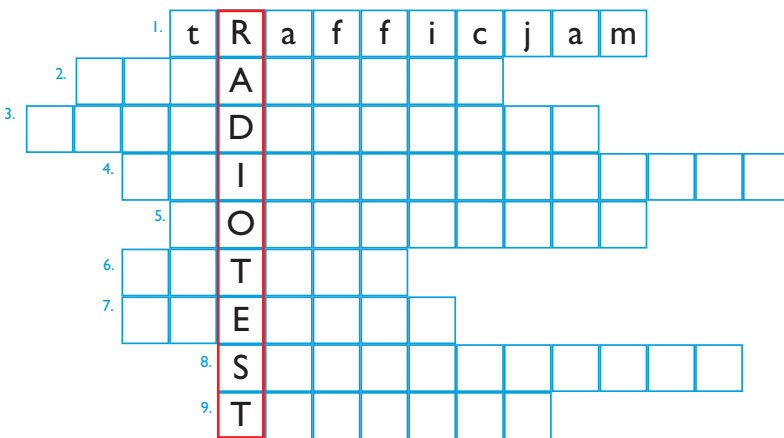


# Test your English?

Do you enjoy puzzles and quiz shows? Then **Radio English Test** is just for you! This BBC World Service programme lets you pit your wits against an English student in the studio. Here are two examples of the kinds of quiz questions you can try to answer.

## Two-word phrase quiz

How many two-word phrases do you know around the topic of travel and holidays? The answer to each of these questions is a two-word phrase – we've done the first one for you as an example. Can you get the others?



Find a two-word phrase to describe:

1. A time when traffic can't move because there are too many cars on the road.
2. What happens when your car stops because of a mechanical problem.
3. The document which you must show before you get on a plane.
4. The place where you go to catch a train.
5. A hotel room with one large bed, or two small ones.
6. A group of wealthy people who travel frequently – and in luxury!
7. What you do at a hotel or airport in order to get your room or seat.
8. The carriage of a train which has only beds in it.
9. What a plane does when it leaves the ground.

## Who said that?

Look at the three short conversations below. Can you match the conversations with the situations shown in the pictures?

- 1** Could you fill in this registration form please?  
**Certainly. ... There you are.**  
 Thank you. That's room 342 on the third floor. I'll ask a porter to take up your luggage.  
**Thanks. Oh – and could I have an alarm call for 7am tomorrow please?**  
**Certainly.**
- 2** Smith & Company. Can I help you?  
**Yes, can I speak to Mr Smith, please.**  
 Just a moment, I'll check if he's there. There's no reply, I'm afraid. Would you like to leave a message on his voicemail?  
**No thanks – I'll call back later.**
- 3** How many pieces of luggage would you like to check in?  
**Only one.**  
 Did you pack your bags yourself?  
**Yes.**  
 And could anyone have interfered with your bags in any way?  
**No.**



# Business writing with a difference

When we think of writing in the world of business, we usually think of reports, summaries and CVs. But nowadays, a lot of business communication takes place via email or even via text messages.

**Better Business Writing** helps you to improve your English for business correspondence – including email and text. To test how good you are at English for electronic correspondence, try the two tests below.

## Email etiquette

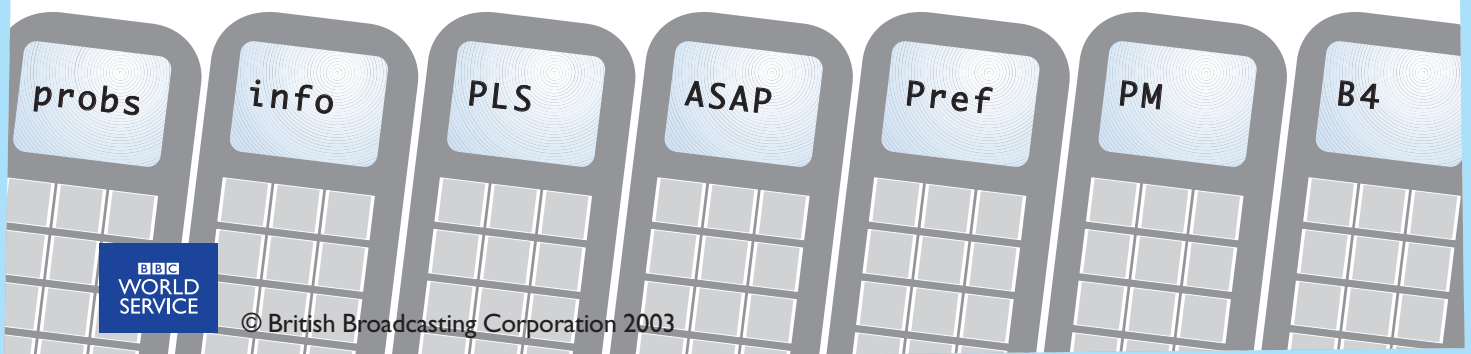
Email is a fast and efficient way of communicating in writing. But what are the rules for using email for business? Here are two examples of the same message sent to all the employees of a company.

