EASY E

CEF level A2

MEDIUM M CEE levels B1-B2 ADVANCED A

CEF: European Framework of Reference for Languages

INTRODUCTION [I] Let's get started!

David Ingram: Welcome to Business Spotlight Audio 5/2020. I'm David Ingram from England. Erin Perry: And I'm Erin Perry from the United States. We're glad you could join us! In this recording, you can listen to articles and interviews from the world of business English. We also offer lots of exercises to help you to improve your language and communication skills. Ingram: This time, we have a special focus on customer care and, in particular, the sorts of conversations you should now be having with your customers.

Perry: We'll also be discussing the challenges faced by people who have a serious illness but still work, how to correct other people's mistakes politely — and lots more.

Ingram: As always, you can find all the texts, dialogues and exercises in your audio booklet. OK, let's get started!

NAMES & NEWS [2] Introduction (I)

Erin Perry: We'll begin with our Names & News section and a story about making cars louder.

David Ingram: Louder, Erin? You mean quieter, surely.

Perry: No, David. I mean louder. In the US and it's also coming to the EU soon — there are laws that electric cars have to make noise to warn other road users of their presence. **Ingram:** Who'd have thought of that?

Perry: I know. Well, automobile manufacturers such as BMW have come up with some interesting ideas to make their cars more audible. Let's listen now and find out more.

[3] Sonic vroom US A

<u>Rattle, clank, roar, vroom</u>: cars are loud. The noise is bad for our nerves, but <u>pedestrians</u> and cyclists rely on it to know when a car is coming. Because electric cars make little noise, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the US ruled in 2018 that they must produce artificial sound to warn other road users of their presence. As of 2021, similar laws will apply in the EU.

In response to the new laws, automobile manufacturers such as BMW are inventing the future sound of cars. BMW has hired soughtafter film-music composer Hans Zimmer to create its electric car "soundtrack." Zimmer's

clank roa Geschepper; scheppern soi pedestrian Fußgänger(in) rattle Geratter; rattern

roar - Gedröhn; dröhnen sonic - klanglich, akustisch vroom ifml. - Gebrumm; brummen exotic sound lab in California has created the soundtrack for films such as Gladiator. Rush. and the new James Bond film, No Time to Die, Saving yes to the job was easy for Zimmer, a German: "I grew up with BMW," he told The New York Times. "There was an emotional connection there"

Zimmer says the new electric BMWs will sound "futuristic" and "calming," adding that it's very difficult to describe in words. In a report, BMW says the new car sound generates a "throbbing sensation" and describes it as "chameleonic."

"We are trying to make your life less chaotic, more beautiful," says Zimmer. That sounds very good indeed.

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[4] Introduction (II)

David Ingram: Our next story is about someone who likes to encourage other people to be tidy.

Erin Perry: Oh, I know a few people like that. Not me, though. But you're probably talking about that tidying guru. What's her name? She's written a book about tidying up and had a Netflix series. Oh, Marie, Marie...it's on the tip of my tongue. Oh, tell me!

Ingram: Very good, Erin. Marie Kondo. Well, now she's co-written a book called Joy at Work, about finding positive meaning in your job. Perry: Now, that sounds like more fun.

Ingram: Doesn't it! Anyway, as you listen to our story, try to answer this question: at which university does Kondo's co-author Scott Sonenshein work. Ready? Listen now.

[5] Tidying works wonders M

Marie Kondo is famous for showing people that tidying up can bring joy. Based in Japan, Kondo wrote a bestselling book in 2011: The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up. In 2019, she began hosting a Netflix show, Tidying up with Marie Kondo. And on 7 April, Kondo released a new book, Joy at Work, co-authored with Scott Sonenshein, an organizational psychologist and professor of management at Rice Universitv in Houston, Texas.

Kondo bases the organizational philosophy of her new book on Shinto spirituality. Tidying up becomes part of a larger effort to bring a kind of mindful meditation to one's work.

What are some of her main points? "I advise beginning with small steps," Kondo told the Financial Times. You should focus on what you

chameleonic - (sehr)	release sth.
wechselhaft; hier: vielseitig	🗢 etw. herausbringen
host sth.	sensation
 Gastgeber(in) von etw. sein; 	 Empfindung, Gefühl
hier: etw. moderieren	sound lab
meditation 🗢 hier: Nach-	 Schall-, Klanglabor
denken, Betrachtung	throbbing - pulsierend
mindful 🗢 achtsam;	tidy (sth.) up ► (etw.) aufräumen
hier auch: tiefsinning	 (etw.) aufräumen

are grateful for. Find positive meaning in your work. And, each day, add an activity that brings you happiness, such as reading your favourite language-learning magazine.

Those working from home might benefit from tidying up, says Kondo: "If you feel that <u>burgeoning</u> feeling, you should do it."

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Ingram: OK? Did you get the answer to our question? At which university does Marie Kondo's co-author Scott Sonenshein work?

• The answer is Rice University in Houston, Texas. Listen again.

"And on 7 April, Kondo released a new book, Joy at Work, co-authored with Scott Sonenshein, an organizational psychologist and professor of management at Rice University in Houston, Texas."

Ingram: If you didn't get the answer the first time, go back and listen to the text again.

BUSINESS SKILLS

Ken Taylor on customer conversations [6] Introduction

Erin Perry: David, you know what they say about customers?

David Ingram: That they can be a right pain in the... Perry: David!

Ingram: Just joking. I know, the customer is king — or queen, I guess we should say.

Perry: Quite! And in his latest Business Skills article in Business Spotlight, Bob Dignen looks at the topic of customer care and suggests that organizations should start having very different types of conversations with their customers. And to look at this topic in more detail, we're happy to welcome back Ken Taylor after his absence last time. Ken joins us from his home studio in London with some tips and exercises on customer conversations.

[7] Exercise: Vocabulary M

Ken Taylor: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. In his latest Business Skills article, Bob Dignen looks at a modern, challenging approach towards conversations with customers. In this first exercise, we'll look at some of the key vocabulary that Bob uses in his article. First, you will hear a comment based on the article. I'll repeat a key term. You will then hear two explanations, **a**) and **b**). In the pause, decide which explanation best matches the key term. Then you will hear the correct answer and the comment again, with a pause for you to repeat it. OK? Ready?

