

JACARANDA ENGLISH



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Spring into English!

Spring is officially here! We've had April showers, and some lovely warm weather heading into May. It has all been very pleasant until 'achoo' you get hay fever 🤧 and you find yourself reaching out for the tissues and the anti-allergy medicine and visiting the pharmacy.



Hay fever is the common allergy that happens in spring when there is a lot of pollen in the air.

If you had to visit the pharmacy for some medicine, what would you say, what would you ask? Here's a short and sweet conversation between me and the pharmacist, which I hope you find useful:

Role - Play: At the Pharmacy

Pharmacist: Hi, how can I help?

Me: Hi, I really hope you can, I'm suffering with hayfever. Which anti allergy tablets can I take?

Pharmacist: Ah, yes the pollen count has been quite high! Certainly, let's see what we have. Here, try these! (hands over the tablets to me)

Me: Great! I hope these will work. How often should I take them?

Pharmacist: Take one a day.

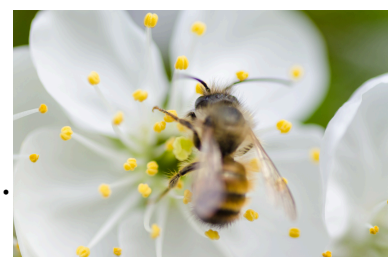
Me: In the mornings or evenings?

Pharmacist: In the mornings.

Me: Lovely, thank you for your help.

Pharmacist: I hope you feel better soon.

Me: Bye.



Conversation Starters

It is always tricky to get a conversation started especially in another language let alone your own language. So I've put together some 'conversation starters' to help you if you are travelling for work or for leisure or networking So sit back and roll up your sleeves.

- Looks like you've **caught the sun**?
- Meaning - **to be sunburnt**
- We **hit the road** early so we reached the city by lunchtime.
- Meaning - **to start a journey**
- Are you ready to **get back down to business**?
- Meaning - **to start working seriously**
- How long do you think it will take you to **get on top of** your emails?
- Meaning - **to get complete control of something**
- What projects are **in the pipeline**?
- Meaning - **something is in progress**
- Did you manage to **digitally detox** during your summer holiday?
- Meaning - **stay completely away from technology**
- Well, let's **get the ball rolling**.
- Meaning - **to get something started**

Aaaand we continue, can you find the '**phrasal verbs**' hidden in the sentences below:

1. Would you mind putting the AC on.
2. Can you turn down the volume.
3. I have switched off the office lights.
4. We need to scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the contact details.
5. It is important to pick up the rubbish to keep the streets clean.
6. The delivery man dropped off my parcel this morning.
7. Before we start the course, we have to fill in the enrolment form.
8. The stadium gradually filled up with the fans.

Business English

In this issue of Business English we shall look at opening phrases to use when talking about your job role.

- ***I work for*** a medium-sized, family-owned business. We offer specialised services to the construction industry.
- ***I personally specialise in*** lighting installations inside buildings - my background is in electrical engineering.
- ***I'm responsible for*** the initial contact with the client - I visit them at their offices and discuss their needs.
- ***My role is*** to talk to the architects and the developers, to try to persuade them of the importance of modern lighting design inside a building.
- ***I show them*** how it can create a good working atmosphere and add to a company's image.
- ***I explain*** our track record in this field and show them a portfolio of other lighting installations that we've done.
- ***I am in charge of*** maintaining a clear portfolio of our clients.

When you talk about your job, these are some of the adjectives you can use, how many can you relate to?

Fascinating
Rewarding
Satisfying
Wonderful

Stimulating
Fun
Boring
Tedious

Repetitive
Routine
Uninteresting
Exciting

Demanding
Challenging
Tiring
Inspiring



Business English

Often we come across hyphenated words, and we stop in our tracks. What do they mean, how do we use them? Let's look at a few of them and their meanings.

- high-speed - operates very fast
 - well-being - feeling healthy and happy
 - self-sufficient - able to provide what is necessary without any outside help.
 - cost-effective - good value for amount of money paid
 - day-to-day - happens everyday on a regular basis
 - built-in - included within a product
 - high-quality - very well made
 - in-depth - done carefully and in great detail
-

Now match them to the sentences below and fill in the gaps:

1. The family lives on the farm and is _____. They grow their own vegetables and have their own livestock.
2. He has _____ knowledge of computers, making him a popular candidate for the job.
3. The government has to find _____ measures to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent weight gain amongst the public.
4. Being close to nature and breathing in fresh air promotes a sense of _____.
5. 5G is designed to offer _____ access to the internet.
6. John took over the _____ running of the company while his father was away.
7. The new kitchen is of _____, and is not expensive either.
8. The new kitchen has great _____ storage space, with lots of drawers and cupboards.

OET English for Healthcare Professionals

**Our focus in this newsletter is on Reading Part C.
The key skills tested are focused on understanding complex texts and
interpreting opinions, tone, and meaning in context—essential skills for
healthcare professionals.**

Reading Part C: Skills

1. Reading for Gist (Main Idea)

Understanding the overall purpose of a paragraph or text.

