

Please date my dad



‘So, how was the date?’

You probably think this is a parent asking the question to their child. But many children are now helping their single parents find love, too.

Clint Bouchez, a 52-year-old businessman from Reigate, Surrey, got divorced ten years ago. His daughter, 26-year-old Charlotte, doesn't want her dad to end up alone – her mum remarried five years ago, and Charlotte has a boyfriend.

Charlotte and Clint are very close. They often go out together in the evening, they're planning a trip to India for later in the year, and they're both Bruce Springsteen fans. But Charlotte thinks that Clint needs a new partner, and he agrees.



‘My dad is the perfect man,’ she says. ‘He’s warm, he’s generous, he knows how to look after a woman, how to treat a woman. He’s a gentleman. He’s always the one who pays on dates. He’s romantic and he’s **fun**. I don’t mind spending Friday and Saturday nights with my dad and that says a lot – I’m only 26.’

Dating in the 21st century is very different from when Clint was young. Internet dating has changed everything. ‘It’s difficult now just to walk over to a woman and ask her “Can I buy you a drink?”’ he says. ‘Before, when you met people face to face, there was sometimes a ‘spark’, a feeling of romantic destiny – you don’t get that from someone’s profile picture.’

Charlotte wrote Clint’s dating profile for an online dating website. Clint would like to meet a woman who works, preferably a businesswoman. Someone who’s independent, but **funny** and clever. He has had several dates, but none of the women were right for him. He and Charlotte are still looking. ‘I’m always hopeful,’ he says. ‘I really believe that sooner or later I’m going to find “the one”.’

Adapted from the British press

Passport, tickets, money, phone



It's the mantra we always say to ourselves when we go on holiday to make sure we haven't forgotten anything. But what happens when one of those things is suddenly missing? Email us your stories or send us a recording...

Last year, I went on holiday to the Alps with a group of friends. One day, we climbed a mountain – well, it wasn't really a climb, but it was a long walk – and it took about two hours to get to the top. When we got there, we had lunch. The view was amazing – we could see the sea in the distance. We took photos and just sat in the sun for a while.

Then we went down again, and when we got back to the car, I wanted to take another photo, but I couldn't find my phone – it wasn't in my bag. I thought 'Oh no! It's probably at the top of the mountain, where we had lunch.' I decided the only thing to do was to go back up the mountain to get it, because I didn't want to leave my phone up there. My friends said 'OK, but you can't go on your own', so in the end we all went up again, which was another two hours.



When we got to the top we spent about half an hour looking for the phone, but we couldn't find it anywhere. Then it started to get colder – it was now late afternoon – so I took my jacket out of my bag, and... my phone was in my jacket pocket!

I felt terrible, and really stupid! My friends were very nice about it, but they never let me forget it!

Stuart, from Exeter, UK

The Guardian newspaper has a weekly feature called That's me in the picture, where people describe famous photos they were in. This photo was sent in by Jane Rangeley.

In 1972, I was living in London. I was in my early twenties, and I was working for an advertising agency. That summer, I went on a camping holiday with my parents in the south of France. One night, I went to a nightclub on the beach and I met a young Frenchman, and we fell in love. When I got home, I immediately started looking for a job in Paris. He was at university there – he was studying medicine. In the end, I found a job as a secretary with UNESCO, and I went to live there.



We lived together for six years. On Sundays, we often went for a walk, and one of our favourite places was the botanical gardens. It had a zoo, and I often put some bread in my pocket to give to the animals. We were walking in the gardens one Sunday in autumn when we stopped because a lot of noise was coming from one of the trees. There was an owl there, maybe escaped from the zoo, and some little birds were attacking it. I also noticed a man with a camera. When we started walking again, I said ‘Why was that man taking photographs of us?’.

I now know that Cartier-Bresson often waited in parks in Paris for the perfect photo opportunity. The following year, one of my boyfriend’s friends saw the photo in a magazine. Before I returned to London, I phoned the magazine and I got Cartier-Bresson’s phone number. I was very shy, but I called him. He was very friendly, and he sent me a copy. Years later I met him and he signed the photo for me.

I love this picture. It was a happy time for me. And although my French boyfriend and I broke up in the end, we’re still in touch.

Adapted from the British press

Hannah met Jamie last summer. It was Hannah's birthday and she and her friends went to a club. They wanted to dance, but they didn't like the music, so Hannah went to speak to the DJ. 'This music is awful,' she said. 'Could you play something else?' The DJ looked at her and said, 'Don't worry, I have the perfect song for you.'

(1) **Two minutes later** _____ he said, 'The next song is by Pink. It's called **Get the Party Started** and it's for a beautiful girl over there who's wearing a pink dress.' Hannah knew that he was playing the song for her.

(2) _____ Hannah and her friends left the club, the DJ was waiting for her at the door. 'Hi, I'm Jamie,' he said to Hannah. 'Can I see you again?' So Hannah gave him her phone number.

(3) _____ Jamie phoned Hannah and invited her to dinner. He took her to a very romantic French restaurant and they talked all evening. Although the food wasn't very good, they had a great time.

(4) _____ Jamie and Hannah saw each other every day. Every evening when Hannah finished work they met at 5.30 in a coffee bar in the high street. They were madly in love.

