

11

If you ask me, ...

Indirect questions • Question tags • The body • Informal English



STARTER

1 All of these sentences are correct. Why is there no *does* in sentences 2 and 3?

- 1 Where does she live?
- 2 I know where she lives.
- 3 Can you tell me where she lives?

2 Choose the correct question tag.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 It's a beautiful day, | did he? |
| 2 You like learning English, | isn't it? |
| 3 You've been to Australia, | didn't they? |
| 4 Henry didn't say that, | don't you? |
| 5 They had a good time, | haven't you? |

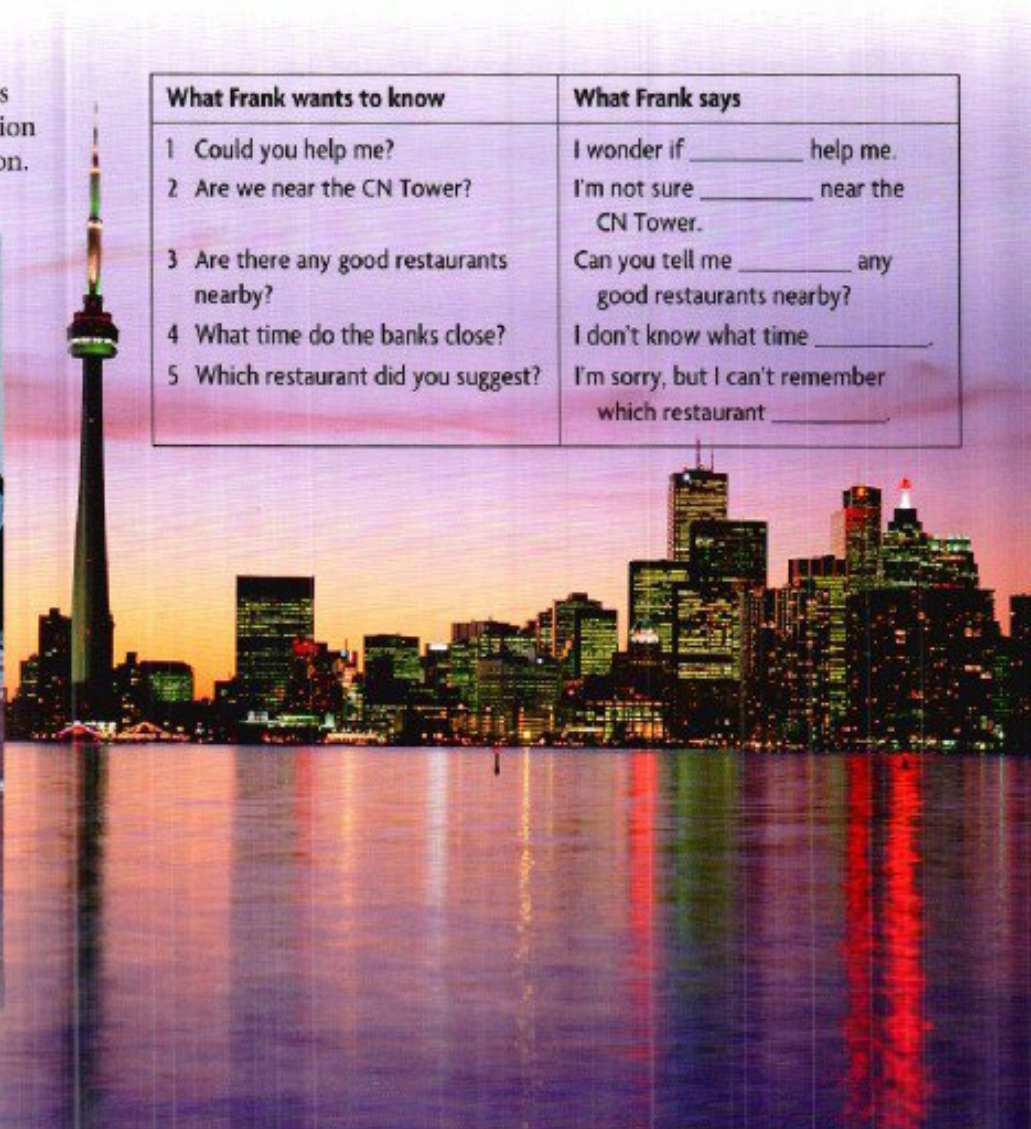
A STRANGER IN TOWN

Indirect questions

1 **T II.1** Frank has just checked into his hotel in Toronto. Look at the information he wants, then listen to the conversation. Complete his sentences.



What Frank wants to know	What Frank says
1 Could you help me?	I wonder if _____ help me.
2 Are we near the CN Tower?	I'm not sure _____ near the CN Tower.
3 Are there any good restaurants nearby?	Can you tell me _____ any good restaurants nearby?
4 What time do the banks close?	I don't know what time _____.
5 Which restaurant did you suggest?	I'm sorry, but I can't remember which restaurant _____.



GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Look at what Frank says. These are indirect questions. How does the word order change?
- 2 What happens to *do/does/did* in indirect questions?
