year-old) Canadian takes Britain's fondness for celebrity scandal and trash television to pieces. When the punch lines came, in a (**n** recent / recently) performance, they could be (**o** violent / violently).

"I got into comedy at exactly the right moment," she says. "In the beginning I could find my place in that world (**p** difficult / difficultly / with difficulty), but then, (**q** sudden / suddenly), the industry went: 'We need some female comedians, are there any of them?' and you put your hand up. 'I've been (**r** quiet / quietly) working at this for ten years.' Those ten years have not always been (**s** easy / easily)."

After leaving her small home town in Ontario, Ryan studied city planning at university, then took a job in Toronto as a waitress for the American fast-food chain Hooters. In 2008, she left Canada and moved to London, where she worked in a number of office jobs while taking part in open-mike evenings at pubs on a (u day / daily / dayly) (basis) and comedy clubs across the capital for “30 quid or sometimes nothing”. Ryan now lives in Crouch End, North London, with her (v six year old / six-year-old / six-year old) (daughter) Violet.

SPEAKING

- 19** You are going to give a talk of 3-4 minutes about the shows of two stand-up comedians – one male, one female. For this you can watch (part of) two shows on TV or online. Each show should be at least 15 minutes. Prepare your talk by writing down a maximum of 30 keywords. Include information about the following:
- 1 Set the stage. Describe the location and the atmosphere. Name whose show you have seen. If you were familiar with the comedian’s work, what did you expect? If you were not familiar with his/her work, what did you expect after the first 2-3 minutes of the show?
 - 2 Did the comedian(s) meet your expectations? What sort of atmosphere did they create? What was the subject matter? How did you like their style? What sort of humour was used? If something in the show was not to your liking, explain why.
 - 3 Compare the two comedians (differences and similarities).
 - 4 Finally, state your preference between the two comedians and explain why.



3

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO

- give or ask for personal views, comments and opinions in discussions
- confidently exchange, check and confirm factual information in your own field
- understand slowly and clearly presented headlines about familiar topics
- understand important factual information in short texts

Grammar

- simple past
- past continuous

Vocabulary & expressions

You can learn these with the Study box (p. 86) and the vocab trainer.

TEXT

You can't argue about humour

1 When describing people you know, you would probably say that they are: interesting / boring, outgoing / introvert, easy-going / difficult to persuade, etc. There's a good chance that you would also mention whether they have or don't have a good sense of humour.

2 But what would you mean, exactly, by "a good sense of humour"? Would it mean that you share the same taste for humour and can laugh for several hours with that person watching *Dumb and Dumber* or *Monty Python*? Or is it that he or she is simply easily amused and laughs at pretty much anything, be it British humour or "funny animal compilations" on YouTube? Or, would you mean that the person can make others laugh easily and always has a funny remark at the ready?

Four humour styles

3 The Humour Styles Questionnaire and the model it builds upon were developed by Rod A. Martin. The model attempts to capture the differences in how individuals typically use or express humour and whether these uses are beneficial for one's well-being and one's social environment or the opposite.

4 The model distinguishes between four different *humour styles*:

1 *Bonding humour*. This style is characterised by using humour to foster group cohesion: telling jokes and making fun of things that everybody can safely laugh at and feel included in a merry fellowship. Non-hostile, non-competitive and benign humour style.

2 *Laughing at life*. Refers to how one uses humour on an individual level: a tendency to be amused by various things in one's life, also when faced with difficult or stressful situations. It can be viewed as a skill used to cope with stress in a proactive way.

3 *Put-down humour*. You remember that guy in the school, who always poked fun at the other, slightly obese, shy kid wearing glasses? This *aggressive* humour style is related to using humour to disparage, manipulate or threaten others; it is destructive for group cohesion and can lead to in-group divisions and suffering in certain individuals.

4 *Hate-me humour*. This humour style could be applied by the obese, shy kid as a way of mitigating the effects of the aggressive humour: the self-defeating style involves allowing others to make jokes at one's expense and pretending that one is having fun along the way; it is also a tendency to use the self-deprecating humour to amuse others.

The humour styles questionnaire. How do you use humour?

Respond to the following statements adapted from Rod Martin's Humour Styles Questionnaire. Respond as honestly and objectively as you can.



- 1 _____ If someone makes a mistake, I will often tease them about it.
- 2 _____ I let people laugh at me or make fun at my expense more than I should.
- 3 _____ I don't have to work very hard at making other people laugh; I seem to be a naturally humorous person.
- 4 _____ Even when I'm by myself, I'm amused by the absurdities of life.
- 5 _____ People are never offended or hurt by my sense of humour.
- 6 _____ I rarely make other people laugh by telling funny stories about myself.
- 7 _____ My humorous outlook keeps me from getting overly upset or depressed about things.
- 8 _____ If I'm by myself and I'm feeling unhappy, I think of something funny to cheer myself up.
- 9 _____ Sometimes I can't stop myself from saying something funny, even if it isn't appropriate.
- 10 _____ I enjoy making people laugh.
- 11 _____ If I am feeling upset, I usually lose my sense of humour.
- 12 _____ When I am with friends or family, I am often the one whom other people joke about.
- 13 _____ If I am having problems or feeling unhappy, I often cover it up by joking around so that even my closest friends don't know how I really feel.
- 14 _____ I usually can't think of witty things to say when I'm with other people.
- 15 _____ Even if something is really funny, I won't joke about it if someone will be offended.
- 16 _____ Letting others laugh at me is my way of keeping them in good spirits.

Totally disagree 1;
Moderately disagree 2;
Slightly disagree 3;
Neither agree nor disagree 4;
Slightly agree 5;
Moderately agree 6;
Totally agree 7.

How to score:

Bonding humour: Start with the numeral 7 and add your answers for questions 3 and 10, then subtract your responses to questions 6 and 14.

Laughing at life: Start with the numeral 3. Add your answers for questions 4, 7 and 8, then subtract your response to question 11.

Put-down humour: Start with the numeral 14 and add your answers for questions 1 and 9, then subtract your responses to questions 5 and 15.

Hate-me humour: Add your answers to questions 2, 12, 13 and 16.

How to read the score:

Consider yourself high in any category if your score is above 17, average if it is between 11 and 17 and low at 11 or under. Note your highest score; it will reveal how you usually use humour.

Based on: Rod A. Martin Humor Styles Questionnaire

READING

- 1** (§1) The writer refers to different sorts of people. What sort of people does he not refer to?
- ☐ people who accept things without worrying or getting angry
 - ☒ people who are not easily interested
 - ☐ people who are not very keen on spending time with other people
 - ☐ people who like to meet and talk to new people
- 2** (§2) The various questions in paragraph 2 show that the writer is ...
- ☐ impatient
 - ☐ irritated
 - ☒ puzzled
 - ☐ disappointed
- 3** (§3) In this paragraph the writer speaks of uses of humour “that are beneficial for one’s well-being and one’s social environment”. Which of the four humour styles in paragraph 4 might be beneficial?
- ☒ bonding humour
 - ☒ laughing at life
 - ☐ put-down humour
 - ☐ hate-me humour
- 4** (§4) Match the four humour styles with their eight characteristics. There are two characteristics for each style. Write down the correct letters behind numbers 1-4.

humour style		characteristic
1 bonding humour	1: <u>e</u> + <u>g</u>	a Things may not go your way but who cares.
2 laughing at life	2: <u>a</u> + <u>c</u>	b The amusing remarks are at my expense, but I can laugh about it.
3 put-down humour	3: <u>d</u> + <u>h</u>	c You see the fun of life.
4 hate-me humour	4: <u>b</u> + <u>f</u>	d It goes at the expense of others.
		e It is not supposed to hurt anyone.
		f The speaker makes fun of himself to entertain others.
		g It makes you feel closer to the group you belong to.
		h It may cause the group you are in to split up.