1. Most people would agree that building trust is a key component of sales conversations.

burgeoning - aufkeimend; hier: aufkommend

4

- Component. What does this mean?
- a) The result of a process
- b) A part of a system or process
- **b**) is correct. A "component" is a part of a system or process. Listen and repeat.

"Most people would agree that building trust is a key component of sales conversations."

- **2.** OK, next statement. Hiding your fears may even reduce your credibility.
- Credibility. What is this?
- a) A characteristic of someone who is skilful and competent
- **b)** A characteristic of someone who is believed and trusted
- **b**) is correct. "Credibility" is a characteristic of someone who is believed and trusted. Listen and repeat.

"Hiding your fears may even reduce your credibility."

- **3.** Next statement. Conversations with new customers should not be about the status quo.
- The status quo. What is this?
- a) The present situation
- b) The past situation
- a) is correct. The "status quo" is the present situation. Listen and repeat.

"Conversations with new customers should not be about the status quo."

- **4.** OK, next statement. It is <u>vital</u> to challenge and destabilize current <u>assumptions</u>.
- To **destabilize**. What does this mean?
- a) To make more secure
- b) To make less strong or safe
- b) is correct. To "destabilize" something is to make it less strong or safe. Listen and repeat.
 "It is vital to challenge and destabilize current assumptions."
- Next statement. A common reason that customers cite for not buying is <u>feature</u> <u>over-</u><u>load</u>.
- To cite. What does this mean?
- a) To mention something
- b) To ignore something
- a) is correct. To "cite" something is to mention it. Listen and repeat.

"A common reason that customers cite for not buying is feature overload."

- OK, next statement. You need to create a consistent message around <u>core</u> business <u>objectives</u>.
- **Consistent**. What does this mean?
- a) Happening as a result of something
- b) Always happening in a similar way

assumption
Annahme
core
Kern; hier: zentral
feature
Merkmal,
Funktion

objective ← Ziel(setzung) overload ← Überlastung; hier: eine zu große Anzahl vital ← unerlässlich b) is correct. Something that is "consistent" always happens in a similar way. Listen and repeat.

"You need to create a consistent message around core business objectives."

- 7. OK, last statement. To acquire a new customer is only the start.
- To **acquire**. What does this mean?
- a) To satisfy
- b) To get
- b) is correct. To "acquire" something or someone means to "get" it or them. Listen and repeat.

"To acquire a new customer is only the start."

Taylor: How was that? Did you know most of the words? If you didn't, go back and practise the exercise again.

[8] Exercise: Strategies M

Ken Taylor: In his article, Bob Dignen suggests that we need to take a new, modern approach to our customers. You will hear a statement about how to communicate with your customers. In the pause, decide whether you agree or disagree with that statement and why. Then I'll tell you what Bob suggests in the article. Ready? Good.

• You should be prepared to show <u>anxiety</u> about your ability to deliver results.

- Bob would agree with this. He says that <u>exposing</u> your concerns, while still being confident of success, shows that you are human.
- You should use last-minute price <u>conces</u>sions to finalize the deal.
- Bob disagrees. He thinks that this can <u>under-</u> <u>mine</u> your <u>credibility</u>.
- You should spend lots of time promoting your competence and <u>track record</u> to build trust with your customer.
- Bob disagrees. Bob thinks this can be <u>coun-</u> terproductive and can be <u>perceived</u> as arrogant or self-marketing.
- Getting your customer to talk about their personal interests or hobbies helps you learn about what <u>drives</u> their thinking.
- Bob agrees. Discussing people's hobbies and interests often tells you what they are really passionate about.
- anxiety Besorgnis concession - Entgegenkommen counterproductive - kontraproduktiv credibility - Glaubwürdigkeit drive sth.
- hier: etw. bestimmen
- expose sth. etw. offenlegen perceived: be ~ as sth. als etw. wahrgenommen werden

track record Erfolgsbilanz undermine sth.

etw. untergraben

- You need to challenge a customer's traditional <u>thinking patterns</u>.
- Bob agrees. He suggests that you need to bring <u>previously</u> unconsidered needs to the customer's attention.
- <u>Highlighting</u> the cost of not changing can be more effective than highlighting the gains of change.
- Bob agrees. He says that the psychology of perceived loss can be stronger than that of perceived gain.
- In a price <u>negotiation</u>, you should avoid stating a figure early in the process.
- Bob disagrees. He thinks you need to state a figure early on in the process to get an agreed reference point for the negotiation.

Taylor: Did you agree with Bob's ideas? Read his article in the latest issue of the magazine to find out more about his suggested approach to dealing with customers.

[9] Exercise: Dialogue 🔺

Ken Taylor: Working successfully with customers sometimes means having conversations to discuss occasions when you *didn't* deliver the promised level of service. In his article, Bob suggests a five-step approach to dealing with this situation:

- 1. First, offer to compensate the customer, for example by offering a refund or replacement.
- **2.** Second, accept responsibility for the problem.
- 3. Third, say clearly that you are sorry.
- 4. Fourth, explain why the problem happened.
- 5. Fifth, express regret.

OK, now listen to David, a salesman, apologizing to Sue, a purchaser. Listen to how David uses Bob's five-step approach.

David: Sue. It's David from L.D. International here. I got your message about the late delivery of <u>consignment</u> 7C, and I'm just ringing to apologize.

Sue: It certainly caused us some headaches.

David: We <u>airfreighted</u> a cost-free reserve shipment to keep you going, which you should have received this morning.

Sue: Yes, it arrived OK. Thanks.

David: The delayed shipment will be with you in two days' time. And as compensation for the short <u>hold-up</u> in your production, we will only

airfreight sth. 🗢 etw. per Luftfracht versenden
consignment
 Lieferung
highlight sth.
 etw. hervorheben

hold-up
Verzögerung
negotiation
Verhandlung
previously
zuvor
thinking pattern
Denkmuster

charge you the $\underline{\text{cost price}}$ for the delayed shipment.

Sue: OK. That sounds reasonable.

