Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University

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ENGLISH: PHRASES FOR EVERYDAY COMMUNICATION

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The textbook "English: phrases for everyday communication" contains a set of words, phrases, sentences and texts necessary for communication in English.

**Дрогобицький державний педагогічний університет
імені Івана Франка**

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АНГЛІЙСЬКА МОВА: ФРАЗИ ДЛЯ ПОВСЯКДЕННОГО СПІЛКУВАННЯ

**Дрогобич
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Навчальний посібник укладено відповідно до програми навчальної дисципліни “Іноземна мова (англійська)” для підготовки фахівців першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти всіх філологічних та нефілологічних спеціальностей.

Навчальний посібник “Англійська мова: фрази для повсякденного спілкування” містить набір слів, фраз речень та текстів, необхідних для спілкування англійською мовою. Він допоможе глибше вивчити англійську мову та практично застосувати набуті знання.

Навчальний посібник призначений для студентів спеціальних та неспеціальних факультетів, для учнів середніх шкіл з поглибленим вивченням англійської мови та тих, хто вивчає англійську мову самостійно.

Бібліографія 16 позицій.

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ЗМІСТ

INTRODUCTION

The task of acquiring English is one of the most complicated and time-taking at present. A person who finds himself/herself in a group of people speaking unfamiliar foreign languages may feel quite uncomfortable. A person speaking the English language knows when to speak, how to construct the strings and how to interpret other people's strings, but the individual who knows a little or not enough about the language in question cannot pick out separate words, use them properly and correctly. It is necessary for the person learning and speaking English to discover the rules for recombining sounds into words, the meanings of individual words and the rules for recombining words into meaningful sentences. The already obtained knowledge should be put into practice for a person to be able to use the words in different situations, dialogues, conversations, etc. All in all the person must establish himself/herself linguistically as a full-fledged member of a social community informed about the most subtle details of his/her language as it is spoken in a wide variety of situations.

Almost every foreign-language learner will remember some embarrassing moments when he/she simply didn't know the «right» thing to say, how to use the words correctly, but where the problem was one of social pattering, not grammar. How to greet a person, begin a conversation, part, ask for help, advice or get a stranger's attention in a new language? Should one make a request directly or indirectly? How to accept or refuse an offer? How to explain his/her likings, wishes, troubles, dislikings, intentions etc.? What words and word combinations should be used to make a conversation, or communication in general possible?

Because of the emphasis in recent years on functional and communicative approaches to language learning, many other important areas of the language have been neglected. One such area is vocabulary, without which no communication is possible. This manual attempts to remedy this situation by showing that vocabulary learning is of great importance, and it makes the process of good English learning more

understandable and less complicated. The author believes that practical work can significantly improve the students' grasp of both familiar and unfamiliar words used in everyday situations.

The manual is intended in the first place for those, who have already gained the confidence to speak, write, read and listen to a lot of English; they only lack words. It will also be useful for those, who want to improve and increase their knowledge of English.

ВСТУП

Завдання вивчення англійської мови є одним із найскладніших і трудомістких на даний момент. Людина, яка опинилася у групі людей, що розмовляють незнайомими іноземними мовами, може почуватися досить незручно. Людина, яка розмовляє англійською мовою знає, коли говорити, як будувати речення та як інтерпретувати висловлювання інших людей, але людина, яка трохи або недостатньо добре знає мову, не може виділити окремі слова, або використовувати їх вірно. Людині, яка вивчає та розмовляє англійською, необхідно знати правила поєднання звуків у слова, значення окремих слів і правила укладання слів у осмислені речення. Вже отримані знання необхідно застосувати на практиці, щоб людина могла використовувати слова в різних ситуаціях, діалогах, розмовах тощо. Загалом людина повинна мовно утвердитися як повноцінний член соціальної спільноти, знати найтонші деталі своєї мови, оскільки нею розмовляють у найрізноманітніших ситуаціях.

Майже кожен, хто вивчає іноземну мову, пам’ятає деякі незручні моменти, коли він/вона просто не знав «правильного» слова, щоб сказати, як правильно вживати слова, але ця проблема скоріше мовленнєва, а не граматична. Як привітатися з людиною, почати розмову, попрощатися, попросити допомоги, поради чи привернути увагу незнайомої людини іноземною мовою? Чи потрібно робити запит прямо чи опосередковано? Як прийняти або відмовитися від пропозиції? Як пояснити свої симпатії, бажання, проблеми, антипатії, наміри тощо? Які слова та словосполучення слід використовувати, щоб уможливити розмову чи взагалі спілкування?

Через те, що в останні роки наголошувалося на функціональних і комунікативних підходах до вивчення мови, багато інших важливих сфер мови були знехтувані. Однією із таких областей є словниковий запас, без якого неможливе спілкування. Цей посібник допоможе виправити цю ситуацію, показавши, що

вивчення лексики має велике значення, і це робить процес вивчення англійської мови зрозумілішим і менш складним. Посібник допоможе значно покращити сприйняття учнями як знайомих, так і незнайомих слів, які вживаються у повсякденних ситуаціях.

Посібник розрахований насамперед на тих, хто вже навчився говорити, читати, писати та слухати англійською мовою, їм бракує лише слів. Він також буде корисним тим, хто хоче вдосконалити та підвищити свої знання англійської мови.

I MEETING PEOPLE

'You really must come and see us soon' – read 'If you call us we'll pretend we're out'. With all due respect ... No offence intended ... Don't get me wrong but ... Far be it for me to say but ... Beware, all these disclaimers preface a commentary on your profound ignorance.

1.1 GREETINGS

Hello and goodbye in Britain vary depending on where you are and who you're talking to. In general, a simple 'hello' and 'goodbye' will be fine. But there are pet phrases and dialect words in different areas which you might want to get in on. For instance, in the northern areas of England, people say *tara* for goodbye (pronounced *ta-rah)* or *ay up* as a casual greeting (pronounced *ay-oop).* In London Cockney, it's common to greet a friend *Eh, me old China*, which roughly means 'Hey mate'. In some Midlands and Northern areas, people passing each other on the street say *Are you all right*?, or more likely just *All right*?, which instinctively makes you want to say 'yes', but of course you should just say 'Fine I .hanks'. While it isn't necessary to use these local phrases – 'Hi' is I perfectly OK – you'll want to know what they mean when you hear them.

Saying Hello

London	**Watcha.**
Liverpool	**Ay up.**
Newcastle	**How?**
Bristol	**Oroit, me old lover?**

Some terms of address

guv(ner)

from 'governor', a respectful term of address for an owner or boss, but may be used with irony

love

honey; sweetie; my dear. A common term of casual or friendly address in Britain. Shopkeepers and bus drivers might call you love

when giving you your change or talking with you. It doesn't mean anything.

mate

friend/buddy/pal. Also used in casual address, as in *Pardon me mate, do you have the time?*

The British may say they disdain the use of first names unless they know each other, but this isn't true – people in Britain use first names all the time with people they've just met. They don't, however, extend their hand to a stranger with friendly enthusiasm and say, 'Hi, I'm Ken'. It's a good rule in Britain, as anywhere, not to use a person's first name unless you've been invited to or if that's the way they've been introduced. If your friendly hotel receptionist wears the name tag 'Jane Goode' and you want to get her attention, call her 'Miss Goode', not 'Jane'

As to *please* and *thank you*, the British are perhaps somewhat overzealous on the *please* and never omit it. Elsewhere, an attendant would sit at a table at a bazaar with a sign reading 'Pay Here'. But in Britain, the sign would read 'Please Pay Here'. This strict use of *please* can be off-putting to a foreigner while shopping. Cashiers, after ringing up your items, will always state the amount you owe followed by the word *please*, as though to say 'May I have the money please'. Even if you already know how much you owe and are extending it to them in your hand, they'll still look at you and say 'Two pounds ten please'. They aren't being rude or unobservant, just stating the amount, and the 'please' automatically comes with it.

Regarding the 'thank you, it's very common in Britain to say *cheers* as a casual version of 'thanks' (which can also mean goodbye'. In the Midlands of England and other parts, they :say *ta* (pronounced *tah).*

1.2 PEOPLE & OCCUPATIONS

agony aunt

writer of advice column for people with problem love-lives

barrister

lawyer who argues cases in court. Unlike a *solicitor*, who prepares the client's case out of court and usually retains a *barrister* to argue it in court, a *barrister* actually pleads the case in court. A *barrister* has been 'called to the bar'.

caretaker

janitor

charwoman/charlady

cleaning woman/lady

collier

coal miner

dustman

trashman; garbage collector

farrier

blacksmith

gaffer

boss; foreman; school principal

newsagent

person who runs a newspaper shop. Newsagents also sell items like sweets, soft drinks, magazines and stationery supplies. Many newsagents also have a small post office where customers can pay bills, buy stamps and send mail.

lollipop lady/man

crossing guard at school crossings

pensioner

senior citizen

sister

head nurse on a hospital ward

solicitor

lawyer who prepares a case for a client and usually retains a *barrister* to argue the case in court. A *solicitor* has not beer, 'called to the bar' as a barrister has.

train spotter

someone who 'collects' train numbers by seeing how many different trains they can identify by number and then recording them. It's a deprecatory term in Britain which implies a person is dull. The term is familiar outside Britain now because of the movie.

twitcher

birdwatcher

vicar

clergyman in the Anglican Church or Church of England

1.3 CHILDREN

Bairn	baby (Northern England and Scotland)
child minder	baby-sitter
cot	crib
crèche	day nursery where parents can take their babies and pre-schoolers
cuddlytoy	stuffed toy animal
dummy	pacifier
nappy	diaper
pram	buggy; baby carriage
push chair	stroller

1.4 TELEPHONE TALK

A few tips on telephone talk in Britain will help you avoid possible confusion.

blower

a slang term for the phone is the *blower*, which harks back to the old tube you had to blow into to get the attention of the person at the other end, then talked into. In some other countries, the equivalent is the 'horn'.

directory inquiries

When you need a phone number in Britain, you call *directory inquiries*, not 'information'. The number is 192 all over Britain. In England, the number for the operator is 100 and Emergency

Services is 999 (fire, police, ambulance, coastguard, mountain rescue and cave rescue).

The weather. It's always acceptable to open a conversation – even with a stranger – about the weather. The main thing is to complain that it's too hot or cold or wet or whatever. When confronted with **an** incontestably beautiful day, the correct phraseology is, 'Lovely day, isn't it? Can't last though' [11, p. 115].

engaged

when the line's already occupied, it's *engaged*, not 'busy'. There's no such term as a 'busy signal', you simply say '*The line's engaged'*.

ex-directory

unlisted. If you ring *directory inquiries* you might be told the number you want is *ex-directory*, which means it's unlisted.

'**Is that...**"

the equivalent of' Who's there?' (*Is that* Jenny?)

on the phone

if someone asks if you're *on the phone*, they want to know if you have access to a private telephone

ring

the British *ring* people up, rather than 'call' them up (What time did he *ring*?)

II SLANG AND EXPRESSIONS

The British are notoriously foul-mouthed. In the 15th century Joan of Arc gave them the epithet *les goddams* – by the 1960s they'd been renamed *les fuckoffs*. Large numbers of British people drape their entire discourse around the word *fuck*, with the occasional *wanker or bastard* thrown in for colour. Those at the cutting edge are moving towards a sort of Zen English in which *fuck* will be the only word – shaped, nuanced and spat out to convey every thought and sentiment [11, p. 201].

2.1 SLANG

advert

short for advertisement

argy-bargy

pronounced *ah-jy bah-jy)* argument; a bit of wrangling

bent

not altogether legal; corrupt

the bill; old bill

the police

blimey

expression of surprise or contempt

bloody hell

exclamation meaning anything from 'damn it' to something milder like 'wow'

bloody

if someone calls you a *bloody idiot* they mean something like a 'big idiot' or 'stupid idiot'. Or they may say something like, 'He can just bloody well wait', which amounts to 'He can just damn well wait'**.**

bloody-minded

stubborn; persistent; obstinate; intentionally difficult

bleeding

now a euphemism for *bloody* but once considered genuine swearing

bloke

man

blotto

so tired as to be vacant headed; drunk

bobby

police officer. The term comes from Robert Peel, the British Prime Minister who established the Metropolitan Police Force in 1828 when he was Home Secretary. Its officers were called *bobbies* after Peel's first name, or *Peelers* after his second. They replaced the first police officers in England, who were called the "Bow Street runners' because their beat was an area emanating outward from the magistrates' court in Bow Street.

botched/bodged job

poor quality repairs

bonk

have sex (Don't go in there, Arthur and Sharon are *bonking*.)

bottle

courage (He doesn't have the *bottle* to ask her.)

bugger

scamp/scoundrel/pest (The little *bugger*.)

to bugger

to break; to foul up; to spoil (Bloody hell, now all our plans are *buggered*.)

bugger off

get lost

bugger all

nothing; not a thing (He's got *bugger all* in the bank'; 'I give *bugger all* what you think.)

chuffed

delighted

daft

crazy/stupid

dodgy

(pronounced with an ‘o’ as in 'hot') questionable/awkward (1 wouldn't buy that cheap watch, it looks *dodgy*). The straight definition of this word is 'cunning' or 'artful', so Dickens' Artful

Dodger would have been dodgy in the literal sense, but you'll most often hear it used in the colloquial sense.

the dole

financial aid provided to the unemployed by the state – similar to welfare in other countries. Taking it is called being on *the dole*.

dosh

(pronounced with an 'o' as in 'hot') money/cash

dotty

feeble-minded/silly/absurd

fagged

exhausted

fags

cigarettes

to fiddle

to cheat, especially on paying income tax

flog

sell

grass

inform on someone

kip

a nap or short sleep

knickers

women's underpants

the lads

the boys (meaning men as well as teenage boys). *The lads* are the guys you typically go to the pub with. This word often has a mischievous connotation, as in, 'I didn't do well in school because I was too busy being a *lad'*.

knackered

tired; worn out

lolly

money

naff

tacky/unfashionable/daggy

nick

to steal/arrest

the nick

prison; police station

nooky

sexual activity

nutter

nut; crazy person

peckish

hungry for a snack

pissed

drunk

ponce

ostentatious or effeminate man. Also to borrow (usually permanently).

potty

foolish/crazy

Cheddar cheese only became widely known when people began visiting Cheddar Gorge and taking home the local cheese. Cheddar was just one of many Somerset villages that produced this type of cheese. Over the years, *Cheddar* has become a generic name for any pale yellow, medium-hard cheese. The quality ranges from supermarket Cheddar to tangy and delicious farm-house varieties.