- 3 When do we use *if* in indirect questions?

▶ Grammar Reference 11.1 p149

- 2 Read tapescript 11.1 on p131 and practise the conversation. Then close your books and do it again.
- 3 Here is some more information that Frank wants. Use the prompts to ask indirect questions.
 - 1 What's the population of the city?
(*Do you know ... ?*)
 - 2 Is there an underground?
(*Could you tell me ... ?*)
 - 3 Where are the best shops?
(*Can you tell me ... ?*)
 - 4 Where can I go for a run in the mornings?
(*Do you happen to know ... ?*)
 - 5 Is there a museum near here?
(*Do you have any idea ... ?*)
 - 6 What do people do in the evening?
(*I wonder ...*)
- 4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer similar indirect questions about a city that you know well.

PRACTICE

Asking polite questions

- 1 Match a word in A with a line in B and a line in C.

A	B	C
What	newspaper	times have you been on a plane?
How	football team	do you support?
Which	long	sports do you like?
	far	do you read?
	kind of	is it to the airport from here?
	many	time do you spend watching TV?
	much	does it take you to get ready in the morning?

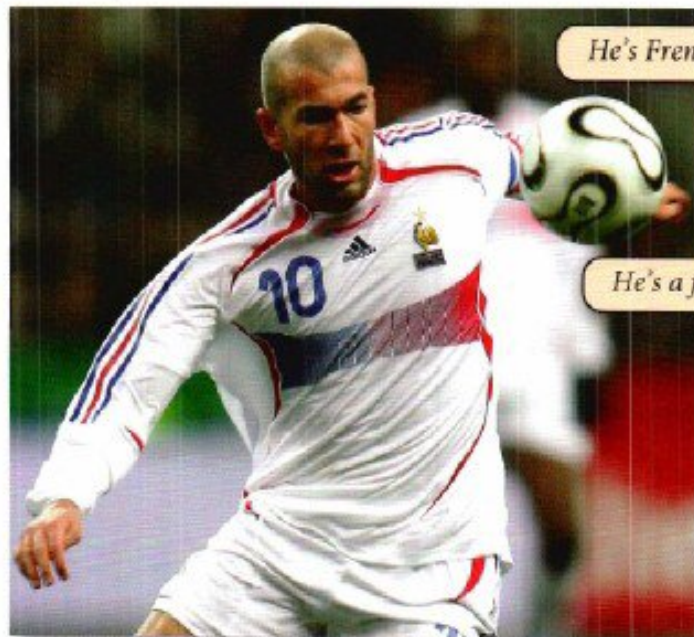
- 2 Work with a partner. Ask and answer indirect questions using the ideas in exercise 1.

Could you tell me ... ?

Would you mind telling me ... ?

Finding out about Zinedine Zidane

- 3 What do you know about Zinedine Zidane?