The first one contains a number of 'email errors'. The second is the one which the company sent out. Compare the two messages. Can you identify any rules for making your emails business-friendly?



## Cn U txt? (Can You Text?)

Sending text messages from mobile phones can be very expensive. To save time and money, many people create messages using 'txt' – or text: shortened forms of English words. Look at these text forms. Can you identify the words they represent?



# Literature with a difference

No matter what your taste in literature, the BBC World Service has something for you.

## Pick a magazine

Look at the four imaginary magazine covers below. The headlines have been removed from the front cover of each. Can you match the correct headline to each magazine?

The image shows four magazine covers with missing headlines and five headlines to be matched to them. The covers are:

- 1** (Red star): A blue cover with a green star character and a soccer ball. Text: "LOOKING TO BUILD UP A CLUB? Players and managers speak inside".
- 2** (Red star): A white cover with a black and white image of a person. Text: "DRUGS Do teenagers know the dangers?".
- 3** (Red star): A blue cover with a blonde woman in a green dress. Text: "Britney is househunting in London! Madonna, Britney and Christina at the MTV Awards".
- 4** (Red star): A pink cover with a blonde woman in a green dress. Text: "20 things boys want in a girlfriend GREAT HAIR STYLES INSIDE!".

The headlines to be matched are:

- a** (Red star): "FOOTBALL fanatic" (blue background, white text).
- b** (Red star): "TODAY'S GIRL" (pink background, pink text).
- c** (Red star): "TEENAGE LIFE" (blue background, white text).
- d** (Red star): "MAD ABOUT MUSIC!" (green background, blue text).

If you like to read things which are fun and easy, then **Pageturners** is the programme for you. It introduces listeners to a whole new world of fun literature – from comics and magazines to blockbuster novels!

## Learning to read aloud

Many people love to read poetry and many poems were written to be read aloud. **The Reading Group** introduces you to people who love reciting poetry – and gives you tips on how to make your favourite poems sound wonderful.

Here is an extract from Sonnet 116 by William Shakespeare. Use the rules below to help you read it aloud.

Read the lines silently first so that you understand the poem.

Move your lips as you read the second time, but do not use your voice. Try to make sure that you stress the words with the black line over them.

**Mouth** the poem again, making sure that you breathe when you reach a full stop (.) a comma (,) a colon (:) or a semi-colon (;).

Breathe in, and let your voice out as you read. Don't be afraid – just enjoy the sound of the poem!

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
 Admit impediments. Love is not love  
 Which alters when it alteration finds,  
 Or bends with the remover to remove:  
 O no! It is an ever fixed mark  
 That looks on tempests and is never shaken:  
 It is the star to every wandering bark,  
 Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

# Keeping up with current affairs

The BBC World Service brings you a wide range of programmes which look at international social affairs, and introduce you to the language used when talking about these topics. Here are two examples of the programmes you can tune in to.

## Out Of Africa

If you live in Africa, you can hear **Out Of Africa** – a radio series that focuses on a range of issues which affect many countries, not only those in Africa.

Look at the programme extracts below. Can you match each one with a programme in the series?

a.

**“Moving to the town can give people from villages the opportunity to try things they have never tried before. They get introduced to new technology, and they get better basic facilities such as electricity and clean water and so on. However, there are some serious disadvantages. This movement tends to have a bad effect on local cultures, with many traditions and local languages being eradicated.”**

b.