- 5** Read the humour styles questionnaire on page 66 and decide to what extent you agree or disagree with the statements. Write down the appropriate numbers. Then, write down your scores.

My score:

bonding humour: _____

laughing at life: _____

put-down humour: _____

hate-me humour: _____

VOCABULARY

6 Read the definitions in brackets and fill in the correct words. You may use this lesson's word list.

- a Is it easy to (see the difference) *distinguish* amateur stand-up comedians from professionals?
- b Deborah is a friendly and (likely to seek or enjoy company) *outgoing* person and fun to be with.
- c I saw the (confused) *puzzled* look on his face because he didn't understand the joke.
- d Lenny has a (habit to behave) *tendency* to make a sarcastic remark if somebody makes a mistake.
- e Dad tried to (convince to do something by using arguments) *persuade* me to go to that stand-up comedy show with him.
- f Robin is (having a relaxed, casual manner) *easy-going*, and that's why he probably has many friends.
- g I like to hang out with (clever and funny) *witty* people.
- h The students (act as if) *pretend* to have fun.
- i Did forgetting his lines during the performance (cause an unpleasant feeling, make you unhappy and worried) *upset* him?

GRAMMAR

Simple past and past continuous

 grammar - 3 & 4 - p. 56 & p. 56

I **was watching** *The Hangover* when Lois called me.

When I came home, my mum **was reading** the paper on her tablet.

Deborah **was texting** her friend when we **were watching** a film.

7 Go about it as follows:

- First underline the verb of the action that was going on when something happened (the action was interrupted).
- Then put the verb in the *past continuous*. Put the other verb in the *simple past*.
- If both actions are happening at the same time you underline both verbs and put them in the *past continuous*.
- If both actions occur in succession, you don't underline the verbs, but you put them in the *simple past*.

EXAMPLE:

My dad (to see) saw, that I (to have) was having a problem with the English subtitles.

- a The cartoon character (to fall) fell off the roof when he (to repair) was repairing the chimney.
- b We (to listen) were listening to a stand-up comedian show on TV when the radio suddenly (to stop) stopped.

- c My teacher (to meet) *met* with an accident when he
(to drive) *was driving* home from school.
- d I (to text) *was texting* something to a schoolmate when my mother
(to bring) *brought* me some tea.
- e While we (to watch) *were watching* something on Comedy Central,
Dad (to sleep) *was sleeping* in his armchair.
- f My sister suddenly (to realise) *realised* that she (to watch) *was watching*
a comedy film that she had seen before.
- g A waiter (to lead) *led* us to a table when we (to enter) *entered*
the comedy club.

SPEAKING

STRATEGY Expanding your answers

To have a 'real', more natural conversation, it is a good idea to do more than simply answer the questions you are asked. Add an anecdote or an example, or explain your thinking. This will often lead to new questions from the person you are talking to.

8 PAIR WORK Have a conversation with a classmate. Go about it as follows:

- Ask each other questions in turn. Choose from the list below.
- Use the strategy to add to your answers.
- Ask extra questions about the things your classmate tells you.
- Talk for 2-3 minutes.

Questions

- 1 What do you like to do in your free time? (Why?)
- 2 Do you enjoy studying? (Why / why not?)
- 3 What kind of job would you like to have in the future? (Why?)
- 4 How important is humour to you? (Can you give an example?)
- 5 Do you think you spend too much time on social media? (Why?)
- 6 If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be? (Why?)

LISTENING

- 9 Watch the video online and do the assignment that you find there. You may use the writing space below.

☐	<i>Go to the online assignment to find these answers.</i>
☐	
☐	
☐	
☐	

EXPRESSIONS

10 PAIR WORK Work with a classmate. Apply the expressions that you have learned (p. 92). The expressions below are in italics. One of you reads A, the other one will carry out the assignment in B and make full sentences. When you have finished, change roles, but this time use different variants of the expressions from the ones that your classmate has used.

- a** Statement: Bonding humour is a style that is characterised by using humour to foster group cohesion.
Reaction: (Ga na of je dit begrepen hebt door het *met eigen woorden te herhalen*.)
- b** Statement: Put-down humour is a style I think is OK sometimes.
Reaction: (*Vertel beleefd en voorzichtig dat je het hiermee oneens bent*. Leg uit waarom.)
- c** Statement: It seems we can go to that performance for free!
Reaction: (*Geef een oordeel*. Licht dit toe.)
- d** Statement: Laughing is always good.
Reaction: (*Maak een kanttekening* naar aanleiding van die opmerking.)
- e** Statement: I have an extra ticket for tonight's comedy show. You can have it if you like.
Reaction: (Druk *enthousiasme* uit.)
- f** Statement: (Laat merken dat je het *gesprek moet beëindigen*.)
Reaction: (Reageer.)
- g** Statement: (*Begin een gesprek met een onbekende in een theater tijdens de pauze en vraag iets over de komiek die jullie net gehoord en gezien hebben*.)
Reaction: (Reageer.)
- h** Statement: Sorry, but I'm not allowed to sell tickets for the comedy show to people who are under 18.
Reaction: (Druk *verontwaardiging* uit. Licht toe.)

SPEAKING

11 PAIR WORK With a classmate, discuss (some of) the following questions. Choose them in any order you like. Your teacher will tell you when to stop. Use the expressions that you have learned for this lesson (p. 92) and that you have practised in the previous exercise. First, prepare yourself by writing down some keywords and expressions that will help you during your discussion.

- a** You have watched the programme *Why do we laugh?* What information in the programme was new for you?
- b** It is often said that laughter is the best medicine. What do you think of this idea?
- c** When you look for a boyfriend or girlfriend or just a friend, how important is it for them to have a sense of humour? Why?
- d** When have you done silly things to amuse your friends? Give an example.
- e** Have you ever played a practical joke on another person? What did you do?
- f** Do you laugh when other people suffer misfortune? Is it funny when someone falls over?
- g** When is it okay to laugh at another person and when is it wrong?
- h** Mention a funny person you know in your circle of friends or relatives. What makes him/her funny?
- i** Which Dutch comedians do you like? Why?
- j** Is being funny a natural ability or can a person learn to be funny? How could a person become funnier?
- k** What is your favourite comedy movie? Can you recall a funny scene from the film?
- l** When you have finished, take some time to look back on your discussions.
Did you use the expressions?

4

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO

- search in longer texts for information of interest to you
- scan long, complex texts to find relevant details
- understand slowly and clearly presented TV interviews, presentation and news reports of personal interest
- write a story about a subject that interests you

Grammar

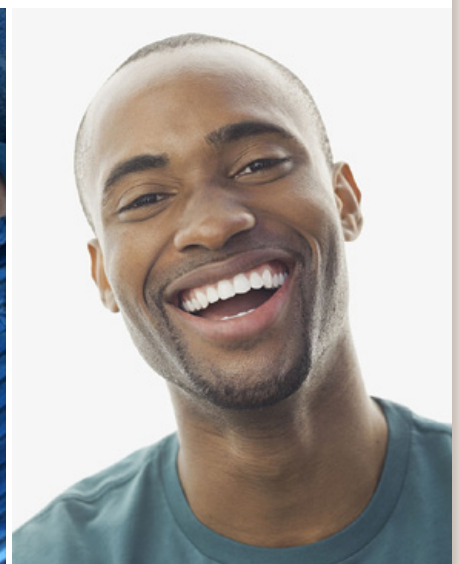
- past perfect
- simple past

Vocabulary

You can learn the vocabulary with the Study box (p. 88) and the vocab trainer.