- 4 Ask about Zinedine Zidane using these phrases and the prompts 1-5.

I wonder ...
I have no idea ...

I'd like to know ...
Does anybody know ...

- 1 where/born
- 2 how many brothers and sisters
- 3 which clubs/played for
- 4 married
- 5 how many children/have

I wonder where he was born.

- 5 Work with a partner.

Student A Look at p155.

Student B Look at p156.

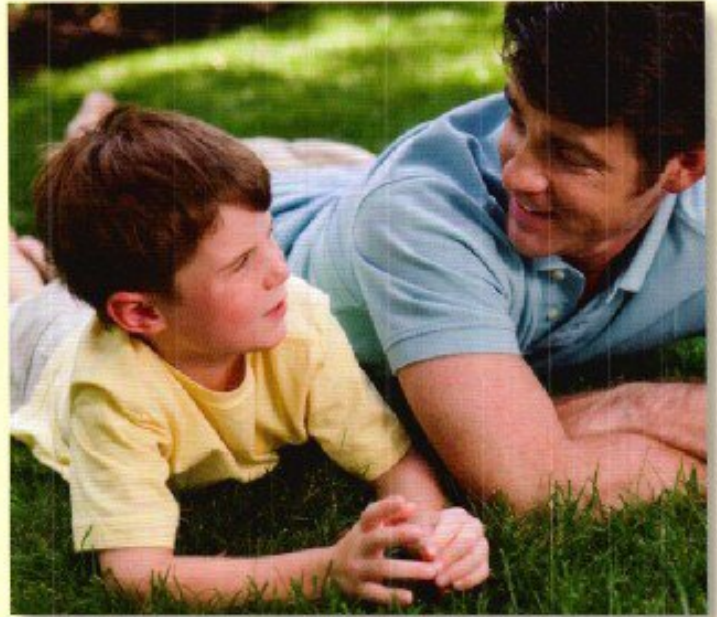
EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Question tags

- 1 **T 11.2** Listen to Sam, aged 4, talking to Kevin, his father. Underline the question tags.

S Daddy?
K Yes, Sam?
S Suzie didn't go to school this morning, did she?
K No, Sam, it's the weekend, and there's no school at weekends.
S I'm going to start school next year, aren't I?
K That's right. You'll be at the same school as Suzie.
S But not at weekends. You like weekends, don't you, Daddy?
K Yes, I certainly do. I can spend more time with you!
S Can I have another biscuit, Daddy?

T 11.2 Listen again. Does Sam's intonation go up or down on the question tags?

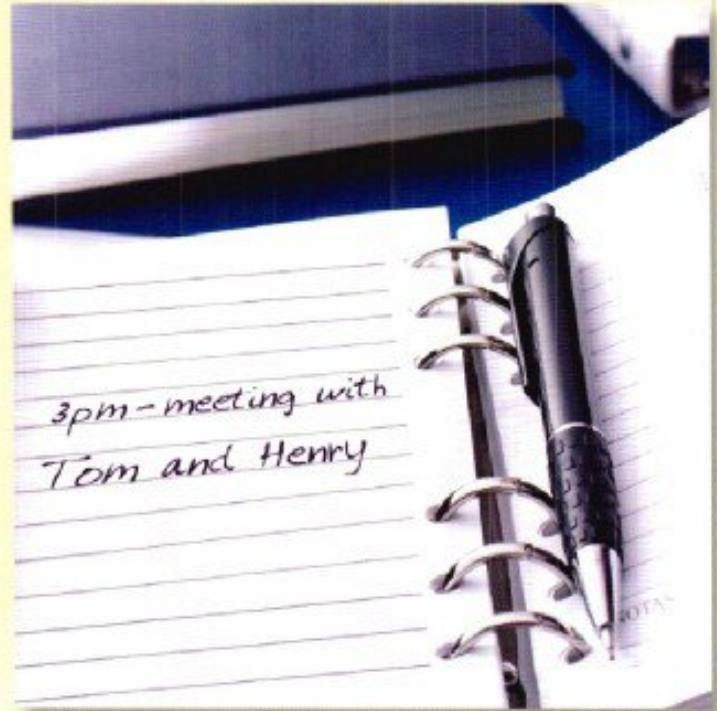


- 2 Complete the conversation between Kevin and his personal assistant using a question tag from the box.

didn't I? isn't it? am I? haven't I?