David: L.D. International takes full responsibility for the delay and we apologize <u>unreservedly</u> for that. The problem was <u>due</u> to a computer <u>glitch</u> in our automated process. It's been <u>sorted</u> now.

Sue: I really hope so. We don't want that to happen again.

David: Nor do we. And, once again, we're very sorry for the headaches that the delay caused.

Taylor: Did you notice how David used Bob's five-step approach. Now, it's your turn. Imagine a situation at work where you have to apologize for not delivering something to a customer (or colleague) that you promised to. I'll take you through the five steps one at a time with a pause for you to speak about your situation in each step. OK? I suggest you now pause the track while you think of an appropriate situation you can use for the exercise.

- 1. OK. Let's begin. First, describe the problem and make an offer to compensate the other person or company.
- **2.** Second, accept responsibility for the problem.
- 3. Third, say clearly that you are sorry.
- 4. Fourth, explain why the problem happened.
- 5. Fifth, express your regret.

Taylor: How did that go? Were you able to use the five-step approach effectively? Try this exercise a few times until you feel confident. And, as Bob Dignen says, when it comes to customer service, "sorry" really shouldn't be the hardest word!

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PERSONAL TRAINER Sign language and the teaching of English [10] Introduction

David Ingram: We'll stay with Ken Taylor now and move on to the Personal Trainer section in Business Spotlight.

Erin Perry: Yes, this is the section in which Ken has a discussion with somebody from the business world about the challenges they face at work. Here's Ken now to tell us more about his latest interview partner.

[11] Interview: Ken Taylor E

Erin Perry: Welcome, Ken. Tell us, who was your guest this time?

Ken Taylor: Howard Jones. Howard taught English in Egypt, Sweden and Vietnam whilst

cost price ► Selbstkostenpreis
due: be ~ to sth. • auf etw. zurückzuführen sein
glitch 🗢 Störung, Panne

sort sth.
 etw. beheben

unreservedly ► vorbehaltlos, ohne Einschränkung

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working for the British <u>Voluntary Service Over-</u> <u>seas</u> and for the Swedish International Development Authority. He then went on to work in <u>sensory education</u> in the UK, ending up as head of sensory service in Ceredigion, Wales, before retiring.

Perry: And which <u>topics</u> did you discuss with Howard?

Taylor: We discussed whether teachers of English as a second language can learn anything from the methods used to teach the <u>deaf</u>.

Perry: What were some of the key points that came out of your discussion?

Taylor: We talked about <u>harnessing</u> the power of the non-verbal. Howard described a language programme called Makaton <u>designed</u> to support spoken language. In Makaton, signs are used with speech, in spoken word order. We discussed whether this <u>approach</u> could be useful in <u>second-language acquisition</u>. Anyway, you can read the full interview in the latest <u>issue</u> of Business Spotlight.

Perry: And what can listeners do if they would like to ask you questions related to their work? Taylor: All they need do is write to us, and the email address is: business.trainer@spotlightverlag.de **Perry:** Thank you very much, Ken. **Taylor:** Thank you.

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SKILL UP!

The language of education [12] Introduction

David Ingram: Let's "skill up" now on our language, with some terms relating to education. Erin Perry: Oh, no, not back to school! Ingram: Education is about a lot more than just schools, Erin. It's universities, training, personal and professional development, lifelong learning — you must have heard of that, surely! Perry: Of course, I have. Still sounds like hard work to me, though. But OK, if you say so, let's do an exercise on this now.

[13] Exercise: Idioms for education \mathbf{M}

Erin Perry: In this exercise, we'd like you to form some idioms. First, you'll hear a description of a situation and then two suggestions, **a**) and **b**), for

- approach
 Methode

 deaf: the
 Gehörlose

 design sth.
 etw. konzipieren, entwickeln
 harness sth.
 sich etw. zunutze machen
 issue
 Ausgabe
 second-language acquisition

 Zweitsprachenerwerb
 - sensory education Sinnesschulung topic Thema Voluntary Service Overseas

 unabhängiger internationaler Entwicklungsdienst mit Sitz in London

(voluntary

freiwillig, ehrenamtlich)

the idiom relating to this situation. In the pause, choose the correct suggestion. Then you'll hear the right answer. OK? Here's the first one.

- If you explain or demonstrate to a new colleague how they should perform their tasks, do you...
- a) show them the ropes?
- b) show them the rules?
- a) is correct. If you show a new colleague what to do and how to do it, you "show them the ropes". Next one.
- If you begin to understand how to do something, do you...
- a) get hold of it?
- b) get the hang of it?
- b) is correct. "Get the hang of something" means "understand how to do it". Next one.
- If you keep yourself informed about the latest developments, do you...
- a) keep speed of something?
- b) keep abreast of something?
- b) is correct. You "keep abreast of something" if you make sure that you know about the latest developments. OK, and now the last one.
- If you acquire knowledge or skills through experience and by making mistakes, do you...
- a) learn it the hard way?

- b) learn it the full way?
- a) is correct. If you acquire knowledge or skills through experience and by making mistakes, you "learn it the hard way".

Erin: Well done! Did you get all those idioms right? If not, go back and practise them again.

Skill Up!, no. 64, pp. 18-19

FALSE FRIENDS

David Ingram: Let's continue "skilling up" on our vocabulary. Here, we'll look at some false friends relating to the area of education. False friends are pairs of words that sound similar in German and English. But their meanings are very different, so they can cause confusion and misunderstandings. Now, in this exercise, we'd like you to translate some German words and sentences into English, being careful to avoid the false friends. Let's begin.

Perry: You use our first word for a person who completed their studies at a college or university. Please translate this word.