TEXT

Laughter yoga in India ... and in the United States



1 Wandering through the public gardens at Lokhandwala Park in Mumbai (Bombay), India, early in the morning, you might cross paths with a cheery group of folks contorting their faces and laughing in unison. After 15 or 20 minutes of deep breathing and hoho-ha-has, followed by simulated laughter including hearty guffaws, quiet tee-hees, roaring lion laughter, silent laughter, and tittering cocktail laughter, the group disperses, beginning the day with a smile.

2 The more than 900 laugh clubs in India are the inspiration of Dr. Madan Kataria, who observed while working as a family physician that patients' immune systems and general well-being improved following bouts of laughter. Kataria eventually left his medical practice and fine-tuned his daily regimen of "thought-free" laughter, creating yoga laughter classes that have spread from India to the Far East, Europe, and North America.

3 Journalist Lizette Alvarez visited a yoga class in New York. "I was in a vile, despicable mood when I arrived at laughter yoga. It was Wednesday, and my brain felt torn in one too many directions; the usual, only worse. Laughter seemed a remote possibility. I waited patiently inside a nondescript office in 40th Street and Broadway among a group of wildly divergent strangers, with only my skepticism to keep me company.

4 “There are some simple rules,” Vishwa Prakash, the laughter therapist and coach who runs this group, told us at the start of the session. “Let’s be as joyful as we can. Let’s look each other directly in the eye. And if you don’t know what’s happening, fake it till you make it.” An hour later I floated out onto Broadway, ready to break into song and speed-dial a few friends to sign them up for the next class. This stuff worked.

5 “HO, HO, HA, HA, HA,” Mr. Prakash said, loudly, beginning the first exercise. We all repeated: “HO, HO, HA, HA, HA. HO, HO, HA, HA, HA.” There were about twenty of us walking around his office in a circle. I went to shake one woman’s hand, as instructed, when she showed me her cast. “I fractured my right wrist. HO, HO, HA, HA, HA.” There was no trace of traditional humor. No jokes. No amusing stories. Just simple exercises meant to get the laughter rolling. And because it is infectious, before long, the room was full of raucous, noisy laughter. We flapped our arms like chickens, threw pretend snowballs at one another, rode imaginary bicycles and peeled giant bananas, all with the goal of reclaiming the laughter we gradually lose as we grow up.

6 The idea is to just keep laughing and looking into one another’s eyes to stay connected. It doesn’t even have to be real. It’s impossible to genuinely laugh for forty minutes. The body doesn’t care if the laughter is fake. It responds anyway, Mr. Prakash said. Anyone walking past would take us for the patients in *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. After a while, though, you stop worrying about how crazy it all seems, which is what laughter does to you. It is a natural calming medicine like Xanax. It is also said to bolster your immune system, lower your blood pressure and work your abs.

7 Soon, it was sharing time. As we sat in chairs in a circle, we discussed our experiences. One woman with chronic pain in her knees and back said she felt pain-free. Another who recently lost her job and is now plagued by insomnia said that after every class she sleeps “like a baby”. “I had a raging headache when I walked in, and now it’s gone,” said Catherine Perry, 40, who was one of several first-timers in the group. “As for me, I was elated.”

Based on: *New York Times* Lizette Alvarez 2010

READING

- 1 Read only the first sentence of each paragraph.
Indicate in which paragraph answers to the following questions can be found.

Where can we find information about ...

- a general laughter yoga rules? § 4
- b what you are supposed to do at laughter yoga? § 6
- c laughter yoga in the country where it all started? § 1
- d the person who came up with the idea of laughter yoga? § 2
- e how the therapist started the exercise? § 5
- f the reaction of the participants? § 7

- 2** (§1) Five different ways of simulated laughing are mentioned in this paragraph. Which of these five is the noisiest?
 hearty guffaws / quiet tee-hees / roaring lion laughter / silent laughter / tittering cocktail laughter
 And which one is the least noisy?
 hearty guffaws / quiet tee-hees / roaring lion laughter / silent laughter / tittering cocktail laughter

- 3** (§2) Dr Madan Kataria uses the expression “thought-free laughter”. What do you think is thought-free laughter and why would he promote that?
☒ When you laugh, you cannot think and that is the objective of the yoga exercises.
☐ When doing yoga exercises, you cannot think and will be open for bouts of laughter.
☐ When you laugh a lot, troubles will disappear and that might be healthy.

- 4** (§2) How else could the first sentence of this paragraph start, without changing the meaning?
☒ As a matter of fact, more than 900 laugh clubs in India are ...
☐ Because of this, more than 900 laugh clubs in India are ...
☐ However, more than 900 laugh clubs in India are ...
☐ Moreover, more than 900 laugh clubs in India are ...

- 5** (§2) Is yoga expert Dr Madan Kataria really a doctor? Explain your answer.

Yes, he is. He used to be a family physician.

- 6** (§3) Lizette Alvarez visits a yoga class and describes her mood as “vile and despicable”. She observes how laughter seems “a remote possibility”. Do we know how long it stayed like this? Quote the first two and last two words from the phrase or sentence that explains your answer.

Yes, it lasted not more than an hour: “It stayed ... into song”.

- 7** (§4) The laughter therapist said: “Fake it till you make it.” What did he mean?

Pretend to laugh until you actually start laughing.

- 8** With which of the words from the list can the sentences start so that they match information from the text?

although – but – consequently – nevertheless – since – so – therefore – yet

- a** Since it is impossible to laugh for 40 minutes, the participants have to pretend they’re laughing.
b Although the participants sometimes pretend they’re laughing, there’s still an effect.

- 9** (§6) What kind of patients is Alvarez referring to when she mentions the patients in *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest*?
☐ coma patients
☐ chronic patients
☐ geriatric patients
☒ mental patients

- 10** Indicate whether the following statements are true or false, based on information in the text.

Laughter yoga can ...

- a** boost your immune system. true / false
- b** lower your blood pressure. true / false
- c** improve your digestion. true / false
- d** relieve your worries. true / false
- e** build your muscles. true / false

- 11** Which of the following titles would fit the text best?

- ☐ Beginning the day with a smile
- ☐ Laughing in unison
- ☒ Laughter is the best medicine
- ☐ Simulated laughter or bouts of laughter

LISTENING

- 12** Watch the video online and do the assignment that you find there. You may use the writing space below.

☐ *Go to the online assignment to find these answers.*

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

VOCABULARY

- 13** Fill in the correct words. Choose from the following words. There are two words too many.

roaring – simulated – noisy – vile – raging – genuine – raucous – tittering – nondescript

- a** When you fake laughter, it is called simulated laughter.
- b** The crowd had to take in an intense, raucous performance, which was too loud and unpleasant to listen to.
- c** You couldn't miss my father with his booming voice and roaring laughter.
- d** First she giggled, but later she tried to hide her tittering laugh.
- e** A vile traitor is someone who deserves to be despised!
- f** I can't stand noisy eaters; they really spoil my dinner.
- g** Being able to laugh easily with genuine laughter demonstrates confidence.

VOCABULARY EXTRA **Phrasal verbs**

“An hour later I floated out onto Broadway, ready to break into song.”

Some verbs can have various meanings. Like ‘to break’, for example. It’s generally known as the English word for the Dutch *breken*. But in the laughter yoga text ‘break’ can’t be translated like this. Here ‘break into song’ means *in zingen uitbarsten*.

The following exercise deals with *phrasal verbs*. *Phrasal verbs* are usually two-word phrases consisting of **verb + preposition** (What are you *getting at*?) or **verb + adverb** (You may have to *look up* these words).

14 First, read the sentences below. Then, match the phrasal verbs with their meanings.

There are two meanings too many.

