

MARTHA STEWART

Martha Stewart is America's most famous female entrepreneur. She runs a merchandising and media empire worth billions of dollars. But she's also been in prison.



Growing up, Martha Stewart was **into** everything. Her mother was a great cook and **seamstress**, and her father a **keen** gardener. And young Martha watched and learned from both parents. She wrote for the school newspaper, and in her teens modelled and appeared in TV commercials. Plus she showed an early talent for throwing parties – organising birthday **dos** for the children of family friends. Then, in her twenties, she began working as a stockbroker on Wall Street. With so many skills and interests and so much energy, it was clear Martha was **going places**.

I CANNOT BE DESTROYED!



But then it all went wrong. In late 2001, Martha sold some shares she owned in a pharmaceutical company. The problem was, she sold the shares after receiving a **tip-off** that their value was about to **drop**. In 2003, she was arrested for **insider trading** and, after a five-week trial, she was sentenced to five months in prison. Martha's perfect life had collapsed and

many thought it would be the end of her and her business empire.

She began her sentence in late 2004, at a minimum-security women's prison in West Virginia. But even in jail, Martha Stewart was... well, Martha Stewart. She kept her cell **immaculate**, taught yoga classes, worked as a cleaner, and even did some cooking for the other inmates. Halfway through her sentence, she said, "I've had time to think, time to write, time to exercise, time to not eat the bad food, and time to walk and contemplate the future."

Martha got out in March 2005, and immediately began a well-publicised comeback. Once again she took charge of her company and within six months she'd launched a new book as well as a TV show – *The Martha Stewart Show*. **Against all the odds**, she was back on top. And even today, at seventy, The company she founded, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc., continued to grow. She eventually sold it, and it's now owned by Marquee Brands LLC.



The **turning point** in Martha's life was in 1972. Martha and her husband decided to leave New York and move to the country. So, they bought and renovated a 19th century farmhouse in Connecticut. To make money, Martha began a **catering business**. And one day, while catering for a party, she met the head of a publishing company. He was impressed with her food, and asked if she'd like to write a cookbook. Martha said "absolutely" – it was the opportunity she'd been waiting for. In 1982, her first recipe book (*Entertaining*) was released.

Entertaining was the best-selling cookbook in twenty years. Martha was motivated by its success and she wrote more books, as well as articles about **homemaking**. Soon, she began releasing her own cooking and decorating products and also started appearing on talk shows. Then, in 1990, she launched her own magazine – *Martha Stewart Living*.

Martha's name had become a powerful brand. And Martha became known as America's **lifestyle guru**. In 1995, *New York Magazine* called her, "the definitive American woman of our time".



Born on 3rd August 1941, in New Jersey, USA. Martha Stewart is an entrepreneur, publisher, author and TV star. She's currently worth US\$638 million.

So, did Martha learn anything from her time in jail? She certainly did. Martha told an interviewer, "I learned that I really cannot be destroyed." ☺

MARTHA STEWART QUOTES

On being open-minded ...
"Without an open-minded mind, you can never be a great success."

On good products ...
"I think it's very important that whatever you're trying to make, sell or teach has to be basically good. A bad product and you know what? You won't be here in ten years."

On decision-making ...
"Never make a big decision without sleeping on it."

MARTHA STEWART DISCUSSION

Have any famous people from your country been to prison? Who? Why?
Have you heard any other stories of famous comebacks? What were they?

GLOSSARY

an entrepreneur *n*
a business person who organises, manages and assumes the risks of a business

to run *vb*
if you "run" a business, you manage it

merchandising *n*
the practice by which the brand or image of one product is used to sell T-shirts, books, cups, etc.

a media empire *n*
if someone has a "media empire", they have books, television shows, magazines, etc.

into *exp*
the things you are "into" are the things you like doing

a seamstress *n*
a person whose job is to make or repair clothes

keen *adj*
if you're "keen" on something, you really like doing that thing

a do *n*
a party

to go places *exp*
if someone is "going places", they're going to be famous one day

the turning point *exp*
the moment when things suddenly changed

a catering business *n*
a company that provides food and drinks at an event/party

homemaking *n*
looking after the home: cooking, cleaning, etc.

a lifestyle guru *n*
a person who is considered an expert on how to live, work, relax, etc.

a tip-off *n*
information that you receive secretly

to drop *vb*
to decrease; to go down

insider trading *n*
the crime of buying or selling shares based on secret information that the public don't know about