(5) _____ Hannah was at work. As usual she was going to meet Jamie at 5.30. It was dark and it was raining. She looked at her watch. It was 5.20! She was going to be late! She ran to her car and got in.

At 5.25 she was driving along the high street. She was going very fast because she was in a hurry.

(6) _____, a man ran across the road. He was wearing a dark coat, so Hannah didn't see him at first. Quickly, she put her foot on the brake...

No more boring stopovers – go on a guided tour!

Few things are more depressing than spending hours in an airport terminal waiting for a connecting flight.



Emmanuel Rozenblum and Anna Veyrenc launched their business in Paris

There you are, sitting in the departure lounge watching the clock, or (1) . And the most frustrating thing is that outside the airport there is a foreign city which you'd really like to look around, full of great tourist attractions, restaurants, and shops. But you don't want to leave the airport, because (2) , and will miss your flight.

Frenchman Emmanuel Rozenblum and his sister were on a stopover at Warsaw's main airport three years ago. But (3) , so they decided to go into town.

'We left the airport on our own,' says Mr Rozenblum, 'but we didn't know which bus to take, and (4) .



They caught their flight, and (5) [redacted].
Millions of air travellers make stopovers every year, so Emmanuel thought he could organize short guided trips into the nearest city or countryside.

His idea is that a guide picks up the travellers at the airport, takes them quickly around the sights and to a restaurant, and then (6) [redacted].

In March 2015, he and business partner Anna Veyrenc started their 'stopover tours' business, called TripAside, in Paris. (7) [redacted], and today it has expanded to Frankfurt, London, Brussels, Rome, and Madrid. Now other small companies are offering similar tours worldwide, from Beijing to Moscow. So, next time you have a long stopover between flights, (8) [redacted] – book a tour!

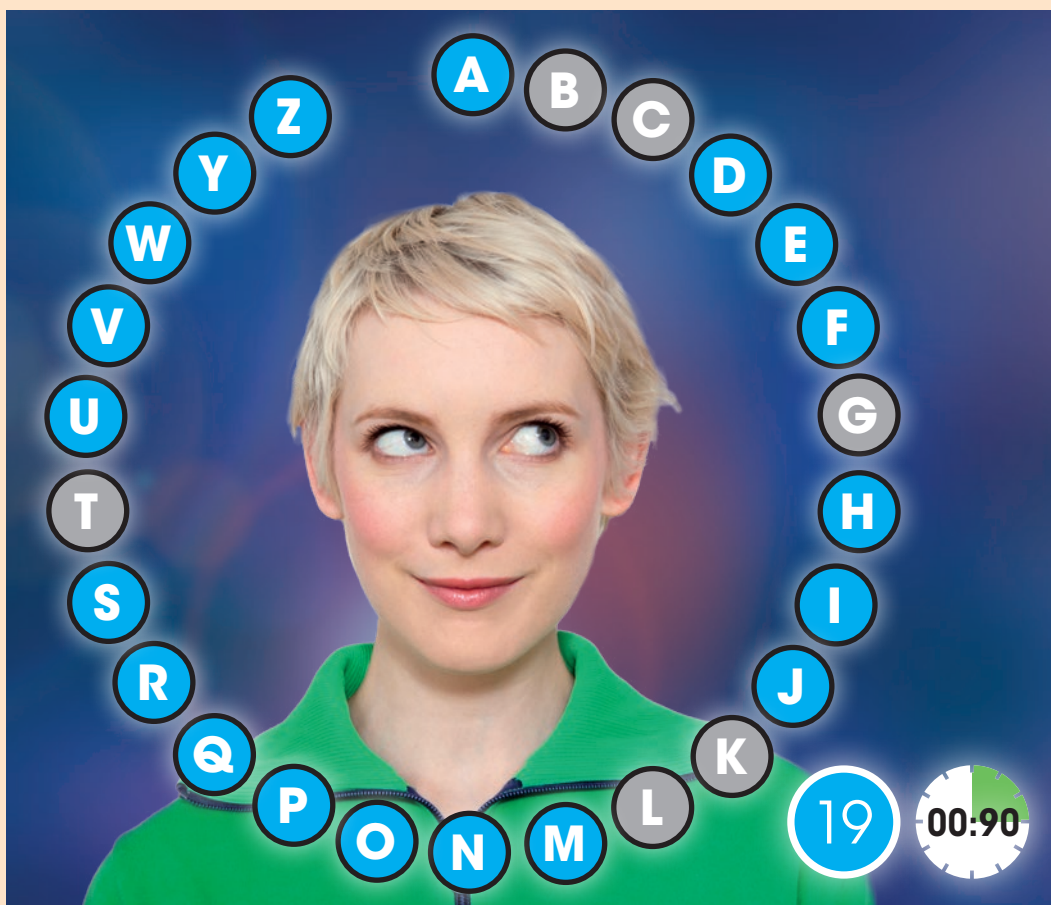
Adapted from the British press

A to Z

In this game there is a wheel with 25 letters of the alphabet (not including 'X'). The aim of the game is to complete the alphabet wheel by saying the correct word for each letter in five minutes. The presenter gives the contestant definitions for words starting with the letters, for example, 'A – the place where you catch a plane' = 'Airport'.

