

G adding emphasis (1): inversion

V describing books and films

P foreign words



Steps at the University of Balamand, Lebanon

1 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a Look at the six book titles. Have you heard of or read any of them?

CATCH 22 *Carbonel* **Big Little Lies** **The Silmarillion**
The War of the Worlds **To Kill a Mockingbird**

- b **4.1** Listen to six people talking about the books in a. Match the speaker, A–F, to the topic they're talking about.

- 1 a book you started but couldn't finish
- 2 a book you think would make a good film
- 3 a book you feel you ought to have read, but haven't
- 4 a book you decided to read after seeing the film or series
- 5 a book you couldn't put down
- 6 a book you were forced to read at school and didn't enjoy

- c Listen again. Which speaker says that...?

- 1 the characters and events in the book are easy to imagine
- 2 they read the book when they were abroad
- 3 the language of the book was too challenging
- 4 they mainly read to relax
- 5 they also enjoyed a series of books for older teenagers
- 6 the book has a lot of detailed background information in it

- d **4.2** Listen to six extracts from the listening and complete the missing words.

- 1 ...I just sat under a tree in the shade and read the whole thing from _____ to _____.
- 2 ...I think it's a _____.
- 3 So that was _____ a TV series on HBO, I think...
- 4 ...it's sort of more information about the world that *The Lord of the Rings* _____ happens in.
- 5 ...I really was _____ science fiction as a kid, and, and the _____ looked, you know, like, really exciting.
- 6 ...for me, reading is a way of _____ off, so I don't really want to read anything that's quite a _____.

- e Look at topics 1–6 in b and choose three that you can talk about. Then tell a partner.

2 READING

- a Would you ever look at the last page of a book before reading it, or ask someone about the ending of a film or TV series you were planning to watch?
- b Read the text from the back covers of two stories. Which one would you most like to read?

1 *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* Arthur Conan Doyle

Helen and Julia Stoner live with their violent stepfather, Dr Grimesby Roylott. Just before Julia is due to marry, for several nights she hears a strange, low whistle from outside her bedroom. Shortly afterwards, she dies in her room one night in terrible pain, crying out the words: 'It was the band! The speckled band'. No cause of death is found and no one could have entered her room, as she always locked herself in at night. Two years later, Helen becomes engaged to be married, but she is terrified one night to hear a strange, low whistle outside her bedroom. She asks Sherlock Holmes to investigate.

2 *Lamb to the Slaughter* Roald Dahl

One night, detective Patrick Maloney comes home and announces his intention to leave his pregnant wife, Mary. Devastated, Mary hits Patrick over the head with the frozen leg of lamb she intends to cook for dinner, killing him instantly. Mary knows that, if she gets caught, she will be executed for murder, so she concocts a plan to fool the police.

- c **Communication** What happens in the end? **A p.108 B p.112** Read extracts from the end of the stories in b and tell each other what happens.

- d Now read the title and the first paragraph of the article. What is a 'spoiler'?

Spoilers actually enhance your enjoyment

I am one of those people who can't read a book without flicking to the end to check what's going to happen. It turns out that, actually, I am very wise. Psychologists at the University of California in San Diego gave students 12 short stories, by authors including Agatha Christie and Roald Dahl. Some stories were in their original form and others had spoiler paragraphs added at the beginning. And do you know what? The readers of 'spoiled' stories actually had more fun.

According to the psychologists who carried out the research, 'students significantly preferred the spoiled versions of the stories. For instance, knowing in advance in an Agatha Christie story that Poirot will discover that the 'victim' of the attempted murder is, in fact, the real murderer, not only didn't hurt the enjoyment of the story, but actually improved it.'

As a huge reader of crime and thrillers, this definitely rings true for me. When I'm reading horror novels, I need to check the hero or heroine is still alive at the end of the book. And I usually take a sneaky look at the end of a romantic novel, just to make sure who is going to end up with whom. 'It could be,' says psychologist Jonathan Leavitt, 'that once you know how the story turns out, you're more comfortable processing the information and can focus on a deeper understanding of the story.'

I will also admit that, even when I know full well what is going to happen in a book, either because I've read it a million times before, or because I've read the end, I often find myself hoping that, this time, it's going to be different, that the sad ending will turn into a happy one!

Adapted from The Guardian

e Read the rest of the article and underline...