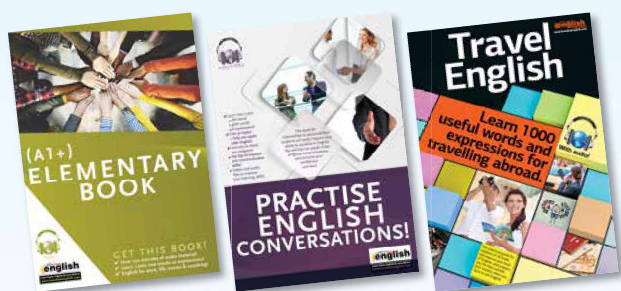
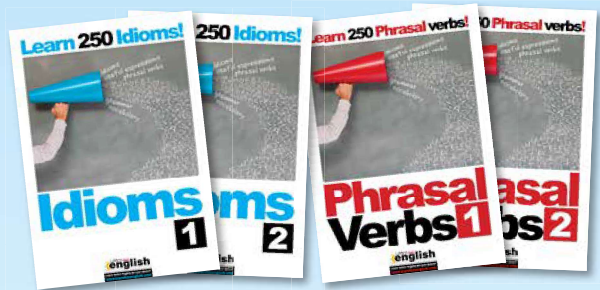
immaculate *adj*
very clean and tidy

against all the odds *exp*
if you do something "against all the odds", you do it even though it seemed impossible at the time

open-minded *n*
if someone is "open-minded", they listen to other people's opinions and ideas

to sleep on it *exp*
if you "sleep on something", you wait before making a decision about it, often by waiting until the next day

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LISTENING



Meeting for the first time after an online relationship.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 42

1 Pre-listening

Imagine you've just met someone and you're chatting to them in a bar. Think of six questions to ask them that will help keep the conversation going.

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to two people who've just met for the first time. Listen once. What questions do they ask one another? Compare these questions to the ones you thought of for the Pre-listening activity.

3 Listening II

Complete the sentences with the words from below. Then, listen again to check your answers.

meat 30s cat weekend 27 film
work months conference

- You aren't really _____, are you?
- You certainly aren't in your early _____.
- I gave up alcohol a few _____ ago.
- So, have you got any plans for the _____?
- Yeah, I'm going to see the match with a few mates from _____.
- I'm going to a _____ on vegetarianism.
- I work in the marketing department of a large _____ supplier.
- You can't release a domesticated _____ into the wild.
- We're going to see the latest Vin Diesel _____.



4 Language focus Question tags

Look at this extract from the transcript of the recording Social Splash: "... you've got blonde hair in the picture you sent me, haven't you?" The speaker has used a question tag ("haven't you?"). Complete the statements with the correct question tags.

- You're from Birmingham, _____?
- You went out last night, _____?
- You're coming to the party, _____?
- You've got a dog, _____?

5 Discussion

- When was the last time you had a conversation with someone you just met? What did you talk about?
- What are your top tips for making conversation?
- What do you think of dating agencies / dating websites?



English Smugglers

England has a long tradition of smuggling dating back to the 11th century. But one period in English history is especially famous for smugglers and their illegal cargo.

The **golden age** of English smuggling began around 1700, and lasted for 150 years. During that time, England was fighting many expensive wars in Europe. To **raise** money for these wars, the government put high **duties** on **imported goods**. This made products such as wine, **gin**, **silk**, tea and tobacco too expensive for most people. So, smugglers brought these things into the country illegally. It was a **win-win situation**: the smugglers made a profit, and the people could buy the things they wanted.



But who were the smugglers? At first, they were poor fisherman and sailors who needed to earn

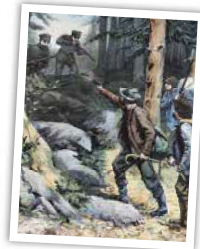
a bit of extra **cash**. They **purchased** small amounts of **contraband** in foreign ports, and then sold it for a profit back in England. But very soon, other people found out about this

relatively easy way to make money. So, they organised smuggling gangs and began bringing massive amounts of contraband into the country. At one point there was so much illegal gin in England that people were using it to clean their windows.

But it didn't take long for the government to respond. They were losing a lot



of money to smuggling. So, in 1746, it became a **capital offence** to smuggle. However, the **threat of execution** just made the smugglers more dangerous. They **armed themselves** and their boats. And they'd do anything to protect their precious cargo, including killing those who tried to stop them.



Interestingly, although the smugglers were **ruthless**, the public supported them. Why? Because people believed the high taxes were unfair. On top of that, the smuggling industry created many jobs in southern England. As a result, smugglers were seen as brave and **cunning** heroes. And that romantic reputation continues to this day. ✪



THE COAST IS CLEAR!

A Smuggling Run

Here's our guide on how to be an 18th century English smuggler.

First, you need to load your ship with contraband at an overseas port. Popular ports in the 18th century were Calais and Le Havre (in France), or Vlissingen (in the Netherlands). Smuggling was big business and merchants in these towns **made a living** selling goods to smugglers.

Before you set sail for England, make sure your illegal cargo is well hidden. In those days, tobacco was often **woven** into rope, and **barrels** of gin were stored in secret compartments on the ship.

Now, you're ready to set sail! But, beware! While crossing the English Channel, you might **run**



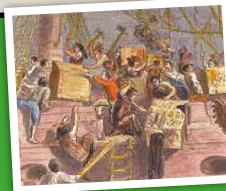
into an English **customs ship**. If you do, you'll either have to fight them or **outrun** them. Good luck!

Eventually, you arrive at the coast in the middle of the night. Other members of your gang are waiting on the shore. It's their job to make sure no customs officers are patrolling the beach. If the **coast is clear**, your accomplices will shine a light or make a fire. That's the **sign** to bring the cargo onto the beach.