German: Akademiker(in)

English: college/university graduate

Ingram: You can't say "academic" here, as this is a person who teaches or does <u>research</u> at a

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research: do ~ ← forschen, Forschung betreiben

college or university. The English translation of Perry: Our next word refers to the acquisition Akademiker(in) is "college/university graduate". of knowledge, skills, values and habits. Please You can also say "person with a college/univertranslate this word sity degree". Translate this sentence, please. German: Bildung German: Er kommt aus einer Akademikerfamilie. English: education, training English: He's from a family of college gradu-Ingram: Don't say "building", as this is a structure such as a house. The German word Bildung ates. is "education" or "training" in English. Trans-He's from a family of university gradlate this sentence now liates German: Bildung sollte kostenlos sein. Perry: Our next word refers to a school for pu-English: Education should be free. pils normally between the ages of 11 and 18. Training should be free. Translate this word now Perry: Our last word is used for an institution German: Gymnasium of higher education. Translate this word now. English: secondary school, grammar school German: Hochschule (UK), high school (US) English: university, college Ingram: "Gymnasium" or "gym" would be Ingram: "High school" is wrong here because, wrong, as this is a room or hall where people do as we said earlier, it's the US word for Gymnasports. The German word Gymnasium is transsium. The English translation of Hochschule is lated as "secondary school" and, in the UK, also "university" or "college". Translate this senas "grammar school" — or as "high school" in tence. please. the US Please translate this sentence German: An welcher Hochschule haben Sie studiert? German: Das Gymnasium bekommt nächstes Jahr English: At which university did you study? eine neue Sporthalle. At which college did you study? English: The secondary school will get a new gym next year. Perry: Well done. If you found these transla-

The grammar school will get a new gym next year. tion exercises difficult, go back and try them again.

The high school will get a new gym next year.

Skill Up!, no. 64, pp. 14-15

acquisition - Erwerb

EASYENGLISH Ken Taylor on correcting mistakes

[15] Introduction

Erin Perry: Hey, David. Could I just give you some quick feedback on that talk you gave recently? You know, the one you sent me a recording of.

David Ingram: Sure, that would be great, Erin! **Perry:** Well, to be completely straight with you. David, I found it boring.

Ingram: Boring? Seriously, that's all your feedback?

Perry: No, no, there's more. The figures you presented at the beginning were not only out of date, but, well, wrong. I checked them.

Ingram: Wrong? Those were official government figures!

Perry: And the charts you had in your presentation were confusing and had too many colours in them and...

Ingram: Was there anything you liked about the presentation? I'm beginning to wish I hadn't agreed to listen to your feedback. Oh, wait a minute

Perry: Penny dropped, has it, David? You remember what our next topic is?

Ingram: Wow, I fall for this every time. Yes, I do remember: how to tell someone they have made a mistake at work without damaging the relationship. Well, I'm not sure you were very successful at that

Perry: Oh, I was, David, I was. And, yes, that is indeed the topic of Mike Hogan's latest Easy English section in Business Spotlight. Here's Ken Taylor again with some exercises and advice. And to tell the truth, David, I thought your presentation was fabulous

Ingram: Now you tell me!

[16] Exercise: Strategies E

Ken Taylor: What is the best way to correct a mistake that a colleague has made without affecting the relationship negatively? In his latest Easy English article, Mike Hogan looks at some factors you should consider. In this first exercise, you will hear some statements about correcting mistakes. In the pause after each statement, decide whether you agree or disagree with it and why. Then you will hear Mike's opinion based on his article. OK, here's the first statement

- Try to give negative feedback on a one-toone basis.
- Mike agrees. It's best if the feedback is given individually.
- Always use the "good news / bad news / good news" sandwich approach when correcting a mistake.

approach

Vorgehensweise, Methode

- Mike disagrees. This approach can sound false and <u>detract from</u> the positive things you want to say.
- Before saying what you think should be done to improve the situation, ask the other person for their ideas.
- Mike agrees. The person who made the mistake often knows what went wrong and how to do better.
- Your main focus when giving negative feedback should be on describing exactly what went wrong.
- Mike disagrees. Describe the problem simply and clearly but concentrate more on the future rather than <u>dwelling on</u> the past.
- You should be careful about giving negative feedback to someone in a group setting.
- Mike agrees. Although everyone might learn something from the mistake, there is the danger that the person receiving the feedback loses face in front of their colleagues.
- Team leaders should have zero tolerance for mistakes.
- Mike disagrees. An innovative team will always make some mistakes. The team needs to learn from them and then move on.

- It's not possible to give negative feedback in a positive way.
- Mike disagrees. When correcting a mistake, you should do it in a constructive and productive way.

Taylor: Good. Did you agree with Mike's opinions? Giving negative feedback and correcting a colleague's mistake is not an easy thing to do in a second language. In the next exercise, we'll practise some of the language you might need to do this.

[17] Exercise: Dialogue E

Ken Taylor: In his article, Mike Hogan says that when motivating people to perform better in the future, it can be helpful to think about the gap between where they are now and where they should be. Jane, a department manager, is talking to Brian, one of her staff members. There have been some hold-ups in production. These have occurred on the production line that Brian is responsible for. Brian and Jane are looking to the future. They use a particular grammatical construction to express what could be improved: "would" or "could" plus "be"

detract from sth.
 von etw. ablenken
 dwell on sth.
 sich mit etw. aufhalten

group setting hier: Gruppensitzung (setting - Rahmen) plus a positive word plus "if". First, just listen to their conversation.

Jane: Let's brainstorm some ideas on how we can improve the situation in the future.

Brian: I've been thinking about what went wrong. Maybe it would be better if we improved the <u>maintenance schedule</u>.

Jane: I agree. Also, it could be better if you <u>run a</u> <u>diagnostic</u> twice a day.

Brian: That might be possible. It takes time. But it would be easier if we had experienced staff on every <u>shift</u>.

Jane: And it would be quicker if we updated the software.

Brian: That's true. We'd need to retrain some of the team. That would be possible if we used external <u>consultants</u>.

Jane: I'll have to check the budget. It would be <u>affordable</u> if this increased our productivity.

Brian: It could indeed be higher if we do it right. **Jane**: It would be great if we avoided such <u>breakdowns</u> in the future.

Ken Taylor: OK. Now, you try. I'll give you some key words. You speak in the pause. Then you will hear Jane or Brian again. Don't worry if your answers aren't exactly the same as their comments. Just concentrate on getting the structure correct: "would" or "could" plus "be" plus a positive word plus "if". would / better / improved the maintenance schedule

Brian: Maybe it would be better if we improved the maintenance schedule.

• could / better / run a diagnostic twice a day Jane: Also, it could be better if you run a diagnostic twice a day.

 would / easier / had experienced staff / every shift

Brian: But it would be easier if we had experienced staff on every shift.