Slippy

slippery/quick

to snog

to kiss

sod

derogatory term derived from 'sodomy'. Most British people who use this term don't mean anything sexually menacing by it, any more than meaning someone's dad isn't his real father when you call them a bastard. A person who calls you a *sod* just means to call you a stupid bastard or a jerk or something of the sort, so you may consider yourself insulted, but not too much.

sod off

get lost

sod it

damn it

stumm

to *keep stumm* means to keep quiet (from German *stumm* or Yiddish *shtum*, meaning 'mute')

ta

(pronounced *tab)* thanks

tara

(pronounced *tah-rah)* goodbye

telly

television

tosser

wanker/jerk

vet

to check something out. Can refer to anything from a scheme to be launched, to the quality of someone's work, to a candidate for a job. The word, strangely enough, derives from the verb 'vet' meaning to examine or treat an animal.

whinge

rhymes with 'hinge') to whine or complain (Oh, stop *whingeing*). The word originated in Scotland but is now used in England as well.

willie

penis. (You've got to watch where your *willie* wanders.).Unlike other words you may know, this one is quite.harmless and can be used in mixed company.

yob/yobbo

trouble-maker; hooligan; rowdy person

2.2 COMMON EXPRESSIONS

In most countries you'll find pet expressions. Here are a few terms and cliches you'll hear used regularly in Britain.

Albion

another name for Britain or England. The name may have been introduced into Britain by the Romans, who were struck – as we all are – by the White Cliffs of Dover when they landed in the 1st century (the Latin for 'white' is *albus).* The name could also be of Celtic origin (the Gaelic name for 'Scotland' being).

at the bottom of the garden

this doesn't mean under the daisies where the bodies are buried. It just means at the furthest end of the back lawn or backyard.

at the end of the day

in the end; in the last analysis; ultimately

bits and bobs

odds and ends

not bothered

don't care (I'm *not bothered* whether or not we go.)

carrying the can

left holding the responsibility

carry on

continue what you're saying or doing (Turn left, then *carry on* down the road for another mile.)

chat up

come on to; hit on

cock-up

botched job; a screw-up. This colorful compound word can also act as a verb. (Look what you did, you *cocked* the whole thing *up*.)

come a cropper

have a bad fall. *Neck and crop* means 'altogether', so the expression *come a cropper* means to fall to the ground completely. It's usually used metaphorically to mean that a plan or scheme has flopped.

Sent to Coventry

During the Civil War (1644–49), Royalist troops imprisoned in St John's church in Coventry were ignored by the population, hence the expression *sent to Coventry* to describe someone who's being given the

cold-shoulder. Some believe the expression arose when Royalist prisoners detained in Birmingham were moved to parliament-sympathising Coventry and suffered the same fate [16. p. 201].

done

cheated/tricked (I was *done* out of my 20 quid.)

donkey's years

a very long time

a drop of

a glass of. If you go to a party or dinner in Britain and they ask if you'd like *a drop of* wine, don't expect to get just a drop – they'll bring you a normal glass of wine. So be careful – in Britain you can get bombed on five drops of wine.

early days

still early; too soon to know

effing and blinding

swearing excessively

fall out with

have a disagreement with; stop being friendly with

feel-good factor

sense of wellbeing. An emotional sort of barometer, this elusive factor is much discussed in British politics. It's used in other countries as well, but not as commonly as in Britain.

get your own back

get even with; get revenge

gone off

when referring to food, *gone off* means to have gone bad or spoiled. (The meat's *gone off*.) In general, it means to have lost interest in. (I've *gone off* the idea.)

gone missing

lost/disappeared (The cat's *gone missing*.)

grasp the nettle

take hold of the situation (sort of a cross between 'take the bull by the horns' and 'bite the bullet')

had done with

was through with (I *had done with* him.)

hard done by

unfairly dealt with; having bad luck

in the event

in the end; in the final instance. In British English, this phrase doesn't need to be followed by 'that' as in 'In the event *that* this happens...' It can simply mean 'when the outcome finally came'. (We were going to spend our holiday in Greece, but *in the event*, we just stayed at home.)

in the first instance

in the first place

... isn't it; ... didn't he

quintessentially British expressions which are tacked on to the end of a statement. In Britain, when people give an opinion, they won't allow you to just be quiet and stay out of trouble – you have to agree. Of course you can also flatly disagree, which makes you feel like you're not cooperating. What starts out as a plain statement always surprises you by turning into an interrogative in the end, at which point you're expected to participate – 'Sarah will never change, *will she*?'. Won't she? Maybe you don't know, so you just smile and nod. Even more disconcerting is the British habit of asking you to corroborate things you couldn't possibly know. 'I finally had a date with Sally last night, and I spilled a drink all over her, *didn't I*?'. How should you know, you weren't there. Sometimes it's a snappish retort to put the other person on the wrong foot – 'John, you're here, we've been waiting for over an hour'. The reply – 'Well I was stuck in traffic, *wasn't I*?'. Once you learn the game, it ceases to be intimidating. Just keep smiling, nodding, and looking non-committal.

it’s throwing it down

it’s pouring; it's raining cats and dogs

jam tomorrow

a common expression in Britain meaning if you do without things today (eat your toast plain), you'll be rewarded with bounty tomorrow (jam on your toast)

Drugs

If you were born after 1950 there's a very high probability that you use or have used illegal recreational drugs. Although there are constantly new vogue words, there seems now to be a Standard English for procuring these.

So, *dope* or *black* is hashish and *grass* or *green* is cannabis (relatively less available); *skunk* is super-strength marijuana; *acid* is LSD; *coke* or *Charlie* is cocaine; *E* or *pills* is ecstasy; *smack, horse* or *H* is heroin; *speed* or *whizz* is amphetamine; and *Class A* is any one of heroin, cocaine or amphetamine (in reference to their legal classification).

You no longer 'go out to score', you *get sorted*. And if you do, you'll need to know that the police are called the *cops, filth*, or the *old Bill*, and invariably the *bizzies* in Liverpool [11, p. 98].

look after

take care of someone or something

meant to

supposed to; should (It's a joke, Sue, you're *meant to* laugh.)

miss out

omit (Kathy, you *missed out* three people on this invitation list.)

the odd...

the occasional... When a British weather forecaster says, 'We may get *the odd* shower', she doesn't mean there are a lot of showers out there and the one that looks a bit strange may be coming our way.

not half...

very ... (He's *not half* funny, meaning he's hilarious.)

over the moon

thrilled; blissfully happy

not on

not right; it won't do (You're always late – it's just *not on*.)

be on about

talk excessively about something (What's old Crabshanks *on about* this time?)

one-off

one-time occurrence; fluke

over the top

too much; overdoing it

over the way

across the street

pack it in

quit/finish. To quit your job in Britain is to *pack it in*. This expression's also used in phrases like, 'We've done enough work for today, Stephen. Let's *pack it in*'.

put pay to

put an end to; finish off

right the way

all the way; right through (*Right the way* down the country, the economy's improving.)

rogger

(of a man) to have sex with

Sloane Ranger

wealthy, superficial, but well-connected young person. Taken from *Sloane Square*, an expensive London shopping and residential district, and the 'Lone Ranger'.

sort it out

straighten it out; figure it out; fix it. Often this is shortened simply to *sort it* or may be phrased *get it sorted.*

sort someone out

straighten someone out; give someone a piece of your mind

special offer

on special; on sale. (Guinness is on *special offer* this week.) If you ask if Guinness is 'on sale', the shopkeeper might think you're simply asking if they have it for sale.

a spot of

a little bit of; a portion of (*a spot of* tea/rain/trouble)

straight away

immediately

table the topic

put a topic on the agenda; discuss a topic. In Britain, *tabling the topic* does not mean shelving it or postponing it indefinitely.

take the Mickey/piss out of

tease and humiliate – 'Relax, he's just *taking the Mickey out of* you are'meaning'Don't take offence, he's just making you look like a moron'. This expression is often abbreviated to simply *take the Mickey* – 'Relax, he's just *taking the Mickey*. To *take the piss out of* someone means the same thing.

takeaway (food)

take-out (Let's get a Chinese *takeaway* tonight.)

that ...

so ... Many British people use *that* where other English speakers would use 'so'. (It was *that* boring, half the audience went to sleep.)

there's no question

there's no possibility; it's out of the question. This is an important variant in usage, because it can cause misunderstanding. When the British say, '*There's no question* of troops being sent in they mean 'There's no chance of troops being sent in. To other speakers of English, the same phrase could mean the opposite, 'There's no doubt of troops being sent in.

the way forward

the best way to proceed; the right thing to do

"work out

figure out (Let's *work out* the cost of a week in Spain compared to a week in France.)

2.3 BRAND NAMES

These brand names have either become synonymous with the generic product, or are in widespread use.

Baco Foil

aluminium foil

Docs

Doctor Martens boots

Domestos

liquid bleach

Durex

condom (the British slang for it is *rubber johnny*)

Harris tweed

hand-woven tweed made in Harris, in the Outer Hebrides, and a very popular material for jackets and caps

Hoover

vacuum cleaner. In Britain, vacuuming the house is *hoovering* it, no matter what brand of vacuum cleaner you're using. In current disputes over North Atlantic fishing rights, British fishermen worry that some other countries may *hoover* the seas clean.

Land Rover

all-terrain vehicle

Levi's or Wranglers

jeans

Nescafe

instant coffee

Schweppes

tonic water; drinks mixer

TCP

antiseptic ointment

Typp-ex

whiteout

WD-40

automotive lubricant in a spray can

Wedgwood

fine china

Weetabix

popular breakfast cereal

Zimmer frame

walking aid; walker

III GETTING AROUND

3.1 TRAINS

Train travel in Britain is notoriously unreliable. If you're stranded for hours because your train ran out of fuel 50 metres from the station, you might be told your train's been delayed due to it running late.

A recent survey found Britain's rail system to be less efficient than those of India, China and Pakistan, and even with high-tech intercity rolling stock, British Rail is less punctual than Ghana's national railway, which uses steam engines built 40 years ago! Britain also has Europe's most expensive railway – pricier even than Switzerland's.

Because it's overloaded and unable to cope, the train and underground companies have for many tears followed the eminently sensible policy of pricing their potential customers back into their cars. However, it is possible to buy reasonably priced tickets, by agreeing to travel at the time most inconvenient to you. For example, if you want to get from London to Manchester for a lunchtime meeting; and back the same day, you can do it, but the ticket will cost about the same as a return to Bangkok. However, if you're prepared to arrive at 8.15 pm and then hop back on a train to London 40 minutes later, the fare will be a complete bargain.

Bear this in mind when you see ads offering tickets from London to Edinburgh for little more than the price of a box of matches. The fare does exist, of course, (now why would they lie?) but to get it at that price you had to book at least six weeks before you were born, travel on a Tuesday between four and five in the morning and prove that you're a full time agronomy student. Oh, and they can't guarantee a seat and tickets are non-refundable.

channel tunnel

tunnel linking Britain with France through which high-speed passenger and vehicle rail services are run. Also known as the *chunnel*.

railway

railroad

rolling stock

train cars

subway

an underground pedestrian passage. This isn't a place where trains run, like in New York. It's a way to get across a busy street by going under it rather than trying to cross through traffic.

the tube

London's underground passenger railway service. Also known as the *Underground*.

way out

exit

3.2 TAXI

Although the traditional *black cab* (which now comes in a variety of colours) may not be the cheapest way to get around London unless you're travelling in a group, you can be sure you'll g*et* where you want to go by the quickest possible route. In order to get a licence, London's cabbies must memorise thousands of streets within a six mile radius of Charing Cross, as well as the position of clubs, hotels, theatres, railway stations and a host of other locations.

Minicabs are freelance taxis that can only be hired by phone, and are generally cheaper than black cabs.

Crossing the channel

On a clear day you can see across the English Channel to France. You can make your way to the Continent by plane, rail, ferry, catamaran, hovercraft, or, if you can match the record, you could swim in less than eight hours.

3.3 BUS

Buses run absolutely everywhere in and around cities with great frequency, though service is thin to non-existent in villages and hamlets. Buses have lately been privatised, and the competition among different bus lines makes getting information a little less than simple. But all in all, buses are efficiently run and the prices are fair enough. In some cities, you have to have the right change when paying your fare.

bus

local bus (see also *coach)*

bus shelter

bus stop

coach

long-distance bus (see also *bus*)

Forming a "queue"

A *queue* is a line or row of people. The word *queue* can also be used as a verb ('I had to *queue* for two hours'). In Britain, people *queue*, or stand in line, for buses and taxis. Sometimes the *queue* is loosely formed, and you won't even recognise it as a line – but the people standing there are perfectly aware of who's where in the haphazard *queue*. And in Britain, they don't skip ahead or *jump the queue* [16, p. 113].

3.4 CAR

In England, the network of high speed roads that gets you from city to city is called the *Motorway*. Different sections of the motorway are identified by numbers, such as the *Ml* (going into London) or the M5 (going into Birmingham). These roads are well marked and easy to find

your way around on. The speed limit on the *Motorway* is 70mph (112kph), though people tend. to go faster. There aren't many speed limit signs on the *Motorway* – the national speed limit is simply learned before the driving test is taken. The speed limit in built-up areas is 30mpb (48kph), and 40mph (64kph) in sparsely built-up areas. Ir. outlying areas it's 60mph (96kph).

Roads aren't always well or consistently marked, either with speed limit signs or signs naming the road, which can be a problem for people trying to find their way around with a map. Signs tend to be sparse of hard to see – for instance they don't occur at every corner or junction and you often have to drive annoying distances before you see a sign identifying the name of the street or road you're on.

When they do occur, they don't appear high on a pole at the corner or junction. Rather, they're placed on the sides of buildings, on walls that run alongside the roads, and in the dividing strip on dual carriageways on short posts a foot or two high. If a vehicle in the other lane is in the way, you miss the sign.