Men with horses are waiting on the shore. They carry the goods inland. Some contraband goes to small villages. The rest is taken to **market towns** near London. There, **merchants** from the capital buy the tea, gin or tobacco to sell in their London shops. ☺

Illegal Tea

The English will do anything for a cup of tea! In the 17th century, the East India Company started importing tea from China. But the company's monopoly and the high import duties made it too expensive for most people. So, by the 18th century, tea was one of the most commonly smuggled goods into Britain. In fact, it's estimated that in the 1780s, 80% of tea drunk in England was illegal.



The Jamaica Inn

The Jamaica Inn is a pub in Cornwall (in the southwest of England) that was once a smuggler's **den**. Built in 1750, it's in the middle of an isolated **moor**. Smugglers used the area to transport contraband, and many would stop off at the inn, or use it to hide their cargo. These days it's a pub and hotel, but it's kept much of the original **decor**. And a sign above the door says, "Through these **portals** passed smugglers, **wreckers**, **villains** and murderers, but rest easy... **t'was** many years ago."

The Hawkhurst Gang

The Hawkhurst Gang was England's most **notorious** band of smugglers. They operated in Kent (in south east England) from about 1735 until 1749. And they were **fearless**. The gang once brought three shiploads of contraband into England in one night. It was so much tea, brandy and gin that they needed 500 horses to transport the goods to London. They often demanded help from local villagers. If you said yes, you'd get a barrel of gin. But if you opposed them, you **risked** being beaten... or worse.



Modern day smuggling

Drug smuggling (also called "drug trafficking") is a big problem in the United States. And it's extremely difficult to control. According to the US Customs Service, approximately 370 million people enter the country by land, 60 million people enter by air, and six million enter by sea each year. And more than 90,000 passenger and merchant ships dock at US ports, carrying 400 million tons of cargo in more than 9 million shipping containers. Drug smuggling operations are concealed within this trade, as drugs are brought into and out of the United States by way of land, air, sea, and mail.

Discussion

What goods are commonly smuggled into your country?
Are there any neighbouring countries with cheaper goods than those in your country? What are they?
Have you ever been on a shopping trip to another country? What did you buy? Why?

GLOSSARY

smuggling *n*
taking goods from one country to another illegally

a smuggler *n*
a person who takes goods from one country to another illegally

the golden age of *exp*
the period of time when something was happening a lot

to raise *vb*
to increase

a duty *n*
a tax on goods that you buy

imported goods *n*
things (food, wine, etc.) that are brought into a country

gin *n*
a type of alcoholic drink made from grain and juniper berries

silk *n*
a type of smooth cloth made from silkworms (types of insect)

a win-win situation *n*
a situation that is good for both people/parties

cash *n*
money in the form of notes (paper money) and coins (metal money)

to purchase *vb*
to buy

contraband *n*
goods that have been imported illegally

a capital offence *n*
a crime that will result in death for the person who commits it

the threat of *exp*
if there is a "threat of" something, there is a danger of that thing

execution *n*
if there's an "execution", a prisoner is killed officially

to arm yourself *exp*
if you "arm yourself" with a weapon (a gun, knife, etc.), you take that weapon in order to defend yourself

ruthless *adj*
cruel and not kind

cunning *adj*
someone who is "cunning" can do things in a clever way, often by tricking people

to make a living *exp*
the things you do to "make a living" are the things you do to earn money

to weave *vb* (**wove**; **woven**)
if you "weave" cloth, you make it by crossing threads (thin pieces of material)

a barrel *n*
a wooden container for wine/beer, etc.

to run into *phr vb*
if you "run into" someone, you meet them unexpectedly

a customs ship *n*
a ship used by the authorities to control trade and check for contraband or illegal goods

to outrun *vb*
if ship A "outruns" ship B, ship A goes faster than ship B

the coast is clear *exp*
there is no danger

a sign *n*
something that is designed to communicate a message: a movement of the hands, a light going on and off, etc.

a market town *n*
a small town with a market in it where people buy and sell things

a merchant *n*
a businessperson who buys and sells things

a den *n*
a place where criminals can hide

a moor *n*
an open area of land without many trees

the decor *n*
the decoration/furniture, etc.

a portal *n formal*
a large door at the entrance to an important building

a wrecker *n*
someone who destroys things

a villain *n*
a bad person who does bad things

t'was *exp old-fashioned*
it was

notorious *adj*
famous for negative reasons

fearless *adj*
without any fear; not afraid

to risk *vb*
if someone "risks" getting beaten (for example), they do something and there is a danger that they will be beaten

Well-known people with a criminal record.

FAMOUS ARRESTS

PARIS HILTON, LINDSAY LOHAN, ROBERT DOWNEY JR. CELEBRITIES ARE OFTEN IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW. SOME MANAGE TO KEEP THEIR "MISTAKES" A SECRET. BUT OTHERS END UP WITH THEIR STORIES ALL OVER THE **TABLOIDS**. HERE ARE THE DETAILS OF THREE FAMOUS ARRESTS. A COUPLE OF THEM MIGHT SURPRISE YOU.