- 1 Our car **broke down** at the side of the road.
- 2 The woman **broke down** when the police told her that her husband had died.
- 3 They **broke away** to form a new political party.
- 4 I need to **break in** these shoes before we run the marathon next week.
- 5 The TV station **broke in** to report the news of the president’s death.
- 6 My boyfriend and I **broke up** before I moved to the States.
- 7 The prisoner **broke out** of jail when the guards weren’t looking.
- 8 I **broke out** in a rash after our trekking tour in the forest.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| a leave a group | 1 <u>j</u> |
| b develop a skin condition | 2 <u>f</u> |
| c end a relationship | 3 <u>a</u> |
| d escape | 4 <u>k</u> |
| e force entry to a building | 5 <u>g</u> |
| f get upset | 6 <u>c</u> |
| g interrupt | 7 <u>d</u> |
| i share information | 8 <u>b</u> |
| j stop functioning (vehicle, machine) | |
| k wear something a few times so that it doesn’t look or feel new | |

15 **PAIR WORK** First individually, find eight examples of phrasal verbs. Use ‘to bring’, ‘to fill’, ‘to look’, ‘to give’. Use your dictionary or the internet. Write down two different sentences of each and keep their meanings to yourself. Now, swap your sentences with a classmate, who has to guess the meanings of the phrasal verbs. Discuss your answers together.

GRAMMAR **Past perfect**
 grammar - 7 - p. 58

She told us that insomnia **had plagued** her for years.

I did not have any money because I **had lost** my wallet.

16 Read the sentences and underline the *past perfect*.

- a Before she visited laughter yoga, she had never been to a yoga class.
- b He hadn’t seen real clown doctors until he paid a visit to a friend in hospital.
- c The charity was founded years after the hospital had invited the first clown doctors.
- d Had she ever studied yoga before she went to laughter yoga?
- e We had had our family physician for ten years before I finally needed his advice.

Past perfect and simple past

grammar - 7 & 3 - p. 58 & p. 56

The *past perfect* expresses the idea that something took place and finished before another activity in the past started. The action that occurred first, gets the *past perfect* tense.

The room **had been** full of laughter before sharing time **started**.

I **had waited** a long time when the therapist **took** me into the office.

17 Fill in the *past perfect* and the *simple past* in the following sentences.

Indicate which activity happened first by underlining the word 'first'. Underline 'last' for the activity or situation that came last. Now, put the verbs in the correct tense. For the first activity ('first') you use the *past perfect*. For the second activity ('last') you use the *simple past*.

- a We (to fake = first / last) had faked laughter for a long time before yoga class (to end = first / last) ended.
- b Catherine (to have = first / last) had had a raging headache before she (to walk = first / last) walked in.
- c Dr Madan Kataria (to create = first / last) created yoga laughter classes after he (to observe = first / last) had observed how patients' immune systems improved by laughing.
- d We (to discuss = first / last) discussed our experiences after we (to be = first / last) had been laughing for 40 minutes.
- e She (to have = first / last) had had chronic pain in her knees for years, until she (to visit = first / last) visited someone who could heal her.

WRITING

18 Medical science is slowly getting the message that maybe the proverb *a cheerful heart is good medicine* is right. What is your opinion? Is laughing really that beneficial? Do you agree or disagree? Write a story about the theme of this lesson, combining what you've read and watched. Give an example from your own experience to prove your point. Use 200-225 words.

EXTRA READING & WRITING

- 19** Find two articles of 500-750 words about other activities that might be good for your (mental) health, like eating nutritious meals, daily exercises and getting enough sleep. Write a text of 200-250 words in which you include the answers to the points below.
- 1 Mention the source of the articles, the date when they were written / published and the authors' names.
 - 2 Give a summary of the texts you've found.
 - 3 Compare the contents of the articles with the information in the reading and listening texts of this lesson. Are there any differences as to the result?
 - 4 Finish with your own preference.

5

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO

- write accounts of experiences describing feelings and reactions
- understand the main theme and arguments in simple texts
- read fiction and non-fiction, understanding the whole text and details to a reasonable degree
- follow a talk or speech within your own field

Grammar

- past continuous
- simple past

Vocabulary & expressions

You can learn these with the Study box (p. 89) and the vocab trainer.

Strategies

- predicting
- reviewing your work

TEXT

Me Talk Pretty One Day

by David Sedaris

www.goodreads.com

goodreads

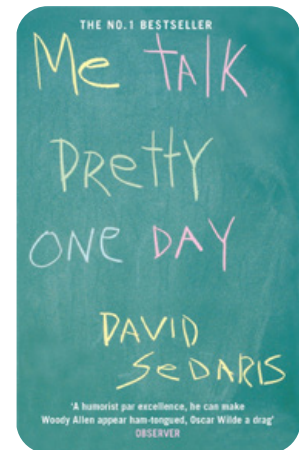
3.96 of 5 stars • rating details • 469,066 ratings • 13,310 reviews

1 David Sedaris' move to Paris from New York inspired these hilarious pieces, including the title essay, about his attempts to learn French from a sadistic teacher who declares that "every day spent with you is like having a caesarean section".

2 His family is another inspiration. *You Can't Kill the Rooster* is a portrait of his brother, who talks incessant hip-hop slang to his bewildered father. And no one expresses his anger better in response to such modern annoyances as restaurant meals presented in ludicrous towers of food and cashiers with six-inch fingernails.

Paperback, 272 pages

Published 2001 by Little, Brown and Company (first published January 1st 2000)



Community reviews



Pierce rated it 2 of 5 stars ★★☆☆☆

3 I just don't care for David Sedaris. There, I've said it. I've made peace with the fact. I have stared deep into the core of my heart, and forced myself to come to the only obvious-but-unpopular conclusion. I just don't care for David Sedaris.

4 It was somewhat of a personal struggle for me to reach this conclusion because I'm exactly the kind of person who should like David Sedaris. I am a sarcastic Generation Xer with an overdeveloped sense of irony. I enjoy reading personal essays about humiliating events in people's personal lives. Understated comedy is my favorite genre.

5 But, I just don't care for David Sedaris. I find him to be thoroughly unlikable. He comes across as the type of person who might be fun to have a beer with, but, afterwards, he'd probably make fun of you behind your back. When I was reading this book, I thought that his stories and characters were a little too colorful and a little too perfect to be true. After I finished the book, I found that some of the instances were exaggerated. And, by "exaggerated", I mean "completely made up".

6 But these revelations have done little to stem the tide of enthusiasm of his legion of fans. I am confronted by people who are adamant that, despite my protests to the contrary, I really do like David Sedaris. It seems that Mr. Sedaris' work has come to represent a certain level of sophistication.

7 Well, I for one refuse to be pigeon-holed. And, today, I am calling on all like-minded people to join me! And, together, we can...uh not like Sedaris. Say it with me! We're loud, we're proud ... and we just don't care for David Sedaris!

429 likes



Ella rated it 5 of 5 stars ★★★★★

8 *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris consists of two parts: Part One and Part Deux. In Part One Sedaris tells stories of his childhood and family. Part Deux captures his experiences in France first as a visitor to his partner's property in Normandy and later as an inadvertent transplant from New York to Paris.

9 The wry sarcasm in Sedaris' stories makes the occasional moments of sweetness and vulnerability unexpected and more meaningful. Sedaris manages to capture characters and settings excellently and eloquently. With only a little description and a line or two of dialogue he is able to create a vivid character that jumps off the page. His language is clear and concise, not overly flowery, and that is reflected in the clarity and vibrancy of his characters. For anyone who has struggled with learning a second language the stories of Sedaris's attempts to learn French will leave you rolling on the floor. I have never before encountered a writing that so aptly portrays how it feels to be stuck in that sort of limbo where you know enough words to speak, but not nearly enough to make sense.

10 Sedaris' knack for finding the essence of a character, setting, culture or conversations makes for moving, thought provoking, and, most of all, entertaining reading.

816 likes

Based on: www.goodreads.com

READING

1 §1 and §2 contain:

- ☒ a description of the book *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, written by editors and users of www.goodreads.com.
- ☐ a review of the book *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, written by the editors of www.goodreads.com.
- ☐ a short summary of the book *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, written by David Sedaris.

