



Small Talk

- Did you get up to anything fun for the Chinese New Year?
- Got your spring wardrobe ready?
- How's school/work?

Conversation

- Why do people enjoy shows about violent crime? Why do people like to see grisly murders on TV?
- Plan a 5 course dinner party.
- Your dinner party has gone wrong: one person is asleep, one person is drunk, and one person has put his pants on his head. What do you do?



Vocabulary: Disasters

earthquake
landslide
tornado
hurricane
typhoon
flood
flash flood
tsunami
tidal wave
drought
volcano
forest fire
war
famine
epidemic
pandemic

Grammar (review)

Normal English:
1 person; 2 people

Technical/Legal English:
people = a group
persons = more than one individual

Dialogue: Interview (review)

Did you find the place OK?
Do you know your way out?

overran - *we overran on a couple of things*

backlog - *there is a bit of a backlog*

beat around the bush - *let's not beat around the bush*

up north/down south/out east/out west - *moved down south*

beggars can't be choosers - *beggars can't be choosers in the current job market*

put you off - *I don't want to put you off*

there is only so far you can go - *there is only so far you can go in this job*

under-performing - *see which areas are under-performing*

stay on top of things - *you need to stay on top of things*

keep up-to-date - *I like to keep up-to-date with technology*

technophobe - *I'm a bit of a technophobe*

go off on a tangent - *let's not go off on a tangent*

it ticked many boxes - *for things I wanted, that job ticked many boxes*

top notch - *the training here is top notch*

biggest assets - *my enthusiasm and skills are my biggest assets*

supremely - *the people here are supremely talented*



Results & Consequences (review)

so

therefore

as a result/consequence

accordingly

consequently

because of this/that

thus

hence

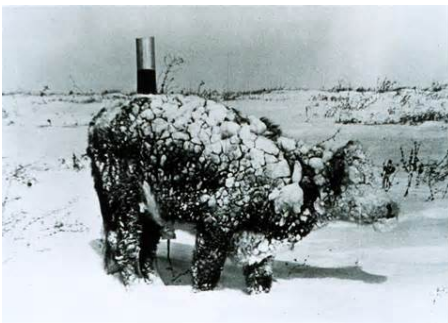
for this/that reason

so that

in that case

under these circumstances

in either case



Idioms

a cut above

better than the others in this subject/field

Quite simply, he is a cut above the rest. There isn't anyone who can do what he is doing.

When it comes to flower arranging, Dave is a cut above.

cut from a different cloth

1 -superior; better, and always has been from birth

2- totally different

In life there are people who, sadly, are simply cut from a different cloth. They're smarter, better looking, and seem to stroll to success. I wish I was one of those people.

"How about Vicky? I like her."

"Dave, when it comes to choosing women we're cut from a different cloth."

costs an arm and a leg

to cost a lot of money; to be very very expensive

"I'd like to go home for Christmas, but the tickets cost an arm and a leg. Maybe I'd be smarter to wait until January."

More resources at www.ab51.org

Western Culture: Ireland's Independence (April 18th, 1949)

The Republic of Ireland Act 1948 came into effect on April 18th 1949, seeing 26 counties leave the UK and creating The Republic of Ireland.

Wars, Uprising and Part of the UK

For centuries Ireland and England had been fighting wars, generally following a pattern: English control of the island, followed by anti-English uprisings and attempts to remove the English from the land. The Act of the Union on January 1st, 1801 declared Ireland to be part of the United Kingdom.

Land Issues

One of the biggest problems in Ireland after the Act of the Union was land ownership, with rich landlords (including absentee landlords living in England) charging high rents on farmers and tenants, keeping much of the nation poor. The Irish Land League was formed and through political pressure (and some violence) managed to get rents reduced.

Efforts to suppress the Land League after the 'Land Wars' backfired: the Irish National League was created instead, a new group that was interested in wider issues, including Irish independence.

Nationalists and Unionists

People living in Ireland also began to split into two groups based on religious lines: Irish Catholics, who generally wanted to have an independent Ireland, and Irish Protestants, who wanted to stay with the protestant UK.

Irish War of Independence

By 1910 it looked as if Ireland would become independent through political means: nationalists held the majority of the political power in Ireland, and a Home Rule Act was being pushed through the British parliament. However the British Prime Minister amended the Home Rule Act, and World War I arrived (which caused further problems because Britain brought in conscription, forcing people to fight with the army of their enemy).

Britain's crushing of The Easter Rising of 1916, with leaders executed and many arrested, made the want for independence stronger. An election was held in 1918 in which 91% of seats in Ireland outside the unionist north were won by Sinn Fein (the Irish Nationalist Party). Sinn Fein declared its own government, called Ireland independent (although only the Soviet Union accepted Ireland as an independent country), and war was inevitable. Britain sent in a division of its army nicknamed the 'Black and Tans', and war lasted until 1921.

Moving Away from the UK and Independence

To end the war the UK let Ireland become a 'free state' - a self-governing part of Britain's Commonwealth (6 counties in the north stayed with the UK). In 1937 a new constitution of Ireland was introduced, replacing 'The Free State of Ireland' with 'Ireland' (or 'Eire', in Irish) and creating the office of the Irish President. World War II (1939-1945) slowed down Irish independence, but the Republic of Ireland Act was finally written in 1948, and came into effect on April 18th, 1949.

The Aftermath

Ireland was now an independent country, but it did not stop the violence: many people believed that the 6 counties in the north should be part of Ireland, not the UK. A new version of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) – not supported by the Irish government – began a campaign of violence against British police officers. As well as the Nationalist/Unionist problem, religion was also a major division, as The Republic was about 90% Catholic, whilst Northern Ireland was Protestant.

'The Troubles' finally stopped in the 1990s due to shared political representation and policing being granted to the North.