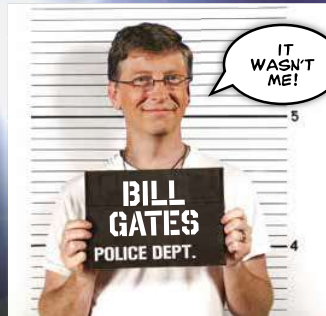


Winona Ryder was once one of Hollywood's biggest stars. During the 1990s, she received **critical acclaim** and **box office success**. And in 2000, she was **awarded** a star on the Hollywood **Walk of Fame**. But then it all went wrong. In December 2001, she was arrested for **shoplifting**. She was caught on CCTV leaving a Beverly Hills department store carrying thousands of dollars worth of clothes. Winona claimed she was **rehearsing** for a part as a shoplifter.



But the **jury** didn't believe her. She was convicted of shoplifting

and **grand theft**. Her sentence? 480 hours of community service at a Los Angeles hospital. Afterwards, Winona **quit** acting for a few years. And she moved from Los Angeles to San Francisco, to get **out of the spotlight**. But now she's on a **comeback**. She recently appeared in the award-winning *Black Swan*. Winona's not only talented, but she's also a nice person. The police who arrested her said she was "very friendly, polite and cooperative."

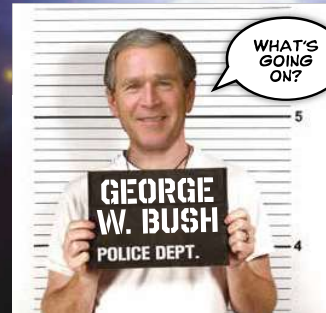


Bill Gates doesn't seem like a bad boy. But on 29th April 1975 (just two weeks after founding Microsoft) he was arrested in Albuquerque, New Mexico. What for? **Speeding** and driving without a driver's licence. But Bill's **rap sheet** doesn't end there. In 1977 he was arrested again. This time for speeding, driving his Porsche through a **stop sign** and, once again, driving



without a licence. The police records for

the arrest have disappeared. But you can still find Bill's **mug shot** on the internet. And finally, in 1989, Bill was **booked** for **drunk driving**. But the charge was reduced to a lesser offence. Bill has never commented on his **wild past**. But a Microsoft spokesperson said, "It's well known that when Bill was young, he didn't have a very good driving record."



Can someone with a criminal record become president of the United States? They certainly can. And George W. Bush did. In 1976, the 30-year old Bush was drinking in a bar near his parents' house. A few hours later, he decided to drive home. But on the way, a police officer **pulled him over**. Bush had been driving suspiciously slowly. The future president was arrested for drunk driving. Bush kept his arrest secret for 24 years. But it **leaked to the press** just before the 2000 presidential election (which he won). Bush admitted it was true. He said, "I'm not **proud** of that. I made some mistakes. I occasionally drank too much, and I did that night. I've learned my lesson." 🍷



GLOSSARY

the tabloids *n*

newspapers that often have stories about the private lives of famous people

to receive critical acclaim *exp*
to receive positive reviews

box office success *exp*
if a film has "box office success", it makes a lot of money from cinema ticket sales

to award *vb*
if someone is "awarded" a prize/ money, etc., they are given that prize/ money, etc.

the Walk of Fame *n*

a road in Hollywood with metal stars on the pavement (the part of the road that you walk on) with actors' names

shoplifting *n*

stealing things from a shop

to rehearse *vb*

if actors "rehearse", they practise for a film/play, etc.

the jury *n*

the 12 people in a court case who decide if someone is guilty or innocent

grand theft *n*

stealing things which have a great value

to quit *vb*

to stop doing something

out of the spotlight *exp*

if a famous person is "out of the spotlight", they stop receiving attention from the newspapers, etc.

a comeback *n*

if a star makes a "comeback", they become popular again after a period of not being popular

speeding *n*

driving faster than the permitted speed limit

a rap sheet *n*

a criminal record – an official document stating the crimes someone has committed

a stop sign *n*

a sign in the road that says you must stop your car to let traffic pass

a mug shot *n*

a photo police take of someone when they are arrested

to book *vb*

when a police officer "books" someone, they write down their name and address and the details of the crime

drunk driving *n*

driving a vehicle whilst drunk (having had too much alcohol)

a wild past *n*

if someone has a "wild past", they did many crazy things in the past

to pull over *phr vb*

if the police "pull over" a driver, they tell the driver to stop the car at the side of the road

to leak to the press *exp*

if information is "leaked to the press", someone tells the press about it

proud *adj*

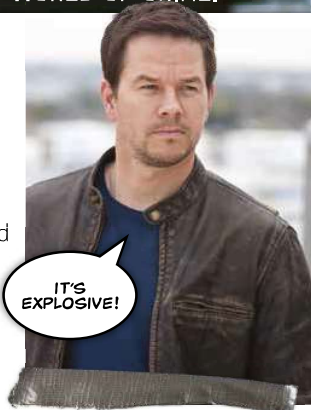
if someone is "proud" of something, they are pleased about that thing

An action-packed film about smuggling.

CONTRABAND

CONTRABAND FOCUSES ON THE WORLD OF **SMUGGLING**. MARK WAHLBERG PLAYS AN **EX-SMUGGLER** WHO HAS TO DO "ONE LAST JOB". AND **CONTRABAND** SHOWS JUST WHAT IT'S LIKE IN THIS DANGEROUS WORLD OF CRIME.