Finally, don't try to drive around Britain without a copy of the *Highway Code*, which can be purchased in any post office.

articulated lorry

semi (large truck with cab and trailer attached by a joint or hitch)

bonnet

boot

trunk

caravan

camper/house trailer. In Britain a caravan has nothing to do with camels or a string of vehicles, it just means a live-in vehicle.

car park

parking lot

circus

open space or intersection in town, with streets converging on it (such as Piccadilly Circus in London and Colmore Circus in Birmingham)

diverted traffic

detour

driving licence

driver's licence

dual carriageway

boulevard (broad road with dividing strip between the left and right sides of the road)

filter

the green arrow on a stoplight indicating that cars in a turning lane may turn. Your passenger may say, 'You can go, you have a *filter*'

gear stick

gear shift

high beam

brights

indicators

blinkers

lay-by

rest stop, but with no facilities

lorry

truck

motorcar

car

motorway

freeway, autobahn; interstate highway

to overtake

to pass another vehicle

mudguard

fender. The word *fender* is used in Britain for the protective guard that goes in front of a fireplace. The metal piece of a car that goes over the tyre area is referred to as the *mudguard, wheel arch* or *wing.*

pelican crossing

road crossing with pedestrian-activated traffic lights. Adapted from pedestrian light controlled crossing.

petrol

gasoline

roundabout

intersection where traffic moves in a circular clockwise direction around a median point. For those who haven't encountered this, it's literally a 'round' set-up.

service area

roadside/rest stop. Place where you can turn off the motorway to use the toilet, put petrol in your car or get something to eat.

tyre

not only a Phoenician port in the Old Testament, but also, in Britain, the rubber wheel of a car

verge (of a road)

shoulder (of a road)

windscreen

windshield

windscreen wipers

windshield wipers

zebra crossing

pedestrian road crossing. Pedestrian crossings in Britain have black and white stripes painted on them, hence the name *zebra crossing.*

3.5 BICYCLE

Renting a bicycle (and there are rental shops in many towns) always a good idea when sightseeing, as things don't whizz past you on a bike as they do in a car, and it's a lot easier to park your bicycle than your car when you want to stop and look at something But England could do a lot better with bicycle paths, and the intend to – plans are in the works for new bicycle paths across the country.

push bike

bicycle/two-wheeler (A *bike* in Britain commonly means a motorcycle.)

stabilizers training wheels for a child's bicycle

IV ACCOMMODATION

The dream of any British person is to own their own home and Britain has a very high rate of home-ownership. The worst place to live is in a *council* (publicly owned) *flat* on an *estate*, while the height of aspiration is to own a *detached* (free-standing) *house*. Next best is *semi-detached* (two houses in one building) or if you must, a *terrace*, or row house. Failing that a *flat*. Below that is a *bedsit*, a one-room flat. A *studio flat* is merely a bedsit that you can't afford. A *loft* is an expensive flat carved out of some Victorian warehouse left over from Britain's glorious industrial past. Hotels are much like any others in the developed world, apart from those housed in historic buildings. But the *Bed and Breakfast* (B&B), the equivalent of the European pension, is a truly British institution. A *B&B* is a cheap hotel and most are friendly, good value and serve the sort of breakfast that will save you from having to eat for the rest of the day. The majority of *B&Bs* are people's homes, and the owners usually live in some corner of the house that isn't let out. Running a *B&B* is a traditional way of making some money on the side or of surviving redundancy in areas of high unemployment. So the management haven't necessarily started their *B&B* because they feel they have some vocation as hoteliers, and sometimes as a result guests get the feeling that they're an unwelcome but necessary evil intruding on the owners' privacy. This is quite likely the case. Most *B&Bs* are great, but if you feel unwanted it's because you are unwanted [7, p. 99].

4.1 HOUSING

bedsit

bedsitting room is the full term for this rental accommodation, consisting of a combination bedroom and sitting room, similar to a *studio flat*

council house

a house built by a local authority (town council) and leased often at a subsidised rent

detached house

free-standing house (not meaning that the house was once attached to some other building and has since been detached. It simply means a free-standing house, which always was so.)

digs

lodgings; dwelling; place to stay

estate

housing development, residential or industrial district planned by a town council or a private developer. People in Britain frequently speak of living on this estate or that estate It rarely means the land and property held by one person or family. Most of the time it means a housing development.

flat

apartment

inn

pub with accommodation

terraced houses

row houses. This is quite simply a row of houses, usually all built to the same plan and adjoining one another.

maisonette

flat which is part of a house that's been subdivided. Each *maisonette* has a separate entrance, and usually has two, and sometimes three floors.

semi-detached house

two houses joined by a common wall; a side-by-side

4.2 AROUND THE HOUSE

bath

bathtub. The British say, He's in the bath rather than, 'He's in the tub'.

bin

short for dustbin. The British often use *bin* as a verb as well ' *Bin* it', meaning 'Throw it in the bin').

curtain rails

curtain rods

double glazing

windows consisting of a double layer of glass to insulate against cold and damp. Neither pane is removable. In Britain, the storm windows and screens common in some other countries are virtually unknown. Most older homes don't have *double glazing* and it's rather expensive to have installed.

dustbin

wastebasket; garbage/trash can. The literal-minded person might think this is a container in which British people put their dust, but it isn't.

duvet

(pronounced *doo-vay)* comforter/quilt/doona

en suite

with bathroom included. If you stay at a hotel or B&B and your room is *en suite*, it means you have a toilet and a bath or shower with your room, not down the hall.

garden

front or back yard. In Britain, the term *garden* doesn't just mean the area where flowers or vegetables are planted. It's also the lawn or the yard. A *yard* can be an area that's used to store equipment or for vehicle access to a factory or warehouse. It's also a working area, as in the term *stockyard* or *dockyard*

immersion heater

common term for a domestic hot water heater

lodger

renter/tenant/roomer

lounge

living room

wardrobe

moveable clothes closet. Most British homes don't have built-in bedroom closets but free-standing *wardrobes*.

wheelie bin outdoor garbage bin on wheels

V AROUND TOWN

England can appear a very prescriptive society. No country puts up more signs, and nowhere more so than in the city. On public transport alone you'll encounter: Stand on the Left; Do Not Speak to the Driver; Please Have Exact Change; Mind the Gap; No Standing on . Upper Deck; Pushchairs Must be Folded; You Must Have a Valid Ticket to Travel; Do Not Alight While Bus is in Motion.

Beside one of the outdoor bathing ponds on London's Hampstead Heath there's a sign which reads: 'Do Not :Enter The Water From the Banks'. This is a masterpiece. A lesser authority would simply put up a sign saying “No Swimming', but the Hampstead sign presents the law-abiding English person with a real challenge – how to get in.

The English also delight in overly polite signs such as Kindly Refrain From Smoking or The Management Respectfully Requests That Guests Do Not Take Visitors To Their Rooms. Or when you go to stay in a hotel and discover the place is in the throes of full-scale renovation, there is sure to be a sign that says, The Management Would Like To Apologise For Any Inconvenience Caused, which suggests that they'd like to but are damned if they will [7, p.32].

borough

urban community incorporated by a royal charter. A *borough* tends to be smaller than a city, and can be located within a city, as in the case of Greater London, which has 32 boroughs. Another difference between a *borough* and a city is that a city has a cathedral. The Borough, which is the setting for a number of scenes in Charles Dickens' novels, is a specific small borough on the south-eastern stretch of the Thames. In early times, a *borough* tended to be fortified (walled-in) – the Old English word 'burg' meant a fortified town. The spelling for this, in Middle English, advanced to 'burgh' which can be seen as part of the formation of today word *borough*

canteen

snack bar; refreshment room (found in places like universities, schools and hospitals)

the City

the 'square mile' of Inner London on the north bank of the Thames. When people talk about *the City*, they're talking about the part of London which is governed by the Lord Mayor and the Corporation, and normally it refers especially to the commercial circles and business part of this area. *The City* also has several thousand residents.

city centre

downtown/central business district. Despite the fact that for nearly two years half the country was singing *Downtown* along with Petula Clark, British people don't seem to know what it means. If you get on the bus and ask the driver, 'Are you going downtown?' you'll get a blank look. One American visitor recently called *directory inquiries* (information) to get the street address of the main downtown post office of the city he was in. The operator kept asking him where it was (not the post office but 'downtown'). The visitor, not being aware of the term *city centre*, tried numerous ways to make himself understood but when the operator finally said, Ts it near Bromsgrove?' he gave it up for a lost cause.

Downing Street

small street between Westminster Palace to the south (otherwise known as the Houses of Parliament) and the street called Whitehall to the north. It lets onto Parliament Street on the east. All this is just as the Thames begins to arc eastward. Number 10 Downing Street is the residence of the Prime Minister, and Number 11 is the residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, so *Downing Street* and *Number 10* are terms often used synonymously with 'the Government'.

close

an enclosure or enclosed place, such as a street closed at one end, a precinct of a cathedral, or a public school playing field. Pronounced like *close* when it means 'near' rather than to shut', the word dates back to Medieval England and originates from Old French *clos.*

common

an area of land, which is usually grassy, held in common by all members of a community. The *village green* is a *common.*

East End

working-class area within walking distance of the City, which has a mix of Cockney, Indian, Bangladeshi and Jewish cultures. Its attractions include offbeat museums and Indian cuisine.

Fleet Street

Since the time of Caxton, people have had ink on their fingers in this central part of London. Rupert Murdoch changed all that in the mid-80s when he introduced state-of-the-art, non-union printing presses at Wapping in the Docklands redevelopment. The move from Fleet Street was a tumultuous scrum of politicking and picket lines, but it worked. Now all that remains are ghosts, such as El Vino's, the journos' number one watering hole and main source of inspiration, and the former *Daily Express* building, an Art Deco structure of chrome, glass and nautical curves that was always more dashing than the newspaper itself [11, p. 44].

first-class/second-class mail

two levels of mail delivery service – first class is marginally more expensive and is delivered faster

Fleet Street

street in London formerly devoted largely to the production and publication of daily newspapers

Harley Street

street in north-west London, celebrated for its high residency of doctors and specialists (called *consultants*)

high street

main street. An English *high street* is more, however, than just an equivalent to what is called a 'main street' elsewhere. Firstly, a high street is where the bulk of the shops are, it's not just the primary shady thoroughfare in town. On the *high street*, you'll find the butcher, the baker, the greengrocer, the newsagent, the chemist and perhaps a fish and chip shop. On many high streets people also pay their bills, visit the post office, and do their banking.

Secondly, the *high street* is an English tradition and, for many, an object of some affection, The English think of their high streets the way they do their hedgerows – as something intrinsically English. And like the hedgerows, the high streets are a part of the national heritage the English would like to see protected.

There's a movement in the country today to see a brake put on the building of huge shopping malls, which are springing up on city outskirts at a rapid rate. Many English people fear these malls could in time obliterate the traditional *high streets* and turn them into slums.

Leicester Square

popular place in London to hang out. Check out some of the antiquarian book shops in the district while you're there.

lock

part of a canal or river that can be closed off and the water levels changed to raise or lower boats

Lombard Street

street in London containing many of the principal London inks. The term is used to refer to the setting of high finance and the stock market in Britain. Literature enthusiasts may recall that, in Thackeray's *Vanity Fair,* the ruined Sedley and the prosperous Osborne did business in Lombard Street.

London

capital of England and of the United Kingdom. *London* is the seat of the Crown and home of the British Parliament, which the Thames River flowing west to east more or less 'trough the middle of the city. What many tourists regard as London, however, is actually two cities and their environs – London to the east and Westminster to the west. The dividing point is Temple Bar and the Inns of Court. Greater London's population comprises almost a quarter of the total population of England.

The ancient City of London, now known as *the City*, is roughly a square mile area once enclosed within the old medieval city walls, with their seven gates – Ludgate, Newgate, Aldersgate, Cripplegate,

Moorgate, Bishopsgate and Aldgate. It's bounded by the Aldgate Underground and the Tower of London on the east, the Thames on the south, Temple Bar and the Inns of Court on the west, and, approximately, London Wall Street on the north.

Traditionally, when the monarch enters the city of London in state (she, of course, lives in Westminster, in Buckingham Palace), the Lord Mayor of London greets him or her and offers his sword, which the monarch immediately returns. This squares things for entry into the City. In former times, the gate or bar, depending upon where the sovereign entered (today it's normally Temple Bar), was not raised until this ritual was performed.

The Met

the London Metropolitan Police Department. Also, the official London Weather Office.

Mews

dwellings or lodgings grouped around an open yard or alley The word *mews* has a developing history. In medieval time it referred to a set of cages for keeping hawks during moulting. Later, it designated the royal stables at Charing Cross in London, built on the site of the royal hawk mews. Later still, it meant any set of stables grouped around an open yard or alley. Eventually, *mews* were converted into lodgings, and in the 19th century, rows of town houses were actually built in the style of *mews*. *Mews* is today a designation for an address, and you'll find it on street maps just like streets or lanes, for example Glynde Mews or Halkin Mews in London.

minster

cathedral

Naffy

N.A.A.F.I. (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes.) *Naffy* is the nickname for a canteen catering to members of the armed services. It sells provisions and alcohol, and usually includes a bar and lunch-counter in a camp or barracks.

Old Lady of Threadneedle Street

Bank of England. Located on the east side of London on – you guessed it –Threadneedle Street.

pavement

sidewalk; paved pedestrian walkway

post/pillar box

mail box

Scotland Yard

London's famous crime detection agency, sometimes just called *The Yard*. It moved from just off Whitehall in 1891 – when the fictional Sherlock Holmes was practicing criminal detection – to Parliament Street. At that point it changed from 'Great.

Scotland Yard' to 'New Scotland Yard'. In 1967, it moved to where Broadway meets Victoria Street, midway between Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

South Bank

enclave of arts venues, roughly situated between Hungerford Railway Bridge and Waterloo Bridge, on what's traditionally known as the wrong side of the river

vault

in many English-speaking countries, a vault is where money is kept in a bank. But in Britain, vaults are also burial places for people of rank or wealth. They're found in churches and cathedrals, beneath the marble floor or above it in encasements, often magnificently carved, often with effigies of the person buried within lying prone on the vault. They exist, of course, in church graveyards as well.

Some of the more famous people you'll meet will be long in their graves, like the host of kings and queens buried in Westminster Abbey, along with the illustrious authors encrypted beneath the floor in Poets' Corner, and famous figures like bad old King John in a Cathedral in Worcester.

venue

location; site; meeting place

West End

Theatre district in Westminster where world-class drama and comedy are performed. Similar to New York's Broadway.

Westminster

a city to the west of and adjoining London. *Westminster* is a city in itself, even though the term *Westminster* is also used to refer to Parliament. The Palace of Westminster and the Houses of Parliament are one and the same. It was one of Henry VIII's royal residences until it was damaged by fire in 1512. Westminster Hall is the oldest surviving part of the palace.

Some of the landmarks of London are actually in the city of Westminster, not the city of London. Among these are Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Pall Mall, Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery, Charing Cross, Leicester Square, the West End theatre district, Covent Garden, Victoria Station, Harrod's department store, Hyde Park, Kensington Palace and Gardens, Piccadilly Circus, Soho, the British Museum Bloomsbury, 122B Baker Street (ostensible home of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson), and Scotland Yard

Westminster Abbey

ancient cathedral in Westminster. Most English monarchs since William I have been crowned in Westminster Abbey, and until 1760, most were also buried there. It's situated between the Houses of Parliament and Westminster School.