**“This is a problem which has been affecting the developing world for some time. It’s true that it deprives us of the best elements of our society when good teachers and doctors and so on move abroad to find better jobs and a better standard of living. Governments need to do more to encourage academics and professional people to stay in Africa.”**

c.

**“The only crime of the women in this factory was to demonstrate against exploitation. They started a sit-in at the factory which was ended by the arrival of the police. The police started roughing up everyone in the area, including the journalists who had arrived to cover the story.”**

Programme 1:	Freedom And The Media
Programme 2:	Urbanisation – The Growth Of The Cities
Programme 3:	Brain Drain

## Learning From Our Own Correspondent

**Learning From Our Own Correspondent** introduces you to BBC correspondents working in different countries around the world – and focuses on how you can learn English from the correspondents’ reports.

In this report, BBC correspondent Jill McGivering describes the journey made by a group of Indian schoolchildren to their first computer class. Read the description then answer the question below.

**“The boys were jumping up and down with excitement. Their clothing was worn, many were barefoot. The whole class of their village school had travelled to this city stadium by bus for a great adventure – the chance to see for the first time something well known to most of us: a computer.**

**Did they know what a computer was, what it did? I asked them. They tried to remember what they’d heard. ‘It’s like a TV,’ said one of them.**

**A door to the stadium opened and the children poured inside, jostling and shouting down the stone passageways. The scene indoors was spectacular. The arena had been turned into a training ground with hundreds of computers standing in rows. When their turn came, the boys scrambled to take their places at the keyboards, two to a screen. Student volunteers walked up and down helping out as the children struggled with their first touch of a mouse, clicking their way around the screen. We watched the boys whisper and giggle as they explored.**

**Afterwards, they were enthusiastic. They’d checked the cricket scores, the boys told me, looked at a local map and read about Mahatma Gandhi. They couldn’t wait to use one again. But as they filed off to catch the bus back to the village, there was no sense of when that next time might be.”**

**The children in the text are very excited about their first computer class. Try to find eight words or phrases used to show that they were excited.**

# Pop goes the World Service!

If you like music, then you will love **Feel Music, Talk Music** – the new programme which talks about the stories behind the songs. What does the song mean? How does the singer feel? All these questions are answered in this series.

## Singers word square

In this word square, we have hidden the names of 8 singers or groups whose songs feature in **Feel Music, Talk Music**. Can you find them? Remember, they can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal!

R	A	R	Y	E	U	B	M	M	I	H	G	A	W	Q
E	O	N	E	L	V	I	S	P	R	E	S	L	E	Y
D	M	B	D	V	I	N	E	R	K	Q	Y	N	M	R
H	H	F	B	M	S	E	P	S	O	U	V	H	T	V
O	F	D	F	I	C	A	A	V	B	T	S	W	G	O
T	E	Y	A	S	E	C	Q	Y	C	R	X	C	S	A
C	E	Q	U	T	Q	W	C	K	V	C	I	A	U	V
H	D	U	B	E	L	Y	I	Y	W	A	V	H	G	U
I	V	I	F	E	B	N	A	L	A	B	O	B	A	M
L	K	Y	F	Q	R	O	U	I	L	I	Q	W	B	W
L	O	K	I	E	V	E	O	E	X	I	C	K	A	C
I	P	O	L	Q	I	G	X	M	B	L	A	N	B	B
P	R	F	E	D	P	B	Z	I	R	B	B	M	E	I
E	T	B	I	T	E	M	I	N	E	M	U	V	S	V
P	N	E	D	U	K	U	Q	O	J	U	L	R	T	A
P	J	I	G	B	W	N	U	G	H	V	D	D	S	C
E	U	Z	H	A	M	H	R	U	N	O	N	I	B	U
R	B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E	D	P	E	A	S	M
S	D	E	Y	S	U	T	S	F	I	B	U	W	K	C

## Musical anagrams

As well as hearing about songs and singers, **Feel Music, Talk Music** also introduces you to vocabulary you need to talk about music.

Look at the letters below. Can you unjumble them to find the answers to these questions?