Contraband is a 2012 American action-thriller, directed by Baltasar Kormákur (who's from Iceland). The film stars Mark Wahlberg and Kate Beckinsale. Mark plays Chris, a former smuggler living in New Orleans. Chris has given up his old life of crime and is now a family man. He has a wife (Kate, played by Beckinsale) and two kids. But when Kate's younger brother gets involved in a drug deal that **goes wrong**, Chris must do one last smuggling job. Why? So he can pay off his brother-in-law's **debt**... and **save his life**. Of course, things don't go according to plan.



was smuggled on a container ship. Baltasar said a lot of international smuggling happens this way. For example, drugs are often hidden in **shipping containers**, or inside the walls of the **cargo ships**. Secondly, the film had to be set in New Orleans. The Port of New Orleans is one of America's biggest ports for smuggling, and illegal goods are regularly brought in here from South America. And thirdly, the filmmakers worked with

the United States Department of **Homeland Security** to make sure they got the **law-enforcement** details right.

Finally, Baltasar said that casting Mark Wahlberg added a **touch of authenticity**. Mark (just like Chris in the film) has a dark past (see our article on Mark Wahlberg to find out more about his criminal record). And Baltasar said this background helped the actor understand the character. Mark agrees. He told an interviewer, "I always want to play roles I can **connect with** on a personal level. My real-life experience is far more valuable than any kind of **trickery** you could learn."

So, if you like explosive Hollywood blockbusters, you'll love *Contraband*. And who knows, you might also learn a thing or two about smuggling. ☺



Contraband is actually a **remake**. It's based on a 2008 Icelandic film called *Reykjavik-Rotterdam*. Baltasar Kormákur produced and starred in the original film. So, many people have asked him why he wanted to tell the same story again. His response?

While he loves the original, he thinks setting the story in America works even better than Iceland because America has a much bigger **criminal underworld**.

So, what do the two versions have in common, and how are they different? The basic story and the characters are the same. And in both films the **contraband** is smuggled aboard a **container ship**. The main differences are the **setting** and the actual contraband being smuggled. In *Reykjavik-Rotterdam*, the characters are **running** alcohol from Holland to Iceland. But in *Contraband*, Chris smuggles **counterfeit** US dollars from Panama to the United States.



Baltasar wanted to show the real world of smuggling. So, how did he achieve that? First, he said it was important that the money



YouTube

Check out the *Contraband* trailer:
<http://youtu.be/dF0BpZjH1M>



DISCUSSION

What goods are smuggled into your country?
What goods are smuggled out of your country?
Is smuggling a problem in your country? Give examples.

GLOSSARY

smuggling *n*
the crime of taking goods illegally from one country to another

a smuggler *n*
a person who takes goods illegally from one country to another

to go wrong *exp*
if things "go wrong", they don't go well

a debt *n*
money you must pay to someone

to save a life *exp*
if you "save someone's life", you stop them from dying

a remake *n*
another version of a film

the criminal underworld *n*
the "criminal underworld" in a city is the organised crime there and the people who are involved in it

contraband *n*
goods that are taken illegally from one country to another

a container ship *n*
a large ship for transporting goods. It has many containers (large boxes) on it

a setting *n*
the "setting" of a film is the place where the story happens

to run *vb*
if someone "runs" goods from one country to another, they take them from that country to another

counterfeit *adj*
not real; not genuine

a shipping container *n*
a large box on a ship for carrying goods

a cargo ship *n*
a large ship for transporting goods

United States Department of Homeland Security *n*
an organisation in the USA that tries to stop terrorist attacks

law-enforcement *adj*
"law-enforcement" officials include the police / the FBI, etc.

a touch of authenticity *n*
a bit of reality

to connect with *exp*
if you "connect with" something, you understand it

trickery *n*
using dishonest methods to achieve something

The star with a past.

MARK WAHLBERG

MARK WAHLBERG

MARK WAHLBERG IS A HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTAR WITH A **GLAMOROUS** LIFE. BUT IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY FOR HIM.

Mark was born into a big family, being the youngest of nine **siblings**. And he had a **tough upbringing** in a poor Massachusetts suburb. Three of his brothers and his sister spent time in jail. And soon Mark was getting into trouble too. He said, "I was climbing out the window and staying out all night when I was 12 or 13, and by the time I was 13 or 14, I stopped going to school."

Then in 1988 (when he was 16), his life changed. One night, Mark and some friends robbed a pharmacy and a liquor store. And they attacked a man in the street. Mark was arrested and sent to prison for two years. In the end, he only served 45 days. But going to jail was a **wake-up call**. He decided to turn his back on crime. When he got out of prison, he left his gang and became a **devout** Catholic.



Having decided to **go straight**, Mark **turned to** music.

His brother Donnie was

the lead singer in the popular boy band New Kids on the Block. With Donnie's help,



Mark formed the hip-hop group Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch. They released two top-ten

singles and their first album **went platinum**. Mark (or, Marky Mark as he was known) became famous for his muscular physique, which he would show off in the group's videos. But the band's second album wasn't successful. And in 1993 the group **split up**.