Whitehall

the term *Whitehall* can be confusing to visitors. Is it a royal palace? Is it a street? Is it a group of government offices? The answer is yes to all three.

It's a street where major government offices are located. Both the street and the offices take their name from the Palace of Whitehall, used from the time of Henry VIII to William III.

Whitehall once stretched from the Cross in the village of Charing to St James's Park, which borders another royal residence, St James's Palace. It boasted landscaped terraces and gardens, aviaries, opulent

staterooms, a waterside gallery which extended out over the Thames, a tennis court, a tiltyard for jousters, a bowling green, and a cockpit.

The Palace was destroyed by fire in 1698, except for the Banqueting House, which still stands between Richmond Terrace and Horseguards Avenue, with Victoria Embankment on the east and Parliament Street on the west.

VI IN THE COUNTRY

Most countries have both naturally occurring and constructed topographical features with which they're identified, like Australia's outback, Russia's steppes, Brazil's Amazon jungles, the US's everglades and bayous, and Holland's dikes and canals. Britain also has its special features, and their names may be unfamiliar to you.

barrow

prehistoric grave or burial mound. Numerous *barrows* exist in Britain and have been studied by archaeologists. If you've read Thomas Hardy's *The Return of the Native,* you'll remember Rainbarrow, which figures prominently in the novel. It protrudes on the rise of a section of heathland near Hardy's childhood home in Dorset.

bridle-way

pith that can be used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists

the Broads

a low-lying area of wetlands in the county of Norfolk, more specifically called the *Norfolk Broads*

downlands/downs

treeless, undulating chalk uplands of south and southeast England and elsewhere, traditionally a major source of pasturage (no, you didn't misread – the *downlands* are uplands). You may have heard of the famous race course Epsom Downs, which is located on the downs of Surrey.

earthwork

an embankment or fortification made of earth. Numerous *earthworks* exist in England – some of them built by the Romans, some by earlier inhabitants – which have been the subject of archeological studies. One such prehistoric earthwork is just north of the seaside resort town of Weymouth on the Channel. It's called Maiden Castle, and serves as the subject of one of Thomas Hardy's short stories, *A Tryst at an Ancient Earthwork.* He makes it come to

life with an eeriness and forboding so powerful that one critic has said the earthwork itself is the main character in the story.

fen

low, marshy or flooded tract of land

firth

a river estuary, such as the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. It's related to the Norse word *fjord.*

footpath

path for walkers or hikers. In England, *footpaths* exist all over the country, including hundreds of ancient *footpaths* running through private lands which, by law, the owners aren't allowed to obstruct, plant over or destroy. Every British subject (and tourist) has the right to walk unimpeded on these *footpaths*, although the pedestrian must adhere to the path and not wander off onto the owner's land. They're usually marked with a sign reading 'Public Footpath' or, sometimes, 'Public Right of Way'.

furze

plant with sharp thick spines and small yellow flowers that grows on heathland and on other sandy patches. Also known as *gorse* in the north.

heath

tract of open wasteland, generally covered with low, patchy shrubs such as heathbells, milkwort, broom or furze

hedgerow

row of bushes forming a hedge. English *hedgerows* are notable for their size and for the wildlife they shelter. Either low or high hedges – often dotted with bright yellow flowers of furze or gorse plants growing amid them – stretch unbroken for miles along the winding roads of England and between farmers' fields. Besides creating borders and giving a picturesque aspect to the landscape, they support a wide variety of animal life, including birds, small animals and insects. Thus, *hedgerows* are important to the ecology of England and are generally protected.

market town

market towns had their origins in the medieval period, when towns and cities began to spring up all over Europe. A town depended on trade to prosper and grow, but had to gain permission from the monarch, in the form of a royal charter, to hold regular markets. Towns which obtained such permission were designated *market towns.*

Letterboxing

If you're out walking in Dartmoor, you might stumble across one of the 4000 'boxes' that have been hidden throughout the countryside. Around 10,000 *letter-boxers* take part in this massive treasurehunt, coming from as far as America, France and Belgium. The object is to find as many boxes as you can, sign the accompanying visitors' books and use the stamp provided to stamp your record book. There are even 'mobile boxes' – odd characters who wander around the moors waiting for a fellow *letterboxer* to approach them with the words 'Are you a travelling stamp?'. Once you've collected 100 stamps, you can apply to join the '100 Club', whose members receive a clue book with map references for other boxes [10, p.56].

moor

tract of open wasteland, generally covered with heather and devoid of trees. Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* is set in the West Yorkshire moors.

mead

meadow

plantation

an area planted with trees. Many people associate the word ‘plantation' with the tea plantations of India, the coffee plantations of Brazil, or the cotton plantations of the Old South in the US. A *plantation* in Britain is none of these, but an area of trees, mainly fir trees, purposefully planted for practical use.

wold

piece of open, uncultivated land, especially elevated country, moorland, or downland. The better known examples are the hilly

districts of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, the Yorkshire Wolds, or the Cotswolds in the West Country. The word probably derives from Old English, either from *wald* (Anglian for 'forest'), or from *weald* (West Saxon for 'a wooded district') – although these days *wolds* are largely treeless.

VII FOOD & DRINKS

You can't make jokes about awful English food any more. The days when even spaghetti was dismissed '-as foreign muck are past. The English have discovered cooking, and London is now one of the best cities in the world to eat in, although rural and small-town England is still reliably awful. In London, chip shops are practically extinct – going for a Ruby Murray (curry) is the gastronomic pastime [10, p.78].

7.1 FOOD

aubergine

(pronounced *oh-ber-zheen* with a soft 'g' like the ‘s’ in 'pleasure') eggplant

bangers and mash

sausages and mashed potatoes

bap

bun/roll. Like a hamburger bun, but very wide and large.

beef roll

ground beef and ham cooked in a pudding mould

beetroot

beets

bill

payment at a restaurant. You can ask for the *bill*, but not the 'check'. In Britain, a *cheque* is the thing you tear out of your *chequebook.*

biscuits

cookies/crackers

blue Stilton

world-class blue-veined cheese made in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Great with port wine.

caff

cafe

caster sugar

a finer sugar than regular sugar, and more expensive. Regular sugar in Britain is a bit coarser than in some other countries, and you might find caster sugar closer to what you're used to.

chips

French fries

corn

any of the grains grown by a farmer, including barley, wheat and corn

corn flour

corn starch

Cornish pasty

(pronounced *pas-tee)* half-moon shaped pastry, crimped along the curved side and filled with ground beef or diced mutton, diced potatoes, onion, and sometimes other vegetables

Cheers

Cheers is the usual salutation when raising a glass. But in other circumstances it means 'thanks' or 'goodbye' – context is everything

courgette

'pronounced *caw-zhet* – the 'g' is pronounced like the ‘s’ in pleasure) zucchini

cream cracker

white unsalted cracker

cream tea

a special 'tea at which tea is served with bread or scones, clotted cream and jam. This is known as a Devonshire tea in many English-speaking countries, but not in England "except of course in Devon).

Sweetie, darling?

In Britain, candy is called *sweets* or *sweeties*, and candy bars are referred to as *chocolate bars*. If you want to buy a sucker, forget it. You'll have to make that a *lollipop*

crisps

potato chips

crumpets

a kind of light bread resembling a muffin, often toasted. Similar to what are known elsewhere as 'English muffins'.

Devonshire tea

see *cream tea*

double cream

whipping/heavy cream

fish fingers

strips of something resembling fish covered in breadcrumbs, usually bought frozen

gammon

ham, in the sense of a 'ham steak' on a dinner menu, rather than a thin slice of breakfast ham

gateau

(pronounced *gat-oh)* a rich layer cake, especially one with cream or fruit

greasy spoon

cheap cafe

haggis

a Scottish dish of ground meat or offal mixed with oatmeal, pepper and salt, all baked or boiled in a sheep's or pig's intestine

high tea

light mid-afternoon meal consisting of tea served with cakes, sandwiches, scones or shortbread. Originally a Scottish institution.

ice lolly

flavoured ice on a stick

icing

frosting

icing sugar

powdered sugar

jam

jelly

jelly

gelatin dessert, often poured into a mould to set

joint

cut of meat used for roasting

kipper

smoked herring

lollipop

sucker

marrow

white, fleshy, edible gourd

pickle

any of a variety of thick, vinegary condiments containing vegetables and/or fruit. Since the British don't think of this as a small pickled cucumber, they don't speak of 'a' pickle – one singular pickle. They speak of *pickle* as a substance, like soup or oatmeal. (Would you like some *pickle*?) They spread it on a sandwich or spoon it onto their plates and eat it with their food.

pips

seeds found in fruit

plaice

a flat-fish, frequently included on menus, served boned and often in breadcrumbs

ploughman's lunch

thick slices of bread and cheese with a lettuce salad

pork and apple pie

pork, onions and apples covered with potato puree and baked in an oven

porridge

oatmeal

potted pork

dried pork slowly cooked in a covered saucepan, then mashed and shredded and made into a spread

pudding

can mean anything from a thick spoonable dessert such as butterscotch or chocolate pudding, a steamed cake, a fluffy pancake or a sausage, to a general word for desserts.

Black pudding comes in a sausage skin and is known in other countries as 'blood sausage'. The British version has a higher content of meal, or filler, and doesn't melt apart in the pan when fried.

Plum pudding, or *Christmas pudding*, is a dome-shaped cake with fruit, nuts, and sometimes brandy or rum, steamed rather than baked, and cut into slices with a knife.

Yorkshire pudding can be classed as a sort of pancake, baked instead of pan fried. It's made by pouring a batter into a flat pan or iron frying pan and putting it in the oven. It rises high and fluffy all around the edge and in little round peaks in the middle. It's eaten before or with the main meal, topped with gravy.

Puddings is sometimes also used to head the dessert section on a menu.

pulses

edible seeds of leguminous plants, such as beans, peas and lentils

salad cream

a type of salad dressing. *Salad cream* isn't generally offered in restaurants – the British tend to eat their salads plain.

savoury

having a flavour that isn't sweet, such as a salty, herbal or sour. In other words, a dish is said to be either *sweet* r *savoury*

scampi

a species of shrimp (not the prepared, rich Italian shrimp dish)

scone

a biscuit-like pastry that goes well with tea

shepherd's pie

a two-layered oven dish with a ground beef and onion mixture on the bottom and mashed potatoes on the top. Though it's called a pie, there's no crust.

single cream

coffee cream or light cream

sorbet

sherbet (the frozen dessert)

spotted dick

this sounds like a contagious disease, but it's really a dessert consisting of a suet pudding with currants and raisins

spring onion

scallion

spring roll

egg roll (the Chinese dish)

starter

what people call an *hors d'oeuvre* in France, an *antipasto* in Italy, a *Vorspeise* in Germany, and an 'appetizer' in the US, they call a *starter* in Britain

streaky bacon

bacon with meat and fat in strips, rather than meat at the centre and fat around the edge. Most *streaky bacon* in Britain comes with rind and bone on each slice, and they're a nuisance to cut away. You can buy 'rindless' bacon, but at a higher price.

swedes

yellow turnips; rutabagas

tea

evening meal; supper

tin

can. In Britain, you don't buy a can of peas or beans or stewed tomatoes, you buy a *tin*

toad in the hole

pork sausages in a pancake mix

tomato sauce

tomato ketchup

Did you know…

The word *whisky* is a shortened form of *whiskybae*, or *usquebae*, which comes from Scottish Gaelic *uisge beatha* – literally meaning 'water of life'

treacle

molasses or dark syrup

trifle

a popular dessert made from a mixture of sponge cake, whipped cream, custard, gelatin, fruit and sherry or spirit

Worcestershire sauce

(pronounced w*us-ter-sher)* sauce made from, among other things, anchovies, chillies, garlic and molasses, introduced to Britain from Bengal during Victorian times

7.2 DRINKS

In Britain the term a drink means any ingestible liquid – if someone asks you if you'd like *a drink* they may well mean a cup of tea.

The British use little or no ice in their drinks. In pubs, a small bucket of ice is usually kept at the bar, but it's not enough for everyone in the place to have their glass filled with ice at each order – so settle for a couple of cubes.

If you travel in the summer (and it can get hot in Britain) and you stay at B&Bs, they mightn't keep ice on hand. If you like a cold drink, pack an ice cube tray.

Non-Alcoholic

cordial

sweetened fruit drink

lemonade

lemon-flavoured carbonated soft drink- *not* freshly squeezed lemon juice, water and sugar

'white or black'

with milk or black? This is the British way of asking how you'd like your tea or coffee. Unfortunately, this handy phrase doesn't take into account whether or not you'd like sugar.

At the Pub

Pubs are one of the most distinctive contributions the British have made to urban life. They're as cosy as your living room, carpeted, wall-papered, and well furnished. People generally have a favourite *pub* near their home that they call their *local*.In villages and small towns it's a place for neighbours to gather. and chat. Traditionally, the *local* has been at the hub of the community, with people treating *pubs* as virtual extensions of their home, and this tradition is still very much alive in parts of Britain.

Inner-city pubs have a different feel from their country cousins. In country pubs the atmosphere is quiet and laid-back. They're generally friendly, although depending on which part of the country you're in, sometimes you get the feeling somebody is about to warn you to 'beware the moors'. On the other hand London pubs are all hustle and bustle. Amid the clouds c tobacco smoke and stacks of empty pint glasses there's a frenetic sense of excitement, tinged with desperation. One of the great things about London pubs is their internationalism – between the staff and the patrons, most of the world's accents are represented But being called a wanker by someone with a Japanese accent just doesn't seem to fit.

The archaic closing time all over England and Wales of 11 pm was introduced for rationing purposes during WWI. Or Sundays, most pubs open from noon to 3 pm and from 7 to 10.30 pm, though some stay open

all day. A warning bell is rung 10 or 15 minutes before closing so you can make a last trip to the bar. In Scotland, you can drink well into the early morning and all day on Sunday.

Size matters

Never ask for just a 'beer', always specify the quantity, such as 'a *half* of lager' or 'a *pint* of Guinness'.