• would / quicker / updated the software Jane: And it would be quicker if we updated the software.

• would / possible / used external consultants **Brian**: That would be possible if we used external consultants.

 would / affordable / this increased our productivity

Jane: It would be affordable if this increased our productivity.

affordable: be ~ ► bezahlbar sein	maintenance schedule Wartungsplan
 breakdown Ausfall, Störung 	run a diagnostic – ein Diagnoseverfahren durchführen
consultant - Berater(in)	shift - Schicht

could / higher / do it right Brian: It could indeed be higher if we do it right.

 would / great / avoided such breakdowns in the future

Jane: It would be great if we avoided such breakdowns in the future.

Taylor: Well done! You could motivate people to perform better if you used this grammatical construction. It would be great if you did. Also, remember that if you have to correct a colleague's mistake, you should...

- 1. try to do it individually, in a one-to-one conversation.
- **2.** signal what's coming and get straight to the point.
- **3.** focus on the future, don't dwell on the past.
- **4.** and ask the other person for their ideas of what they could do better.

If you follow these steps, you will be able to both correct mistakes and maintain good working relationships.

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WORK & RELAX

In the Zone: Working with a serious illness [18] Introduction

David Ingram: OK, let's move on now to an important and serious issue that affects many people in the workplace — working when you have an illness.

Erin Perry: Yes, healthcare at work is an important topic for both employees and employers and also a very sensitive one.

Ingram: It certainly is. Working with a serious or chronic illness is the subject of this issue's In the Zone section. *Business Spotlight* editor Tenley van den Berg is here now to tell us more.

[19] Interview: Tenley van den Berg M

David Ingram: Hi, Tenley, welcome to the studio.

Tenley van den Berg: David, I think our listeners are smart enough to realize that because of the coronavirus crisis, we are not really sitting in a studio together.

Ingram: True. I'm in my home studio. Where are you?

van den Berg: Should I tell the truth? At a small desk in the corner of my bedroom.

Ingram: Well, whatever works! These certainly are strange times. With the Covid-19 crisis, illness is on many people's minds. But for some,

illness is an <u>issue</u> they have to deal with every day.

van den Berg: It is, unfortunately, and it's an important <u>topic</u> for both workers and their employers. When employees are diagnosed with an illness, there are difficult questions to answer. For example, how much are they <u>obligat-</u> <u>ed</u> to share about their <u>condition</u>? And is their employer legally required to <u>accommodate</u> their needs?

Ingram: Is it actually against the law for employees to hide a diagnosis?

van den Berg: Only if it will <u>affect</u> their performance. But, understandably, many people worry about <u>facing</u> discrimination at work, which creates a moral dilemma. Michele Hoos, who writes about health for *TheMuse.com*, says that people often choose two extremes after a diagnosis: telling everybody at work or hiding it completely. She suggests a better option would be for workers to communicate their health needs, which doesn't necessarily mean they have to <u>disclose</u> their condition.

Ingram: So, employees should focus on what they *can* do at work rather than on their limitations?

van den Berg: Exactly. Employers have legal <u>ob-</u> <u>ligations</u>, too. They have to make reasonable <u>ad-</u> <u>justments</u> for chronic illness such as allowing time off for medical appointments or changing some tasks that might become difficult for the employee. There is no fixed definition of "adjustments", however. Cost and <u>practicality</u> are often limiting factors to what an employer is able or willing to do. The National Medical <u>Council</u> estimates that half of all working adults in the US have a chronic condition. So, it is certainly in a company's — and the economy's — best interest to find ways to support employees suffering from ill health.

Ingram: Indeed. And thank you for speaking with us on this important topic, Tenley. And who knows, maybe next time we'll actually be in the same room.

van den Berg: I do hope so, David.

Business Spotlight 5/2020, pp. 70-71

accommodate sth.	face sth.
 etw. unterbringen; 	🗢 etw. gegenüberstehen
hier: auf etw. eingehen	issue ► Problem
adjustment 🗢 Anpassung	obligated: be ~ to do sth.
affect sth.	 verpflichtet sein, etw. zu tun
 etw. beeinträchtigen 	obligation
condition	 Verpflichtung
🗢 Erkrankung, Leiden	practicality - praktische
council 🗢 Rat	Anwendbarkeit/Umsetzung
disclose sth.	time off 🗢 arbeitsfreie Zeit
 etw. offenlegen 	topic 🗢 Thema

LANGUAGE TEST Taking control at work

[20] Introduction

Erin Perry: David, do you have a minute? I'd just like to ask you about...

David Ingram: Please, Erin, not now. Can't it wait until later?

Perry: Then how about having lunch together? **Ingram:** Sorry, but I just don't have the time today. There's this report I have to write for Tom, and Meg asked me for some research on audio systems. I'll never get all this finished if I ... why are you smiling?

Perry: Well, I think your problem is not only your workload — which, I have to admit, sounds enormous at the moment. It seems to me that you're not managing your time and duties effectively. But don't worry, we've got some help for you. Taking control at work is the topic of the language test in the current issue of Business Spotlight. Let's do an exercise on this now.OK?

Ingram: Great! And then have lunch together? I'm ready.

[21] Exercise: Vocabulary M

Erin Perry: In this exercise, I'll give you two terms that are useful for managing your time effectively at work and taking control of your tasks. You'll then hear a sentence with a term beeped out. In the pause, choose the correct term to complete the sentence. Then, you'll hear the right answer and an explanation. OK? Let's get started. Here's the first one.

- 1. dead ends / deadlines
- Set realistic [beep] that you will be able to keep.
- Set realistic deadlines that you will be able to keep.

A "deadline" is a point of time by which a task has to be finished. A "dead end" is a road that is closed at one end or, idiomatically, a point at which you can't make any further progress with something. OK, next one.

- 2. buffer/bumper
- Plan a [beep] for any unforeseen delays.
- Plan a buffer for any unforeseen delays.

A "buffer" is some extra time allowed for doing something. A "bumper" is a <u>bar</u> mounted at the front and back of a car to reduce the <u>impact</u> in a crash. Next one.