By then, Mark was no longer interested in music. Instead, he wanted to act. But the change wasn't easy. Everyone knew him as Marky Mark the hip-hop star and he wasn't taken seriously as an actor. However, in 1993, he had his **TV debut**.



And within a year he had appeared on the **big screen**, followed by his **breakthrough role** in 1997 in the film *Boogie Nights*.



Since then, Mark has been in many successful films. And his career has gone **from strength to strength**. In 2006, he was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in *The Departed*. And he was praised for his portrayal of an Irish-American boxer in *The Fighter* (2010). Mark has definitely proved his critics wrong.



So, how does he feel about his past now? He told an interviewer, "I did a lot of things that **I regretted**, and I certainly paid for my mistakes." And does he **feel guilty** about his past?

"I don't have a problem going to sleep at night. **I feel good** when I wake up in the morning." +



I FEEL GOOD WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING!

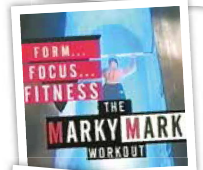
BIOGRAPHY

Mark Wahlberg is an American actor and producer. He was born on 5th June 1971 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He is married and has four children. His most successful films include *Boogie Nights* (1997), *Three Kings* (1999), *Planet of the Apes* (2001), *The Departed* (2006) and *The Fighter* (2010).



TRIVIA

- Mark Wahlberg is good friends with actor Leonardo DiCaprio.
- He was once an underwear model for Calvin Klein.
- He was originally in his brother's group New Kids on the Block. But he **quit** before the band became successful.
- He decided to become a rapper because he can't actually sing.
- He recently opened a hamburger joint with two of his brothers. It's called Wahlburgers.
- He runs the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. The organisation helps poor and underprivileged children.
- He once released a **workout** video, called *Form...Focus...Fitness, the Marky Mark Workout*.
- His parents got divorced when he was 11.
- His wife's name is Rhea Durham. For their first date, they went to church.



YouTube

Mark as Marky Mark:
http://youtu.be/oJ_SNIWRy54



DISCUSSION

Which Mark Wahlberg films have you seen? What did you think of them? Which of his quotes do you agree with? Why? Have there been any big changes in your life? Give details.

GLOSSARY

glamorous *adj*
attractive, exciting and interesting

a sibling *n*
a brother or sister

tough *adj*
difficult / hard / not easy

an upbringing *n*
your "upbringing" is the way you were treated and educated as a child

a wake-up call *n*
something that makes you stop and think

devout *adj*
serious and committed

to go straight *exp*
to stop doing illegal things

to turn to *exp*
if you "turn to" an activity, you start doing it

to go platinum *exp*
to sell more than a million singles or albums

to split up *phr vb*
to separate

a debut *n*
the first time you do something

the big screen *n*
if you appear on the "big screen", you appear in a film

a breakthrough role *n*
a part in a film that makes someone famous

(to go) from strength to strength *exp*
to become better and better

to regret *vb*
to feel bad about something you did in the past

to feel guilty *exp*
to feel bad about something you did in the past

to quit *vb*
to stop doing something

a workout *n*
a series of exercise movements

better off *exp*
if you're "better off" doing something, it is better for you to do that thing

to grow up *phr vb*
the time when you "grow up" is the time when you go from being a child to being an adult

to survive *vb*
if you "survive" a situation, you don't die in that situation

to root for *exp*
to support

a nightmare *n*
a terrible situation; a bad dream

a nickname *n*
an informal name

forgiveness *n*
the act of not being angry with someone who has done something bad to you

to forgive *vb*
to stop being angry with someone who has done something bad to you

QUOTES

ON HIS SIZE (HE'S 1.77 METERS TALL)...

"Being the youngest and the smallest... I was always trying to impress the older guys."

ON GROWING UP...

"I think I was **better off growing up** in the world I did. If people are able to **survive** that, then they can survive anything."

ON RELIGION AND SPORT...

"I love golf and I love church. I do both every day."

ON VILLAINS...

"I always **root for** the bad guys."

ON HONESTY...

"I never lie. I believe everything I say, so it's not a lie."

ON MONEY...

"I have more money now than I know what to do with."

ON DREAMS...

"I still have **nightmares** about going to prison."

ON LIFE EXPERIENCE...

"I have a lot of real life experience with... doing stupid stuff."

ON HIS FORMER NICKNAME

MARKY MARK...

INTERVIEWER: "What is your least favourite word?"

MARK: "Is Marky Mark one word?"

ON BEDTIME...

"I've got kids - I'm in bed by nine o'clock."

ON BEING A DAD...

"Fatherhood is amazing! It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

ON FORGIVENESS...

"Everyone can be **forgiven**. It's just a matter of going out and working for it."

ON LUCK...

"I'm very lucky to be alive."



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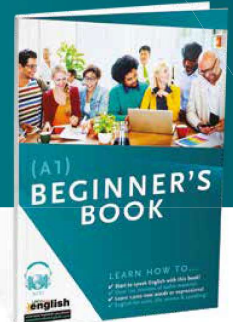
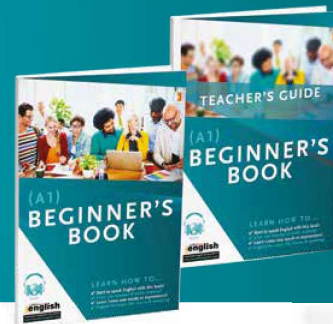
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Reporting verbs

In this month's grammar focus we're looking at some more reporting verbs.

