

SMALL TALK

- How are you doing? Busy?
- What's going on this weekend?
- Is there anything interesting happening in the world at the moment?



CONVERSATION

- Which profession is the worst in the world?
- Is it the responsibility of other countries to help a country in trouble?
- Describe a recent dream you remember.

Grammar: Past Perfect Continuous Tense

- The past perfect continuous = had been...ing

He had been waiting for an hour before she arrived.

- It is used for:

1. showing how long an event happened (before another event)
2. giving the reason for something in the past

1. They had been playing football for an hour when their mother called them in to dinner.

2. He was angry because he had been waiting for an hour.

- Stative verbs don't usually use it

Stative verbs describe states, not actions (know, have, own, like, love, etc.). They don't usually use ...ing.

I had been having long hair for 2 years before I got it cut (not correct)

I had had long hair for 2 years before I got it cut (correct)

Vocabulary: Parties & Gatherings

wedding
engagement party
stag do
hen night
baby shower
bridal shower
house-warming
office opening
opening ceremony
funeral



Idioms (review)

bad blood
put x on the back burner
I have a bone to pick with you

PHRASE BOOK

Hello =...

Hi
Hey
Good morning
'Morning

How are you? =...

How's it going?
How're you doing?

I'm fine =...

Not bad
Can't complain
Alright
Meh

And you? =...

You?
Yourself?
How about you?
What about you?
How about yourself?



Shopping for Electronics (part 2)

Philip: Excuse me, I'm wondering if you could help me. I'm looking to buy my girlfriend a laptop for her birthday, but I'm not particularly **technologically-minded**.

Sales Assistant: OK. Well, the first question is: what does she need it for? Work? Games?

Philip: She's **not much of a** gamer, but she'll need to write documents, make presentations, **that sort of thing**. It shouldn't weigh too much either, since she needs to **lug** it with her on the morning **commute**.

Sales Assistant: I see. Well, you **basically** have a choice: price vs. performance. If she is just using it for work, surfing the net, and a bit of social networking, she won't need anything too powerful or with a lot of memory. Something simple **should suffice**.

Philip: Will I need to buy any accessories?

Sales Assistant: **Up to you**. A lot of people like to add speakers and a webcam, and an external hard drive and optic mouse can be quite **handy**, but none of them are necessary.

Philip: How about software?

Sales Assistant: The basics are all **pre-installed**, but I can **chuck on** a few other programmes if you'd like. I'll give you a USB as well, so that you can keep the directory and desktop free of **clutter**. Anyway, let me show you what we have, and you can **take them for a test drive**.

Heart of Darkness

Author: Joseph Conrad

Country (language): UK (English) (Note: Conrad was Polish, but came to live in the UK)

Published: 1899

Summary

The book is narrated by Marlowe to a group of sailors aboard his boat in the UK. He tells them the story of when he was working as an ivory transporter in Congo and was sent on a mission up the river into deepest Africa to find the mysterious Kurtz, who had become 'ill'.

Notes on the Book

The book is quite short, with only 3 chapters - a novella rather than a novel. The second chapter is purely talking about heading up the river through the forests, and is a great example of creating atmosphere through descriptive scenery.

Whilst the story is about Marlowe's journey, the most-discussed theme is Kurtz's mental health. Living in a different land, and being the only European within hundreds of miles, he has come to think of himself as a god amongst the locals.

The insanity and arrogance of Kurtz is a mirror to the attitudes of the Colonial powers. Yet Kurtz the person is also pitiful, a man far from home who has lost everything he has ever known. His final words are famous in western literature: 'The horror! The horror!'

Sample

Going up that river was like traveling back to the earliest beginnings of the world, when vegetation rioted on the earth and the big trees were kings. An empty stream, a great silence, an impenetrable forest. The air was warm, thick, heavy, sluggish. There was no joy in the brilliance of sunshine. The long stretches of the waterway ran on, deserted, into the gloom of overshadowed distances. On silvery sand-banks hippos and alligators sunned themselves side by side. The broadening waters flowed through a mob of wooded islands; you lost your way on that river as you would in a desert, and butted all day long against shoals, trying to find the channel, till you thought yourself bewitched and cut off for ever from everything you had known once—somewhere—far away—in another existence perhaps. There were moments when one's past came back to one, as it will sometimes when you have not a moment to spare for yourself; but it came in the shape of an unrestful and noisy dream, remembered with wonder amongst the overwhelming realities of this strange world of plants, and water, and silence. And this stillness of life did not in the least resemble a peace. It was the stillness of an implacable force brooding over an inscrutable intention. It looked at you with a vengeful aspect. I got used to it afterwards; I did not see it any more; I had no time. I had to keep guessing at the channel; I had to discern, mostly by inspiration, the signs of hidden banks; I watched for sunken stones; I was learning to clap my teeth smartly before my heart flew out, when I shaved by a fluke some infernal sly old snag that would have ripped the life out of the tin-pot steamboat and drowned all the pilgrims; I had to keep a lookout for the signs of dead wood we could cut up in the night for next day's steaming. When you have to attend to things of that sort, to the mere incidents of the surface, the reality—the reality, I tell you—fades. The inner truth is hidden—luckily, luckily. But I felt it all the same; I felt often its mysterious stillness watching me at my monkey tricks, just as it watches you fellows performing on your respective tight-ropes for—what is it? half-a-crown a tumble—

The Books Position in the Literary Canon

Heart of Darkness remains one of the most read books in the west, and a must-read for anyone studying colonialism. The film 'Apocalypse Now', set during the Vietnam war but using Heart of Darkness's plot, has helped keep it popular.

There is some debate as to whether the book turns Africans into just scenery, not people, because the natives rarely talk. Some say the book stops Africans having a voice; others say that the point of the book is the isolation and sadness of Kurtz in Africa, not to discuss Africa itself.

Despite the debate, Heart of Darkness is almost always present in 'best books' lists.