- 3. distractions / deviations
- Avoid any [beep] so that you can stay focused on your tasks.
- Avoid any distractions so that you can stay focused on your tasks.

bar 🗢 Stange

A "distraction" is something that takes away your concentration from what you are doing. "Deviation" refers to the difference from something that is expected. Next one.

- 4. workouts / breaks
- Take [beep] regularly and not only when you are tired.
- Take breaks regularly and not only when you are tired.

A "break" is a period of time when you stop what you're doing in order to rest. A "workout" is a period of physical exercise that people do to keep fit. OK, last one.

- 5. chunks/groups
- Divide your work into manageable [beep].
- a) Divide your work into manageable chunks.

"Chunks" are clearly defined parts or pieces of something big. And as you know, "groups" are collections of things or people.

Perry: Well done! If you didn't get all the sentences right, go back and do this exercise again. Business Spotlight 5/2020, pp. 28-32

ENGLISH ON THE MOVE Ken Taylor on working from home [22] Introduction

Erin Perry: David, how have you been finding it, working from home these past months? **David Ingram:** Well, not too bad, to be honest, Erin. I've been doing that for most of the time for a number of years now. So, I've been rather amused to watch some of my colleagues suddenly discovering the perils of working at home if you aren't properly organized.

Perry: I can imagine. Well, last time we spoke, Bob Dignen had a lot of good tips for teams who are working remotely. And now here's Ken Taylor again with some advice and exercises on how to organize your office at home so that you can work as effectively as possible.

[23] Exercise: Dialogue 📕

Ken Taylor: Many of us are working from home these days. And for those who have not worked from home previously, this can be quite a change of lifestyle. We have to set up new routines and ways of keeping in contact with each other.

Listen to this short conversation between two colleagues, Mark and Lynn, who are now working from home. They discuss how things are going and their working relationship with their boss, Jenny. Mark: How are things going?

Lynn: I had some problems at first. But it's OK once you get used to it.

Mark: I've made myself a dedicated workspace in the spare room. The only problem I have is remembering to take breaks.

Lynn: I set the alarm to take a short break every 90 minutes. I usually hit the wall if I go two hours without a break

Mark: I think I've had more contact with Jenny when working remotely than when we were in the office!

Lynn: Me, too. She likes to touch base with me every day to see how I'm getting on.

Mark: She probably thinks she needs to keep an eye on everyone.

Lynn: Especially you! But seriously, she runs our virtual stand-up meetings really well each Monday morning.

Mark: I agree. I'm all ears for her weekly update on how things are going.

[24] Exercise: Dialogue and role play

Ken Taylor: In this next exercise, we'll practise talking about working from home. Listen to this conversation between Mark and his boss. Jenny.

Jenny: Have you got everything you need? Mark: I've got the new 16-gigabyte laptop that some of us were issued last month.

Jenny: The only problem with doing all your work on a laptop is that it makes you hunch over. Have you got a good place to work?

Mark: I've made my workspace as ergonomic as possible.

Jenny: Good. How are you managing noise distractions from the rest of the household?

Mark: I've bought some noise-cancelling headphones with a built-in microphone.

Jenny: Great. They should be good for audio conferences. What do you use to keep in touch with the rest of the team?

Mark: I use the usual messaging apps with video chat possibilities.

Jenny: That's good. How about our Monday meetings?

all ears: be ~	keep an eye on sb.
🗢 ganz Ohr sein, aufmerksam	 ein Auge auf jmdn. haben
zuhören	keep in touch with sb.
dedicated	 mit jmdm. Kontakt halten
 speziell eingerichtet 	set the alarm
distraction - Ablenkung	 den Wecker stellen
get on 🗢 zurecht-,	spare room
klarkommen	🖕 Gästezimmer
go 🗢 hier: arbeiten	stand-up meeting
hit the wall - an seine	 kurzes Meeting im Stehen
Grenzen stoßen	take a break
hunch over	🗢 eine Pause machen
 sich nach vorn beugen; hier: 	touch base with sb.
in gekrümmter Haltung sitzen	🗢 zu jmdm. Kontakt
issue sth.	aufnehmen
 etw. ausgeben; 	work remotely
hier: übergeben	 nicht vom Büro aus arbeite

nicht vom Büro aus arbeiten

Mark: I'm very familiar with the virtual meeting software we use.

Jenny: Fine. It looks as though you are set up OK. Is there anything you think might be a problem in the future?

Mark: I think I may need to buy a new or better router to help with <u>Wi-Fi</u> speed.

Jenny: OK, do that and claim it as a <u>business</u> expense.

Ken Taylor: Good. Now, it's your turn. Let's go through the conversation again. This time, you play the part of Mark. First, you will hear Jenny. Then I'll remind you of what to say by giving you some key words. You speak in the pause. Then you will hear Mark's version again with a pause for you to repeat it. OK? Let's start.

Jenny: Have you got everything you need?

• New 16-gigabyte laptop. Issued last month. **Mark**: I've got the new 16-gigabyte laptop that some of us were issued last month.

Jenny: Have you got a good place to work?

Made. Workspace. Ergonomic.

Mark: I've made my workspace as ergonomic as possible.

Jenny: How are you managing noise distractions from the rest of the household?

Bought. Noise-cancelling headphones. Built-in microphone.

Mark: I've bought some noise-cancelling headphones with a built-in microphone.

Jenny: What do you use to keep in touch with the rest of the team?

 Use. Messaging apps. Video chat possibilities.

Mark: I use the usual messaging apps with video chat possibilities.

Jenny: How about our Monday meetings?

Very familiar. Virtual meeting software.

Mark: I'm very familiar with the virtual meeting software we use.

Jenny: Is there anything you think might be a problem in the future?

• Need. New, better router. Help. Wi-Fi speed. Mark: I think I may need a new or better router to help with Wi-Fi speed.

Taylor: Well done. Working from home has been given a big boost by the coronavirus pandemic. But even before this crisis, increasing numbers of people had stopped commuting and started working remotely. Thanks to videoconferencing technologies, email and texting, it's no longer necessary to be in an office fulltime to be a productive member of the team. Indeed, people are realizing that many jobs can be done from home just as effectively. Good luck with your remote working!