We use reporting verbs with Reported Speech. Reported Speech is a version of what someone has said. We often use this structure with the verbs *say* or *tell*. For example:

Direct speech: "I won't be there on time."

Indirect speech: She **said** that she wouldn't be there on time.

Instead of *say* or *tell*, we can use other verbs too. These are known as reporting verbs. For example: "She **informed** us that she wouldn't be there on time."

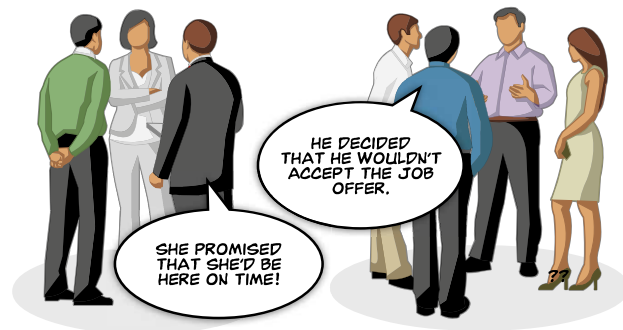
Here are some more reporting verbs.

Reporting verb + *that* + a clause

Some reporting verbs are followed by *that* and a clause (with a subject + verb, etc.). These include: *admit, agree, decide, deny, insist, promise, claim, announce, confirm, recommend, suggest, demand*. The use of *that* isn't obligatory. For example:

- She **admitted** that she'd taken the money.
- They **agreed** that it wasn't a good idea.
- They **decided** that they'd take the green one.
- She **denied** that she knew anything about it.
- They **insisted** that it was theirs.
- They **promised** that they'd do it the following day.
- She **confirmed** that she'd attend the party.
- They **claimed** that they were the winners.
- She **announced** that she'd be leaving next season.

Reporting verb + object + *that* + a clause



Some reporting verbs are followed by an object + *that* and a clause. These include the verb *assure*. For example:

- He **assured us** that it would be all right.
- She **assured them** that she'd put it back. ☺

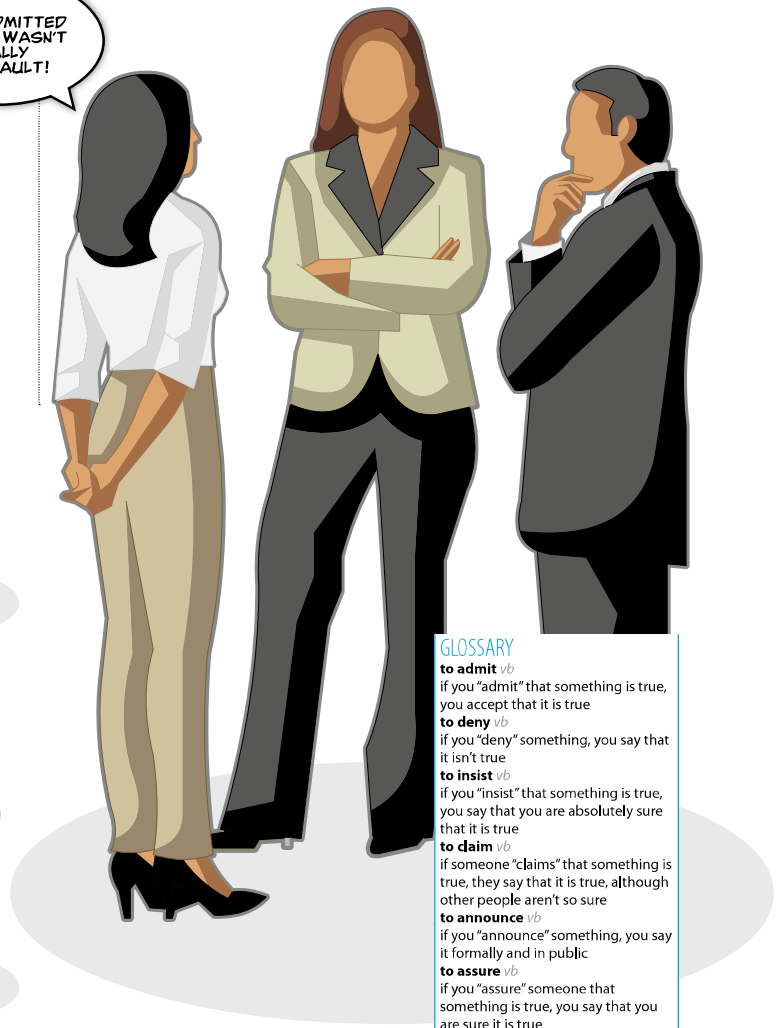


Exercise

Add letters to the verbs to complete the sentences. They're all in the past tense.