K Now, what's happening today? I've got a meeting this afternoon, _____?
A Yes, that's right. With Henry and Tom.
K And the meeting's here, _____?
A No, it isn't. It's in Tom's office at 3 o'clock.
K Oh! I'm not having lunch with anyone, _____?
A No, you're free for lunch.
K Good! And I signed Mr Halabi's contract, _____?
A No, you didn't actually. It's on your desk.
K OK. I'll do it now. Thanks a lot.

T 11.3 Listen and check. Does Kevin's intonation go up or down on the question tags?



- 3 Practise the conversations with a partner.

GRAMMAR SPOT

- Which speaker, Sam or Kevin, uses question tags to mean . . . ?
 - I'm not sure, so I'm checking.
 - Talk to me, I want to have a conversation with you.
- How do we form question tags?

▶▶ Grammar Reference 11.2 p149

PRACTICE

Question tags and intonation

1 Look at the sentences and write the question tags.

1 It isn't very warm today, _____?	↘
2 You can cook, _____?	
3 You've got a DVD player, _____?	
4 Mary's very clever, _____?	
5 There are a lot of people here, _____?	
6 The book wasn't very good, _____?	
7 I'm a silly person, _____?	
8 You aren't going out dressed like that, _____?	

T 11.4 Listen and check. Write ↗ if the question tag goes up and ↘ if it goes down.

2 Match a response with a sentence in exercise 1.

- Yes. She's extremely bright.
- Believe it or not, I haven't. I've got a laptop, though.
- Why? What's wrong with my clothes? I thought I looked really cool.
- No, it's freezing.
- No, you're not. Everybody makes mistakes.
- Me? No! I can't even boil an egg.
- I know! It's absolutely packed. I can't move!
- It was terrible! The worst I've read in ages.

T 11.5 Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

Conversations

3 Add three question tags to the conversation below. Do they go up or down?

- A It's so beautiful.
 B What is?
 A The view. That's the CN Tower.
 B What?
 A The CN Tower.
 B The CN Tower isn't that tall.
 A Oh yes, it is. It's the tallest building in Toronto.

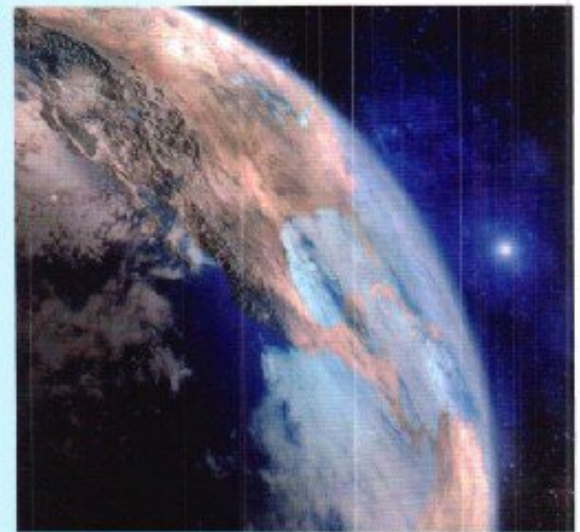
T 11.6 Listen and compare.

4 Look at p156. Choose one of the conversations and add question tags. Learn it by heart, and act it out for the rest of the class.

T 11.7 Listen and compare.

READING AND SPEAKING

How well do you know your world?