- 1 an example of a spoiler.
- 2 two reasons the writer looks at the ending of a book.
- 3 a possible explanation for why we get more enjoyment out of a story when we know the ending.
- 4 something the writer knows will never happen.

f Talk to a partner.

- Do you agree with the article that knowing how a story ends makes you enjoy it more?
- Are there any books or films that you enjoyed more the second time because you knew how they were going to end?
- Has anyone ever spoiled a film, a book, a sports match, or anything else for you by telling you how it ended?

3 VOCABULARY describing books and films

- a Complete the short reviews about books and films with an adjective from the list.

creepy fast-moving gripping haunting heart-warming
heavy going implausible intriguing moving
thought-provoking

- 1 A *haunting* film which stayed with me long after I left the cinema. ★★★★★
- 2 A wonderful story. So _____ I cried! ★★★★★
- 3 Such a _____ plot. I was on the edge of my seat all the way through. ★★★★★
- 4 It was a _____ story which restored my faith in human nature. ★★★★★
- 5 A _____ story which jumps from past to present and back again at breakneck speed. ★★★★★
- 6 The plot was _____. I really couldn't predict how it would end. ★★★★★
- 7 A _____ documentary that raised many interesting questions. ★★★
- 8 A ghostly atmosphere and strange goings-on. This film was just too _____ for me. ★★★
- 9 Rather _____. I really had to make an effort to finish it. ★★
- 10 The characters were totally _____. I couldn't take any of them seriously. ★

b 4.3 Listen and check.

4 GRAMMAR adding emphasis (1): inversion

- a Complete the extracts from book reviews 1–5 with endings A–E. How does the word order change when you put the adverbial expression (*Not only...*, *Never...*, etc.) at the beginning of the sentence?

- 1 **Not only** is this an entertaining book for children,...
- 2 **Never** have I read...
- 3 **Not until** the very last page...
- 4 **No sooner** had I finished this gripping novel...
- 5 **Only** when she leaves...

- A did I guess who the murderer was.
B such a well-written novel by a first-time author.
C than I wanted to read it all over again.
D but parents will also find it intriguing.
E does he realize that he is in love with her.

b p.148 Grammar Bank 4A

- c Complete the sentences in your own words, using inversion to make them as dramatic as possible.

- 1 Only when we arrived at the airport...
- 2 No sooner...than I realized...
- 3 Never in all my life...
- 4 Not until it was too late...
- 5 Not only..., but...

5 LISTENING

a Discuss in small groups.

- 1 How often do you read books which have been translated into your language? What languages have they been translated from?
- 2 Do you prefer reading English books in translation to reading them in English? Have you ever read a book which you felt was probably badly translated?
- 3 Have you ever used an app, e.g. Google Translate, to translate something into your language? How well did you think it worked?
- 4 Do you tend to watch foreign films dubbed or with subtitles? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of the two options?

b **4.4** Listen to the first part of an interview with Beverly Johnson, a professional translator. From what she says, do you think you would enjoy working as a translator?



c Listen again and choose the correct answer(s).

- 1 One of the reasons Beverly decided to become a translator was that...
 - a she thought teaching English was boring.
 - b she really enjoyed the postgraduate course that she took.
 - c she wanted to be self-employed.
- 2 Which two of these things does Beverly mention as drawbacks of being a freelance translator?
 - a working alone
 - b earning a low salary
 - c time pressure
- 3 Which two of these things does she say are good about her job?
 - a the freedom to charge what you like
 - b flexibility about where you work
 - c managing your own time
- 4 One piece of advice she gives to would-be translators is to...
 - a specialize.
 - b study abroad.
 - c take a translation course.

d Look at some of the kinds of texts translators work on. Which ones do you think might be especially difficult to translate?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> novels | <input type="checkbox"/> advertising slogans | <input type="checkbox"/> film titles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> poetry | <input type="checkbox"/> legal documents | <input type="checkbox"/> film dialogue (for subtitles) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> technical manuals | |

e **4.5** Now listen to the rest of the interview. Tick (✓) the kinds of texts in d that Beverly talks about.

f Listen again and answer the questions.

What does Beverly say...?

- 1 you need to be if you specialize in translating novels
- 2 is good about translating an author who is still alive
- 3 would sound odd in English

What is the most difficult thing about translating...?

- 4 the title of a film into other languages
- 5 film subtitles
- 6 humour in films
- 7 slang and swear words

g Can you think of any films where the title in your language was completely different from the English version? Why do you think it was changed?