Business Spotlight 5/2020, p. 58

INSIGHT

Business news with Ian McMaster [25] Introduction

David Ingram: Welcome now to our Insight section, in which Business Spotlight editor-inchief Ian McMaster gives his views on the recent business news.

Erin Perry: Yes, welcome again, Ian. What are the topics that you've chosen for us this time?

Ian McMaster: First, we're going to be asking whether companies should encourage fun at work. And we'll also be looking at various different types of bonds, including eurobonds, coronabonds, junk bonds and even cat bonds. Perry: OK, as always, we're intrigued.

[26] Business news: Fun at work and different types of bonds $\underline{\underline{A}}$

Erin Perry: Ian, you said your first <u>topic</u> was about whether companies should encourage fun at work. That sounds like a <u>no-brainer</u> to me — no fun, no work, I say. But anyway, what are the arguments on either side of this debate?

Ian McMaster: Well, one of the arguments is basically the one that you just <u>put forward</u>, Erin — that people work better and are more productive if they are having fun. The argument is that, in organizations that have a culture of fun — for example with competitions, play-breaks or regular celebrations — employees will be happier, more motivated and more likely to stay. The counterargument is that there is no right to have fun at work and that employees should be motivated instead through a fair and <u>humane</u> work environment, <u>decent</u> pay for their efforts, and pride in their products and services. Anyway, you can read more about this debate in the current <u>issue</u> of Business Spotlight.

Perry: You also said you would be looking at different kinds of <u>bonds</u>, including cat bonds. Was that right? So, what, <u>kitty</u>'s trying to <u>raise</u> <u>money</u> or what's going on here?

McMaster: Ha ha, nice image! That's not quite the concept behind cat bonds, but we'll come back to them later. First, let's think about what a bond is. It is a financial instrument issued by

bond - Anleihe decent anständig, angemessen humane menschenwürdig issue - Ausgabe kitty - Kätzchen no-brainer ifml. Sache, die keiner Überlegung bedarf put sth. forward etw. vorbringen raise money Geld aufbringen, beschaffen topic Thema an organization that wants to borrow money for example a government or a company — in return for payments, normally in the form of <u>interest</u>. And such returns are combined with a certain level of risk. Typically, the higher the interest rate offered, the greater the risk that the borrowed money will not be paid back in full, if at all. For example, "junk bonds" — also called "speculative-grade bonds" or "noninvestment-grade bonds" — offer higher <u>yields</u> but have a higher risk of <u>default</u>.

Government bonds, or "sovereign bonds", on the other hand, typically offer lower interest rates, as the risk of default is lower. Even between governments, however, there are differences. For example, the Italian and Spanish governments currently have to pay more interest to borrow money than the German government.

The idea behind "eurobonds" — or "stability bonds", or what during the current crisis have also been called "coronabonds" — is that the eurozone governments should join together and <u>issue</u> combined bonds. This would allow countries such as Italy or Spain to benefit from lower common interest rates. But other countries — including Germany, Austria, Finland and the Netherlands — strictly oppose the idea of <u>pooling liability</u> for such eurobonds. And this debate will no doubt intensify. But anyway, coming back to "cat bonds" — or, to give them their full name, "catastrophe bonds" — these are really a form of <u>reinsurance</u>. They are high-interest and high-risk bonds — issued by insurance companies that pay out to the investor in full only as long as a certain insured natural disaster, such as a hurricane or earthquake, does not <u>occur</u>. And there is a particular type of catastrophe bonds known as "pandemic bonds" that only pay out to the investor in full if there isn't a pandemic. But if a pandemic does occur, as at present, then investors lose part or all of their money, which is instead used to help <u>offset</u> the costs of the pandemic.

Perry: OK. Thanks very much, Ian. We <u>look for</u>-<u>ward to</u> hearing from you again next time. **McMaster**: You're welcome!

Business Spotlight 5/2020, pp. 18-19, 49

default ← Nichtzahlung,	offset sth.
Ausfall	► etw. ausgleichen
interest - Zins(en)	pool sth.
issue (sth.) ► etw. ausgeben	 etw. sammeln; hier: gemeinsam tragen
liability	re-insurance
• Haftung	Rückversicherung
 look forward to doing sth. sich freuen, etw. zu tun 	yield ► Rendite
occur	you're welcome
sich ereignen	► gern geschehen

SHORT STORY

[27] Introduction

David Ingram: Now, it's time for our latest short story by James Schofield. And for a change, we have, well, "Romcom".

Erin Perry: Romcom? Wonderful, David — like Notting Hill, Sleepless in Seattle, Four Weddings and a Funeral and, of course, Love, Actually?

Ingram: Sort of, but with a bit of spy thriller, science fiction and lockdown thrown in for good measure.

Perry: Seriously, David? This doesn't sound good at all. Anyway, tell me, what is this rom-com called?

Ingram: Actually — to use that word again — I told you already. It's called "Romcom". Let's listen in now.

Perry: OK! I'm up for this!

[28] Romcom 🔺

The lights dim and the audience <u>goes quiet</u>. As the curtains open and the music starts for the premiere, I look at Ed from the corner of my eye to see how he's doing. Not well. Popcorn is going from <u>bucket</u> to mouth <u>on autopilot</u>.

"Jane," he whispers, "this film could destroy our careers as writers in Hollywood!"

"So what," I answer. "I'm only writing <u>scripts</u> until I can <u>break into waitressing</u>."

He laughs a little at my joke, and then his eyes go back to the screen and his hand to the popcorn. Maybe he's right, I think. Maybe this will be the last <u>screenplay</u> either of us ever writes. I mentally fasten my seat belt. This could be a <u>bumpy</u> night.

Ed and I have known of each other for a while. He does mostly <u>spy</u> thrillers with plots so complicated you have to see the film twice to understand it. I write family sagas, with people losing the love of their lives only to find them again in the last ten minutes of the film — just before one of them dies. When a studio suggested we try writing together, it sounded interesting.

"But not a <u>romcom</u>," I tell him. "I don't do <u>ban-</u> <u>ter</u>. It must be something serious."

Ed nods. "I agree. All that gender-war, jokey dialogue between the romantic characters is <u>awful</u>."