1 Do you know the answers to these questions?

- What are the Earth's oldest living things?
- What man-made things on Earth can be seen from space?
- What is the most terrible natural disaster to have hit the Earth?
- Why do women live longer than men?
- Why isn't there a row 13 on aeroplanes?
- Why do they drive on the left in Britain and on the right in other countries?
- How many new words enter the English language every year?

2 Put one of these lines before each question in exercise 1. What is true for you?

I think I know what/why ... I'm not sure ...
 I think ... I have no idea ...
 I don't know ... I wonder ...

I think I know why women live longer than men. It's because ...

I have no idea what the Earth's oldest living things are.

Discuss your ideas as a class.
 Which question interests you the most?
 Read the answers to the questions on pages 90 and 91. How much did you already know?

How well do

3 Here are the last lines of the seven answers. Which answer do they go with?

- a The country with the highest life expectancy is Japan – 84 years for women and 77 for men.
- b If they do, one will die within a year.
- c It is likely that this explosion wiped out all the dinosaurs.
- d It's interesting to note that Samuel Johnson spent 8 years writing the first English dictionary, published in 1755.
- e You can also see fires burning in the tropical rainforest.
- f It has also endured climatic catastrophes, and nuclear bomb testing – and still it lives on!
- g However, most of them are former British Colonies.

4 Here are seven questions, one for each text. What do the underlined words refer to?

- 1 Where is the oldest one in the world?
- 2 Why is this difficult to see from space?
- 3 How many of them does it accept every year?
- 4 How did they become extinct?
- 5 Why don't most countries do this like the British?
- 6 Do they have a thirteenth floor?
- 7 Why are they more likely to have accidents?

Answer questions 1–7.

5 These numbers are from the texts. What do they refer to?

4,600	15	200	65 million
14	six	4,000	193

Producing a class poster

6 What else would you like to know about the world? Work in groups and write some questions. Think of:

- places (countries, cities, buildings)
- people (customs, languages, superstitions, famous people)
- things (machines, gadgets, transportation, etc.)
- plants and animals

Check round the class to see if anyone can answer your questions

7 Choose two questions you wrote in exercise 6 and research the answers. You could use the Internet or an encyclopedia.

Make them into a poster for your classroom.

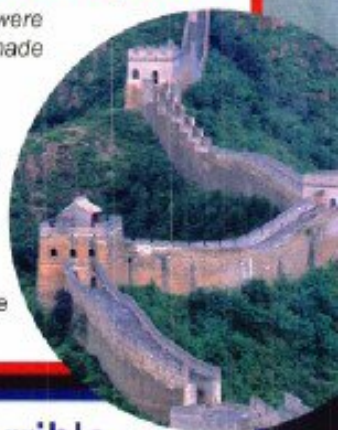
1⊙ What are the Earth's oldest living things?

- A** The White Mountains of California are home to our oldest living things – trees! The oldest tree in the world, Methuselah, has roots that go back over 4,600 years. This makes it older even than the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. The 26-foot bristlecone pine tree is the oldest of many that have outlived civilization after civilization.



2⊙ What man-made things on Earth can be seen from space?

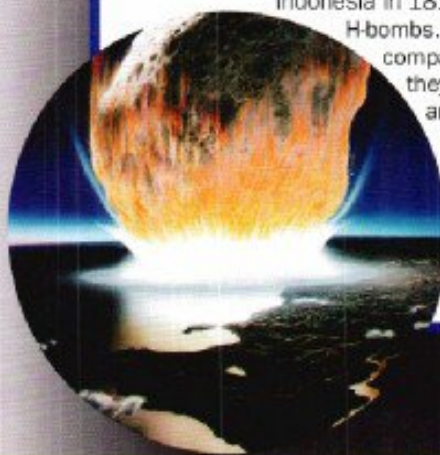
- A** 'When humans first flew in space, they were amazed to discover that the only man-made object visible from orbit was the Great Wall of China.' Although this is a nice idea, it's not true. The Great Wall is mostly grey stone in a grey landscape and, in fact, is very difficult to see even from a plane flying at a mere 15 kilometres above. What can be seen when orbiting the Earth (from about 200 kilometres up) are the lights of the world's large metropolitan areas.