6 READING & SPEAKING



a Look at the two words and photos above. Do you know what languages the words are from? Can you work out from the photos what they might mean?

b Read the extracts and check your ideas from a. What does each word tell you about the culture of the country?

sobremesa /sobre'mesa/ is the time when Spanish people sit around tables inside a restaurant, or out on the terrace, relaxing after lunch. It is a pleasant time, a recognition that there is more to life than working long hours, and that few activities are nicer than sharing a table and chatting for what remains of the day. The world may not have been put completely to rights by the end of the *sobremesa*, but it will seem a calmer, kinder place.

ta'arof /ta'a:rof/ is a Persian word that specifically refers to correct or polite behaviour in Iranian society. It means 'both people denying what they want in order to please the other person'. 'You go first,' says Mr A when he meets Mr B at the door, as they try to enter a building. 'No, absolutely not, you go first,' Mr B insists. They then both wait for a couple of unnecessary minutes before one steps forward to enter. It is seen almost in all aspects of life, from hosts insisting on guests taking more food, to buying something in a shop.

Adapted from The Guardian



7 PRONUNCIATION


foreign words

Saying foreign words in English

There are some foreign words and phrases which are commonly used in English because we don't have another word for them, e.g. *coup* /ku:/ (French), *angst* /æŋst/ (German). They're usually said in a way that is close to their original pronunciation, so they don't necessarily follow normal English pronunciation patterns.


- a Underline the foreign word or phrase in each sentence below. What do you think they mean? Which languages are they from?

- 1 I made a real faux pas when I mentioned to our boss that Sam had been asked to leave his previous job.
- 2 When we were introduced, I had a sense of déjà vu, even though I knew we had never met before.
- 3 It might be a bit of a cliché, but I think it's actually true that 'opposites attract'.
- 4 Their business venture ended in a complete debacle and the manager resigned.
- 5 She's a real aficionado of Italian opera – she knows a lot about it and goes whenever she can.
- 6 Don't overcook the pasta – just until it's al dente.
- 7 I'm afraid I felt a certain schadenfreude when my ex-husband told me his girlfriend had left him.
- 8 After the earthquake, there was a tsunami warning, but luckily, it didn't happen.

- b  4.6 Listen and focus on how the foreign words or phrases in a are pronounced. Then practise saying the sentences.

- c Do you use any untranslated words from other languages, e.g. English, in your language? Why do you think they are used? Do you pronounce them as in the original language?

8 WRITING

-  p.120 **Writing A review** Analyse a book review, and write a review of a book or film.

- c Look at some more words that have no equivalent in English. Do you have equivalent words in your language?

1 gigil

(Filipino) the urge to pinch or squeeze something that is unbearably cute, like a baby's cheeks



2 age-otori

(Japanese) to look worse after a haircut

3 cavoli riscaldati

(Italian) literally *reheated cabbage*, an attempt to revive an old romantic relationship

4 seigneur-terrasse

(French) a person who spends a lot of time but very little money in a café

5 Drachenfutter

(German) the presents that guilty husbands give their wives

6 vranyo

(Russian) lying when everybody knows that's what you're doing

7 neko-neko

(Indonesian) a creative idea which only makes things worse

8 skuffuskald

(Icelandic) a person who puts their poems in a drawer rather than publishing them

- d Can you think of any English words for which there is no exact translation in your language?

1 VOCABULARY sounds and the human voice

- a Try to sit in silence for one minute, listening carefully to the sounds around you. Write everything you hear. Then compare with a partner. Did you hear the same things?
- b **V** p.166 **Vocabulary Bank** Sounds and the human voice
- c **4.10** Listen to twelve sounds and say the word for what you hear.

2 PRONUNCIATION consonant clusters

Fine-tuning your pronunciation: consonant clusters

Combinations of two or three consonant sounds, e.g. **crunch**, **splash**, can be difficult to pronounce, especially if the combination of sounds is not common in your language.

Three-consonant clusters at the beginning of words always begin with **s**, e.g. **scream**.

Three-consonant clusters at the end of words are often either plurals (**months**), third person singular verbs (**wants**), or regular past tenses (**asked**).

- a **4.11** Listen to the words in the chart. Then practise saying them.