To start the game the presenter reads a definition for a word which begins with A and the contestant has to quickly say the word. If the contestant can't think of the word, he or she says 'Pass'. When a contestant passes or gets a word wrong, the presenter goes on to the next letter.

The presenter continues round the wheel to Z, then starts from the beginning again. The presenter repeats the definitions that the contestant passed on or got wrong, until five minutes is up. If a contestant gets all 25 words right, he or she wins the prize.



1 Doing _____ is as good as going to the gym

Doing exercise for 30 minutes a day is good for your health, a new Canadian study has found. The study looked at 130,000 people in 17 countries. Only 3% of the people did 30 minutes of sport a day, like running or swimming. But the researchers found that you don't need to do sport or go to the gym – any form of physical activity is good for you, including housework. Activities like doing the cleaning are really good exercise, so you can stay healthy and have a clean house at the same time.

Adapted from the British press

2 New Spanish law: children must help their parents with _____

Is it a battle to get your kids to help with housework? Think about moving to live in Spain, where the government has decided that children under the age of 18, both boys and girls, have an obligation to 'participate in family life' – and that includes doing housework. However, they don't say what happens to children who say no when their parents ask them to do something.

Adapted from the British press

Your comments

- A** Maybe housework is good exercise, but sport is more fun.
- B** My children all do housework – I don't need the government's help.
- C** Great idea. More countries need to do this.
- D** This can't be true. 30 minutes of cleaning and 30 minutes of running are not the same thing.
- E** Nice idea, but impossible in real life.
- F** I hate exercise, but I also hate housework. What can I do?

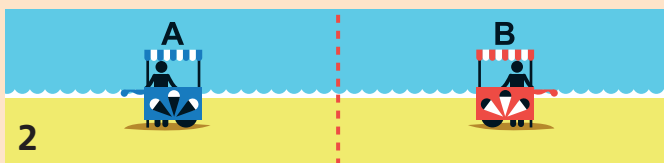
The story of the ice cream sellers

Have you ever noticed that you often find the same kinds of shops together in the same street? Why are they together? Economics gives us one explanation...

Imagine a beach a kilometre long, full of sunbathers. The sun is shining, the sea is warm. An ice cream seller called George arrives. Where does he put his ice cream cart? Obviously, (1) , where the sunbathers can easily walk to him and buy an ice cream.



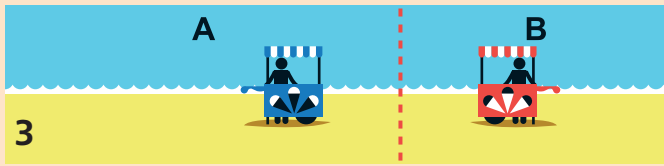
Later that day, a second ice cream seller, Georgina, arrives. George and Georgina talk for a while and decide that the best solution is this: (2) , and they each put their ice cream cart in the middle of their half.



In zone A of the beach the customers go to George, and in zone B they go to Georgina. This is good for the customers, because nobody needs to walk more than 250 metres for an ice cream.

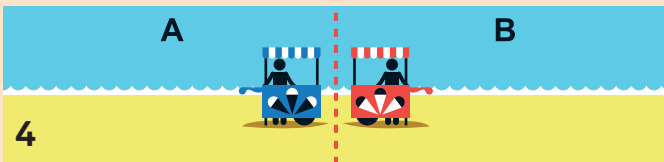


But George isn't happy – he only has 50% of the customers that he had before. So (3) .



Zone A is now bigger than zone B, and George has more customers and makes more money, but some of his customers need to walk 500 metres to get their ice cream.

Of course, Georgina sees what George has done, and now she isn't happy – she's going to lose money. So (4) , and gets 50% of the customers again.



The result is this:

- George and Georgina end up next to each other.
- They both get 50% of the customers.
- More customers need to walk further for an ice cream.

So what's good for businesses isn't always good for customers.

A boring weekend? Don't tell anybody!

A new survey has shown that 20% of British people tell lies about their weekend on social media.

The survey, by a travel website, shows that people invent stories to make their lives appear more interesting than they really are. Psychologist Judi James, one of the organizers of the survey, said, 'When some people read their friends' posts and see their photos on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, they begin to feel jealous of them. They think that their friends are having a much more exciting life. So they invent details about their own weekend.'

One of the main reasons people give for inventing these stories is to have something to talk about on Monday morning at work or at school. This is because they don't want other people to think that they have a **boring** life. The most popular lies people tell are that they went to a party or went away for the weekend, and 3% of people even put on fake tan on Sunday night to make their colleagues think they've had a weekend away in the sun. One person in ten invents a romantic break with their partner.

People aged 18 to 24 are the ones who most often tell lies on social media and men lie more often than women. Only 20% of people interviewed said that they always told the truth in posts.

Judi James said: 'Social media is becoming increasingly important in our lives, and it seems we're living one life online and another in reality.'



So when you are feeling jealous on a Saturday night because your best friend is having a romantic dinner with her boyfriend in Venice, stop and ask yourself, 'Is she really there, or is she just sitting at home feeling **bored** like me?'

Adapted from the British press

I want it, and I want it now! Why are we so impatient?

