

ENGLISH

LEVEL 6



K2



Puncak Jaya



Mount Elbrus



Mount Everest

Small Talk

- What has been going on with you recently? Been up to anything interesting?
- Got anything fun lined up for the next few days?
- Any TV shows you can recommend?

Conversation

- If you were to live aboard the International Space Station for a year, how would you avoid cabin fever?
- Should zero-hour contracts be made illegal?
- Invent a new, and absurd, reality TV show.



Tirich Mir

Vocabulary: University

Dean

Director of Studies

faculty

scholarship

degree

major

outside course

union

fraternity

sorority

halls

dorms (dormitories)

lecture

lecturer

tutorial

tutor

lab

essay

dissertation

thesis

Linking Structures: Reformulation (review)

in other words

rather

to put it more simply

simply

basically

Grammar: would have (done) (review)

1. willingness/unwillingness in past

I would have gone, but I was busy

2. how another would act in past

She would have killed you if she had seen you

Kilimanjaro



At the Bar: Parts 1 & 2 (review) + Part 3

on the rocks	happy hour	stick to
a round of drinks	two-for-one	on tap
tab	kick	substantial
last orders	on second thoughts	

My local pub usually has a **good crowd**, with a **decent mixture** of regulars and first-timers, locals and out-of-towners.

Indeed, it can be quite busy – **standing room only** – on Friday and Saturday nights when the weekenders come into town and **the suits let their hair down**. Those nights are pretty fun, although I prefer the quieter evenings when it feels more like a local, the sort of place – **to quote** ‘Cheers’ – ‘where everybody knows your name’.

I usually head down there around a quarter to eight so I can catch the end of happy hour, then **stick around** for a couple of hours. Some people say that this is a country of **social alcoholics**, but I do try to **keep things in check**, especially if it is a **school night** and I have work in the morning; that said, I have been pretty **wasted** in there in the past, particularly if I’ve been on the tequila (tequila is my **Achilles’ Heel**; I **can’t hold** that drink at all). **For all my sins**, however, I’ve never been as **sozzled** as the students who occasionally come in at the weekend for an afternoon session, playing drinking games in the beer garden and messing around with cards, dice, or jenga. Some of those guys can get pretty **paralytic**.

The majority of people who **stop by** spend their time **chewing the fat** with their friends, but there are a few **loners** who come in and **prop-up the bar**, chatting to the bargirls or bartenders and ordering ‘**the usual**’. A lot of people think **barflies** are sort of pathetic, sitting around chatting to some woman **young enough to be their daughter**, but it is probably better than sitting at home by one’s self. And I shouldn’t **knock them**: perhaps they are a glimpse at my future.

*Mount McKinley**Aconcagua**Mount Vinson**Mont Blanc*

Western Culture: 1997 General Election

The 1997 General Election (held on May 1st, 1997) is famous because it broke the Conservative Party's run of power in the UK. The Labour Party, lead by Tony Blair, won.

It was the beginning of 'New Labour' being in power.

Before the election

For twenty years the Conservative Party had been in power. However, as time went on, more and more people became disillusioned with their governing.

The Labour Party had been, traditionally, the party for the workers.

In 1992 the Conservatives won an election that many thought they would lose. Labour were favourites to win, but within the last few weeks people moved away from Labour and voted for the status quo (many people think Rupert Murdoch, owner of Britain's biggest selling newspapers, helped achieve this by demonising Labour).

In 1994 Labour changed its style. They moved away from the workers, and instead placed itself in the middle of UK politics. They chose to not only appeal to working-class voters, but also to the disillusioned middle class.

Election Night

Polls closed at 10pm. The votes were counted through the night.

Although many people thought that Labour would win, the result was a surprise: Labour won in a landslide.

There were 659 seats to be won.

The Labour Party won 418 seats (in 1992, they won 271).

The Conservative Party won 165 (in 1992, they won 343).

The Liberal Democrat Party won 46 (in 1992, they won 18).

Many Conservative MPs lost seats that nobody thought they would lose. 7 members of the Cabinet (The Prime Minister's closest ministers) lost. The most famous defeat was Michael Portillo, the Secretary of Defence, who lost at 3.10am. A famous question became 'Were you up for Portillo?'

Other defeats of note were David Mellor (Heritage Secretary), who got into a big argument on TV after losing, and Neil Hamilton, who was being investigated for taking money for asking questions in the House and lost to an independent candidate.

Aftermath

The Labour Party would stay in power until 2010. After the 1997 election they rode a wave of 'Cool Britannia' (a play on words of 'Rule Britannia'), with lots of famous actors and musicians being invited to meet Tony Blair.

However, as time went on events such as the Iraq War, MPs finances, and the financial crisis ate away their popularity

The Conservative Party spent years trying to re-invent themselves. Many feel their success in 2010 came largely by copying New Labour's model: a young leader, trying to stay in the centre of politics, and picking up voters annoyed with the current government.