Drinks are ordered and paid for at the bar – although in some pubs they may be carried to your table, particularly if ordered with food. And ask at the bar what kind of *crisps* (potato chips) they have – they'll blow you away with the selection.

bevvy

an alcoholic drink

free house

pub that doesn't belong to a brewery, thus is 'free' to sell any brewer's beer

go for a pint

go for a beer (Let's *go for a pint* after work tonight.)

licensed trade

pub or tavern keeping

off-licence/offie

shop that sells alcohol to go. When you buy alcohol at a shop, you're buying it 'off the premises where the liquor trade is licenced.

pub

short for public house – a bar which usually offers food and sometimes accommodation

Choosing a 'local'

If you spend any time in Britain then you need a *local*. Choosing one can be as simple as getting a comfortable feeling when walking through the door, or friendly bar staff, or the place you meet your mates for a couple after work. Whatever the reason, 'going down the pub' should feel as natural as kicking back in your favourite chair in front of the fire in your own living room [7,p. 39].

publican

`tavern keeper

to shout

to buy a round of drinks. If someone says *it's your shout*, they mean that it's your round. The potency or beer

snug

small, enclosed area in a pub which seats only a few people

tied house

pub which is limited to selling the products of one particular brewery, thus making it 'tied' to that brewer

Name your poison

When a bartender asks what kind of beer you want, you have to say *bitter*, *lager* or *stout*. The potency of beer varies between 2 % and 8% – the stronger brews are usually *specials* or *extras* [7, p. 41].

Wine

Many pubs display handpainted signs with the words, 'Fine wines'. This could be read as a coded warning that their wine is undrinkable. The general thinking seems to be that anyone who asks for wine in a pub is an outcast and should therefore be served poison. If you want wine, go to a wine bar [7, p. 43].

Spirits

There isn't a wide array of' cocktails' in Britain. They offer *gin and tonic* and *vodka and lime*, but beyond that, the drinks are fairly basic – such as whisky or brandy served *neat* (straight up) or with water or soft drink.

In pubs, spirits are served in mean-spirited measures laughably called singles and doubles. A single is invisible and its presence can only be detected by sniffing the glass. A double whisky can generally be observed through a powerful electron microscope [7, p. 50].

blended whisky

mixture of malt and grain whiskies

malt whisky

made from malted barley and usually distilled for 10 to 12 years, up to 21 years

martini

a small glass of dry vermouth (a wine flavoured with herbs). To many visitors, a martini is a cocktail made with gin and dry vermouth, in the proportions of five or so to one. A 'dry' martini has the merest dash of vermouth. If this is what you want, you'll have to make yourself clear.

neat

straight or straight up – not mixed with water or soft drink

vodka and lime

vodka gimlet

grain whisky

mainly used in blends. Made from unmalted corn and malted barley.

single malt

a whisky from a particular area in Scotland

BEER WARS

Years ago, the 'Great British Boozer' was given its last rites. The Empire of big national breweries swept across the land gobbling up independent brewers and seducing beer drinkers. Traditional cask beers were replaced with fizzy keg beers made at giant beer factories, leaving a thirsty public with few choices. By the mid-70s, all looked lost for the traditional pint, a heady unpasteurised brew left unchilled in the cask. But amid the chaos emerged a brave few who fought back. *The Campaign for Real Ale* (CAMRA) started a grass roots rebellion. And through tireless work, and despite the rigours of carrying large beer bellies, the complete takeover of the drinking public was held at bay. Today the number of mid-sized independent breweries is hovering around 40, with pub and small breweries topping 200.

These independents represent the frontline between a public with a sophisticated palate demanding quality pubs, and the attempts by some brewing companies to continually try to introduce *brewed under licence* brand name beers and build pubs that look like something from the Disney Corporation. Although 85% of beer in Britain is still brewed by only four companies, new laws forced them to sell off more than 10,000

pubs, opening up competition and kick-starting an industry that had become all too complacent.

The British spend practically their whole adult lives in pubs, and they want variety. The brewery shake-up allowed independent and small breweries to introduce more choices and better quality beers. While Britain's pubs and inns continue to reinvent themselves, either by harking back to tradition or introducing modern designs, the beer-drinking public has rediscovered the pub as an extension of the home, and pubs in Britain have become almost as integral to life as breathing itself [11, p. 70].

Cider

scrumpy

potent cider originally made in England's West Country. Many pubs serve it straight from the barrel.

snake bite

mix of half cider and half lager, with a dash of raspberry cordial

Beer

ale

milder, sweeter and darker than beer. Generally drunk at room temperature.

PUB NAMES

Pub names have a long history in Britain, although relatively few are unique. They started during the Middle Ages, when most people were illiterate, as roughly painted pictures used as signs. Today, with more than 55,000 pubs, the list of names is long. They often reflect an event, a person or even an attitude. *The Bunker's Knob* was named after the 'bonking' or banging noise made by the club foot of a parish constable when he walked. *Mother Huff Cap* refers to a 16th century term for strong beer. Drinking such strong ale 'huff's ones cap', or makes you think you're the centre of the universe. *The Olde Tippling Philosopher* refers to the drinking habits of Plato and Socrates, while *Sixteen String Jack* is named after an 18th century highwayman who wore eight

coloured strings around each knee of his breeches. A lover of fine clothes, he's said to have gone to the gallows in a new pea-green suit.

bitter

strong beer with a relatively high alcohol content, served at cellar temperature to enhance the flavour

lager

more carbonated than *bitter*, and served colder than other types of beer. *Lager* and *bitter* are generally lighter in colour than ale and stout.

lager top

pint or glass of beer topped with a large dash of lemonade

pint

pint of beer (roughly half a litre). In British pubs, beer is usually ordered by the *pint*. If you don't want a whole pint, ask for a *half pint*.

shandy

a popular drink in which beer and lemonade are mixed together – a bit astonishing to some visitors

stout

dark, full-bodied beer made from malt

VIII ENTERTAINMENT

8.1 SHOPPING

Many shops now open on Sundays in Britain, and large supermarkets are now staying open untill 9 or 10 pm.

car boot sale

sale of old or unused household items. This is similar to the garage sales' or 'rummage sales' people hold in their drive-ways, except the *car boot sale* ostensibly operates out of the back of a car or van. In reality, however, people actually haul :heir stuff out of the car and put it on tables and on the ground. These sales generally take place in car parks, with a group of people selling their second-hand things.

chemist

pharmacy. The *chemist* in Britain is the place to get prescription and non-prescription drugs. You can also, in many cases, nave film developed there, and can usually buy perfume, cosmetics, soap and items you'd find in the 'lotions' and ‘toiletries' departments of larger stores. However, you won't find things such as fuses, magazines, greeting cards, stationery supplies or potato chips except in the large chain *chemists*.

Chemists generally close between 5 and 6 pm. Most towns and even villages usually designate one chemist to stay open a little longer, but you won't necessarily know which one that is. Grocery stores in Britain generally don't carry a wide range of non-prescription drugs (although many larger supermarkets have a pharmacy section), so if you want a particular anti-histamine or sleep aid or some such thing, you'll have to get to the *chemist* before 6 pm when it closes for the evening.

fiver

five pound note

custom

business/patronage. In Britain you hear phrases like, 'They get a lot of *custom* in that shop' or 'I won't give him my *custom* any more'.

greengrocer

vegetable store or market, and, in some villages, someone who goes from house-to-house in their lorry selling vegetables

ironmongery

hardware store

Marks and Sparks

nickname for one of the most popular department stores in Britain, *Marks & Spencer*.

p

pence

paying desk

the sales counter or cash register in a department store or shop

quid

one pound sterling

stationer

stationery store

8.2 LONDON MARKETS

Brick Lane

held in the East End, on the streets off Brick Lane and along Bethnal Green Rd. Offers a diverse range of goods such as gold, antique books and dodgy furniture.

Brixton

cosmopolitan market with plenty of exotic foods and Jamaican music along with wigs, homeopathic root cures and rare records. Held in Electric Ave and Granville Arcade.

Camden

consists of hundreds of stalls which virtually extend from Camden Town tube station to Chalk Farm tube station

Petticoat Lane

Sunday street market held in the East End, between Aldgate and Bishopsgate. Good buys include second-hand clothing, cheap jewellery and fruit.

Did you know?

Highland games take place throughout summer in Scotland, and involve piping and dancing competitions and sporting events. Originally, the games were organised by clan chiefs and kings who'd recruit the strongest competitors for their armies or as bodyguards. Events which test the strength of participants include **tossing the caber**, which involves heaving a tree trunk into the air, **throwing the hammer** and **putting the stone** [7, p. 66].

Portobello Road

popular street market found just northwest of Kensington Gardens, stretching from Notting Hill to Ladbroke Grove. The selection on offer includes hand-made jewellery, paintings, second-hand clothing, antiques, bric-a-brac and fruit and vegetables.

8.3 CLOTHES

anorak

hooded, weatherproof jacket. The word comes via Danish from Inuit, in which it meant a hooded, sealskin garment designed for polar temperatures. The British have adopted the word and the jacket into their culture, though theirs is a lighter version, made of cloth rather than sealskin.

balaclava

close-fitting head and neck covering which may cover the face as well, leaving holes for the eyes and mouth. Used as a hooded mask or ski mask. You probably won't have use for this word unless you're planning to rob a bank. The word was adopted in Victorian times when British women made head coverings for soldiers fighting in the frigid winter in the city of Balaclava, in the Ukraine during the Crimean War.

braces

suspenders for *trousers*

dressing gown

bath robe. The British use the term *dressing gown* not only for the silky garment you can lounge around the house in, but for terry cloth robes as well.

fancy dress

if you're invited to a fancy dress party in Britain, you're supposed to come in your Tarzan get-up or your Dracula cape, not just your pink chiffon

flip- flops

thongs (the footwear)

frock

dress

jumper

sweater

knickers

women's underpants

mackintosh/ mac

raincoat

pants

underwear

suspender

garter (strip of elastic attached to a girdle or garter belt to hold stockings up)

Morris Dancing

For all its cliched absurdity, Morris dancing holds some popularity in England. While nobody seems sure of its origin, it's believed to be an ancient fertility ritual. Women aren't allowed take part, a tradition enforced by the *Morris Ring*, the unofficial governing body of the dance. If you want to see men dressed in white, waving bells and hankies, and prancing about with their dignity around their ankles, then there's an annual display in the village of Bampton in Oxfordshire every Whit Sunday (the seventh Sunday after Easter) to welcome the summer [10, p. 45].

tights

nylon pantyhose. Stockings that attach to a garter belt have always been called stockings both in Britain and the US. But when the one-piece garment that covers the legs and lower torso came onto the market, Americans called them 'pantyhose', while the British called them *tights*.

trainers

gym/tennis/jogging shoes

trousers

this is the word for both men's and women's pants or slacks in Britain. The word *pants* means underpants.

vest

short-sleeved or sleeveless undershirt

waistcoat

vest (the close fitting, buttoned garment often worn under a jacket). The most common pronunciation in London and the southern parts of England is exactly as it looks, *waist-coat.* An older pronunciation of the word, more common in northern England, is *wes-kit.*

wellies

high rubber boots. These are named after the Duke of Wellington (1769–1852), the great general and statesman who defeated Napoleon in the Battle of Waterloo. The high, handsome boots, covering the knee in front and cut away behind, became one of Wellington's trademarks. Today, they usually mean rubber boots that reach the knee.

8.4 THEATRE

booking office

ticket office. The general term *to book* is used in Britain when reserving tickets or a table at a restaurant or when ordering a cab in advance. So you *book* a table and you *book* a cab and so on.

in the gods

in the upper balconies. If someone sells you tickets to a play .it one of the West End theatres, and they tell you your seats ire *in the gods*, take your binoculars.

Globe Theatre

the original Globe Playhouse was built in 1598-99 and closed down 26 years after Shakespeare's death in 1642. In 1997, a replica opened 200 yards from the Globe's original location. It reflects the original as closely as possible with performances taking place under open sky in daylight or simulated daylight, and with standing room for 500 (as well as seating on wooden benches for 1000). Plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries are performed from May to September.

pantomime

during the Christmas season in Britain, a favourite form of entertainment is the *pantomime*. It's a theatrical performance in which a fairy tale or nursery story is dramatised with music and dancing. Though it may seem that these productions are for children, they're attended by people of all ages. They *aren't* done in mime.

Royal National Theatre

England's flagship theatre which showcases both contemporary plays and classics, as well as hosting young international companies. Its three auditoria are located on London's South Bank.

stalls

orchestra seats in a theatre

West End

theatre district in west London where you can see the world's best in drama, comedy and musicals (analogous to Broadway). People in the know who want discounted tickets go to the discount booking office in Leicester Square, in the heart of the theatre district.

8.5 MUSIC

MUSIC

Britain has had an enormous impact on the evolution of pop music worldwide, redefining itself one decade after another. Beginning in the 60s, *The Beatles* put Britain on the pop map when they stormed the world with their cheeky Liverpudlian charm and timeless melodies. They were followed by a multitude of groups led by *The Rolling Stones, The Who* and *The Kinks* – all pioneers in their own way. *Sir Cliff Richard*, Britain's squeaky-clean version of Elvis, had sprung up a few years earlier (and like a malfunctioning jack-in-the-box, he's been springing up ever since).

In the 70s, British pop fans were stretched to breaking point between two extremes. *Glam rock* went head-to-head with *punk* – while the *Mods* had revived and were spoiling for a fight on the sidelines. Their respective fans often took the rhetoric literally, but each genre left a lasting impression on Britain and its music scene. Glam boys *David Bowie, Marc Bolan and Bryan Ferry* swapped cosmetics and glitter. The Clash flew the punk flag all the while that *Sid Vicious* and *The Sex Pistols* were beating the shit out of anyone who didn't care for their brand of anarchism. *Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin* and *Genesis* couldn't decide which camp they belonged to, so forged their own way.

The 80s witnessed the arrival of the *New Romantics Duran Duran, ABC, Spandau Ballet* and later *Wham* represented this stylised scene and brought quiffs back into fashion. (Look through any 30-something's photo album and, at some stage, they'll say, 'Yeah, that was my New Romantic phase'.) *The Police* were disowned by punks for having talent, while *UB40* sold lots of their wishy-washy white reggae. Angst came into vogue later that decade with *Morrissey* brilliantly whining at the forefront with his band, *The Smiths*. Poet *Billy Bragg* constantly pricked the nation's consciousness while personifying a thorn in the side of Margaret Thatcher's Greed Society.

In the 90s, dance music came overground while hanging on to the credibility of the bunkers. What was known as *Dance* branched off into so many different forms like *techno, house, jungle, garage, handbag, industrial, acid and hip-hop* that heads were spinning even before the

club drugs kicked in. While the British music scene was catching its breath, it was mugged by American grunge, a la Kurt Cobain (Nirvana) and other badly dressed geniuses.