Tuesday 22 Oct 6:00 am

Whatever happened to patience? We don't like waiting for things anymore. With faster broadband, instant searches, and immediate downloads, we expect things to happen immediately, and if they don't we get impatient.

Fast food restaurants have changed the way we eat. The growth of mobile phone apps like Tinder has changed the way we meet new people. We don't need to wait a week to see the next episode of a TV series – we can download it on Netflix. We are even walking 10% faster than 20 years ago, and talking more quickly. Everything is getting faster, but is it getting better? That depends on how fast you like to live.

More than **125m** Google searches are made every hour.

50% of users leave a web page that doesn't load in ten seconds. Three out of five people don't return to that site.

1/3 of British people expect a 'like' on a Facebook picture in less than a minute after posting it.

The average British person is only prepared to wait **4** minutes to get a drink in a bar...

...and **6** minutes for a bus.

British people's most hated time-wasting activities are (in order):

- 1 waiting to be connected on the phone
- 2 waiting for a replacement credit card
- 3 waiting for a shopping delivery
- 4 waiting for a delayed flight
- 5 being stuck in traffic

Adapted from the British Press

Are they really good and bad?

How do we know what to believe when doctors give us advice about what to drink and what not to drink? Every week, it seems, a scientific study contradicts last week's research. Jeremy Laurance reviews the latest medical research into drinks.

Alcohol

Good: For the **heart**, in small amounts, according to some studies. Two small glasses of red wine a day can cut the risk of heart attack by 30%, especially for middle-aged men.



Bad: For the **liver**. Liver disease is increasing. Some studies also say that one drink a day increases a woman's risk of all types of cancer by 6%. Other recent studies suggest that no alcohol at all is the ideal for both men and women.

Coffee

Good: Coffee contains caffeine, which is a stimulant drug, and millions of people drink coffee every day. It improves short-term memory, makes your **muscles** stronger, keeps you awake, and tastes delicious.



Bad: It's sometimes connected with heart disease, arthritis, and high **blood** pressure.

Juice

Good: For people who don't like fruit and prefer to have it as juice.

Bad: For **teeth**, especially orange juice which contains a lot of acid. Juice also has a lot of natural sugar, so drinking a lot can add to weight problems.



Milk

Good: For very young children, who need the calcium for their bones.

Bad: For adults and older children. They don't need the extra calcium, and high fat foods like full-fat milk, butter, and cheese can cause heart disease.



Tea

Good: Black tea cuts the risk of heart disease. It also reduces stress, makes you more alert, and may help the immune system and prevent diabetes.

Bad: If you add milk, the good effects of tea disappear. Sugar makes it worse.



Water

Good: We can't live without it, but how much is enough? Typical advice is that you need 2.5 litres a day, but that includes liquid you get from other drinks and from food.

Bad: Too much water can cause problems, e.g. low salt levels. A few people have actually died from drinking too much water.



Why negative thinking can be positive

Everybody thinks that it's better to be an optimist than a pessimist (even pessimists think it, of course). People always say 'Cheer up. Don't worry, be happy. Smile.' But in fact there's a kind of pessimism – called 'defensive pessimism' – that can lead to very positive results, according to Julie K. Norem, a professor of psychology at Wellesley College, Massachusetts. 'Defensive pessimism is a strategy used in specific situations to manage anxiety, fear, and worry,' says Norem. Studies show that 30 to 35 per cent of Americans use it to help them in their lives, and they're often very successful people.

Defensive pessimists think about future situations and prepare for them by imagining all the things that can go wrong. For example, if a defensive pessimist has an important exam, they think this:



Then they look at each possible problem and plan how to avoid it. So for the exam situation, they go to bed early and have a good night's sleep; they find out in advance exactly where the exam is; they eat a good breakfast, and take lots of pens and pencils, and a bottle of water; and they leave home early. That puts them in control, and it means that the exam will be better than for an optimist, who just thinks 'Oh, everything will be fine!' Because sometimes everything goes wrong, and it's good to be prepared.

Adapted from a US website

‘I’ll never forget you’



Steve Smith from Devon in the UK met Carmen Ruiz-Perez from Spain (1) _____, when they were both in their twenties. Carmen was studying English at a language school in Torbay, where Steve lived.

They fell in love and decided to get married. But (2) _____ the engagement, Carmen moved to France to work, and the long-distance relationship first cooled and then ended.

Steve tried to get in touch with Carmen again (3) _____, but she had changed her address in Paris. So he sent a letter to her mother’s address in Spain. In the letter he asked her if she was married and if she ever thought of him or of coming back to England. He gave her his phone number and asked her to get in touch. But Carmen’s mother didn’t send the letter to her daughter and it fell down behind the fireplace, where it stayed (4) _____.

Adapted from the British Press

How to survive your first day in a new office

Everybody gets nervous on their first day at any job, but these tips can help you to get it right...

6.30

Wake up early, have breakfast, wash, and get dressed. Wear smart work clothes, but not too smart. Check the weather forecast to make sure your clothes are right, and if you're driving, check traffic reports to see if there are any problems.

Top Tip: (1)

8.50

Plan to arrive at least ten minutes early, but not more than 20 – you don't want to look too enthusiastic. Say hello to people, smile, and use this time to ask questions.