At the beginning of a word			
two sounds		three sounds	
click	drip	screech	
slam	snore	scream	
crash	stammer	splash	
slurp			
At the end of a word			
two sounds		three sounds	
shouts	yelled	crunched	crisps
sniffs	hummed	mumble	rattled

- b **4.12** Listen and repeat the sentences.
 - 1 She **screamed** when her **friend** **splashed** her in the **swimming pool**.
 - 2 The **brakes** **screeched** and then there was a **tremendous crash**.
 - 3 I hate the **crunching** of someone eating **crisps**.
- c Write three sentences of your own, using two words from **a** in each sentence. Give them to your partner to say.

3 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a You're going to hear a list of people's best and worst sounds. Look at the sounds below. Tick (✓) the ones you think are 'best sounds', and cross (X) the ones you think are 'worst sounds'.



The best and worst

- the tap of the keys on a mobile phone when someone hasn't turned off the keyboard sound
- the crunch of walking on a fresh layer of snow
- the roar of a revving motorbike
- the patter of rain on the roof while you're in bed
- the crackling noise of an open fire
- the whine of a dentist's drill
- the strange hum in your house that you can't locate
- the sound of a golf ball dropping into the hole
- the popping noise when you squeeze bubble wrap



b 4.13 Listen and check. Do you agree?

c 4.14 Now listen to eight people talking about sounds they love or hate. Answer the questions.

- 1 What sound does each person describe?
- 2 Do they love it or hate it?



sounds...

- someone eating popcorn at the cinema
- people laughing at one of your jokes
- the 'ding' sound when a plane has landed and switched off the engines
- the sound of someone filing their nails
- the crashing of waves on a beach
- someone sniffing
- birds singing very early in the morning
- people slurping their food
- someone else's child crying



Adapted from the British press

d Listen again and answer the questions.

Speaker 1 What kinds of things does the dog bark at?

Speaker 2 Why does she make her daughter buy a little box?

Speaker 3 Why does she enjoy hearing that her children are asleep?

Speaker 4 What app has he got on his phone?

Speaker 5 In what circumstance is the sound particularly annoying?

Speaker 6 Where did she hear this sound recently?

Speaker 7 What kind of music does he not want to hear at all?

Speaker 8 How does she need to sit when travelling?

e Talk in small groups.

- Are there any sounds that you really love? Why do you love them? What do they make you think of, or how do they make you feel?
- What about sounds that you hate? How often are you affected by them in your daily life? Is there anything you can do to avoid them?

4 GRAMMAR speculation and deduction

a 4.15 Listen to three groups of sounds which tell stories. What do you think is happening? Write three sentences for each story using the phrases below.

Story 1 must be, might be, can't have

Story 2 could have, might have, unlikely that

Story 3 probably, could be, must have

b 4.16 Compare with a partner. Then listen to the ending and say what actually happened in each story.

c p.149 Grammar Bank 4B



d Look at the photo above and, with a partner, make speculations and deductions.

- When and where could the photo have been taken?
- Who might the man be? What do you think he might be doing and why?
- What might have just happened?
- How might the man and the chimp be feeling?

e Communication What's going on? A p.108 B p.113 Look at some more photos and make speculations and deductions.

5 READING

- a In these situations, do you prefer background music or silence? Why? If you prefer music, what kind? Compare with a partner.

When you're...

- working or studying.
- relaxing at home.
- cooking.
- in the gym.
- in a bar or restaurant.
- shopping for clothes.
- put on hold on the phone.
- taking off in a plane, or landing.
- driving or in a car.

- b Read the introduction to an article about the growing popularity of 'silent events'. What does the writer suggest may be the new and different thing about this trend?

- c Read the rest of the article. Which of the **bold** events, 1–4, do the summaries describe?

- A It helps people to understand what others are really like and encourages the use of body language.
- B It is not usually held in a city and helps people feel better in mind and body.
- C It discourages people from using their phones and allows them not to worry about social rules.
- D It has only recently become popular in Britain and allows people to get away from the noise of their daily life.

- d Find the following phrases in the article, and with a partner, explain what they mean in your own words.

- 1 something quite radical (l.04)
- 2 show up, shut up, and read (l.08)
- 3 escape the hubbub (l.14)
- 4 break the ice (l.20)
- 5 uninterrupted eye contact (l.22)
- 6 the age-old connections (l.31)
- 7 strips away (l.32)
- 8 hadn't been able to deal with (l.37)
- 9 cherish rare moments of peace and quiet (l.46)
- 10 muster up the self-restraint (l.48)

- e If you had to do one of the four silent activities in the article, which would you choose? Why?