2 Describe two different things, as mentioned in §1 and §2, that gave Sedaris the ideas for the stories in the book.

Two of the following: Sedaris's move to Paris / learning French / his family / modern annoyances (like restaurant meals presented in ludicrous towers of food / cashiers with six-inch fingernails).

3 In §3 Pierce writes that his just not caring for David Sedaris is “the only obvious-but-unpopular conclusion”. In which paragraph does he explain why this conclusion is obvious? Which two reasons for this conclusion does he give here?

In §5. The reasons for not caring for David Sedaris are:

- he finds him unlikable;*
- his stories and characters are exaggerated / seem to be completely made-up.*

4 In which paragraph does Pierce refer to people who probably disagree with him? Quote the reference to these people.

In §6: “legion of fans”.

5 Which of the following sentences is an exaggeration? There is one correct answer.

- ☐ “I enjoy reading personal essays about humiliating events in people’s personal lives.”
- ☐ “I just don’t care for David Sedaris.”
- ☐ “It seems that Mr. Sedaris’s work has come to represent a certain level of sophistication.”
- ☒ “It was somewhat of a personal struggle, ...”

6 Are the following statements about §9 true or false? For each statement, quote the first two and last two words of the sentence (or part) which show that the claim is either true or false.

a Ella thinks that Sedaris is more skilled at describing people than locations.

False. “Sedaris manages ... and eloquently.”

b Ella thinks that Sedaris’ style of writing is very wordy.

False. “His language ... and concise”.

c Ella thinks that Sedaris very accurately describes how it feels to be a second language learner.

True. “I have ... make sense.”

d Ella thinks that Sedaris’ writing makes his characters feel very real to the reader.

True. “With only ... the page.”

e Ella thinks that the tone of Sedaris’ writing makes the moving moments in the story stand out more.

True. “The wry ... more meaningful.”

GRAMMAR

Past continuous and simple past

 grammar - 4 & 3 - p. 56 & p. 56

While he **was getting** ready for the premiere of his new show, the comedian **received** some tragic news.

I **was reading** a book when Amira suddenly **showed** up.

- 7** Read about Hannah's experience when she visited *The Tonight Show*. Fill in the *simple past* (e.g. 'received') or the *past continuous* (e.g. 'was reading').

Hannah's Experience: Seeing *The Tonight Show* with Jimmy Fallon!

When we (a to prepare) were preparing my sixteenth birthday party, I (b to tell) told my dad I would really like to visit *The Tonight Show* as a birthday present. To my surprise, he (c to say) said I could go if I could get tickets. The day they (d to release) released the online tickets, my dad (e to work) was working in his home office. The tickets would become available at 9:30, but we were up at 8. While we (f to wait) were waiting and (g to drink) drinking, I suddenly (h to realise) realised that I might actually get to see Jimmy Fallon on *The Tonight Show*! I was literally (i to shake) shaking when I (j to refresh) refreshed the page. I (k can) could barely type my info but I (l to get) got four tickets!

Fast forward to November 20th, my dad, brother, sister-in-law, and myself were in New York to visit *The Tonight Show*! We (m to hang) were hanging around at the NBC store when a PR-assistant (n to call) called out our names and (o to give) gave us our tickets and wrist bands.

When we (p to enter) entered the studio, a screen (q to play) was playing images of Jimmy. The band (r to play) was playing some tunes while everybody (s to look for) was looking for their seats. I was at the show with Mark Ruffalo, Stephen Merchant and Romeo Santos. When Jimmy (t to come) came through the aisle at the end of the show, I (u to jump) jumped up and asked "Can I have a hug!?" He immediately said "Of course!", hugged me and said "Thanks for coming!" It was the best.

VOCABULARY

- 8** Read the definitions in brackets and fill in the correct words. You may use this lesson's word list.

- a The comedian's (effort to do something) attempt to entertain the audience sadly failed.
- b In their search for new comedy stars, casting agencies probably (meet with) encounter a lot of actors without any talent.
- c Sedaris is well-known for his (extremely funny) hilarious stories.
- d He mainly produces romantic comedies, but he has made the (irregular, now and then) occasional action film.

- e We were standing in line at the concert hall's ticket office, when the (person who collects payments) *cashier* called out that the tickets were sold out.
- f I felt some (slight anger or irritation) *annoyance* when the comedian made yet another joke about women.
- g Comedians sometimes (make something appear larger or greater than it is) *exaggerate* their opinions to get a laugh out of the audience.
- h He appears to have found a community of (having similar opinions and interests) *like-minded* people with whom he can share his ideas about literature.
- i The book tells a (having a strong emotional effect) *moving* tale of two lovers separated by a war.

LISTENING

STRATEGY Predicting

Always prepare yourself before you start watching and/or listening. What do you already know about the subject? Do you know the speaker? Make guesses about what you may learn. Guessing helps you focus on the assignment. It doesn't matter if your guesses are right or wrong.

- 9-11** Watch the video online and do the assignments that you find there. You may use the writing space below.

☐	<i>Go to the online assignment to find these answers.</i>
☐	
☐	
☐	
☐	
☐	
☐	
☐	

EXPRESSIONS

- 12** Translate the following sentences into English. The expressions are in italics. In each case write down all variants you have studied.
- a Schrijf dat je Jonathan Franzen een geweldige schrijver vindt. *Geef daarna (voorbeelden bij) je mening* door te wijzen op zijn humoristische manier van schrijven.

I think Jonathan Franzen is a fantastic writer.

Take for example the humorous manner in which he writes. / He has, for instance, a humorous manner of writing. For one thing, he has a humorous manner of writing. / Look at the way he writes with such humour.

b Geef je lezers *het advies* om de documentaire over John Cleese te bekijken.

I urge everybody to watch the documentary about John Cleese. / I advise you to watch the documentary about John Cleese. / I think everybody interested in British humour should watch the documentary about John Cleese.

WRITING

13 You are going to write a response on an online forum, in which you describe your experience of watching a Trevor Noah show. The words in italics are expressions. Use different variants where possible. Follow the instructions below.

- §1: Schrijf dat je op zoek was naar een komedie en een show van Trevor Noah tegenkwam. Je hebt net zijn optreden voor Comic Relief bekeken en het was heel grappig (*h...*). Schrijf dat Trevor Noah een komiek is uit Zuid-Afrika. Hij heeft oog voor sociale kwesties. *Illustreer dit standpunt met een voorbeeld* uit een show van hem (bijvoorbeeld zijn grappen over Afrikaanse en Arabische mensen op Amerikaanse vluchten).

I was looking for a comedy and came across a Trevor Noah show. I have just watched his hilarious stand-up act for Comic Relief. / I have just watched his stand-up for Comic Relief and it was hilarious. Trevor Noah is a comedian from South Africa. He has an eye for social issues. For instance, in his show he makes jokes about African and Arabian people on American flights.

- §2: Schrijf dat kijken naar deze show een vermakelijke ervaring was. Schrijf dat de show nooit saai wordt. *Geef als voorbeeld* dat de grappen elkaar snel opvolgen. Schrijf dat Noah overkomt als een vriendelijke persoon, maar dat zijn grappen best scherp zijn. Maar dat geldt voor meer stand-up comedians. *Geef als voorbeeld* dat hij grappen maakt over zowel Amerikaanse als Britse mensen. Schrijf dat er één ding was dat je niet echt leuk vond: Noah is niet zo'n goede imitator. *Noem als voorbeeld* zijn imitaties van de stewardess, die zijn wat overdreven.

Watching this show was an entertaining experience. The show never gets boring. For one thing / To give you an idea / For instance / ..., the jokes follow each other quickly. Noah comes across as a friendly person, but his jokes are quite sharp. But that applies to more stand-up comedians. Take for example the fact that Noah makes jokes about American people as well as British people. There was one thing that I didn't really like: Noah is not such a good imitator. His imitations of the flight attendant, for example, are a bit exaggerated.