Top Tip: (2) If you can't, admit it and say 'Sorry, I've forgotten your name.'

11.00

Offer to make coffee or to bring water for your colleagues.

Top Tip: (3) If it's very bad, people will always remember it. If it's very good, they'll always ask you to make it.



12.00

Don't be the first person to ask about lunch. Wait to see what everybody else does.

Top Tip: (4)

13.00

Be prepared to have problems. Many bosses give new employees some difficult work on their first day to see how they manage.

Top Tip: (5) If you can't, don't be afraid to ask for help.

15.00

If you go to a meeting, listen, keep quiet and take notes.

Top Tip: (6) You don't want to annoy other people on day one.

17.00

Don't think that staying late will impress your boss. It won't, at least not on your first day. Go home.

Top Tip: (7) If you made any mistakes, make sure you don't make them again tomorrow.

Adapted from a website

Are the British really so bad at learning languages?



- 1** That's been true for a long time. In any city around the world you can hear British tourists asking for the restaurant menu in English. Sometimes they try to say a couple of phrases in the local language, but they stop making an effort as soon as they discover that the waiter knows a little English. Some British people who live abroad often spend all their time with other Brits, and never learn the language at all.
- 2** Many British people think 'I don't have to learn a foreign language because everyone speaks English nowadays'. This is partly true. In many multinational companies, for example, employees have to speak English as it is the company's official language of communication.
- 3** Children only have to learn a language until they are 14. After that, they don't have to continue if they don't want to. Thirty per cent of young people say that they don't want to carry on with a foreign language because 'it's too difficult'.



- 4 A newspaper decided to find out by sending Max, one of its journalists, on an intensive language course. He then had to go to the country and do some 'tests' to see if he could 'survive' in different situations.
- 5 'I'd like to visit Spain and Latin America in the future. If I go, I don't want to be the typical Brit who expects everyone else to speak English.' He did a one-month intensive course at a language school in London.
- 6 When his course finished he went to Madrid for the weekend to do his tests. A teacher called Paula met him there and gave him a mark out of ten for each test and then a final mark for everything.

Adapted from the British press

Dear Graham,

I'm 24 and my partner is 46. We've been together for two years, and we have a wonderful relationship. I also have a great relationship with his children from his previous marriage. But I feel worried when I think about our future together. He has already lived life. He's been married, he's had children, and he's owned a business. I'm just starting my life. I want to have children, but he's not sure. I love him and I want to be with him, but I also want to share the adventures of life with someone. Should I leave him? Am I making my life more difficult by choosing to be with someone who's more than 20 years older than me?

Tracey



What should Tracey do?

- a** She should leave him and find somebody who is nearer her age and shares her interests.
- b** She should think hard about what kind of man she really wants to be with before making a decision.
- c** She should stay with him if she loves him. Being with an older man has advantages as well as disadvantages.

Adapted from the British Press

If something can go wrong ...

If you're in a queue at the supermarket and you change to another queue which is moving more quickly, what will happen? The queue you were in before will suddenly start moving faster. What will happen if you take your umbrella because you think it's going to rain later? It won't rain, of course. It will only rain if you forget to take your umbrella. These are examples of Murphy's Law, which says, 'If there is something that can go wrong, it will go wrong'.

Murphy's Law took its name from Captain Edward Murphy, an American aerospace engineer from the 1940s. He was trying to improve safety for pilots flying military planes. Not surprisingly, he got a reputation for always thinking of the worst thing that could happen in every situation. Here are some more examples of Murphy's Law.

Shopping

- 1 If you lose a glove and buy a new pair,...
- 2 If you order something online,...

Transport

- 3 If you stop waiting for a bus and start walking,...
- 4 If you're in a taxi and you're late for something important,...

Technology

- 5 If a technician comes to fix your computer,...
- 6 If you need to print a document urgently,...

Air travel

- 7 If you get to the airport early,...
- 8 If you're late for your flight,...

Girl – O. Henry

Part 1

“I’ve found where she lives,” said the detective quietly. “Here is the address.”

Hartley took the piece of paper. On it were the words “Vivienne Arlington, No. 341 East 49th Street.”

“She moved there a week ago,” said the detective. “I can follow her if you want. It will only cost you \$7 a day and expenses...”

“No, thank you,” interrupted Hartley. “I only wanted the address. How much is it?”

“One day’s work,” said the detective. “Ten dollars.”

Hartley paid the man. Then he left his office and took a tram to Broadway. After walking a short distance he arrived at the building that he was looking for. He went up the stairs, into her apartment, and saw her standing by the window.

Vivienne was about twenty-one. Her hair was red gold, and her eyes were sea-blue. She was wearing a white top and a dark skirt.

“Vivienne,” said Hartley angrily, “you didn’t answer my last letter. It took me a week to find your new address! Why didn’t you answer me? You knew I was waiting to see you and hear from you.”



Part 2

The girl looked out the window dreamily.

“Mr Hartley,” she said slowly, “I don’t know what to say to you. I understand all the advantages of your offer, and sometimes I feel sure that I could be happy with you. But, then sometimes I am less sure. I was born a city girl, and I am not sure that I would enjoy living a quiet life in the suburbs.”

