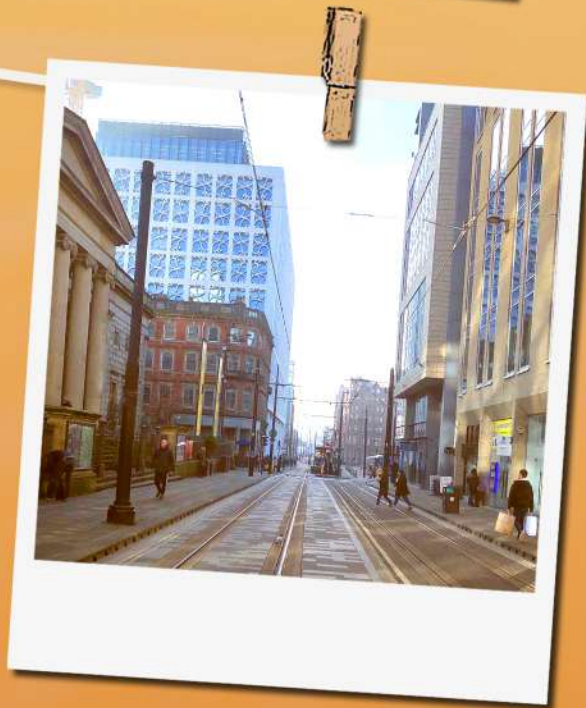




MC Academy

AUGUST



# Newsletter

OUR MISSION:  
Motivate - Support - Guide

# How to write a haiku

In last month's newsletter, we looked at how to write a story.  
This month, we take a look at poetry and learn how to write a haiku.

A haiku is an unrhymed three-line poem. It is based on a traditional Japanese poetic form. Though there are different ways to write a haiku, the most common pattern in English is to write the first and last lines with five syllables each, and the middle line with seven syllables. In other words, the pattern looks like this:

Line 1: **5 syllables**

Line 2: **7 syllables**

Line 3: **5 syllables**

Here's another way to visualise the same thing:

1 2 3 4 5  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
1 2 3 4 5

Most often, haiku poems are about seasons or nature, though you can write about anything you like. If you don't want to write about nature and would prefer to write haiku about sports, TV shows, or how great your English classes are, that's perfectly fine.

One more thing to keep in mind is that the last line of a haiku usually makes an observation. That is, the third line points out something about the subject you are writing about.

Here are some examples of haikus:

*Winter is coming.  
Snow will be arriving soon.  
We should rake the leaves.*

*Tired cat sleeps all night.  
He needs lots of rest for a  
Long day of napping.*

*Zoom is not working.  
Lucky for me because I  
Forgot my homework.*

## Now it's your turn!

Try to write a haiku and send it to [charlotte.portman@themcacademy.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.portman@themcacademy.co.uk) for a chance to be featured in next month's newsletter!

# Viral Videos

Did you know, learners are much more likely to remember English if they watch, listen, and learn through videos? Also, it can be a lot more fun! Find clips that help you to study grammar, a specific language skill or even just to relax or laugh. Below is a selection of three videos that you might find useful on your language learning adventure: a lesson on slang, a special piece of music and a bit of fun.

## Vanity Fair - Emma Stone Learns British Slang From Rachel Weisz

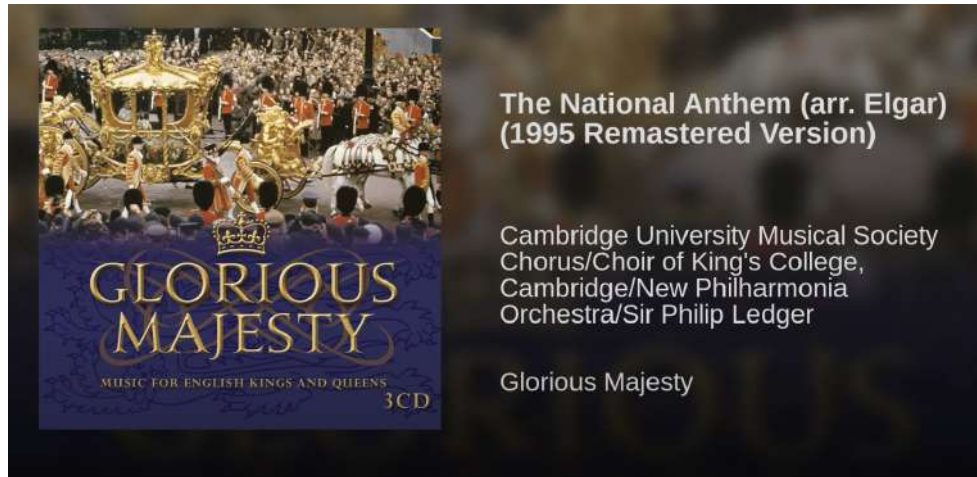


Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbC0xszyHo>

Feel free to use subtitles (CC) if you need to!