3⊙ What is the most terrible natural disaster to have hit the Earth?

- A** Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes are responsible for the deaths of thousands of people every year. One of the most violent earthquakes ever recorded was in Ecuador in 1906. It was the equivalent of 100 H-bombs, but it was nothing compared to a volcanic eruption in Tambora, Indonesia in 1815. This was the equivalent of 10,000 H-bombs. But, even these are nothing compared to many tropical hurricanes: they regularly have the energy of an amazing 100,000 H-bombs.

However, there is one natural disaster that beats all of these by a very long way – a meteor that hit the Earth 65 million years ago and caused an explosion the equivalent of 10 million H-bombs.



you know your world?

You ask ... we answer!

4ⓐ Why do women live longer than men?

A Women generally live about six years longer than men. Evidence suggests that boys are the weaker sex at birth, which means that more die in infancy. Men also have a greater risk of heart disease than women, and they have heart attacks earlier in life. Men generally have more aggressive behaviour, particularly when driving, so they are more likely to die in accidents. Also, men are more often in dangerous occupations, such as construction work.

Historically, women died in childbirth and men in wars. So unmarried women and philosophers often lived to great ages. Now childbearing is less risky and there are fewer wars.



6ⓐ Why do they drive on the left in Britain and on the right in other countries?

A The reason for this goes back to the days when people travelled by horse. Most people are right handed, and thus the left is the natural side to ride on if you are on horseback and you need your right hand to hold a sword in case of trouble. So why didn't the rest of the world do the same? Because of Napoleon Bonaparte. He insisted that his armies marched on the right, and as he marched through Europe, he imposed this rule wherever he went. In the twentieth century Adolf Hitler did the same. Signs reading 'Rechts fahren' were put up whenever he took over a country.

The question suggests that only the British drive on the left, but in fact, out of 193 countries in the world, there are about 50 that drive on the left, including Japan.



5ⓐ Why isn't there a row 13 on aeroplanes?

A In many countries, the number 13 is considered to be very unlucky. In France, there is never a house with the number 13. In the United States, modern high-rise buildings label the floor that follows 12 as 14.

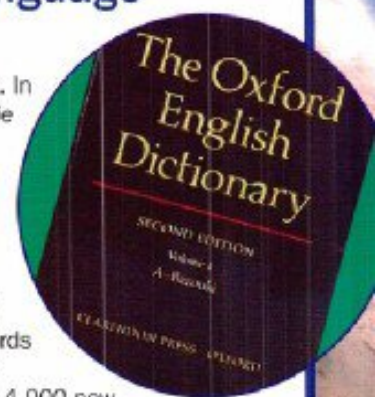
Where did this fear of a number come from? The idea goes back at least to Norse mythology in ancient times. There was a banquet with 12 guests. Loki, who was evil, decided to join them without being invited. In the fight that followed, Balder, the son of Odin, was killed.

This story is probably the origin of the idea that 13 people shouldn't sit at the table to eat.



7ⓐ How many words enter the English language every year?

A Unfortunately no list is kept. In France there is the *Académie française* which approves new words, but in England there are only dictionaries. The most authoritative of these is the *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, but this does not make rules about the language. It simply records the development of English worldwide. It accepts about 4,000 new words (or new uses) every year. The OED has readers in all English-speaking parts of the world, who record repeated uses of new words, including numerous technical terms. Traditionally, a word had to be used five times, in five different places, over five years before it could go into the dictionary. However, now in the 21st century, with new technology, new words and uses are included much more quickly. For example something like 'text messaging' got in sooner because it became so widely used so quickly.