“My dear girl,” said Hartley, “You will have everything that you want. You can come to the city for the theatre, for shopping, and to visit your friends as often as you want. You can trust me, can’t you?”

“I can trust you completely,” she said, smiling at him. “I know you are the kindest of men, and that the girl who you get will be very lucky. I heard all about you when I was at the Montgomerys’.”

“Ah!” exclaimed Hartley, “I remember so well the evening I first saw you at the Montgomerys’. I will never forget that dinner. Come on, Vivienne, promise me. I want you. Nobody else will ever give you such a happy home.”

Vivienne didn’t answer. Suddenly Hartley was suspicious. “Tell me, Vivienne, is there,” he asked, “is there – is there someone else?”

“You shouldn’t ask that, Mr. Hartley,” she said. “But I will tell you. There is one other person – but I haven’t promised him anything.”

“Vivienne,” said Hartley masterfully, “You must be mine.”

Vivienne looked him in the eye.

“Do you think for one moment,” she said calmly, “that I could come to your home while Héloïse is there?”



advantage n a positive thing

suburb n an area where people live outside the centre of the city

trust v believe that somebody is good, honest, etc.

suspicious adj feeling that somebody has done something wrong

masterfully adv in a dominant way

Would you know what to do?

We all love seeing animals on TV and in zoos, but some animals can be dangerous. If you met one in real life, would you know the right thing to do? Read about some common and some less common situations and decide what you would do.

In the city

- 1** What would you do...if a large, aggressive [] ran towards you?
 - a I would **shout** 'down' at it several times.
 - b I would put my hands in my pockets and walk slowly backwards.
 - c I would **keep** completely **still** and look in its eyes.

- 2** What would you do...if you were driving and a [] or [] flew into the car?
 - a I would open all the windows and wait for it to fly out.
 - b I would try to kill it with a map or a newspaper.
 - c I would **wave** my hand to make it go out.

In the country

- 3** What would you do...if a poisonous [] bit you on the leg, and you were more than 30 minutes from the nearest town?
 - a I would put something very cold on it, like a water bottle.
 - b I would **suck** the bite to get the poison out.
 - c I would **tie** something, e.g. a scarf, on my leg above the bite.



4 What would you do...if you were walking a dog on a lead and some [] started moving towards you?

- a I would let the dog run free.
- b I would pick the dog up in my arms.
- c I would shout and wave my arms.

In the water

5 What would you do...if you were in the sea and a [] stung you?

- a I would **rub** the sting with a towel to clean it.
- b I would wash the sting with fresh water.
- c I would wash the sting with vinegar or sea water.

6 What would you do...if you were in the sea quite near the shore and you saw a []?

- a I would swim to the shore as quickly and quietly as possible.
- b I would **float** and pretend to be dead.
- c I would shout for help.



Fearof.net

Fear of butterflies **Fear of crowds**
Fear of doctors **Fear of driving** **Fear of heights**

(1)

Some people with this phobia find it difficult to pass the test. Others are anxious on motorways or certain roads. In extreme cases, people are afraid of being a passenger in a vehicle. **Comment**

(2)

People say that actress Nicole Kidman **suffers from** this phobia. It is closely linked to a general **fear** of insects. People with this phobia are afraid of most insects with wings, and they feel nauseous or they **panic** if they see them.

Comment

(3)

This phobia is quite common in young children, but adults suffer from it, too. Many are especially afraid of having vaccinations or blood tests. **Comment**

(4)

This fear affects nearly one in every 20 adults. People with this phobia usually avoid tall buildings, skiing, or standing on balconies. **Comment**



(5)

This phobia affects many people, but women more than men. These people feel very anxious or **scared** if they are in a noisy place where there are a lot of people, for example a shopping mall or a sports stadium. They often avoid these kinds of places. **Comment**

- A** I am so scared that I haven't been to see one for more than 15 years. I hate thinking about them! I feel the same way about dentists, too. **Carl**
- B** I have a fear of going over bridges, and on motorways at over 60 mph. I'm OK at 45 mph. I once went over a bridge and I had to stop in the middle – I was really **frightened**. I haven't driven that way since then, and that was seven years ago. **Becky**
- C** I thought I was the only person that had this fear! I'm OK with the small ones, but I'm **terrified** of the big ones. I'm OK if they aren't close to me, but as soon as they start flying near me I run away. I like looking at pictures of them because they can be beautiful, but if they fly towards me, especially towards my face, I panic. **Mina**
- D** I suffer from this phobia, and what works best for me, if I know that I'm going to be in a situation where there'll be a lot of people, is to arrive early. Then other people arrive little by little, and that helps me. The worst thing is walking into a place that is already full of people. **Simon**
- E** I've had this phobia for about 20 years. It started when I was a child, about six I think. I had a bad dream where I was in a block of flats high up on a hill and I nearly fell out of the window. I woke up and started crying. I haven't been to any really high places since then. Even if I imagine I'm in a high place, I feel **dizzy**. **Keith**



Like mother, like daughter

Janet Leigh (1927–2004) was one of film director Alfred Hitchcock's favourite actresses, and was in more than 50 films and many TV series. Her daughter **Jamie Lee Curtis (1958–)** is also a successful actress.