Do you know your dosh from your nosh, your tellies from your wellies? Not so much a rare gem on youtube these days but nonetheless fun to watch. Actors, Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone, one American, one British, discuss the intricacies of British slang. You may find they are not so simple.

**Before you watch, have a think about what slang words you know. Then if you're brave enough try using one of the words in the video out in the real world.**



## Elgar / Cambridge University Choir - The UK National Anthem

Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9eK9fWUb3s>

As important as the afternoon tea, rainy days and dry sarcasm which make the British what the British are, the UK National anthem is sung before all major British sporting events. You don't have to like the song (and in fact many don't) but to deny its historic symbolism would be daft. Test your teacher and see if they know all the words, I dare you. Arranged by Elgar and Benson more than 100 years ago, listen and try to imagine what people might have thought about it back then.

**What adjectives do you hear in the song? Do they sound positive or negative? Why do you think Benson chose these words?**



## Rowan Atkinson Live - Elementary Dating

Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lih75e6Rb8A>

This is a public announcement: Rowan Atkinson does not only play the class Mr Bean; he is also famous for many other characters and comedy sketches utilising his immediately funny face. Rowan Atkinson is a cultural icon and best known for his slapstick humor and general wittiness. In this video, Rowan acts out the do's and don'ts of dating. **While you are watching, have a think about what words you would use to describe Rowan's emotions throughout the video.**

# Not-so-normal News

Rescuing bears from trees? Running marathons in the garden? Learning three languages at once!? Below, you'll find a recent news article that might baffle you or may even restore your faith in humanity.

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## Manchester music venues Gorilla and the Deaf Institute saved from closure!

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Two celebrated Manchester music venues have been rescued from closure after new buyers stepped in promising to get them back up and running.

Gorilla and the Deaf Institute had been about to close down as their operator, Mission Mars, struggled to deal with the effects of the Covid-19 lockdown. But Tokyo Industries, which operates dozens of venues, mainly in the north of England, has said it had agreed a deal last weekend to get them back to normal.

“These are extremely difficult times for all grassroots music venues around the UK. It’s vital venues like Gorilla and the Deaf Institute are kept alive, the cultural fabric of our city centres depends on venues like these,” said Aaron Mellor, the founder of Tokyo Industries.

“Over the weekend, we’ve put together some great ideas with SSD Concerts and Tim Burgess [lead singer of alternative rock band The Charlatans] to help save both venues and their existing operating style in a post-Covid world. We’re not so keen on this ‘new’ normal and want to keep the ‘old’ normal alive for when we all get through this.”

“Grassroots venues are already very difficult to run. We do this out of a love of new music,” he said. “Music will come back and a city like Manchester that is built on music will be back.”

Gorilla and the Deaf Institute were among four well-known venues in Manchester and Hull threatened with closure. In Hull, two historic venues, the Welly and the Polar Bear, have gone into administration.

Follow this link to the original report and videos: <https://www.theguardian.com/>



# Keep Calm During Covid

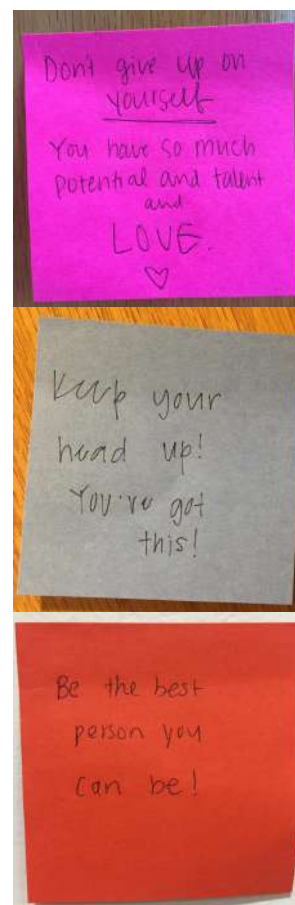
## Random Acts of Kindness

It can feel like nothing is going right these days. We are all living in an uncertain world, confined to our homes or facing restrictions when we do go out, and still living in fear of Covid-19. Many of us feel sad, angry, frustrated and helpless. But even when you feel horrible, there is one thing that has the power to turn your day around: **kindness**.