- §3: Schrijf dat Noah's show, kortom, interessant en grappig is. Schrijf dat je gemakkelijk de tijd vergeet als je naar hem kijkt. *Adviseer* je lezers *dringend* om het werk van Trevor Noah te volgen.

In short, Noah's show is interesting and funny. You easily forget the time when you are watching him. I urge everybody to follow Trevor Noah's work.

WRITING



- 14** You see the following announcement on an event website:

Reviews wanted!

What was the best concert, show, festival or event you have been to this year?

What has surprised and amazed you about it?

Send us a review of what you have seen and explain why it was the best performance of the year.

Write an outline for this text. For each paragraph, write down 5-15 keywords to indicate what you are going to write about.

- §1: short introduction in which you describe your favorite event (e.g. where, what, who, when, with whom, about what?) and your expectations.
- §2: experience: three things that you did or didn't like, with examples + what effect did they have on you?
- §3: conclusion and advice: why should or shouldn't people go?



- 15** You are going to write a review for an event website in which you describe your favourite concert, show, festival or event of this year, and explain why it was the best performance of the year. Use the outline from the previous exercise. Write 220-260 words.

Tip! Remember, the first sentence of a paragraph is usually the key sentence.

REFLECTION

STRATEGY *Reviewing your work*

strategies - stap voor stap te werk gaan - p. 22

Always review finished texts for:

- spelling;
- grammar (e.g. have I used the correct verb tenses, word order, etc.);
- structure (is the information written in logical order?);
- content (is everything you wrote interesting and/or relevant; is there information missing?).

However, do not check your work for all these issues simultaneously. First check for content, then for structure, and then for spelling and grammar.



- 16** **PAIR WORK** Review the text you wrote for the previous exercise.

- a** Check the content of your text. Swap texts with a classmate. Quote two pieces of information that you find interesting or informative. Explain to your classmate why you chose these.
- b** Check the structure of your text.
 - Is the descriptive information clustered in §1 (and not scattered across paragraphs)?
 - Is §2 about your experience of the show / event / concert / festival? Is the information in logical order, for example: statement – example(s) – explanation, or in chronological order?
 - Does §3 contain a conclusion and is this conclusion supported by what you wrote in §1 and §2?
 - Have you used linking words to mark the structure of your text and help your readers to understand your structure?

READING

- 17** Read one of the stories by David Sedaris published online. Answer the questions.

- 1** Quote the title of the story you have read, and describe its topic, using one whole sentence.
- 2** Quote a fragment of the story (1-6 sentences) which contains the “clear and concise” writing that Ella (p. 78) refers to in her comment.
- 3** Do you find the story humorous? Quote two story fragments that reflect your opinion.

Study box unit 2

Lesson 1

ENGLISH

DUTCH

It will be difficult to accomplish that task.	volbrengen
Is it healthy to alternate hot and cold showers?	afwisselen
He closed his eyes and made an arbitrary choice.	willekeurig
I was baffled by his sudden departure.	stomverbaasd
I prefer bland humour to sarcasm.	mild
She's following a detailed, comprehensive training programme.	veelomvattend, uitgebreid
Dr Martin wants to conduct a survey on humour.	uitvoeren
The British minister and his German counterpart .	ambtsgenoot
The police are going to crack down on violent crime.	met harde hand optreden tegen
She spoke about him in a denigrating way.	kleinerend
The media dubbed anorexia 'the slimming disease'.	bestempelen als
This newspaper edits letters before printing them.	bewerken
New York is a great city to explore .	onderzoeken
The band are doing a gig in Eindhoven.	eenmalig (muziek)optreden
His handwriting is illegible .	onleesbaar
Pupils should be punctual and be at school before 8.30 a.m.	op tijd aanwezig
She was filled with remorse for having insulted him.	spijt
The prince and his wife reside in southern France.	wonen (formeel)
She's resolute in her decision.	vastberaden
What was the outcome of the sample among the 98 teachers?	steekproef
He laughs at himself with humour and self-deprecation .	zelfspot
She uses self-disparaging humour.	zelfspottend
If you subtract 35 from 60, you get 25.	aftrekken (van getallen)
What is the topic of this article?	onderwerp
Greed is a nasty personality trait .	trek
Did he give a verbal or a written description of the accident?	mondeling, verbaal

DUTCH

ENGLISH

aantekeningen maken	We had to make notes in class.
aanvankelijk	Initially , I liked the idea.
aanwezig	Everybody invited was present .
aanzienlijk	The damage to the car was considerable .
allereerst	First of all , thanks for your present.
beledigend	Stop making offensive comments about my friends!
benadrukken	You should highlight your qualities more.
blijven	His disappearance will remain a mystery.
contact houden	I use my phone to keep in touch with my friends.
daarom	That's why I couldn't phone him.
enquête	This survey led to surprising facts.
erven	I hope not to inherit my father's disease.
geavanceerd, hoogontwikkeld	In his factory they use sophisticated technology.
geboeid raken	When did you become fascinated by ants?
grootbrengen	She had to raise her children all by herself.
helemaal	The story about his accident was entirely made up.
Het hoort er nu eenmaal bij.	Winning and losing. It's all part of the game .
intussen	Meanwhile , we remained seated.

jammer genoeg, helaas	Unfortunately , I've got little time.
kijk op	He had a positive outlook on life.
komische serie	What is your favourite TV sitcom ?
kweken	We grow our own vegetables.
meedelen	He informed us of his plans.
nieuwste	Have you heard their latest CD?
ondanks	We played tennis despite the rain.
ongelooflijk	Meeting him there was an incredible coincidence.
op school zitten	What school do you attend ?
oppervlakkig	I've just had a superficial look at his email.
overeenkomst	They are both blonde, but there the similarity ends.
pogen	I don't know if I can, but I'll attempt to write a poem.
schaduw	Let's sit in the shade of that tree.
sms'en	I'll text him we'll be 10 minutes late.
tussen twee haakjes	By the way , was Tom at the party?
verbinden	Can you link these names to the pictures?
verdraagzaamheid	He shows little tolerance towards people with different opinions.
verwijzen naar	Are you referring to me?
voorlopig	I'm staying at home for the time being .
waaronder	There were 15 people, including two Dutch ladies.
zich inschrijven	Why don't you sign up for a yoga course?

Lesson 2

ENGLISH

DUTCH

I'm trying to advance to the next level.	(be)vorderen
I live in a condo in Washington.	appartement
These statements contradict each other.	tegenspreken
Most parents disapprove of under-age drinking.	afkeuren
There's a distinction between creators and performers.	onderscheid
Does she embody the ideals of most girls?	belichamen
Running a marathon requires endurance as well as fitness.	uithoudingsvermogen
The child looked at the magician in genuine surprise.	echt, oprecht
Granted , he's not the best, but he's committed.	toegegeven
Because of the storm it was grueling (AmEng) / gruelling (BrEng) climb.	afmattend
Sean did what his dad told him but with a lot of grumbling .	gemopper
What are the implications of that decision?	gevolg
You shouldn't impose your standards on others.	opleggen
Put the keywords in italics .	schuingedrukt
His parents have a liberal attitude towards drugs.	ruimdenkend
He's a game show emcee .	ceremoniemeester
She has a PhD in science.	doctorsgraad
She stopped at the pinnacle of her career.	hoogtepunt
I visited her the week prior to her death.	voorafgaand aan
The new law will spark demonstrations.	veroorzaken
Is it easier to get a job with vocational education?	beroeps-
Measures will be taken to sustain economic growth.	behouden
The teachers' union has announced strike action.	vakbond
I work virtually every day of the week.	praktisch, vrijwel