- 1 She had two children from her third marriage to actor Tony Curtis. The marriage lasted 11 years. She then married again, and this marriage lasted for the rest of her life.
- 2 She has been in many different kinds of films, including the comedies **Trading Places**, **A Fish Called Wanda**, and **True Lies**, for which she won a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy. She has also starred in the comedy-horror TV series **Scream Queens**. In one episode she recreated the famous scream from **Psycho**.



- 3 She has been married for more than 20 years to actor, screenwriter, and director Christopher Guest. She became Lady Haden-Guest when her husband became Baron Haden-Guest after the death of his father.
- 4 She was married four times. At the age of 15 (pretending to be 18) she married 18-year-old John Kenneth. They got divorced four months later.
- 5 She has written several bestselling children's books. She says she finds the inspiration for her writing all around her – in the experiences of her children, her godchildren (one is actor Jake Gyllenhaal), her friends, and of course in her own life.
- 6 She is a fan of **World of Warcraft**, and has been to events such as ComicCon and BlizzCon.
- 7 Her most famous role was the victim in **Psycho**, for which she won the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress and received an Oscar nomination. However she was traumatized by the iconic shower scene, and for the rest of her life she never had showers, only baths.
- 8 She is close friends with actress Sigourney Weaver. In an interview, she admitted that she has never watched Weaver's film **Alien** the whole way through because she was too scared.
- 9 She was in five films, including **Houdini**, with Tony Curtis, and also starred opposite Frank Sinatra and Paul Newman.
- 10 She wrote four books. The first, the memoir **There really was a Hollywood**, became a **New York Times** bestseller.



A002820

Why aren't women's sports as popular as men's?

Send us your thoughts

A I actually prefer watching women's tennis. Men usually hit the ball so hard, especially when they **serve**, that their **opponent** can't **return** it, so it's less exciting to watch.

RichSmith 12:22

B I think we should open up men's football to women. Then we could compare, person to person, how well each player performs, and teams could be made up of the best players, both men and women. That's true of most **team** sports, actually.

WayneKeys 12:27

C Women's sports that are identical to men's sports – football and basketball, for example – will never be as popular as men's, because men are faster, stronger and more athletic. On the other hand, sports that highlight the strengths of female **athletes** – tennis, gymnastics, **ice skating** – are popular. But it's interesting that none of those are team sports.

Brandi 15:02

D Brandi, I think you're right about the difference between team and individual sports. When I watch the Olympics (winter and summer), I enjoy the women's and men's individual events equally. The women probably run / swim / ski a bit slower than the men, but I can't really tell, and it's just as exciting.

Lynn228 15:12



Adapted from a website



E Most people want to watch the best sports people perform at the highest level. If you compare top male and female athletes, physical differences mean that women are always inferior athletes to men.

SimonB 12:58

F In men's football, the players fall over all the time and act like babies. The women don't do that. I've read research that says that women hardly ever pretend to be hurt. And when they are hurt, they get up again 30 seconds faster than men.

ZoeCruz 20:25

Fame Academy

They grew up to become famous. But what were they like when they were at school? Did they already have that ‘spark’ that made them different? We asked their teachers.

Alex Turner lead singer and songwriter of Arctic Monkeys

Mark Coleman, his PE teacher

Everyone liked Alex at school. He was very good at English. Mr Baker, his English teacher, really liked poetry, and I’m sure Alex was inspired by him because his song lyrics are incredible. But he didn’t use to be very interested in music, he was much more interested in sports – he was possibly the best in the school at basketball. When he was 14 he broke his arm in my PE lesson. He was in hospital for a week, and we collected money and bought him a CD, so he was probably beginning to get interested in music. Everyone at the school is very proud of the band, and I’m sometimes invited to their concerts.



J.K. Rowling author

John Nettleship, her science teacher

Joanne was about 12 when I taught her. Her school days weren’t very happy. The school was a bit like a prison, and then her mum, Anne, got seriously ill. Anne worked as my technician, and Joanne used to come and wait outside the science building for her mum, so that they could walk home together. She was obviously very worried about her mum. She was a very quiet child. I don’t remember her ever answering a question. I think she was keeping all her experiences in her head to use later in her stories.

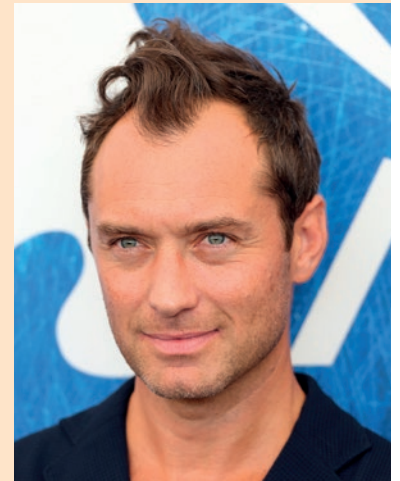


Joanne has said that no characters in Harry Potter are based more than 10% on a real person. So perhaps it's just a coincidence that I used to have long, black hair. But to be honest, I think Professor Snape, especially in the later books, is very like me.