How being quiet can change your life

Silence is on the rise. Whole businesses have sprung up to meet a rising demand for quiet time, from silent weekends away to silent dining, silent reading parties, and even silent dating. We usually only spend silent time with those closest to us, so there is something quite radical about the recent trend for enjoying silence with strangers.



The concept of ¹ **silent reading** began in Seattle, USA. Devised as a literary meeting place for people who don't like book discussion groups, the idea was simple: show up, shut up, and read. Then the trend spread to the UK. Mariel Symeonidou started a regular silent reading party in Dundee, Scotland, just under a year ago. Readers bring their books and meet in a bar, where they read together in silence for an hour or two, then put the books away to chat and have a drink. 'When the reading starts, everything goes quiet,' says Symeonidou. 'There is something special about sharing silence with others. An event like this gives people the opportunity to escape the hubbub of their lives for a while.'

London's ² **silent speed dating** event organizers, Shhh!, say that we are 'instinctively better at choosing the right partner when we have the chance to put aside words and see each other as we really are'. Shhh! hosts regular singles events which are very popular with creative professionals in their 20s and 30s. The sessions begin with games to break the ice. Then you are paired off for a limited time, when you are allowed to communicate only with gestures, before engaging in 60 seconds of uninterrupted eye contact. Afterwards, you are given the contact details of people who are interested in you. A second date might be something like a silent dinner date or a mute trip to the pictures.

Honi Ryan, from Berlin, began hosting ³ **silent dinners** over ten years ago. The rules of the dinner are: no talking, no using your voice, no reading or writing, try to make as little noise as possible, do not interact with technology, and stay for at least two hours. So far, Ryan has hosted silent dinners in Mexico, the USA, Australia, Lebanon, and China. 'It's evident that the age-old connections we make over food do not depend on the words around it,' she says. 'Silence strips away our rehearsed social behaviours.'

Perhaps the most well-known event is the ⁴ **silent retreat**. These often have a religious or spiritual element. They can last anywhere between a couple of days to a few weeks, and are usually held in remote locations. Peter Cadney first discovered the power of silence on a ten-day silent meditation course. 'There had been a number of events in my life that I hadn't been able to deal with very well – relationship break-ups and the death of a close friend. Also, I'd spent years working at a computer and was feeling the effects of muscle tension, anxiety, and stress.' Cadney says silent meditation has helped to improve both his mental and physical health. 'When I first sat down in silence, it felt very peaceful. I started noticing just how many thoughts were coming and going in my mind. It was as if there had been no space for silence.'

Silence is taking on a new meaning in an era in which we are consuming information and engaging in conversation with each other endlessly on social media, without ever opening our mouths. However, while we might cherish rare moments of peace and quiet, when it comes to embracing silence and stillness, the real question is, can we actually muster up the self-restraint?

Adapted from The Guardian

6 SPEAKING

a Look at the sign on a British train. Do you think it's a good idea? Why (not)? Do you have these signs on trains in your country?



b Read an online thread about quiet carriages. How many people think it works well?

Tony 52m ago **Original poster**
What IS the point of the quiet carriage? I was sat in one the other day and people were playing music that I could hear through their headphones, and talking loudly for ages on their phones.

Sheila 48m ago **#2**
I asked someone to stop using his phone once, and he just ignored me. ¹ **As far as I'm concerned**, the sign is completely pointless.

Cathy 45m ago **#3**
Even in the quiet carriage, there's bound to be some noise, and they're still quieter than normal carriages. ² **My feeling is that** it's best to live and let live, unless someone is being really obnoxious.

Jennifer 39m ago **#4**
The staff should ask passengers not to use mobile phones, and keep their music down. ³ **In my view**, that's their job, but they don't often do it.

Harry 33m ago **#5**
⁴ **If you ask me**, they're never going to work. They can't stop people talking altogether. It really annoys me that people ignore the sign, but I would never dare challenge anyone about it.

Anna 27m ago **#6**
It's the quiet coach, not the silent coach. ⁵ **Personally, I think that** normal conversation is acceptable. I find them relatively restful.

Thomas 18m ago **#7**
⁶ **I'd say** the only way round it is to buy yourself a set of noise-cancelling headphones.

c **4.17** Look at the **highlighted** phrases in **b** for giving opinions. Underline the word with the strongest stress in each phrase. Then listen and check.

d Read about some noise regulations from different countries. Then discuss them in small groups. Do you think they're a good idea? How would you adapt them for your country? Try to use the phrases in **b** to give your opinions.