Post-grunge brought *Britpop*, the quintessential sound of British *Indie* (independent) music. While the British music press decreed *Britpop* a thing of the past, they were plastering it on their front covers. And the word *Indie* itself is a misnomer, as the major record labels control the scene more than ever. The late 90s saw *Blur, Oasis* and *Pulp* as the leading exponents of this genre and seminal *Britpop* albums include *Oasis*' (What's the Story) Morning Glory, *Blur's* Parklife and Pulp's Different Class. Or you could just buy *Rialto's* Rialto which is a good composite of all three. A common thread to *Britpop* is whistleable tunes and simple lyrics, along the lines of The Beatles. Indeed, the brains behind Oasis, Noel Gallagher, freely admits the debt owed to Liverpool's fab four. So, you could say that British music has come full circle.

Dance and electronic seem to be the future. *Trip-hop*, a mutated drug-inspired branch of dance, is flourishing with brilliant atmospheric sounds and darkly poetic lyrics. *Massive Attack, Portishead* and *Tricky* (all from Bristol) are the originals.

Boy bands, manufactured by record companies and marketing gurus, have been gigantically popular in the last decade with *Take That* getting as big as an average bunch of blokes could possibly get before eventually bursting, breaking up and following solo careers. Now, girl bands have taken over with the *Spice Girls* blandifying the world with their effervescent brand of girl power.

While the British can be pretty insular about their music and their tastes, Britain is one of the world centres for pop music, with Manchester ('Madchester' in indie parlance) as its creative studio and London as its gallery. In some ways Britain is in between genres at the moment, with Britpop already having peaked. But in the meantime, it's still pumping out some of the best pop music in the world and the joy for the visitor to London is that, on any night of the week, you can see brilliant bands down at your local venue. Check Time Out in London and regional listings for details [11, p. 80].

8.6 FESTIVALS

Britain hosts a plethora of festivals each summer. Catering for a wide range of tastes, they offer the best local and international acts.

Chelsea Flower Show

held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in the last week of May

Edinburgh International Festival

one of the world's largest and most important arts festivals, the *International Festival* is held between mid-August and early September

Fleadh

annual festival of traditional and contemporary Irish music held in Finsbury Park, North London in June

Fringe Festival

held concurrently with the International Festival in Edinburgh, the *Fringe Festival* offers hundreds of amateur and professional avante garde performances

Glastonbury

held in the West Country near Bath, *Glastonbury* is a muddy institution in the tradition of Woodstock but with younger, less likely hipfolk. Practically everyone, artists included, camp out for three days, and drop out for the duration with lots of New Age frivolity.

London Pride

Europe's largest gay and lesbian march and festival, held in late June

Military Tattoo

running for three weeks from early August, the *Edinburgh Military Tattoo* coincides with the International Festival

T in the Park

Glasgow rocks to *T in the Park* one of the best annual festivals in Britain

Phoenix Festival

multi-genre festival with at least five different stages filled by various musicians over five days. It takes place on a deserted air-strip in Stratford-upon-Avon, just outside Birmingham, in July.

Tribal Gathering

the festival season usually kicks off in June with *Tribal Gathering*, an enormous dance parry as close to London as the. organisers are permitted to get. If you're into the dance culture and the club-in-a-field lifestyle, this is the ideal place to hear Britain's best spinmeisters and live dance bands.

Virgin Festival

known as V99, V2000 and so on, this two-day festival is relatively new, has several stages and is held outside London

8.7 USEFUL TERMS

Auntie

endearing though dated term for the BBC

beefeater

yeoman warder of the Tower of London who enacts the *Ceremony of the Keys*, which involves locking the tower gates and depositing the keys at the Queen's residence. *Beefeaters* also give guided tours of the Tower. The name dates back to the 17th century when the warders were given a daily ration of the luxury item beef, and beer.

concession

discount. If you go to the movies and there's a sign in the window advertising *concessions*, it isn't referring to a concessions stand where you can buy popcorn and chocolate bars. It’s referring to the fact that you can get a discount on your ticket if you are a senior citizen, a student, and so on.

Guy Fawkes Day

firework and bonfire celebrations are held throughout Britain on 5 November to commemorate an attempted Catholic coup

Speakers' Corner

every Sunday, members of the public have the opportunity to test their oratory skills in Hyde Park, London (near Marble Arch), a tradition begun in the 19th century in response to local riots

the Proms

series of Promenade Concerts held annually. They're televised live-to-air from the Royal Albert Hall in London by the BBC and relayed to a large crowd via screens in Hvde Park. The *Last Night of the Proms*, held in late summer, brings out a patriotic fervour which peaks at the finale *Land of Hope and Glory.* The Proms have nothing to do with high school dances.

theme park

amusement park

trailers

previews. If this doesn't confuse visitors to Britain, nothing will. The 'previews' in British cinemas are called *trailers* and the term *to trail* means to preceed or come before something. No problem.

IX SPORT

If you want to take a shortcut into the heart of British culture, watch the British at play. They're fierce and passionate about their sport, whether participating or watching,

The mood of the nation is more closely aligned to the success of its international teams in major competition than the Exchequer's forecasts or even the weather. 'Britain proudly gave the world many of its most popular games including football, rugby and golf, but it’s a sore point that the world took these sports and became better at them than the creators themselves. Having said that, Britain is a world power in the sports arena. It hosts numerous premier events annually and, no matter when you visit, there'll be an event taking place that will seem to preoccupy the population.

London hosts a myriad of these sporting events and if you want to see live action, there's a full weekly sporting events calendar in *Time Out* magazine.

9.1 FOOTBALL

You may know this game as 'soccer' but calling it such won't win friends with the locals.

Football is by far the most popular sport in Britain and was invented in England, probably in the 12th century, when unruly mobs played with scant regard for any semblance of rules. Despite repeated Royal bans, the game grew in popularity and several Hundred years later the Football Association was founded and the formal rules of the contemporary game were adopted.

Football chants

When the referee... eh, makes an unpopular decision. **The referee's a wanker!**

You may hear them chant: **What a load of rubbish…**

Or when the crowd wants to tease someone being overweight:

Who ate all the pies,

Who ate all the pies,

You fat bastard,
You fat bastard,
You ate all the pies [15, p. 201].

The term 'soccer' is believed to have been coined by a public school boy in the 1880s. It was – and still is – the common: practice of public school boys to abbreviate words while adding ‘er’ to the end. When asked if he wanted to play *rugger* (rugby) the student said he'd rather play soccer, a curious abbreviation of 'association (the rules of the then recently established Football Association).

Disregarding the notorious *offside rule* (which nearly ever newcomer to the game has difficulty grasping), football a. relatively straightforward. There are 11 players on each tear: and five players (substitutes) *on the bench*. Up to three *subs* can be brought into the game at any stage to replace any of the original 11. The aim is to get the round-shaped ball into the opposition's goal while defending your own. Players are allowed to use any part of their body except their hands and arms to block or control the ball, but only the feet and head are used for striking it. Matches are made up of two 45-minute halves and 15-minute interval in between. Although it's clearly a contact sport, players aren't allowed to push, grab, tug, strike or kick opponents and must only target the ball in tackles or contests.

Football's a very low scoring game compared to most other sports. No-score draws are reasonably commonplace and, in fact, these games are sometimes considered entertaining It’s this boring statistic which has, on the face of it, prevented the game taking off in the US. To make the game more appealing to Americans, moves to increase the level of scoring in each game have been suggested, such as increasing the size of the target or goal – although any such tinkering with the rules would be seen as contamination by most of the football world.

English football found itself in the doldrums in the 90s when crowd violence led to declining attendances and a ban from European competition. This, combined with two stadia disasters which cost the lives of 140 fans, spoiled the general public's appetite for the game.

However, in the last decade, football has gone through a revolution and has made a serious comeback thanks to slick marketing off the pitch and foreign flair on it. Working class author Nick Hornby set the ball rolling, so to speak, with his brilliant book *Fever Pitch* in the early 90s. These memories of a soccer fanatic brought credibility back to football – it even became hip – and soon the stands were packed again. Most people in Britain now support a football team, be they cultured season-ticket holders, kids begging Santa Claus for the latest Manchester United kit, or new supporters surreptitiously scanning the newspaper to check their team's form.

The season runs from August to May, and if you fancy catching a game some Saturday afternoon there's sure to be one on nearby.

Football chants

Each club has its own song or chant. The following is a favourite at South London team **Crystal Palace**, which spends most of its time in the first division challenging for promotion to the Premiership.

Ee-I ee-I ee-I O
Up to the football league
we go
When we win
promotion
This is what we sing
We are Palace,
super Palace
Top of the football
league [15, p. 202].

The Positions

Teams play various formations to get the best result out of e: game. Basically there are defenders, midfielders and attackers *strikers*). The goalkeeper is always in the same position. A standard formation is 4.4.2 which means there are four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers. A more attacking formation for example, would be 3.5.2 where the team decides to play c three defenders and an extra midfielder to put more

pressure the opposition's goal. There are many intricacies within these. general rules but you'll only learn them by watching the game

The Football League

The English league comprises four divisions. The **Premier League** is the top league, followed by the first, second and third divisions.

Go to a football match. For the full cultural monty, don't go to see Liverpool or Manchester United, go to a match in a lower division, say Grimsby Town vs Hartlepool. The players will all be English and most of them won't be much good. They'll be playing in a bleak stadium on a surface slightly smoother than a sheep meadow and you can keep yourself warm with cups of squirrel-grey tea (no relation to Earl Grey).You'll be in the company of between three and eight thousand passionate fans, who are third and fourth generation supporters of their teams. As a Grimsby Town supporter remarked, without a trace of irony, 'Anyone can support Man United, they're a great team, they've got great players. But to support a club like Grimsby Town, now that's what English football is all about, because you know they're crap, and they always were crap, and they haven't got any money so they're going to stay crap' [15, p. 207].

After each season the teams who finish bottom of each league get negated to the next lower division, and the teams who finish top get promoted to the next level.

Major Teams

There are enormous differences between the resources and support enjoyed by some clubs in the Premier League and those in the lower divisions. In fact, often giants play alongside minnows in the same division. The biggest club, and the most successful, of the last decade is Manchester United and it's virtually impossible to get a ticket to see them play at home these days. Because they've been so dominant, the fans from practically every other team love to hate 'Man U' .The biggest teams, their nicknames and their home grounds, include:

Arsenal	**(The Gunners)**	Highbury, London
Chelsea	**(The Blues)**	Stamford Bridge, London
Liverpool	**(The Reds)**	Anfield
Manchester United	**(The Red Devils)**	Old Trafford
Newcastle United	**(The Magpies)**	St James Park

The Scottish League

Scotland has a separate, smaller league structured in the same way as England's. The teams from England and Scotland don't play any domestic competitive games against one another but occasionally meet in European competition.

Two teams from Glasgow – *Celtic* and *Rangers* – have dominated this league since its inception in 1874. The battle between the-two teams is commonly known as the *Old Firm.* The roots of this intense rivalry stem from the Catholic-Protestant political struggle, with *Celtic* representing the Catholic community and *Rangers* the Protestant. While the sectarian and often violent nature of this rivalry has little to do with football, fans from Glasgow are among the most passionate of any in the sporting world.

Rangers won nine consecutive titles before *Celtic* stopped their run in 1998. *Celtic* play at Celtic Park, and *Rangers* at Ibrox.

Major Annual Events

The season climaxes in May with the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium, in North London. This is the oldest football competition in the world where, with *a* good run, amateur teams could get the opportunity to scalp the likes of Manchester United. Such romantic notions are at the cornerstone of the competition.

A smaller *League Cup* competition concludes in March and only open to teams in the Premiership and Football League.

The *Charity Shield* matches the winners of the *Premier League* and the *FA Cup* in the first event of the following season. *The Shield* is played in August at Wembley Stadium, the fortress of English football.

England's International Team

Despite the fact that England pioneered the professional game and showed the rest of the world how to play, it has just one World Cup victory (1966) to its credit. Despite the lack of international success, everyone involved in English football – from the fans to the media – still has a disproportionate sense of its own importance in international terms. The country gets so pent up about its prospects in major tournaments that when the inevitable defeat comes, heads roll (usually the manager's).

Football chants

You're going to get your fucking heads kicked in!
Pretty self-explanatory.
Que sera sera
Whatever will be will be,
We're going to Wem-be-ley
Que sera sera [15, p. 203].

Football stars

David Beckham

Tremendously gifted midfield player with a dodgy temperament and a nice haircut. Became the most unpopular man in England when he got sent off in the World Cup finals in France in 1998. England lost the game and were subsequently eliminated from the competition.

Michael Owen

The revelation of recent years, Owen made his England debut in 1998 aged 17 and became one of the sensations of that year's World Cup. Brilliant player with natural goalscoring instinct much prized by his club. His image adorns the bedroom walls of teenage girls and boys alike.

Alan Shearer

England's captain and star player of the 1990s, Shearer is lightning quick, deadly with his head and can score goals with either foot. He's a

Geordie (from Newcastle) and set what was then a world transfer record of £15 million when he moved from Blackburn Rovers back to his home team of Newcastle United in 1997.

Paul Gascoigne

The most popular player of his generation, 'Gazza', the quintessential English 'lad', was blessed with undoubted genius and the ability to win matches on his own. He was one of the most skilful players to come out of Britain but never reached his full potential on the pitch because of his hedonism off it. Now past his peak, Gazza has also played in both the Italian and Scottish Leagues [15, p. 209].

Scotland's International Team

Scotland has a good record at reaching the final stages of major international tournaments. But once there, the team doesn't tend; to do much apart from spring the odd upset. Scotland gets mort attention for the jovial, drinking spirit of its travelling fans (the *Tartan Army*) than for the team's exploits on the pitch. Scotland plays its home games at Hampden Park.

Wales' International Team

Wales has no professional domestic competition of its own, and it’s main teams play in the English Football League. The valleys have been the breeding ground for some of Britain's most flamboyantly gifted players, particularly prolific attacking players like Ryan Giggsб Ian Rush and Mark Hughes. The national team consistently features world class players but, as it relies on too many average ones to make up the numbers, it has enjoyed little success internationally.

Football chants

The fans from London clubs chant this – to the tune of Guantanamera – when they're playing practically any team not from London:

Sheep shagging bastards,
You're only sheep shagging bastards,
Sheep shagging bastards,
You're only sheep shagging bastards.