DUTCH	ENGLISH
aanpassen	A comedian should know how to adjust to the audience.
ambitieuus	Lisa is a hard-working, aspiring employee.
boeiend	That was a fascinating documentary.
componist	Mozart is a composer of classical music.
concurrerend	The company was not competitive any more.
Dat is vanzelfsprekend.	Yes, I'll help you. That goes without saying.
dichter	Do you know the English romantic poet Shelley?
duidelijk maken	The book illuminates his way of thinking.
duren	How long does the show last ?
eisen	She demand ed more money.
gaan halen	Can you fetch some towels for me, please?
gemiddeld	The average person goes on holiday once a year.
in feite	Basically , anyone can become a comedian.
lichamelijk	He's suffering from physical complaints.
menigte	I spotted his face in the crowd .
niettemin	Nonetheless , he left without saying goodbye.
nieuwsgierig	I'm curious to know what has happened.
onderzoeken	Why don't they investigate that crime?
oplossing voor	I have the solution to this problem.
reclamebord	Do they still advertise cigarettes on billboards ?
te boven komen	Will we overcome this economic crisis?
te wachten staan	I didn't know what was awaiting me.
überhaupt	Why did you invite her in the first place ?
uitgebreid	I've had extensive repairs to my car.
uitgeven (boek)	Hopefully they will publish her novel.
vaardigheid	How's your reading skill of French?
vanwege	He's at home because of a serious illness.
verdorie	Oh heck , I think we're lost.
vereisen	Will his broken leg require surgery?
vereiste	Is experience a requirement for that job?
vergelijking	The article made a comparison of the two books.
vergen	How much time will it take ?
verscheidene	She has had various jobs.
vertegenwoordigen	What country do those people represent ?
verveling	He pushed her from sheer boredom .
weinig (+ enkelvoud)	Sorry, but I have too little money for a taxi.
weinig (+ meervoud)	It's too bad that so few people appreciated his humour.
zowel ... als	I like both English and American sitcoms.

Lesson 3

ENGLISH	DUTCH
We will address this problem soon.	aanpakken
A school administrator talked to the press.	iemand van de leiding
She's become alienated from her family.	vervreemd
His job goes beyond teaching.	verder dan
He's in the bar with some friends for male bonding !	binding
I hate the way people just capture an animal and cage it.	vangen
The pictures capture the emotions of gaming.	in beeld brengen

We will circulate a flyer about shoplifting.	verspreiden
He tries to increase cohesion in the team.	eenheid
Mrs Murphy is a kind, compassionate teacher.	meelevend en begripvol
The headmaster will conduct the meeting.	leiden
He has to appear in court today.	rechtbank
He faced his defeat with dignity .	waardigheid
How can you endure this awful music?	verdragen
I always enjoy the fellowship of others.	gezelschap
I have read the findings of a research.	conclusies (van een onderzoek)
We should first foster trust and cooperation.	bevorderen
His funny gesture made us laugh.	gebaar
Use these guidelines for making a book report.	richtlijnen
In that country there's a hostile attitude to foreigners.	vijandig
Have a merry Christmas.	vrolijk
Better circumstances will mitigate the suffering.	verzachten
She was overly upset by the news of the accident.	zeer
There's a pun in the headline.	woordspeling
That comedian uses self-deprecating humour.	met zelfspot

DUTCH	ENGLISH
behandeling	He's satisfied about the treatment he got in hospital.
doel	He wants to raise funds for a good cause .
doen alsof	Don't pretend that you didn't know that.
dreigen	Did he threaten to hurt her?
eerlijk gezegd	To be honest , I don't like the idea.
gebrek hebben aan	It's a pity she lacks confidence.
geconfronteerd worden met	She was faced with a difficult situation.
geestig	Everybody laughed at Uncle Tom's witty jokes.
gematigd	In the Netherlands we have a moderate climate.
gênant	Standing in wet trousers was an embarrassing situation.
introvert, gesloten van aard	He's an introvert and shy person.
Je slaat de spijker op zijn kop.	You've hit the nail on the head.
kassa (theater, bioscoop)	The box office opens at 6.30 p.m.
kenmerken	What characterises a good comedian?
kleineren	I hate the way he tends to put people down .
kunst-, niet echt	Is that a real or an artificial flower?
makkelijk in de omgang	She's glad her boss is easy-going .
medewerker, collega	Each co-worker was given a bonus.
neiging	She has a tendency to boss people around.
om de beurt	The pupils had to take turns reading a sentence.
omgaan met	She knows how to cope with stress.
onderscheiden	It's not always easy to distinguish between right and wrong.
oorzaak en gevolg	There is a clear cause and effect relationship.
opvrolijken	She knows how to cheer us up with her amusing stories.
opzettelijk	Do you think she pushed him deliberately ?
overhalen	Don't try to persuade me to do something I'll regret.
overtreder	Offenders will be punished.
streven ernaar	We aim to raise a lot of money.

tv-presentator	Who is the TV host of that quiz show?
van streek	What are you upset about?
vastberadenheid	I admire his determination to succeed.
verbaasd	We were puzzled by his sudden departure.
verdeeldheid	There is some division in our group, I'm afraid.
verdenking	He was arrested on suspicion of theft.
verlegen	In a crowd she's too shy to speak.
verstandig	She a practical and sensible woman.
vlot	She's a friendly, outgoing person.
volwassenheid	He has maturity beyond his years.
welzijn	I'm concerned about her emotional well-being .
zin hebben om	I feel like going out tonight.
zorg	Babies need constant care .

Lesson 4

ENGLISH

DUTCH

This exercise will improve your abs .	buikspieren
Can laughter bolster your immune system?	versterken
During the show there were bouts of laughter.	uitbarsting
His face was contorted with rage.	verwongen, vertrokken
He was punished for his despicable behaviour.	walgelijk
Can you dial his number for me?	bellen
Too much coffee is bad for your digestion .	spijsvertering
The police ordered the crowd to disperse .	verspreiden
There are divergent trends in fashion.	uiteenlopend
I was elated on hearing I had passed my exam.	superblij
Can you flap your arms and imitate a bird?	wapperen
Geriatric care will become more important with an ageing population.	betreffende ouderen
The audience burst into a loud guffaw .	geschater
Due to a week of tests she suffers from insomnia .	slapeloosheid
From the outside it is a nondescript building.	onopvallend
She suffers from raging headaches.	zwaar (figuurlijk)
They play raucous rock-and-roll music.	rauw
I hope to reclaim some of the tax I've paid.	terugkrijgen
They showed us a simulated accident.	nabootsen
This new technology will spawn new opportunities.	voortbrengen
He suffered some spinal injuries.	betreffende de ruggengraat
The teacher's mistake produced some tee-hees .	zacht gegiechel
When the actor forgot his lines, the audience began to titter .	giechelen
We can reach our goal if we act in unison .	gezamenlijk
Look out. She's in a vile mood.	zeer slecht

DUTCH

ENGLISH

aan sport doen	Do you play a sport ?
aangezien	Since you don't believe me, ask Jeremy.
aankomst	He was arrested on arrival in England.
afhangen van	The day of the party will depend on the weather.
alleen (zonder hulp)	I did it all on my own .
armoede	Many people live below the poverty line.

baan	You can apply for the post of manager.
buitenkant	On the surface , it seemed all right.
daarom	He had little experience and therefore didn't get the job.
doen denken aan	She reminds me of my mother.
erg vreemd	A weird thing happened to me last night.
geboorteplaats	What's your place of birth ?
geestelijk	His physical and mental health has improved.
grens	I live close to the border between Wales and England.
indruk proberen te maken	He likes to show off with his sports car.
kijker	This TV show has lots of viewers .
negeren	You can't just ignore her remarks.
ongeschikt	This violent film is unsuitable for children.
oplossen	Will the police be able to solve that crime?
pesten	If you bully a classmate, you'll be heavily punished.
plafond	There was a lamp hanging from the ceiling .
plagen	Don't tease your sister about her broken tooth.
wachtrij	There was a queue at the cash desk.
roze	Do you prefer pink lipstick to red?
schuld	It took him 10 years to pay off his debt .
vergelijkbaar	We have similar views on politics.
standpunt	Are you interested in my view of the problem?
tijdelijk	I'm trying to find temporary work.
uitspreken	She wanted to express her worries about her son.
vaak voorkomend	She is a frequent visitor to that museum.
vastbesloten	She's determined to write a book about her disease.
verafschuwen	I detest people who are dishonest.
verspilling	The whole meeting was a waste of time.
verplicht	Is French compulsory at your school?
verwijderen	Can you remove the rubbish, please?
vooral	He's popular, especially among young people.
weigeren	He refused to let me in.
zorgzaam	His caring parents look after him very well.