- In Germany, you aren't allowed to do loud DIY jobs on Sundays.
- In Petrolia, Canada, you can't shout, whistle, or sing in the streets at any time.
- On the island of Capri, Italy, you aren't allowed to wear noisy footwear, including flip-flops.
- In some Swiss blocks of flats, it isn't permitted to flush the toilet after 10 p.m.
- In Sydney, Australia, you aren't allowed to play a musical instrument between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

7 VIDEO LISTENING



a Watch a documentary about the British percussionist Evelyn Glennie. Tick (✓) the things that are mentioned.

- Evelyn's early life
- the repertoire for solo percussion
- problems associated with her deafness
- the different kinds of performances she gives
- musicians she's performed with
- her most memorable performance
- her instrument collection
- her own compositions
- her advice for beginner percussionists
- her favourite kind of music
- significant moments in her career
- why she thinks listening is important

b Watch again. Why does Evelyn Glennie mention these things?

- targeting composers
- playing at the front of the orchestra
- dancers, visual artists, storytellers, sound designers
- a favourite child
- films, radio, television
- being close to neighbours
- playing to a group of five-year-olds
- glue
- dementia

c What do you think is the most impressive thing about Evelyn Glennie's career? Which do you think is more important in being a good communicator, being able to express yourself or being able to listen? Why?

GRAMMAR

a Complete the sentences with the correct word or phrase.

- 1 It's 2.30 now – what time do you think we'll get _____ London?
- 2 Unfortunately, Allie got _____ cheating in her final exam.
- 3 The windows are absolutely filthy. Shall we get someone _____ them?
- 4 I don't think Keith will ever get _____ to doing his own laundry – his parents always did it for him.
- 5 My visa expires quite soon, so I really need to get it _____.

b Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct any mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

- 1 **Basic**, I think he still hasn't got over the break-up of their marriage.
- 2 We've finished the interviews and **all of all** we think Joe Young is the most suitable candidate.
- 3 **Not only we saw the sights**, we managed to do some shopping as well.
- 4 Only when the main character **dies** does her husband realize how much he needed her.
- 5 Dave's really late, isn't he? I think **he might get lost**.
- 6 **The waiter didn't probably notice** that they had left without paying.
- 7 I think **it's unlikely that I'll be given** a work permit.
- 8 What a wonderful smell! **Somebody must bake** some bread.
- 9 **You definitely won't pass** your driving test if you drive that fast!
- 10 I called you yesterday. **You should have got** a message on your voicemail.

c Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 No sooner _____ married than James lost his job. (they / get)
- 2 Never _____ such a wonderful view. It completely took my breath away. (I / see)
- 3 The traffic is quite bad – she's unlikely _____ before 7.00. (arrive)
- 4 Maria is bound _____ the news – everybody was talking about it yesterday. (hear)
- 5 My neighbour can't _____ very long hours. He's always home by early afternoon. (work)

VOCABULARY

a Complete the missing words.

- 1 She's quite shy, but you'll soon get to _____ her.
- 2 When did your son and his girlfriend first get _____?
- 3 I've been trying to get _____ of Danny, but he's not answering his phone.
- 4 My boss is always phoning me at home – it really gets on my _____.
- 5 I hope I get _____ this cold by the weekend; I'm supposed to be going to a wedding.
- 6 His parents let him do whatever he wants, so he's used to getting his own _____.
- 7 When I was a student, I had to get _____ on less than £50 a week.
- 8 I hope I get the _____ to talk to him before he goes home.

b Circle the correct word.

- 1 The government has *declared* / *executed* a state of emergency.
- 2 After days of fighting, both sides agreed to a *retreat* / *ceasefire*.
- 3 The city finally fell after a three-month *siege* / *coup*.
- 4 During the civil war, thousands of *refugees* / *allies* crossed the border to safety.
- 5 It was a fierce battle and *civilians* / *casualties* were heavy on both sides.
- 6 The rebels *broke out* / *blew up* the railway lines.
- 7 Even though they were surrounded, the troops refused to *surrender* / *defeat*.
- 8 The president has refused to *overthrow* / *release* any information about his tax returns.

c Complete the sentences with a verb from the list in the past simple.

buzz creak rattle screech sigh slam
whisper whistle

- 1 Mabel _____ the door and walked off angrily.
- 2 'Thanks, darling', she _____ softly in his ear.
- 3 He _____ a happy tune as he walked down the street.
- 4 'I wish he was here – I really miss him', she _____.
- 5 The wind was so strong that the windows _____.
- 6 The car's brakes _____ as it came to a stop.
- 7 A bee flew in through the window and _____ round the room.
- 8 The door of the old library _____ open slowly, but there was nobody there!

d Write the adjectives for the definitions.