Manchester United fans used to sing (to the tune of Jesus Christ Superstar):

Georgie Best
Superstar
How many goals have you scored so far?

The fans from any team playing against Manchester United used to sing:

Georgie Best
Superstar
Wears frilly knickers and a Playtex bra [15, p. 211].

booking

when a player commits a serious foul he's shown a yellow card. If a player gets two yellow cards he's then shown the red card and expelled from the game. If the foul is serious enough, the player may be shown the red card without getting an initial warning.

cross

a ball across the face of the goal is a *cross*

dive

players often *take a dive* to give the impression that they've been fouled so the referee will award them a free kick or penalty

half-time

interval

header

when a player strikes the ball with his head

kick-off

the start of the game

man on

when he (the team-mate) has the ball and is about to be challenged

offside

complicated rule involving a player being in an illegal position

Football chants

Fans may start singing, to the tune of the Dave Clarke Five's *Glad All Over*

One fan: **"You say that you love me"**

Whole crowd: **"All of the time"**

One fan: **"You say that you need me"**

Whole crowd: **"Always be mine…"**

In unison: **"…'cos I am feeling** (stamp, stamp) **glad all over, yes I am** (stamp, stamp) **glad all over and I am feeling** (stamp, stamp) **glad all over that you are miiiiiiiinnee"** [15, p. 212].

over-the-head scissors kick

a spectacularly skilful play which you probably won't see much of in Britain

penalty

when a player defending his own goal fouls an opponent in the penalty box (the area in front of goal) a penalty is awarded. This is a free shot against the keeper which is usually scored.

referee's assistant

official name for what everyone calls a *linesman*

skipper

the team's captain, normally the one wearing an armband

the spot

the penalty spot, where the ball is placed for the penalty kick

little chant can be

sweeper

a defensive position. The player plays behind the normal defensive structure and 'sweeps away' any balls that come through.

Football chants

The name in this versatile little chant can be changed to whoever is the flavour of the day.

One Michael Owen,
There is only one
Michael Owen,
One Michael Owweeen,
There is only one
Michael Owen [15, p. 213].

9.2 RUGBY

There are two different codes of rugby played in Britain – rugby union and rugby league. *Rugby union* is traditionally the privilege of the middle and upper classes in England and hence, in the language of public school boys, it's commonly known as *rugger. Rugby league* is predominantly played and supported by the working classes. Both games are equally popular in England, but in Scotland and Wales there's no class division in rugby union so the alternative code of rugby league has had less impact.

Rugby is believed to have originated in 1823 at Rugby School, in Warwickshire, England, when William Ellis picked up the ball and ran with it during a football match. The Rugby Union association was formally inaugurated in 1871.

There are 15 players on each team. Points are scored when the oval-shaped ball is grounded across the opponent's goal line. The player's hand must be on the ball as it's pressed down for the score to count. This

is called a *try* and is worth four points. After each try, the scoring team is awarded an opportunity to kick a goal (which in this case is called a *conversion*) from parallel to where the try was scored.. If the ball is successfully kicked between the H-shaped posts and above the crossbar, the team is awarded two points. When a *goal* is scored to any other time in the match it's worth three points.

Tackling above the shoulders is prohibited but anywhere else on the body is fair game. The ball may be kicked to someone in front (as long as they've run from behind the player with the ball), or thrown behind to a running team-mate. When a player either deliberately or inadvertently moves the ball forward with his hands, a free ball is awarded to the other team for what is known as a *knock on*.

Rugby union only went professional in the 1990s and London is the heart of the code in England. Some of the major teams are Harlequins, Richmond, Wasps and London Irish, while elsewhere Bath and Leicester are traditional giants.

Football chants

What the fuck, what
the fuck,
What the fucking hell
was that?
What the fuuucking
hell was that?

Usually sung after an opposition player has made a mistake [15, p. 216].

Internationals

The most important annual competition is the *Six-Nations Tournament*, contested by England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France and Italy (Ireland's team represents both the Republic and Northern Ireland). Each team plays alternate home and away matches, and plays each of the other teams only once during the competition. The Six-Nations Tournament takes place from February to March and is a big event in the sporting calendar. England plays at least twice a year at Twickenham in London, the shrine of English rugby. Scotland plays at

Murrayfield in Edinburgh and Wales now play at the new Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Within the Six-Nations Tournament if one team from the British Isles beats all the others (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland) it wins the *Triple Crown*. If any team in the tournament beats all the others, it gets the *Grand Slam*. The last placed team gets the dreaded *Wooden Spoon.*

Will Carling captained a highly successful England team through he early 1990s but gained equal recognition for an alleged affair with Princess Diana.

ruck

a ruck takes place when the ball is on the ground and one or more players from each team are on their feet and in physical contact, pushing each other in an attempt to gain ground, like in a scrum

scrum

originally a disordered struggle in which each team attempted to force the ball and opposing players towards the opposing goal. Today it's an organised play meant to accomplish the same thing. A scrum is called when there is an infringement or a breakdown in play. Usually, the team that's going forward gets to put the ball in. The *forwards* from each team lock arms and put their heads down. The middle player in each front row is known as the *hooker* and the players on either side of him are the *props*. The *scrum-half* puts the ball in when he thinks his team has the momentum and then races around behind , team-mates to gather the ball when they back heel it t of the scrum, and then play continues. It often ends in a great pile-up.

Football chants

We are on our way to Wambley,
We shall not be moved.
On our way to Wambley
We shall not be moved.
Just like a team that's
gonna win the FA Cup,
We shall not be moved.

The fans from practically every team sing this after they've had a victory in every round of the FA Cup [15, p. 217].

RUGBY LEAGUE

League, as it's commonly known, is most popular in the north of England. The rules are similar to rugby union although it's a bit more like the traditional sport of *British Bulldogs*, where player have to barge their way through a wall of opponents to reach the other side.

League broke away from rugby union in England in the 1890s, when many of the rules changed and it rapidly became semi-professional at top level.

There are 13 players on each team. They attempt to get the oval ball past their opponents by hand-passing (always backwards) or kicking it (usually forwards but the receiver must have run from behind the kicker). Grounding the ball beyond the opponents goal line is a *try*, which is worth four points. A try can be converted, in the same way as in rugby union, for two points. A tackled player regains his feet and heels the ball backwards to a team-mate. After six tackles, the other team gets possession of the ball.

League is played during the summer. The teams to keep an eye out for in the *Super League* are St Helens, Wigan Warriors and Warrington Wolves.

9.3 CRICKET

This quintessentially English game has been played formally since the 18th century. It is, officially, England's national game and its popularity has generally been confined to the countries of the Commonwealth, particularly in the Indian sub-continent and the Antipodes. Traditionally, it was a game for *toffs* (British slang for the upper-classes) and subsequently was ignored by the masses in Scotland and Wales, although it is played in Wales.

If you're unfamiliar with the rules and have only seen bits and pieces of the game, you may see it as a form of English torture – that if there was ever a need for TV highlights of a game, surely this was it. On

the other hand, if you're patient and learn the intricacies of the game, you could find it enriching and wonder how you ever survived without cricket being part of your sporting vocabulary. If you're interested, go to a match with somebody who can explain the rules and shed light on the proceedings, and than soak up the atmosphere.

Basically, it's an open-air sport, played with a ball, bats and wickets. It has some similarities with baseball in the US – though Brits would cringe to hear the comparison.

The Rules

Here we go, in its simplest terms.

At any one time, there are two batsmen on the pitch. While their team is batting they're the only two representatives on the ground. The batsman's aim is to score *runs* (points). The bowler's aim is to stop them scoring runs and his entire team is spread out across the ground, *fielding*.

The bowler must *bowl* the ball with a straight arm, aiming at the batsman's *wicket* (the stumps he stands in front of). Six balls (an *over*) are bowled at one of the two sets of stumps. One of the batsmen is *on strike* (defending the stumps the bowler is aiming at). After these six balls, another bowler bowls the next over at the other set of stumps, at the opposite end.

The bowler tries to get the batsman *out* or *dismissed*. The two main ways of doing this are to either hit the stumps or force the batsman to mishit (*edge*) or strike the ball into the air where a fielder can catch it before it hits the ground. The *wicket-keeper*, who crouches down directly behind the stumps, is the prime catcher of balls edged in the air. When one batsman is out, he's replaced by a new one. The *innings* (the team's chance at batting) is over when 10 out of the 11 in the team are out.

Cricket stars

Along with England's dismal performances throughout the 1990s, there's also been a dearth of heroes. Therefore, this list is mainly drawn from an earlier era which most English cricket fans would rather celebrate.

Graham Gooch (1975–95)

Gooch holds the record for the most test runs for England (8900 – third highest in the world). He also has the most *caps* (appearances) for England, despite being banned from test cricket for three years after he led a rebel tour to the then boycotted South Africa.

David Gower (1978–92)

Gower is widely recognised as one of the artists of the game. His unique style was captivating as he amassed over 8000 first class (at top level) runs for England. He was also something of a prankster – on one memorable occasion after he wasn't selected to play in Brisbane, Australia, he flew in a light aircraft over the field of play, 'buzzing' his team-mates during a match.

Ian Botham (1977–92)

before becoming a commentator, Botham was the greatest player of the contemporary game in England. An aggressive fast medium bowler, he had the ability to score runs off any attack, and was a great fielder. His exploits on the field were matched only by his legendary partying off it.

Geoff Boycott (1964–81)

Boycott was the greatest English batsman of his generation, although never the most popular. He was once dropped by England following his highest test innings, 246, due to slow scoring. Controversy was always Boycott's shadow – after retiring as a player he became a celebrated commentator around the world, but in late 1998 a French court gave him a three month suspended sentence for assaulting a former girlfriend and his media contacts suddenly dried up [11, p. 150].

When the batsman strikes the ball, he and the other batsman run to each other's end of the pitch (*crease*). When they reach the opposite crease, one run is scored and they may return for another run. immediately, and so on. If the batsmen are running and one of the fielders hits either of the *wickets*, or *stumps*, with the ball and dislodges a

bail (either of two wooden bars placed across the top of the stumps), then the nearest batsman is *run out*. The batsman cannot be run out if his bat is grounded beyond the line marking his crease.

If the batsman strikes the ball and it reaches the *boundary* (the perimeter of the field of play) he's awarded four runs. If the ball goes over the boundary without bouncing first, he's awarded six runs.

At stumps is the term for the end of the day's play.

The batsmen don't have to attempt to hit each ball bowled to them. Neither do the batsmen have to run each time a ball is struck.

International matches are called *tests*. One-day games, where each team bats once with a limited number of overs, are gaining polarity. However, one-day games are regarded by puritan cricket fans as travesties of the traditional game where each team gets two innings and the game can last for five days. Even then, these matches often end in draws because neither team has time to force a win. If this is your experience after watching your first five-day test (a) you'll be unlucky and (b) you'll probably never watch it again.

The teams that make up the main domestic competition are drawn from counties (or shires), predominantly from the 'home counties' (south-east of England). This level of competition is known as **County Cricket**

Some of the original clubs established in the 18th century still survive today, including the famous Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) which is based at Lord's in North London, the home c English cricket.

The English team tours each year and hosts at least one tour from one of the other major cricket-playing nations (Australia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the West Indies).

Victory or defeat between England and Australia in test matches is referred to as winning, losing or retaining *the Ashes*. After a great Australian victory in 1882, there was a mock obituary for English cricket in *The Times*, in which it was said that the 'body was cremated and the ashes taken to Australia. England and Australia play each other every two years, alternately in each country.

In recent years, England has been thrashed on a regular basis by many of these teams (especially Australia). However, in a nation: so passionate about the sport, and so entrenched in its tradition it's only a matter of time before it bounces back as a cricketing force. You might be there to witness the turning point.

Cricket grounds

Test matches in England are held at **Lords**, home of the famous Marlybone Cricket Club, and **the Oval**, both in London

9.4 OTHER SPORTS AND GAMES

catapult

sling-shot

Cluedo

Clue (the board game)

conkers

a game played by children using horse chestnuts, which are also called *conkers*. English children have called horse chestnuts *conkers* since the early 17th century. In this intriguing game, they take the green shell off of a horse chestnut (or conker), thread a string through the nut, knotted on the end "to keep the nut from flying off, then take turns swinging their **conker** at the other person's till one of them breaks.

darts

this is primarily a pub game although during major competitions entire arenas are turned into bars. It's popular throughout Britain and many people play in teams representing their local pubs.

Players throw three darts consecutively, usually aiming for the maximum score which is to have all three darts in the treble 20 *bed* which leads to the characteristically long drawn out 'One hun-dred and eiggggghhhh-tteeee!'. Games start backwards from 501 and the player's score is deducted from this until they can finish on a double (so if a player has 40 left, they aim for double 20). The round bit in the middle of the dart board is called the *bull* or *bullseye* and is worth 50 points.

draughts

(Pronounced *drafts)* checkers

fox hunting

bloodsport described by Oscar Wilde as 'the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable'

Glorious Twelfth

12 August, the day the shooting season begins. Traditionally a social occasion for the wealthy and upper classes, people gather by invitation at large country houses – typically in the north of England and in Scotland – and form shooting parties. Hired men called *beaters* scare the birds and the shooters stand in one spot and bring down as many birds; they can, usually a great number in all.

golf

Britain gave the world golf although, in this case, Scotland gets the credit. St Andrews course in Fife is officially the address of world golf, home to the Royal & Ancient Club which is the recognised authority on the rules of the game. There are golf courses throughout Britain for those who want to participate, and major tournaments (including the British Open) throughout the summer for those who prefer to watch.

lawn bowls

this is a very old game with an outdated reputation for attracting very old players. It's played with balls (called *bowls*) which are made of wood, Bakelite or hard rubber. The bowl is slightly out of spherical shape and weighted on one side so it will run in a curved course. It has no holes, it's smaller than a bowling ball, and it weighs less. The game is played outdoors on a *green* by the players rolling bowls at a smaller, target white ball (the *jack*), trying to get as close to it as possible. There's no penalty for hitting it. It sounds simple but don't be deceived – it's not. Perhaps only those mature in years have the patience to master it.

lawn tennis

tennis. Since tennis first became an established sport in England, when it was played on a grass court, they've used 'tennis' only as a

shortened form of *lawn tennis*. In the sports sections of English newspapers, where tennis results from Australia, Germany, France and the US are reported, the column is headed 'lawn tennis' even when games played on clay courts and hard courts are listed.

ninepin bowling

similar to tenpins or the game many other countries simply call bowling'

noughts and crosses

tic-tack-toe

Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race

this is a rowing race between teams of eight from the two eldest universities in England and takes place annually in late March or early April. The race dates from 1829 and is billed as the world's longest surviving sporting rivalry. The race distance is 6800m – three times the Olympic distance. The race has never been cancelled due to bad weather despite treacherous conditions which have caused boats to sink in the past. Oxford traditionally had the upper hand but Cambridge dominated the race throughout the 1990s.

pitch

playing field

ride to hounds

ride a horse behind a pack of hounds chasing a fox or a stag

skittles/ninepins

nearly the same as tenpins, or bowling. There's also a table version of this game, called *table skittles.*

sledge

sled

snooker

a game in the order of pool or billiards, which attracts great interest and good television coverage in Britain (although we're hard pressed to think of a duller TV spectacle).

