

English Level 6

Small Talk

How are things? What've you been up to?

How's work?

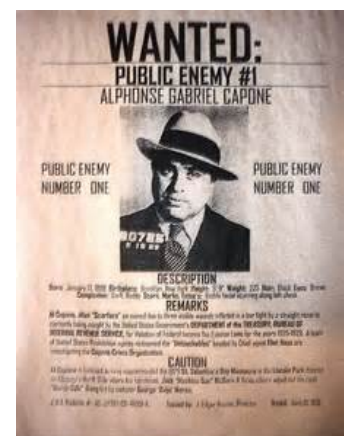
Any books you can recommend?

Conversation

How would you drop an egg from the top of a building and avoid it breaking?

What are some possible methods for a nation to avoid the financial problems of an ageing population?

You and a T-Rex are in a race. How do you win?





Grammar: Despite vs. Even though (review)

Despite + v.

They ate the burger despite it being burnt.

Despite + n

The shareholders were angry despite the company's profits.

Even though + clause

They listened to his story, even though the man was clearly out of his mind.

Dialogue: Interview (part 3)

Interviewer: So you kept the IT job. I should ask: what does being an IT analyst involve? What do you do day-to-day?

Emili: Mostly it is sorting out minor problems with the network to make sure it is working at its **optimum rate**, and looking at the **demographics** of who is logging in, what time, and finding ways to increase web traffic in **under-performing** areas. A lot of my work involves presenting data to the marketing department.

Interviewer: I see. And what would you say are your main skills, your strong points?

Emili: Apart from **knowing my way around** computers, I think I am also a quick learner, and am curious about new technology. I like to keep **up-to-date** with technology, which is useful if you want to **stay on top of things** in a **field** that changes as swiftly and often as computing.

Interviewer: I'm **not much of** a computer man myself. Bit of a **technophobe**. Anyway, lets not **go off on that tangent**. Can I ask what sort of things you look for in a job?

Emili: It sounds a bit **pretentious**, but I enjoy using my mind, problem-solving, and working with technology, so the IT analyst work **ticked many boxes**. That said, **ultimately** I'm looking to **move into** something that gets me out of the office a little more or lets me try out some new ideas. One of the problems at my current work is that it doesn't have much variation.

Similarity & Relations (review)

Make sentences using 3 of these:

equally
likewise
similarly
correspondingly
in the same way

Vocabulary: Religions

Christianity
Judaism
Islam
Buddhism
Hinduism
Sikhism
Taoism
Shinto



Notes:

- More resources: www.ab51.org
- Speaking practice can be arranged:
djamiewills@gmail.com
- Delicious Wednesday English Corner:
wechat group 美味周三英语角

Shakespearean Phrases

a fool's paradise (from 'Romeo and Juliet')
a stupid situation; a situation in which 'a fool' is happy, but other people can see it is a mess.

He lived in a fool's paradise, believing she would fall in love with him.

This company is a fool's paradise; everybody seems to love working here, but they don't see how they are wasting their time.

a foregone conclusion (from 'Othello')
something that is certain to happen

The sale of this house is a foregone conclusion: it is not 'if', but 'when'.

People seem to think it is a foregone conclusion that Brazil will win the World Cup, but I think China has a chance.

all that glitters is not gold (from 'The Merchant of Venice')
appearances can be deceiving; not everything that looks good is good

Remember when you're buying your new car that all that glitters is not gold.

Arachne the Weaver

In Athens there was a young woman called Arachne, who was the best maker of cloth in the whole city. Everyone told her she was quite wonderful, until Arachne began to become proud:

"I am the best weaver in the whole world!"

"Well, yes, except for the Goddess Athena."

"Athena?! Ha, she could be my student!"

An old woman approached Arachne and said people should respect the gods, because they can get angry.

"I am not scared of Athena. Let her come here and we shall compete."

There was a flash, and suddenly the old woman had gone, replaced by Athena herself. The competition began.

Athena, the goddess, decided to weave a beautiful scene from another competition she had been in, with the God Poseidon for who would own the city of Athens. The picture was marvelous, and everyone thought Athena quite skilled.

Arachne, on the other hand, decided to have some fun at Athena's expense: she weaved a picture of Zeus, the king of the gods and father of Athena, with other partners he had seduced. The weaving was sensational, better than Athena's, but when she saw what was in the picture Athena grew very angry. She stood up, ripped the picture to pieces, destroyed Arachne's loom so the girl could never weave again, and slashed the girl's face.

"You must respect the gods!" Athena said.

Arachne, however, would not bow, because she was the better weaver and Athena had destroyed the loom. Instead, Arachne hung herself.

Seeing how much the girl wanted to weave, but not forgiving her for her insult, Athena untied the rope, and sprinkled Arachne's body with a poison called aconite. She then turned Arachne into a spider so she would continue her weaving forever.