Recognizing the writer's main point or message.

★ Example: What is the writer mainly suggesting in paragraph 3?

2. Understanding Opinion and Attitude

Identifying what the writer or a person quoted thinks or feels, not just what is stated.

Interpreting tone (e.g., cautious, supportive, critical).

★ Example: How does the author feel about telemedicine?

3. Understanding Implicit Meaning (Inference)

Reading between the lines—understanding something implied but not directly stated.

★ Example: What can be inferred about the doctor's response?

4. Understanding Specific Information

Locating and interpreting details in a paragraph.

Choosing the option that best matches the meaning of a sentence.

★ Example: What does the author mean by "clinical inertia"?

5. Understanding Vocabulary in Context

Working out the meaning of complex or technical words using context clues.

★ Example: What does the word "robust" suggest in this context?

6. Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion

Knowing what is a proven fact vs. what is a personal or professional view.

7. Skimming and Scanning Skills

Skimming: for overall meaning.

Scanning: for specific information or keywords.

OET English for Healthcare Professionals

Our focus in this newsletter is on Reading Part C. Here are the skills tested and key vocabulary used in the questions.

Skills tested:

- Understanding main ideas and supporting details
- Interpreting the writer's opinion or tone
- Making inferences (reading between the lines)
- Distinguishing between facts and opinions
- Understanding vocabulary in context

Tips for Using Key Words:

- Underline or highlight key words before reading the text.
- Scan the text for synonyms or related ideas—not always the exact word.
- Read around the key word in the text (before and after) to understand the full meaning.

Identifying key words::

1. What does the writer:

suggest	imply
highlight	think
say	feel
reference	view
point	criticise
emphasise	mention
identify	address
recommend	

2. What is the writers:

reason
idea
main focus
aim
purpose
approach
view
attitude
opinion
reservation
main goal

Keep this list handy when you are doing your reading practice, and add any more key words that you come across in the questions.



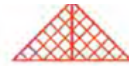
English for young learners

Prepositions of place - used to show the position or location of one thing to another.

Lets us look at “IN,” “AT,” AND “ON”

“**In**” is used to position something or someone inside a large area or in a three-dimensional space.

The Louvre is **in** Paris.



David is **in** his bedroom.



“**At**” is used to talk about an exact point.

Turn left **at** the next corner.



Let's meet **at** the restaurant.



“**On**” is used to position something in line with, next to, on top of, or attached to something else.

I love traveling **on** trains.



There's a spider **on** the floor!



MORE EXAMPLES:

They live **in** a hot country.



I will meet you **at** the beach.



I like that picture **on** the wall.



The dog is sleeping **in** his basket.



Jane is working **at** her desk.

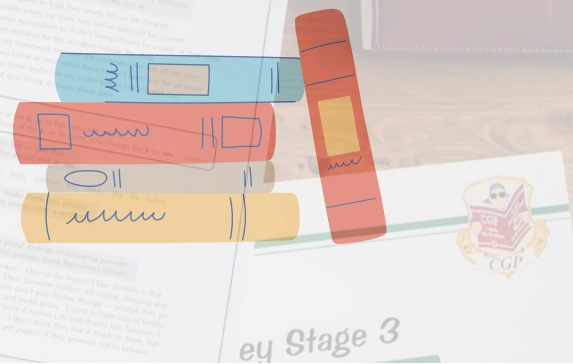


The books are **on** the table.



English for young learners

Prepositions of place - used to show the position or location of one thing to another.