Jude Law actor

Mike Jones, his housemaster

Jude was bullied at his first secondary school so he changed schools when he was 14 and came to us. He didn't know anybody, but that wasn't a problem for him. He adapted very quickly, which shows his confidence. He quickly started acting in school plays, and he used to get fantastic reviews in the school magazine. He was clever, but some teachers thought he was arrogant. Some of his classmates thought the same and he wasn't very popular with them. Other boys were jealous of him because the girls usually liked him.



Professor Snape the potions teacher in the Harry Potter books

housemaster teacher in charge of a house in a boarding school

be bullied be badly treated physically or mentally by other people, e.g. by other children at school

Adapted from the British press



Cordelia and Ciara



Thomas and Toby



Niamh and Luisa

Two women recently met by chance at Bremen University, in Germany. One was English, and one was Irish, and they were both on Erasmus scholarships. Nothing unusual there, except for one thing. The two girls look identical. Their hair is the same colour and length, they're the same age and size, and when you see them together, in the photo they put on social media, you would think that they were identical twins. In fact, **Cordelia Roberts** and **Ciara Murphy** are unrelated.

It seems that it is not uncommon for people who are unrelated to look almost identical. **Niamh Geaney**, from Dublin, and two friends were so interested in trying to find their 'twins' that they set up an online project called Twin Strangers. Very quickly, Niamh found a remarkably similar-looking stranger who lived just a few miles away. It's perhaps not so surprising, as both young women look typically Irish, with dark hair and very pale skin, but then Niamh found another lookalike – **Luisa Guizzardi**, who is from Genoa in Italy!

Erasmus scholarships

a programme which allows students from the European Union to study in another country

Adapted from the British press

Left behind



False alarm



In the post



1

Last Sunday at about 2.00 a.m., police in Sydney, Australia, received several phone calls about shouting and loud noises that were coming from an apartment in a suburb of the city. The callers had heard a woman screaming, a man shouting 'I'm going to kill you! You're dead!', and somebody throwing furniture.

A police car went to the apartment immediately. A man opened the door.

'Where's your wife?' the officer asked.

'I don't have one,' the man replied.

'Where's your girlfriend?'

'I don't have one,' the man replied again.

The officer told the man that his neighbours had heard shouting and screaming.

'Come on, what have you done to her?' the officer asked.

'It was a spider,' the man replied. 'A really big one.'

'What about the woman who was screaming?'

'Yes, sorry, that was me,' the man said. 'I really, really hate spiders. I was trying to kill it.'

The police looked around the apartment and confirmed that nobody was hurt. Except the spider.



2

A woman in Worthing, West Sussex, got a big surprise yesterday when she opened a large box of DVDs that she had bought on eBay and a cat suddenly jumped out. The cat, called Cupcake, had got into the box eight days earlier, when her owner Julie Baggott was packing the box to send to her customer. Julie didn't notice that Cupcake had climbed into the box and fallen asleep.

Julie's customer called the RSPCA, who collected the cat and took it to a vet. Dr Ben Colwell, who treated Cupcake, said that she was very frightened and very thirsty – the cat had survived the 260-mile journey with no food or water. Luckily Cupcake had a microchip in her neck, so the vet found Julie's details and phoned her.

Julie had been very sad about losing her cat. She had put up posters and looked for Cupcake for days. 'I feel terrible,' said Julie. 'I put the DVDs in the box and I closed it straight away, so I don't know how she got in there. It was a miracle she was alive.'

RSPCA Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

3

An Argentinian family was driving home after a holiday in Brazil when the husband, Walter, made an unfortunate mistake. He stopped at a petrol station, filled up the car with petrol, and went to the toilet. But when he drove off, he didn't notice that his wife Claudia wasn't in the car.

Claudia had been asleep in the back seat. While her husband was in the toilet, she woke up and went into the shop to buy some cookies, but when she came back outside she found that her husband had left without her. The couple's 14-year-old son didn't notice that his mother wasn't there because he was playing on his phone in the front seat.



Walter only realized his wife wasn't in the car after he'd driven 100 kilometres. Meanwhile, Claudia tried to phone him, but she couldn't get a signal, so she asked the petrol station manager for help. He contacted the local police, who took her to the police station.

Her husband eventually returned to pick her up two hours later. When he arrived, Claudia was so angry that all she could do was scream and kick the car.

Adapted from the British press

Blowing in the wind

Once upon a time, in a small town in Eastern Europe, there was a man who loved gossiping. Every day he used to sit with his friends and talk about other people. 'Can you believe she did that?' 'Can you believe he said that?' 'Did you see what she was wearing?' And his friends told their wives, who told their neighbours, who told their friends. Some of the stories were true and some were not, but they all went round the town.

One day a wise old woman in the town asked to speak to the man. When he arrived, she gave him a feather pillow. 'Take the pillow to the top of the hill, then cut it open and release all the feathers,' she said. 'But why?' he asked. 'Just do as I say,' she answered, 'and come back tomorrow.' So the man went to the top of the hill. He cut open the pillow. All the feathers flew out, and the wind carried them in all directions.

The next day he went back to see the wise woman and he told her that he had done what she wanted. 'Good,' she replied. 'Now I want you to go back up the hill with the empty pillow and refill it with the feathers.' 'But that's impossible,' said the man. 'The feathers have blown everywhere.'