So, the studio rents us a house near the beach for two weeks, fills it with food and drink, and we set up our laptops opposite each other.

romcom ij
 romant
screenpla Drehbu
script ► Filmma
spy ► Spion(ii
 waitressin als Kellr

romcom ifml. • romantische Komödie screenplay • Drehbuch script • Filmmanuskript, Drehbuch spy • Spion(in); hier: Spionagewaitressing • als Kellnerin arbeiten We sit there on the first morning, waiting.

"I have an idea for...," we say at the same time, then both stop.

"You first," I say.

"Okay," he agrees, which <u>annoys</u> me.

"I have this idea for a sci-fi detective story. Very Bogart, very <u>film noir</u>, but <u>set</u> in another galaxy: 'A murder in a high-security prison colony brings Special Agent Logan Fist to the planet Krickin..."

I interrupt. "It sounds like a fast-food chicken restaurant run by Jedi <u>knights</u>."

He looks hurt. "I thought it would be fun to try something new. What's your idea then?"

"Okay: famous classical pianist Anton Dropski hears a beautiful young woman playing a piano at a train station and falls in love with..."

I stop. Ed's head is on his keyboard, and he's fake snoring.

"Oh, I'm sorry," he says. "I must have <u>dropped</u> <u>offski</u>. Let me guess: they lose each other, but he finds her again in the last ten minutes of the film while taking part in an international piano competition where he's one of the judges. Am I right?"

I feel hurt. "Well, yes. But he's also got a brain tumour and is dying. You didn't get that, genius!"

We glare at each other over our screens.

"I'll work on the veranda," I say. "Have fun with Special Agent Fist."

Over the next ten days, we make no progress on a joint script. One morning, we try mixing our stories, but this is all I manage to write: "Keys to the Heart: Special Agent Fist travels to the planet Krickin, only to find that his long-lost love, Vera Steptanz, has been imprisoned by <u>Commander</u> Dropski. Only by winning a pan-galactic piano competition can he hope to save her."

While Ed produces: "The <u>Lockdown</u>: Anton Dropski, evil spy-master for the Krickin Empire, forces the beautiful pianist Vera Steptanz to steal the plans for a time machine from Special Agent Fist. Can Fist rescue the plans and Vera before the universe is destroyed?"

That evening, we drink too much and start writing imaginary film <u>reviews</u>: "However many films you see in 2021, make sure NONE of them is Keys to the Heart," suggests Ed.

annoy sb.	glare at sb.
 jmdn. (ver)ärgern 	🝷 jmdn. zornig anstarren
commander	knight 🗢 Ritter
 Kommandant(in) 	lockdown
drop offski ← Wortschöp- fung in Anspielung auf "Dropski"	 Abriegelung, (Sicherheits-) Sperre; auch: Ausgangssperre
(drop off - einnicken)	review
 fake snore so tun, als ob man schnarcht 	 Rezension, Kritik set: be ~ (in a place)
film noir	 (an einem Ort) spielen
 wörtl.: schwarzer Film (Gen- 	· · · ·
re zynischer Kriminalfilme, das in	
den 1940er und 1950er Jahren in	

den USA entstand)

24

"The Lockdown does for love stories what Jaws did for swimming in the ocean," I propose.

But then, probably thanks to the alcohol, something happens that night. The <u>block</u> is gone, and in only two days, we manage to produce a script to send to the studio.

We're surprised when the bosses love it and production starts. But the real test of a film is always the first-night reviews. And so, completely terrified, we sit through the film premiere of Lock Down Your Heart.

The next morning, I wake up early. The audience enjoyed themselves last night, but what do the reviews say? I pull out my mobile phone and am about to read the review by Harrison Whittle, film critic for *The Washington Times*, when it rings.

"Read the reviews for me," Ed begs. "I can't do it myself."

I <u>skim</u> the article, and I can't resist <u>teasing</u> Ed.

"Hmm," I say, slowly. "On the positive side, he loves the actors."

"Well, that's good. What's on the negative side?"

"Let's see: 'However, the performance of Boris Tupov as Anton Dropski is...,'" I sneeze. "Hold on a second; I have to get a <u>tissue</u>."

I get one and <u>blow my nose</u> loudly for about two minutes. "Where was I?… 'The performance of Boris Tupov is…'" "IS WHAT?" screams Ed.

"... is extraordinary.""

"How does he mean that?" asks Ed in a voice so <u>pathetic</u> I take pity and read him the whole article. Whittle loves the film, loves the stars and, most of all, loves the writing. It's brought the classic romcom <u>formula</u> into the 21st century, he says. How could two writers best known for <u>cheesy</u> thrillers and melodramas write something so sophisticated and witty, he wonders?

You just need enough wine and some of your own romcom, I think to myself. Ed is now dancing around the kitchen and singing.

"That's enough," I shout through the house. I hang up the phone. "And bring me some tea — we can look at the rest together in bed."

Oh, yes, you read that right. Ed was dancing around my kitchen. As always, he had been too lazy to come speak to me.

"And then ... maybe a little bit of romcom?" he asks as he sets the breakfast tray on the bed.

"I suppose so," I answer. "But no banter, all right?"

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block 🗢 Blockade	
blow one's nose	
► sich schnäuzen	
cheesy ifml. schlecht (gemacht), kitschig	
formula Formel; hier: Strickmuster	
aws ► Der weiße Hai (jaw ► Kiefer)	

pathetic • bedauernswert, Miteid erregend skim sth. • etw. überfliegen tease sb. • jmdn. aufziehen, hänseln tissue • (Papier-) Taschentuch

CONCLUSION [29] For more information

David Ingram: Well, we've come to the end of Business Spotlight Audio 5/2020. We hope you've enjoyed it and have found our exercises helpful. Erin Perry: As an alternative to the CD, we also offer Business Spotlight Audio as a subscription download, so you can take the sound of business with you wherever you go. For more information, or to find out about our range of products, visit our website at www.businessspotlight.de.

Ingram: Yes, and on our website, you'll find details about Business Spotlight express, our 15-minute audio vocabulary trainer, produced twice a month to help you to boost your word power for the world of work. So, until next time, this is David Ingram...

Perry: And Erin Perry...

Ingram: Wishing you success with your business English.

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