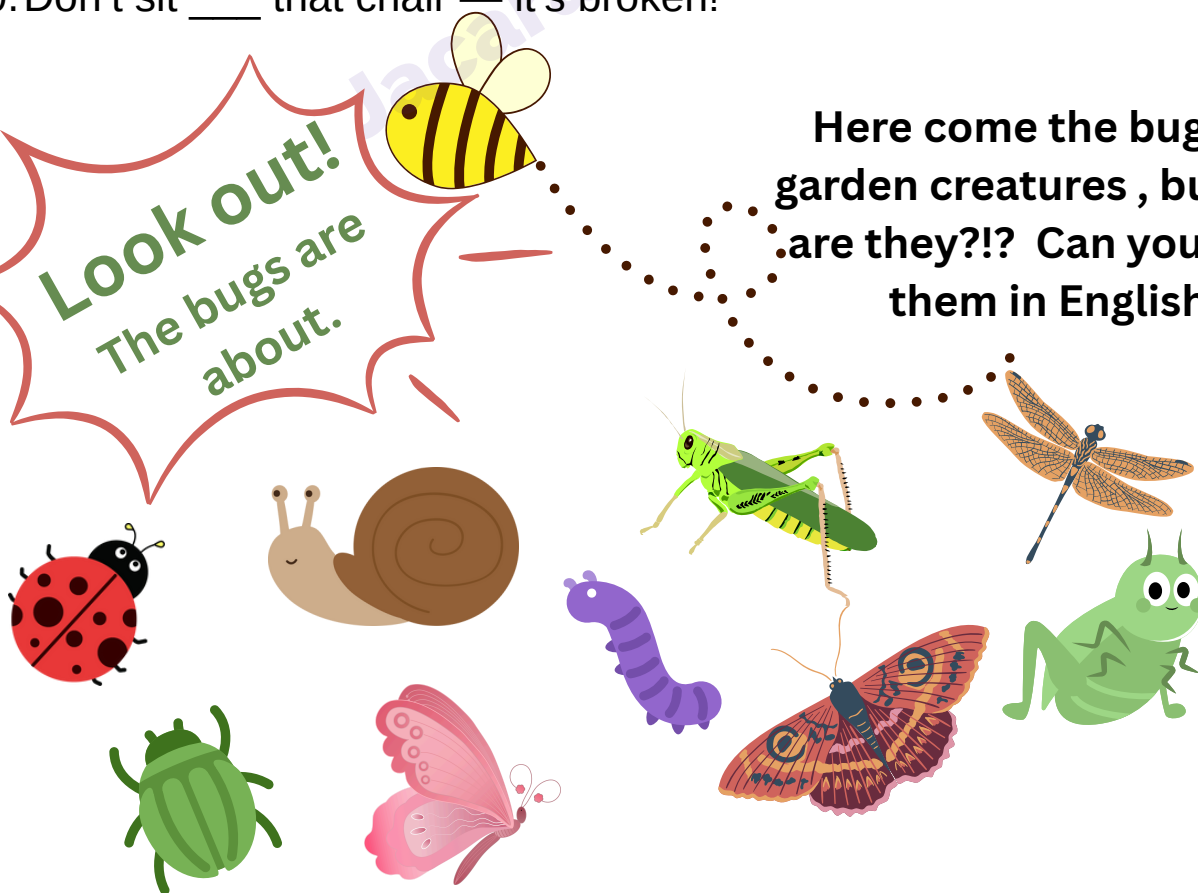


Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition: at, in, or on.

1. She was standing ____ the corner of the street, waiting for a taxi.
2. I left my wallet ____ the table in the kitchen.
3. He lives ____ the fifth floor of that apartment building.
4. I met her ____ a conference in Dubai last year.
5. There was a beautiful painting hanging ____ the wall behind the desk.
6. They were sitting ____ the back of the classroom.
7. My uncle works ____ a bank in the city center.
8. The kids were swimming ____ the pool when it started raining.
9. We arrived ____ the airport just before 6 p.m.
10. Don't sit ____ that chair — it's broken!

Look out!
The bugs are about.

Here come the bugs and garden creatures, but what are they?!? Can you name them in English?



make sure to check the answers on the answer page!

Spotlight on: Podcasts

Since our focus for this newsletter is on springing into English, I thought it would be the perfect time to introduce some Learn English podcasts to you. I hope you find these useful.

1. The English We Speak (BBC Learning English)

Length: ~3 mins

Focus: Everyday expressions and slang

Why it's great: Short, real-life phrases explained clearly.



2. ESL Pod / EnglishClass101

Length: 5–15 mins

Focus: Dialogue-based lessons with explanations

Why it's great: Covers grammar, culture, and real-life topics.

3. Luke's English Podcast

Level: Upper-Intermediate to Advanced

Focus: British English, humor, grammar, and culture

Why it's great: Engaging, funny, and deep dives into language use.



4. 6 Minute English (BBC)

Length: Exactly 6 minutes

Focus: Topical issues with vocabulary explained

Why it's great: Consistent format, great for class or homework.





I hope you enjoyed learning and trying new vocabulary in this newsletter, and discovering fun ways to practice your English.

Remember, every small step you take brings you closer to fluency!

Keep listening, reading, speaking, and smiling, 🌸
and look out for those bugs!

This picture is from my trip to Cambridge. It is the Cambridge Central Mosque which is the first **eco** mosque in Europe. It is an amazing building that is fully sustainable with solar panels and water harvesting. The interior is designed to resemble a forest canopy, while the layout portrays natural light and ventilation. It provides the visitor serenity and a sense of calm in the middle of the bustling city.

For further reading you can go to:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge_Central_Mosque



How did you do with the exercises? Have you checked the answers on the next page?



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Jacaranda English



Answers

Answer Key: Phrasal Verbs

1. put on
2. turn down
3. switch off
4. scroll down
5. pick up
6. drop off
7. fill in
8. fill up

Answer Key: Business English

1. self-sufficient
2. in-depth
3. cost-effective
4. well-being
5. high-speed
6. day-to-day
7. high-quality
8. built-in

Answer Key:Prepositions

1. at (specific point at a corner)
2. on (on a surface)
3. on (used with floors of a building)
4. at (specific event/location)
5. on (surface of the wall)
6. at (specific location in a room)
7. at (a place of work)
8. in (inside the pool)
9. at (specific point of arrival)
10. on (sit on a surface)



snail



grasshopper



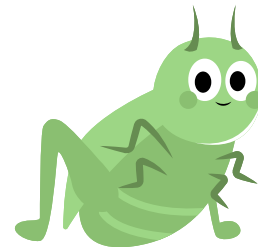
moth



ladybug



dragonfly



cricket



beetle



butterfly



caterpillar

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