Picture this: you are having a terrible day. You are late for work, and as you are rushing you drop all of your belongings on the pavement. Furious and upset, you try to pick everything up...and then, out of nowhere, a stranger lends you a helping hand. They pick up your belongings for you, and after you thank them they disappear into the crowd. Suddenly, the world doesn't seem so bad.

Random acts of kindness can lift up anyone's spirits, and you hold the power to make someone's day with some small but selfless acts. How about you try some of these ideas, and put a bright smile on someone's face:

- Send flowers to a friend.
- Run an errand for someone.
- Give your favourite book to someone you care about.
- Give a stranger a compliment.
- Write positive post-it notes and stick them up around your town.
- Make dinner or buy food for a family in need.
- Babysit for free.
- Donate old towels or blankets to an animal shelter.
- Participate in a fundraiser.
- Send a random thank you note or email to someone you admire.
- Tutor someone.
- Next time you're at a cafe, buy the person behind you a coffee.
- Leave a nice note on someone's car - especially if they have parked really well!
- Pick up litter in your local park.
- Volunteer at a homeless shelter.
- Call a friend who you haven't spoken to in a while.
- Donate old toys to a children's hospital.
- Write a kind comment on a website, blog or article that you like.





## Idiom Corner ..IN

THIS PART OF THE NEWSLETTER WE ARE CHALLENGING YOU TO LEARN SOME NEW IDIOMS! IDIOMS ARE USEFUL EXPRESSIONS THAT ARE OFTEN USED BY NATIVE SPEAKERS.



Here's another [great short video](#) for you to brush up on your idioms!



**Sport** is the theme for this month's video. Who knows their rackets from their helmets?

Can you guess the **three phrases** from the video in **15 seconds**?

Try to use them in your next class and impress your teacher!

Did you find last month's idioms related to **animals**?



[A birds eye view](#) - to see clearly from a high point

[Straight from the horse's mouth](#) - hear information directly from the person responsible for it

[To let the cat out of the bag](#) - to let a secret be know by mistake

# JOKE JUNCTION

DO YOU KNOW ANY ENGLISH JOKES? SEE IF THESE JOKES BELOW MAKE YOU LAUGH!

**Puns** are a popular form of "play on words" and schoolchildren of all languages enjoy them. See if you can understand these **puns below!**

## Did you hear about the teacher who was cross-eyed?

He couldn't control his pupils.

### EnglishClub TIP

This pun is a play on the noun "pupil", which has two meanings.

**pupil** (noun)

- 1) student
- 2) the small, black, circular hole in the middle of the eye

## Waiter, waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup?

The breaststroke, I think, sir.

### EnglishClub TIP

This pun is a play on the verb "doing".

When we say "What's this doing here?" we usually mean "Why is this here? It should not be here." For example: "What's this book doing on my desk? It's not mine."

But when we swim, we can use different styles of swimming like the "crawl", "backstroke" or "breastroke". So we say "to do the crawl" or "to do breastroke". The waiter thought that the fly was swimming.

## Why is the letter "T" like an island?

Q: Why is the letter "T" like an island?

A: Because it's in the middle of "water".

**Do you know any better jokes?...**

Send them into [harrylhargreaves@gmail.com](mailto:harrylhargreaves@gmail.com) and we'll show them in next month's newsletter!





This month:

## Macro Photography Hack!

Have you ever wondered how photographers manage to take close-up photos like these?



*What is a "hack"?*

A hack is a usually simple and clever tip or technique for accomplishing some familiar task more easily and efficiently.

Well, they use what is called a "macro" lens. These are usually very expensive, but you can actually try this technique at home for free!

How? Using water! Watch the video to see how this works:



### Macro Lens of water - THIS HACK WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE A BIT BETTER

JoeHow • 39K views • 3 years ago

Have you ever wished you had a magnifying glass? Now you have it! Just place a drop of water on the camera lens. Enjoy!

0:51

Follow this link to watch: <https://youtu.be/lt0N9t-j34k>

Let us know if you try it! Send us your photo to [cinthia.baseler@themcacademy.co.uk](mailto:cinthia.baseler@themcacademy.co.uk)



# Star Students IELTS



**Maha Ibrahim M Alkhalf**

"She's a really inquisitive student and has made great progress, especially in her writing. She was originally in my Pre-Intermediate class and has recently progressed to IELTS."

**Asma**

"Asma from IELTS Introduction is full of enthusiasm and she's always eager to learn more. She has made great progress during the course of her study. Asma always tries her best and helps her fellow classmates."



# Star Students General English



## **Abdulaziz Saad A Alrashidi**

"Aziz is a really hard-working student! He always stays super positive in class and is very kind to other students. He is very dedicated to improving his English and comes to class every day, even when he has terrible toothache!"



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