LISTENING AND SPEAKING

The forgetful generation

- T 11.8** Listen to the introduction to a radio programme called *What's Your Problem?* and answer the questions.
 - What problem are they talking about?
 - What do they think is causing it?
- Discuss these questions.
 - Does your lifestyle mean that you have a lot to remember to do each day?
 - Do you think modern society is busier and more stressful than 100 years ago?
 - How do you remember all the things that you have to do each day?
- T 11.9** Listen to Ellen, Josh, and Fiona, and take notes.

	What did they forget?	What did they do?
Ellen		
Josh		
Fiona		

- T 11.10** Listen to the rest of the radio programme and answer the questions.
 - What is Professor Alan Buchan's job?
 - What is it about some modern day working practices that causes forgetfulness?
 - Why did the woman think that she was going insane?
 - What was the woman's problem?
 - What helped the woman feel more relaxed?
 - Does Professor Buchan advise using a computer to help remember things?
 - What does he advise? Why?
 - How does the presenter try to be funny at the end of the interview?

What do you think?

- Do you think Professor Buchan's explanation for forgetfulness is true?
- Do you know any stories of forgetfulness, either your own or somebody else's?

VOCABULARY AND IDIOMS

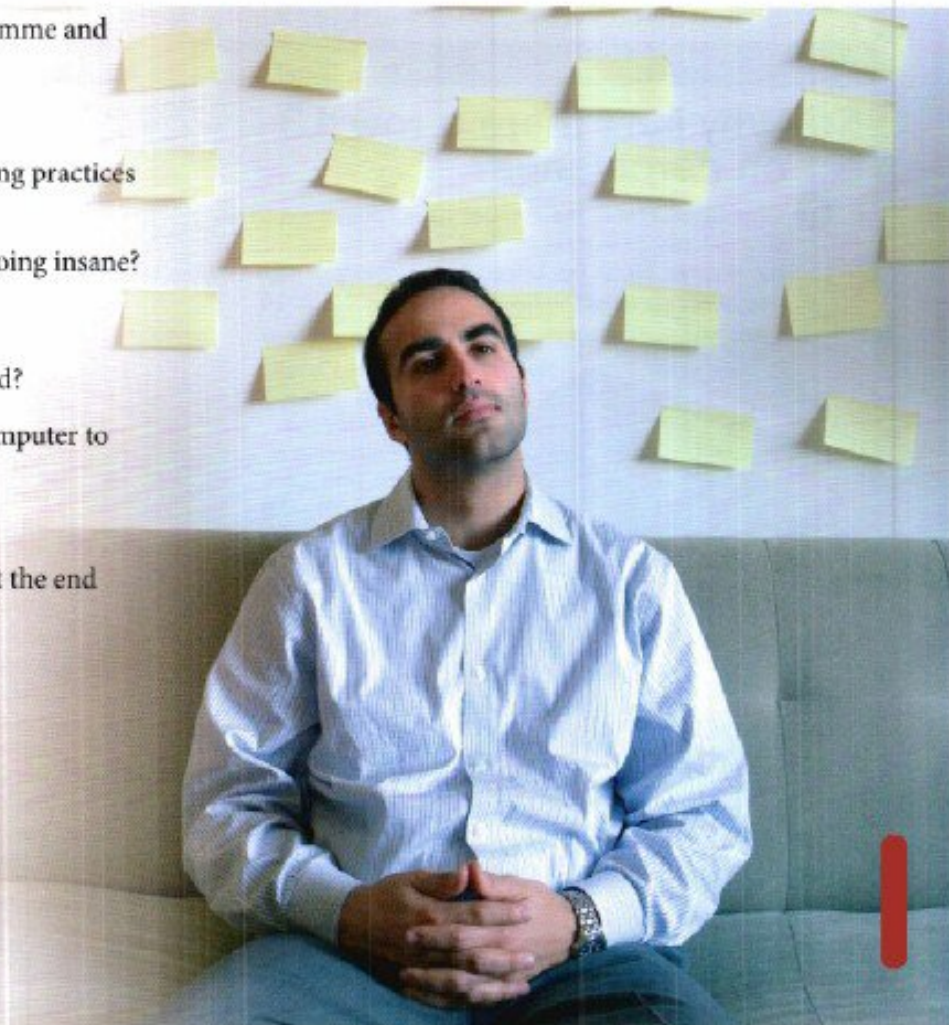
What can your body do?