Lesson 5

ENGLISH	DUTCH
Can I have access to the internet?	toegang
I first browse through magazines before I read them.	bladeren
Is that disease contagious ?	besmettelijk
When will they define the new rules?	omschrijven
I detected a change in her mood.	bespeuren, ontdekken
Don't try to evade my questions.	ontwijken
We eventually found our dog.	uiteindelijk
We had an exhilarating walk in the mountains.	verkwikkend
He was furious with me for being late.	woedend
When did he graduate from secondary school?	het schooldiploma behalen
She went to the police because she'd been harassed by a man.	lastigvallen
He fights against poverty and injustice .	onrecht
I've read it in the January issue of <i>Newsweek</i> .	nummer (krant / tijdschrift)
His stupidity will put our plans in jeopardy .	gevaar

She wanted to nourish and protect her baby.	voeden
I'd like to observe that this is against the rules.	opmerken
Why do you have a prejudice against him?	voooroordeel
He became red and flew into a rage .	woede
That TV show has very high ratings .	kijkcijfers
It was reassuring to hear he was safe.	geruststellend
It's not nice to be rejected by someone.	afwijzen
There was no need to resort to violence.	zijn toevlucht nemen tot (iets negatiefs)
The change in the weather is significant .	aanzienlijk
Sorry, but this is a thoroughly bad idea.	heel
He has made some thought-provoking films.	tot nadenken stemmend, prikkelend

DUTCH	ENGLISH
aanwezigheid	The award ceremony took place in the presence of the king.
afnemen	Will the problems decrease or will they get worse?
bekend	That voice sounds familiar .
benadrukken	I want to emphasise that he had nothing to do with that.
beschikbaarheid	Availability of Wi-Fi in hotels is important nowadays.
daling	A drop in temperature is expected next week.
de druppel die de emmer deed overlopen	His insult was the straw that broke the camel's back .
een druppel op een gloeiende plaat	I'm afraid, our help was just a drop in the bucket .
emmer	Here's a bucket of water and a sponge.
ergernis	She started talking louder, much to my annoyance .
gave, talent	She has a knack for thinking out of the box.
gelden voor	Does this also apply to me?
gelijkgestemd	Every Friday he goes to a club to meet like-minded people.
geschikt	Friday evening is an appropriate time for relaxing.
gewenst	Our action had the desired effect.
grens	The sky is the limit .
heel grappig	I've just watched a hilarious comedy on TV.
in antwoord op	I am writing in response to your email.
in praktijk brengen	We'll try to put our plans into practice .
kwestie	This magazine deals with economic issues .
kwetsbaarheid	A terrorist act often shows the vulnerability of a country.
leeftijdgenoot	She was bullied by her peers .
liever dan	I want health rather than money.
maatregel	Schools usually take measures against bullying.
nakijken (toets)	When will you mark our tests, sir?
omgeving (omstandigheden)	A child's development also depends on its environment .
omhelzen	They stood there crying and hugging each other.
ondervinden	You may encounter difficulties when travelling to Myanmar.
ontbreken	I lack the courage to tell him what I think of him.
ontroerend	She's written a moving book about her illness.
ontwikkelen	He goes to a gym to develop muscle strength.
ordeproblemen	My English teacher has no discipline problems .
overdrijven	Don't take him seriously. He tends to exaggerate things.
overkomen als	He may come across as serious, but he's fun to be with.
personeel	This is a list of the school staff .

plaatsvinden	When did the accident occur ?
schatten	Can you estimate the costs of such a holiday abroad?
stewardess	The flight attendant showed us how to use a life jacket.
terloops	My dad makes occasional visits to London.
toeval	What a coincidence meeting you here of all places.
trimester	The third term begins in April.
verzoek	Further details will be sent on request .
voorkomen	She tried to prevent him from using violence.
zenuwslopend	She faced a nerve-racking wait for her test results.

EXPRESSIONS

Adviseren *Giving advice*

You should ...

We'd better ...

If I were you, I'd ...

I'd like to suggest we ... (put the trip off until tomorrow.)

May I give you some advice?

Beleefd vertellen dat je het oneens bent met iemand

Politely disagreeing with somebody

I see what you mean, but ...

That's one way of looking at it, but ...

Well, you have a point there, but ...

I cannot share your opinion, I'm afraid.

I'm afraid I have to disagree

Enthousiasme uitdrukken *Expressing enthusiasm*

That's great / amazing / awesome / wonderful!

It is great ...

It was exciting ...

I was excited ...

I'm really keen ...

Feliciteren *Congratulating somebody*

– Verjaardag *Birthday*

Happy birthday.

And many happy returns.

– Jubileum (bijvoorbeeld 25 jaar getrouwd) *Anniversary*

Happy anniversary!

– Prestatie of blijde gebeurtenis (diploma, baan, huwelijk, geboorte baby) *Accomplishment or happy event (graduation, job, marriage, birth)*

Congratulations (on your new job / beautiful baby / wedding)!

Let me congratulate you on ... (your new job).

Geruststellen *Reassuring somebody*

Surely, it can't be that bad.

Don't worry.

There's no need to be upset.

Everything is all right.

You'll be fine!

Gesprek beginnen *Starting a conversation*

Excuse me, ...

My name's ... Pleased to meet you.

Forgive me for asking, but ...

Lovely day, isn't it?

Good morning / afternoon / evening.

Gesprek beëindigen *Ending a conversation*

I hope you don't mind, but ...

It's been very interesting talking to you, but ...

... I really must be off now.

... I'm afraid I'll have to go now.

Look after yourself! / Take care! / See you next week! / Bye!

Kanttekening maken *Making a critical remark*

I'd like to remark that ...

Mind you, I do think that ...

On the other hand, ...

That may be so, but ...

Oordeel geven

You don't say!

I doubt it.

That's very unlikely.

You must be joking!

That's impossible!

Opluchting uitdrukken *Expressing relief*

I was so relieved ...

It was a relief ...

It was a load off my mind ... (to hear the trip was cancelled.)

Much to my relief ... (I found my keys.)

Parafraseren *Paraphrasing*

If I follow you correctly, ...

If I have understood you correctly, ...

So you're saying that ...?

In other words, ...

So, summing up, you would say that ...

Verontwaardiging uitdrukken *Expressing indignation*

It is ridiculous / unbelievable / incredible ...

I can't believe / imagine ...

I was shocked to read ...

Voorbeeld geven bij een mening of standpunt *Giving an example to support your opinion*

For example / For instance, ...

Take for example, ...

Take the way (he) ...

For one thing, ...

To give you an idea ...

GRAMMAR

Simple past and present perfect  grammar p. 56 & 57

Comparisons  grammar p. 68

Adjectives and adverbs  grammar p. 65

Simple past and past continuous  grammar p. 56

Past perfect  grammar p. 58

Past perfect and simple past  grammar p. 58 & 56