1. This is a group of singers who sing together.
2. This is the word which 'pop' comes from.
3. The lists of best-selling pop music published each week.
4. This person sings harmonies for the main singer.
5. This person plays a guitar with four strings.

oicr  
alpurpo  
ascthr  
cgankib gsnire  
sssitab



# Brush up your English

## Giving good advice

How good is your English? Would you like some advice to help you improve your speaking and writing? In **English Makeover**, students have a chance to talk about their language problems and to get advice from experts in the studio. But what would you advise?

Look at the problems below which some of the students talk about in the series. Can you match each problem with the solution the BBC's experts gave?

### Problems

1. I am a trainee chef and I can't remember lots of the vocabulary I need to talk about the ingredients of the dishes I make.
2. I can never remember which words are followed by 'on' or 'in' or other words like that. They are so difficult!
3. I go to university and the lectures are in English. But the lecturers speak very quickly and I miss a lot of what they say.
4. Pronunciation is difficult for me, especially the sounds /l/ and /r/. When I say them, they sound the same and people get confused and don't understand me.

### Solutions

- a. Why not ask if you can record the lesson? Then you can listen to it over again. Also, try to avoid making too many notes – it's difficult to listen and write at the same time! Try to note down key words – and to use symbols instead of words. For example, an arrow might mean 'this leads to...'.  
b. Think about the shape your lips make when you speak. If you want to say 'wrong' try to make your lips more round, push them forward. If you want to say 'long', make your lips like a smile.
- c. Try to write your shopping list in English and when you buy packets written in English, make sure you read the labels.
- d. When you read a newspaper article, look at all of the nouns and verbs and the prepositions which follow them. Then take another copy of the same article and blank out the prepositions. Leave it for a day or two then try to fill in the blanks. Finally, compare your answers with the original article.

## Finding the right phrase

Are you lost for words when someone speaks to you in English? Would you like to sound more fluent? Then **Small Talk** is the series for you. Each programme looks at the words and phrases you need for a different social situation.

Below are phrases you might hear at a large party where you meet many new people. Try to match each phrase from Box A with its reply from Box B.

A

1. Bye.
2. It's lovely to meet you.
3. Have you met John?
4. What would you like to drink?
5. Have you been here long?

B

- a. No. Pleased to meet you.
- b. Oh, I'll have an orange juice please.
- c. See you later.
- d. No, only a few minutes. What about you?
- e. And you.



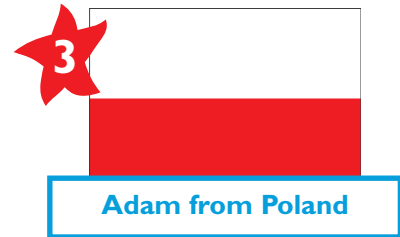
# Working across cultures

English is used by millions of people across the world every day. It's the language of work and travel and, as a result, many English speakers move to different countries to find a new job.

**Working Abroad** consists of a BBC World Service series and website which look at the advantages and disadvantages of leaving your own country and working in another. Each unit deals with different aspects of life for people who are **Working Abroad**.

## Who said what?

In these extracts, people talk about their experiences of going to live and work in the UK and what they have found difficult or strange. Can you match the extract with the person who said it?



**a**

In my country, when you start working your boss often thinks that your time belongs to the company. So, if you need time off things can be quite difficult because the boss thinks that time is money. It's quite different here. You can ask for time off and I have found that the boss usually says yes, no problem.

**b**

The thing which really surprised me about England was that, when you move into a flat or house, the previous owner or occupier will often leave things like the cooker, the fridge, the washing machine. In my country, when you move into a new place you have to take everything with you – the rooms are completely empty.

**c**

When I moved here, I was a little confused about how to greet people. In my country, you normally kiss women on the cheek and shake hands with the men when you meet them – not in business, of course, but at parties and social occasions. This is the same in France, too. But here I noticed that sometimes women were a little embarrassed to be kissed on the cheek. So now I play it safe and shake hands with everyone.

## Cross-cultural quiz

If you are living and working away from home, you may find the habits and customs of your new home quite strange. Look at the examples below. Decide if they are true or false.



In the UK...

1. People often tap their nose to show that they are telling you a secret.
2. Drivers flash their headlights to show that they will wait for another car to pass them.
3. It is considered rude to read a book or newspaper on a train or bus.
4. If you are eating sweets on a bus you should always offer one to the person sitting next to you.
5. You should telephone 999 if you need help in an emergency.
6. 'Sorry?' means 'I didn't hear you'.