There are 15 red balls and six balls of other colours -yellow, green, brown, blue, pink and black. Each time you pot a red ball you score one point and get the opportunity pot a colour. The colours are

worth more, two points for a yellow ascending to seven points for the black. The red stays in the pocket after it's potted, but the colours are replaced in their original position. Once all the reds are off the table the colours must be potted in a set order (as above). The table is about four times the size of a pool table. You're *snookered* when your opponent has left you without a clear shot at the ball you're aiming for.

When a player pots a ball, he starts a ***break*****,** which is the value of all the balls the player pots consecutively. The maximum break is 147, when the player pots all the reds, a black after each red, and all the colours. During the height of snooker's popularity in Britain in the early 1980s, the first player to make the maximum 147 break on television was Canadian Cliff Thorburn.

training

exercising; working out; going to the gym

X BRITISH SOCIETY

10.1 GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Here are some terms that could be confusing if you're not yet familiar with British politics.

another place

the 'other House of Parliament – either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. Only the English could have thought this up. When MPs or people from the House of Lords say that this topic was discussed or that bill was voted on in *another place* and vice versa. It's all very coy and wry. But that's the British for you – they love their bit of witty fun.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

cabinet minister is charge of the exchequer or national treasury (not to be confused with the *Lords of Chancellor* more formally called the)

exchequer

national treasury

Greens

one of the minor political parties in Britain. This party concentrates mainly on environmental issues.

House of Commons

Lower house of parliament. This is an elected body whose members are called *Members of Parliament* , or MPs. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet are from this house. There are 651 MPs, the *Speaker of the House* making up the ultimate 'one' and casting the deciding vote in case of tied votes.

House of Lords

upper house of Parliament. This is an unelected body, whose members are called *Lords Spiritual* (bishops and archbishops) and *Lords Temporal* (peers). Until 1958, al1 peerages were male and hereditary. In 1958, the *Lords* (as the *House of Lords* is called) admitted *life peers* (non-hereditary titles given to both men and women).

Labour Party

left of centre political party, one of the two major parties in British politics and currently the governing party. The *Labour party* was formed in 1893 in Bradford under the leadership of Keir Hardie, as the party that would defend the rights of workers.

Did you know…

Great Britain is made up of England, Scotland and Wales. England officially united with Wales in 1536, and with Scotland in 1707 to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain. (Since 1921, Northern Ireland has formed part of the *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*). The is based in England. There are 650 constituencies, or seats – 523 foe England, 38 for Wales, 72 for Scotland and 17 for Northern Ireland [7, p. 74].

Law Lord

also known as a *Lord of Appeal*, a *Law Lord* is a member of the *House of Lords* appointed to take care of :he judicial matters of the House

Liberal Democrats

third strongest political party in Britain

Lord Chancellor

the highest judicial officer of the United Kingdom and keeper of the *Great Seal* (the seal used to authenticate important government documents). Presides over the House of Lords, the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal.

Minister

member of the government with responsibilities in a particular ministry, such as Housing, Trade or Education. In each ministry, the most senior minister is the *Secretary of State*, who is a member of the Prime Minister's cabinet, followed by *Ministers*, and then *Junior Ministers*. Of course, all are accountable to the *Prime Minister.*

The Opposition

more formally called *Her/His Majesty's Loyal Opposition*, :his is the principal party opposing the governing party in :he British Parliament

Parliament

the supreme legislature of Great Britain. The British *Parliament* is universally thought of as 'the Mother of all Parliaments'. It was founded on the English Parliament, formed during the 13th century from the great councils of the Plantagenet kings.

The origin of the word goes back even earlier. William the Conqueror is said in the Chronicle to have had ‘very deep speech' with his Witan, and 'deep speech' was, in the Conqueror's French language, *parlement.* Simon de Montfort's parliament of 1265 and Edward I's Model Parliament of 1295 were the first two actual parliaments, since those who assembled were not only the nobles, but commoners as well.

In the 14th century the English *Parliament* assumed the right to make laws and control taxation. The division into Lords and Commons became permanent under Edward III, who reigned from 1327 to 1377. The Long Parliament, sitting from 1640 to 1653, opposed Charles. in England's Civil War, and after Charles I in England’s Civil War, and after Charles was beheaded in 1649, Parliament ruled England under a written republican constitution. In 1660 the king was restored to the throne in the person of Charles II, but the problem of which powers should be the monarch's and which should be Parliament's still remained. In this period, the beginnings of the party division into Whigs and Tories occurred.

During the 18th century, the Cabinet and the office of Prime Minister developed. Throughout the 19th century– beginning with the Reform Act of 1832 and ending with the Reform Act of 1884 – the electorate was widened to the point of complete manhood suffrage, meaning that virtually all men could stand for election, whether or not they owned property or possessed a designated amount of wealth. The Whig Party also became the Liberals in the 19th century.

During the 20th century, the newly formed Labour Party returned its first members to Parliament, women obtained the right to stand for election, and in 1911, the *Parliament Act* limited the power of the

House of Lords, giving legislative supremacy to the Commons. Parliament's term is five years, but a government may hold a general election earlier if it chooses.

quango

an acronym for 'quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation. This is a semi-public administrative body, outside the Civil Service but receiving financial support from the government. Its senior members are appointed by the government. These are controversial organisations which were set up under the Tory government, resulting in bitter complaint that Britain has too much specially appointed, non-elected government.

reshuffle

interchange of posts of Government ministers which occurs every year or so. In a *reshuffle*, ministers may lose their post entirely or may simply move to a different post, say from Agriculture Secretary to Education Secretary.

Secretary of State

senior minister who heads a government department such as Education or Health

shadow cabinet

the body of members of the Opposition who would be Cabinet ministers if that party became the Government

shadow ministers

Members of Parliament from the Opposition on the Shadow Cabinet

the silly season

the late-summer period when Parliament and the Law Courts aren't sitting. Because it's a slow news time, newspapers publish trivial items and endless speculation about policies the political parties are developing for the autumn.

surgery

session in which an MP opens his or her office to constituents to listen to their troubles and gripes. It has nothing whatever to do with medical operations.

Tories

the Conservatives, a right of centre political party which is one of the two major parties in British politics. The Tories were first dubbed the 'Conservatives' by Robert Peel in his 1834 Tamworth Manifesto, when he called the opposing party (the Whigs) the party of destruction, and said the *Tories* would preserve everything good in the nation's institutions and not oppose making changes for the better where needed.

National identity

Generally, the peoples of Scotland and Wales have retained a strong sense of national identity. Scotland has a separate Church and its own systems of law, banking and education, and Wales has its own National Assembly. Great Britain and England refer to different political entities – the terms aren't interchangeable and to say 'England' when you mean Britain could cause offence [7, p. 169].

10.2 EDUCATION

Every country has its own education system with its variations and complexities. This is just a brief explanation of the basic components of the system in England, which is uniform throughout the country. The system is similar in Wales, but Scotland has its own education system.

A levels (Advanced levels)

examinations which pupils aspiring to go to university take at age 18 as entrance requirements or qualifications

college institute of learning

college may be part of a university, like one of the colleges of Oxford or Cambridge, or it can be a two- or three-year school that students attend after the fifth form. For instance, a 'sixth form college' is where students do their sixth form study in preparation for their A levels. A vocational college is where a student goes to learn a trade. The word is used so loosely that it's even sometimes applied to primary schools. There are both private and government-funded colleges. In England, the word *college* is *not* used interchangeably with the word *university.*

comprehensive school

general secondary school that's publicly funded and requires no special testing to enter

form

grade or level of progression in school. The first *form* is roughly sixth grade, the second *form* is roughly seventh grade, and so on. The following list shows all the forms, prefaced with *primary school* (infant school or grade school):

ages 5–11	**primary school**
age 12	**first form**
age 13	**second form**
age 14	**third form**
age 15	**fourth form**
age 16	**fifth form**
ages 17 and 18	**sixth form**

grammar school

special secondary school, publicly funded but one that pupils must *test into* by scoring higher than average marks on the *11-plus exam* (taken at age 11)

GCSEs

an acronym for *General Certificate of Secondary Education* and the current name for the tests which have replaced *O levels*, these are examinations 16-year-olds take to show at what standard they passed their secondary education. Mandatory education finishes at age 16 in England. *GCSE* results are shown to employers, or for entrance into vocational schools, colleges or sixth-form colleges. All 16-year-olds take *GCSEs* whether they're going on to take their *A levels* or not.

O levels (Ordinary levels)

see GCSEs

Oxbridge

portmanteau word for Oxford and Cambridge when speaking of the two universities together. When a student goes to Oxford or Cambridge, the student is said to be *going up*.

Please, thank you and s*orry*. You can't use any of these words often enough. *Sorry* has some special uses. A true Englishman, if you step on his foot, will say 'I'm so sorry' before you have time to apologise, thus exposing your bad manners and lack of breeding [10, p. 83].

public school

a bit of a contradiction in terms, this is *not a.* publicly funded school, nor is it open to the general public. It's a private or independent school, an elite institution of learning which is costly by anyone's standards. Eton, Rugby, Harrow and Winchester are familiar examples. Many pupils who go through a public school go on to Oxford or Cambridge -in fact, King Henry VI, having personally founded the public school Eton in 1440, a year later founded King's College, Cambridge, to receive its scholars.

reader

university lecturer of the highest academic ranking, below that of professor, in both teaching and research

revise

study for an exam; review. When British students talk about *revising* they don't mean rewriting a paper, but will say things like, 'I have to stay home tonight and *revise* for my biology exam'.

school leaver

someone who's leaving high school or secondary school permanently. In Britain, students don't all finish secondary school at the same stage. Students who don't plan to go on to university study stop high school at age 16. Students who hope to go to a university attend high school until they're 18. The last two years of secondary school are called *the sixth form.*

supply teacher

substitute teacher

swot

to study intensively for an examination. A person who does this on a regular basis is called a *swot*

tuition

teaching; private or class lessons; tutoring. In Britain, *tuition* doesn't generally mean the money you have to pay to go to a university. In the past, students haven't been charged fees for attending university, although this is being phased out.

university lecturer

person who teaches at a university. In Britain, as elsewhere in Europe, a professor is a rare species. People who get their PhD and are hired by a university aren't automatically designated 'professor'. Professorships are positions that open up, traditionally one to a department, and are occupied by people who retain the position until they move to a more coveted post in another university, retire, or pass into the world beyond. The main difference between a *lecturer* and a professor is that professors not only teach and research, but take on the administration of a department as well.

10.3 TITLES & FORMS OF ADDRESS

In case you find yourself having tea with the Queen or hob-nobbing with nobility, you'll have to know how to address people. In direct conversation, the following people are addressed in the following manner:

Your Majesty

the king or queen

Your Royal Highness

the monarch's spouse, children, sisters and brothers

Your Highness

the monarch's nephews, nieces and cousins

Your Grace

a duke/duchess; an archbishop of the Anglican

Peers

This is the nobility of England. Those below the rank of duke, duchess or archbishop of the Anglican church are all addressed as *Lord* or *Lady*. Female *peers* are called by their first name (Lady Jane, Lady

Mary) while male *peers* are called by their family name Lord Hattersley, Lord Chalfont). The *peers'* titles in order of their ranking are:

Duke, Duchess

Marquis (also spelled *Marquess*) *Marchioness*

Earl/Countess

Viscount/Viscountess

Baron/Baroness

Baronets and *knights* and their spouses aren't peers. They're called Sir and *Lady*. Members of Her Majesty's Privy Council and Cabinet Ministers are called *Right Honourable.*

The practice, in England, of calling a *duke*, a *marquis*, an *earl* or a *viscount* by the name of the place of their title (they are always the Duke of someplace and the Marquis of some place the Earl of someplace or other), rather than the names they were born with, can be confusing for people from countries without nobility.

If you hear someone say, ‘Well, Buckingham, how goes it?’ you might guess they're using someone's title. But it's not always that easy. In Shakespeare's *Richard ///*, you'll see dialogues between Richard and Clarence. You can be forgiven for thinking they're both using first names, but not so. Richard is being called by his first name because he's king, but not Clarence. Clarence is a duchy, and the one being called 'Clarence' is the Duke of Clarence. Actually, his name is George. Before Richard became king, he was the Duke of Gloucester, and he was called 'Gloucester' on those pages, but is called 'Richard' later. So it helps to keep these things in mind when talking to or reading about titled people.

The historical figure called 'King-maker' is an apt example. He was born Richard Neville, but he was also the Earl of Salisbury and called 'Salisbury'. Later, he became the powerful 16th Earl of Warwick, and was then called 'Warwick'. Benjamin Disraeli is another example. If you want to read his works and look in the stacks under the D's you may not find him, as he's often shelved in the B section. He was called 'Beaconsfield' since Queen Victoria made him Earl of Beaconsfield.

XI ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AA	stands for both Alcoholics Anonymous and Automobile Association
BABA	Book a Bed Ahead Scheme
B&B	Bed and Breakfast
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation (radio and television)
BSE	mad cow disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). Fatal cattle disease which can be transferred to humans through ingesting infected meat. The human version of the disease is called CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).
BT	British Telecom (Britain's chief telephone system, now privatised)
DI	Detective Inspector
DIY	Do It Yourself. Hardware stores are called *DIYs* and the abbreviation is used in conversation as well (Where's Brian? – He's at home doing *DIY*.)
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EH	English Heritage
J and T	gin and tonic
MP	Member of Parliament
NHS	National Health Service
NT	National Trust
PLC	Public Limited Company
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
TIC	Tourist Information Centres
UK	United Kingdom, which includes England, Wales, Scotland and, since 1922, Northern Ireland
VAT	Value Added Tax (sales tax)
WC	water closet (international term for 'toilet')

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АНГЛІЙСЬКА МОВА: ФРАЗИ ДЛЯ ПОВСЯКДЕННОГО СПІЛКУВАННЯ

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