- They (**NEDDIE**) _____ that they'd ever spoken to the suspect.
- He (**RIFNODMEC**) _____ that it would go ahead as planned.
- He (**CEDEDEDI**) _____ that he wouldn't participate in the competition.
- We (**DEIMDATT**) _____ that we'd already seen it.
- She (**SIEDSNIT**) _____ that she knew nothing about it.
- He (**DEMIALC**) _____ that he was the one who'd left it there.
- She (**SIMODREP**) _____ that she'd be there on time.
- We (**RADGEE**) _____ that it was probably the best course of action.
- He (**NUCODNAEN**) _____ that he'd be entering the competition.

THEY ADMITTED THAT IT WASN'T REALLY OUR FAULT!



GLOSSARY

to admit *vb*
if you "admit" that something is true, you accept that it is true

to deny *vb*
if you "deny" something, you say that it isn't true

to insist *vb*
if you "insist" that something is true, you say that you are absolutely sure that it is true

to claim *vb*
if someone "claims" that something is true, they say that it is true, although other people aren't so sure

to announce *vb*
if you "announce" something, you say it formally and in public

to assure *vb*
if you "assure" someone that something is true, you say that you are sure it is true



PUERTO RICAN ENGLISH

BY MELISSA ARMSTRONG

Spanish is Puerto Rico's native tongue. Puerto Ricans acquire a varied amount of accents, depending on who (or what) is their main influence as they're learning English. English is taught at a very early age. This, combined with a huge exposure to American culture and media, has helped a large number of Puerto Ricans acquire an American accent, but always with a hint of the distinctive "sing-songy" native sound.

A Puerto Rican who's fluent in English will have a varied pitch, to show different emotions (such as surprise or sarcasm) similar to Americans. For example, when told something surprising, a Puerto Rican might use the expression "Really?" with emphasis, to let you know that they're either surprised or having a hard time believing what you just said.

I SPEAK SPANGLISH!



Also, they'll incorporate common English words and idioms into their daily life. For instance, when picking up the phone, a Puerto Rican will most likely greet the caller with "hello" rather than "hola." A common practice among highly-trained professionals is to

incorporate English while they're speaking Spanish, turning it into "Spanglish." A financial advisor, for example, can be found talking to his or her clients about "assets, liabilities" and "fund leverage," even within an otherwise Spanish context.

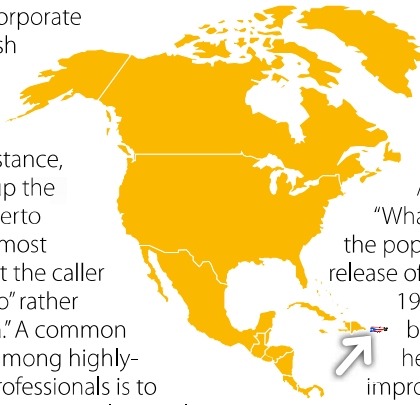
This is a direct result of having most of the education at their level conducted through the use of Anglo books and

resources. Lately though, an increased number of other Puerto Ricans are also altering their daily language to include American idioms.

"Whatever!" became quite the popular expression after the release of the movie *Clueless* in 1995. In most cases, this has been a positive practice, helping

improve their level of English and accent. In others, it has done the opposite. For example, a Puerto Rican will call an onion dip "dip de cebolla." When pronounced, "dip" will sound more like "deep."

Being a Caribbean island, Puerto Rico is influenced by a variety of sources and factors. In general, when talking about the Puerto Rican accent in English, the most important thing to say might be that there's no definitive accent at all. ✪



WHATEVER!



THE COQUI, A SYMBOL OF PUERTO RICO

The "coquí", or little frog, is the king of Puerto Rican fauna, thanks to its popular song. The "coquí" is a tree frog that can be heard all across the island during the night. Its name comes from its constant melody that goes "co-quí, co-quí, co-quí..." This tiny frog might be small in size, but its voice is strong and sound.

Most "coquíes" are brown in colour, although there is a species that is green. They lose so much water through their skin, that they can only live in highly humid environments. As the legend goes, "coquíes" can only sing in Puerto Rico and die of sadness anywhere else.

Proud Puerto Ricans will say, "Soy más puertorriqueño que el coquí (I am more Puerto Rican than the coquí)." Truly, this little friend is much more than an animal; it's a symbol of the whole island. ✪



FAMOUS PEOPLE

Ricky Martin (singer), Marc Anthony (actor and singer), Rosario Dawson (actress), Benicio del Toro (actor and film producer), Raúl Juliá (actor) and Jennifer Lopez (actress and singer).



STATE

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is an unincorporated American territory. This means that Puerto Rico is controlled by the government of the United States, but it isn't a state within the United States.

LOCATION

Puerto Rico is located in the Caribbean Sea, between the Dominican Republic, the US and the British Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico is the smallest of the Greater Antilles. It's made up of the main island (Puerto Rico) and a number of smaller islands, with Vieques, Culebra and Mona as the most important ones. **POPULATION** Approximately 4 million people.

LANGUAGE

The official languages are Spanish and English with Spanish being the main language. English is taught as a second language in public and private schools from elementary to university levels.

FAMOUS FOR...

... the only tropical rainforest in the USA (El Yunque).
 ... the world's largest telescope in the world, located in Arecibo.
 ... three of the most famous bioluminescent bays in the world (out of a total of 5 or 6), found in Vieques, Lajas and Fajardo.