**Are these true or false for your country?**

# Answer Page

## Two-word phrase quiz

1. t R a f f i c j a m  
 2. b r e A k d o w n  
 3. b o a r D i n g c a r d  
 4. r a l l w a y s t a t i o n  
 5. d O u b l e r o o m  
 6. j e T s e t  
 7. c h E c k i n  
 8. S l e e p i n g c a r  
 9. T a k e o f f

## Who said that?

1.a 2.c 3.b

## Email etiquette

1. Begin emails to a large group with 'Dear All'.
2. When giving good news, say 'I'm pleased to announce...'
3. When giving access to extra information about someone or something, say 'If you'd like more information...'
4. When giving a link to a different website, tell the reader to 'click on the link'.

## Cn U txt?

probs = problems  
 info = information  
 PLS = please  
 ASAP = as soon as possible  
 Pref = preferably  
 PM = afternoon  
 B4 = before (B=be; 4=four)

## Pick a magazine

1.a 2.c 3.d 4.b

## Out Of Africa

a.2 b.3 c.1

## Learning From Our Own Correspondent

Here are some examples – you may have found more!  
 jumping up and down with excitement; a great adventure; the children poured inside, jostling and

shouting; spectacular; the boys scrambled to take their places; whisper and giggle; enthusiastic; They couldn't wait to use one again.

## Singers word square

R	A	R	Y	E	U	B	M	M	I	H	G	A	W	Q
E	O	N	E	L	V	I	S	P	R	E	S	L	E	Y
D	M	B	D	V	I	N	E	R	K	Q	Y	N	M	R
H	H	F	B	M	S	E	P	S	O	U	V	H	T	V
O	F	D	F	I	C	A	A	V	B	T	S	W	G	O
T	E	Y	A	S	E	C	Q	Y	C	R	X	C	S	A
C	E	Q	U	T	Q	W	C	K	V	C	I	A	U	V
H	D	U	B	E	L	Y	I	Y	W	A	V	H	G	U
I	V	I	F	E	B	N	A	L	A	B	O	B	A	M
L	K	Y	F	Q	R	O	U	I	L	I	Q	W	B	W
L	O	K	I	E	V	E	O	E	X	I	C	K	A	C
I	P	O	L	Q	I	G	X	M	B	L	A	N	B	B
P	R	F	E	D	P	B	Z	I	R	B	B	M	E	I
E	T	B	I	T	E	M	I	N	E	M	U	V	S	V
P	N	E	D	U	K	U	Q	O	J	U	L	R	T	A
P	J	I	G	B	W	N	U	G	H	V	D	D	S	C
E	U	Z	H	A	M	H	R	U	N	O	N	I	B	U
R	B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E	D	P	E	A	S	M
S	D	E	Y	S	U	T	S	F	I	B	U	W	K	C

## Musical anagrams

choir  
 popular  
 charts  
 backing singer  
 bassist

## Giving good advice

1.c 2.d 3.a 4.b

## Finding the right phrase

1.c 2.e 3.a 4.b 5.d

## Who said what?

1.c 2.b 3.a

## Cross-cultural quiz

True  
 True  
 False  
 False  
 True – 999 is the telephone number for the fire brigade, ambulance and police.  
 True

## GLOSSARY

### Test your English?

When you **pit your wits against** a person or a problem, you try to beat them by thinking of the best solution.

### Business writing with a difference

If something is **business-friendly** it means it is very suitable to use in business. We can use \_\_\_-friendly with many other nouns, e.g. computer-friendly (easy to use on your computer) and customer-friendly (easy for customers to use).

### Literature with a difference

A **blockbuster** novel or film is one which is very exciting and has sold many millions of copies.

To **recite** a poem or a scene from a play means to read it aloud, or say it from memory.

To **mouth** words means to 'say' words silently.

### Keeping up with current affairs

When you **eradicate** something, you remove it completely and for ever.

To **rough someone up** means to attack and beat them, but not seriously injure them.

### Brush up your English

If you are **lost for words** you can't think of anything to say.

### Working across cultures

If you **play it safe** you avoid taking risks and making mistakes.