- As a class, write all the parts of the body that you know on the board.
- Work with a partner. Which parts of the body do you use to:

kick chew
 bite lick stare
 hold think hit
 drop
 climb

- Match a verb from exercise 2 with a noun or phrase from the box.

a ladder	an ice-cream
litter on the ground	into an apple
about the meaning of life	a football
a baby in your arms	gum
a nail with a hammer	into space

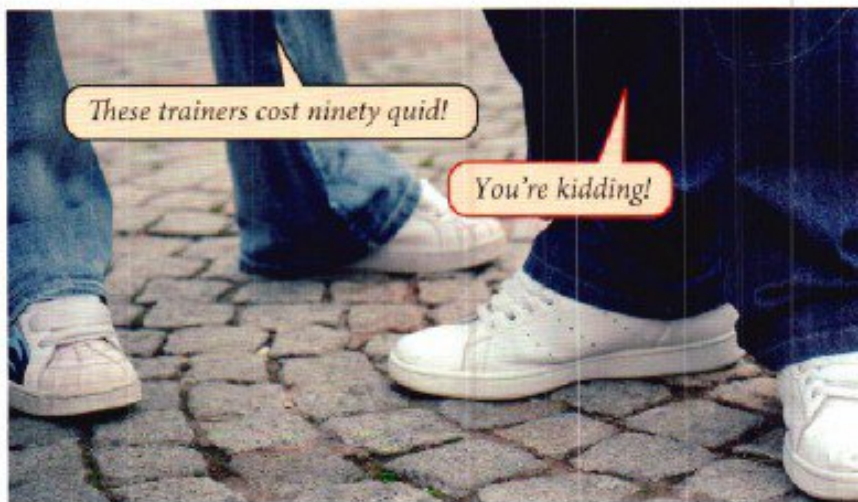




EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Informal English

- 1 When we speak, we use a lot of informal language, depending on who we're speaking to.



- 4 Look at these idioms. Can you guess their meaning?

hold your breath
kiss something goodbye
hit the roof
think twice (about something)
kick the habit
drop someone a line

Complete the sentences. Use the idioms above. If necessary, change the form of the verb. The first letter of each missing word is given.

- The best way to stop hiccups is to h_____ your b_____ and count to ten.
- My parents h_____ the r_____ when I said I wanted to leave university.
- I've tried so many times to stop biting my nails, but I just can't k_____ the h_____.
- I almost bought a new sports car, but then I t_____ t_____ about it and realized it wasn't such a great idea.
- A I lost my purse with £200 in it.
B Well, you can k_____ that money g_____!
- D_____ me a l_____ when you know what time you're coming, and I'll meet you at the airport.

WRITING: Words that join ideas

▶▶ Go to p118

In the conversations, choose the correct expression.

- A What do you say we break for lunch?
B Great idea. | We can grab a sandwich at the snack bar.
 I get it.
- A How are you doing?
 What are you up to?
B Nothing much. Just sitting around watching TV.
A You're such a couch potato.
B Hey, take a break! | I work hard all week. I like to relax at weekends.
 Hey, give me a break!
- A Quick! Give me your homework so I can copy it.
B Look out! | Do your own homework!
 No way!
- A Did you mend the TV?
B Kind of. | Channel 4's OK, but we still can't get Sky TV.
 All right.
A Anything good on tonight?
B Dunno. | Look in the paper.
 What's up?
- A What do you call that stuff you use to clean between your teeth?
B What do you mean?
A You see! | It's like string. White.
 You know!
B Wow! | You mean dental floss.
 Oh!
A Yeah. That's it!

T 11.11 Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

- 2 Underline the examples of informal language. How do we say them more formally? Be careful if you try to use them!