- 1 th_____ -pr_____ = making you think seriously about a particular subject or issue
- 2 h_____ -w_____ = making you feel happy
- 3 in_____ = very interesting because of being unusual or not having an obvious answer or ending
- 4 gr_____ = exciting or interesting in a way that keeps your attention
- 5 m_____ = causing you to have deep feelings of sadness or sympathy
- 6 im_____ = not seeming reasonable or likely to be true

CAN YOU understand this text?

- a Read the article once. How good was Branko's English when he first met Faith? How good is it now?
- b Read the article again and choose the best words to complete the gaps.
- 1 a journey b trip c travel d voyage
 - 2 a therefore b so c because d but
 - 3 a translate b talk c understand d interfere
 - 4 a off b down c on d over
 - 5 a met up b made up c broken up d got together
 - 6 a already b now c ever d still
 - 7 a go back to b remember c imagine d go up to
 - 8 a often b rarely c frequently d sometimes
 - 9 a during b when c as d while
 - 10 a watch out b look out c find out d turn out

▶ CAN YOU understand these people?

🔊 4.18 Watch or listen and choose a, b, or c.

- 1 **Sophie** first met her partner _____.
a through mutual friends
b on Facebook
c when they were young
- 2 **Sarah** learned a lot about ____ in the TV series *Victoria*.
a relationships within the royal family
b the introduction of the railway in Britain
c an affair between an aristocrat and a servant
- 3 **James** enjoys reading _____.
a historical novels
b books about classical composers
c books set in imaginary worlds
- 4 A sound **Amy** finds irritating is one she hears _____.
a in the autumn
b when she wants to work
c when she's outside



We fell in love without speaking

▲ Faith and Branko Ristic: 'It felt unreal, like magic.'

I'll never forget the first moment I saw Branko. It was 2009, and I was 25, working as a musical director for a circus in the UK. I'd travelled alone to the village of Gornja Grabovica in Serbia, on a mission to learn Roma-style accordion. A week or so into my two-month ¹____, a friend called Dusan took me to meet his cousin Branko, who he said was one of the country's best violinists.

When we arrived, Branko came out of the house wearing a white vest and jeans. I don't remember thinking he was attractive, ²____ for some reason I took a photo of him that I still have today. We all sat around a table in the garden. I didn't speak a word of Serbian and Branko knew no English, so Dusan tried to ³____. Branko was shy; it wasn't every day an English woman turned up at his house. The following day I went back, and we played music together late into the night. We did this several more times, quickly developing a strong connection. It was totally platonic, however; nothing else entered my head, partly because he had a girlfriend.

After two months, I returned to Britain and for the next couple of years I was busy touring with my work. Then, in July 2011, I had a few weeks ⁴____, and went back to Serbia. As soon as Branko heard I was back in Gornja Grabovica, he came straight to see me. With Dusan translating again, he told me he'd thought about me every day since I had left. He had ⁵____ with his girlfriend months earlier. It felt unreal, like magic. It was exciting to acknowledge our connection, but unusual to feel something for each other without being able to communicate fully.

That night we went to an *igranke*, a dance. I just enjoyed being near Branko. His body language was so open, and he was so kind and loving. The next day we played music together for hours, creating new compositions. He ⁶____ couldn't say a word in English, and I'd only picked up basic things in Serbian, but it just felt right. We could usually work out instinctively what the other was trying to say, and if we couldn't, we'd just laugh. It was so romantic. If I could rewind time, I'd ⁷____ that moment.

Branko and I planned to go to Britain together for a while, to earn money and introduce him to my life; but he had ⁸____ travelled even in his own country, and his tourist visa was refused twice. It was difficult to go back alone. When I returned to Serbia, we decided to get married, and we had a simple but chaotic wedding. We built a house on the exact spot we first met, in Branko's grandmother's garden. Today my Serbian is pretty good, and ⁹____ Branko still doesn't speak fluent English, he understands a lot. They say music is the language of the soul. We took a leap to ¹⁰____ if that is true, and music has held us together ever since.