

# 12 Life goes on

Linking devices • Synonyms and antonyms 2 • Euphemisms

## STARTER

1 Describe Pieter Bruegel's picture, *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*. Where is Icarus?



2 Ask your teacher questions.

When was it painted?

Who was Icarus?

Which one is he in the picture?

3 **T 12.1** Listen to a description of the picture by an art historian. What does she say about . . . ?

- the three men
- the central event
- direction and movement
- an interpretation of the picture

4 Do you agree with Bruegel's message on life? Isn't it good to be ambitious? Is it true that 'life goes on'?

## READING AND SPEAKING

### A sideways look at time

- 1 What activities do you do at exactly the same time each day? Are you the kind of person who arrives early, exactly on time, or fashionably late? Are you annoyed by people who are unpunctual?
- 2 Why do people often say that the older you are, the faster time seems to go by? When does time seem to fly by? When does it drag?
- 3 Check these action verbs. Demonstrate some of them.

look sideways	blink
winkle sth out	spin
sigh	slip

- 4 What do you think these mean?

- clock-time
- chronological time
- universal time
- kairological time

Read the article to find out.

Explain the title.

- 5 Answer the questions.

- 1 What is meant by 'Urban modernity lives under an assault of clocks'? Give some examples of the way our lives are governed by the clock.
- 2 Give examples of fast food. What is fast knowledge?
- 3 What is UT?
- 4 In what way is the earth inaccurate?
- 5 How is the forest a clock for the Karen tribe?
- 6 Explain how 'sunset' can be described as 'three kilometres away'.
- 7 What is a 'scent calendar'? What would you name the 'scent months' where you live?
- 8 How are adults and children different in their attitudes to time?
- 9 What is the difference between the two Greek gods of time?
- 10 How is the passage of time different in the town and in the country?



Of course you know what the time is. You can look at your brand new *DIGITAL* watch, can't you? **But do you really know?**

JAY GRIFFITHS invites you to think again and take:

## A sideways look at *TIME*

### MEASURING TIME

**T**ime's measurement is everywhere. Leaving London, Berlin, New York, Washington or Paris: at the airport every transaction, each ticket and money exchange is timed. Around Heathrow, as at any other major airport, there are clocks, blinking the date and time, down to tenths of seconds. Urban modernity lives under an assault of clocks. Alarm clocks put the frighteners on sleep: the first thought in so many people's minds, every single waking day is 'What's the time? Am I late?' Digital clocks with their digital seconds seem to speed time, relentlessly tightening deadlines. People speak of the frenetic pace of modern society, everything is speeded up, from fast food to fast clothes and fast knowledge.

There are 86,400 seconds in a day and every one is artificially pipped off, day in, day out, by the MSF service of broadcast standard frequency and time on wavelength 60kHz in the LF band. This is the time, since on the first of January 1972 the second was defined as the atomic second, and Co-ordinated Universal Time (abbreviated to UT) was set by international agreement. Roughly every year a leap-second is added to realign the time with that of the earth – it is added to 'accommodate' the earth's unreliable time. For the earth, you see, is too inaccurate for modernity's time measurement, because its spin changes by up to a thousandth of a second in some years. A thousandth of a second, indeed, tut tut, how unpunctual the earth is!

So the timekeepers of today must tell the time from outside the earth itself, insisting that there is one time, abstract and universal, mono-time: the time. There is no such thing.

### NOT JUST ONE TIME

The Karen, a hill-tribe in the forests of Northern Thailand, always know the time. Living with them for six months it became clear to me that the only person with a watch and the only person who could never tell the time was, well, myself. To the Karen, the whole forest was a clock. The morning held simplicity in its damp air, unlike the evening's denser wet when steam and smoke thickened the air. The Karen always know where they are and when they are, how far they are from sunset or home: for time and distance are connected in the Karen language: *díyi ba* – soon – means, literally, 'not far



away'. Sunset, therefore, could be expressed as 'three kilometres away', because the only way of travelling is to walk, which takes a known length of time.

Across the world the nature of each moon-month is characterized and, through each people's names for the months, you can see the specific landscape they inhabit. The Natchez tribes of the lower Mississippi river valley have months which include the Deer month and the Strawberries month, the Turkey, Bison, Bear and Chestnut months. In India's Andaman forests, people have a scent-calendar, using the smells of flowers and trees to describe the time of the year. Other peoples characterize time by starscapes. So, see how false is the ideology of Western imperialist time, declaring itself *the* time. There are thousands of times, not one.

### CHILDREN AND TIME

Adults, generally, have learned clock-time. While old people sigh over how fast it goes, children are incapable of patience. How long is an hour to a child? Far, far longer than to an adult; asking a small child to wait a few hours for ice cream is like asking yourself to wait till Wednesday week for a whisky. Children live in the heart of the ocean of time, in an everlasting now. A child's eternal present is present-absorbed, present-spontaneous, present-elastic. Children have a dogged, delicious disrespect for punctuality.

### GODS OF TIME

The ancient Greeks had different gods for time's different aspects. One of the most important was Chronos, who gives his name to absolute time, linear, chronological and quantifiable. But the Greeks had another, far more slippery and colourful, god of time, Kairos. Kairos was the god of timing, of opportunity, of chance and mischance, of different aspects of time. Time qualitative. If you sleep because the clock tells you it's way past your bedtime, that is chronological time: whereas if you sleep because you're tired, that is kairological time. If you eat biscuits when you're hungry, that is kairological: whereas if you eat by the clock, that is chronological time. Children, needless to say, live kairologically until winkled out of it.

### KAIROLOGICAL TIME

Kairological time has a different sense of movement compared to chronological time. For a rough comparison, contrast an urban with a rural day. In cities, where time is most chronological, your progress through the day is like an arrow, while the day of itself 'stays still', for time is not given by the day but is man-made, and defined by the working day or rush-hours. In a rural place, time moves towards you and is nature-given, defined by sun or stars or rainstorms. In this more kairological time, the future comes towards you and recedes behind you while you may well stay still, standing in the present, the only place which is ever really anyone's to stand in.

### What do you think?

1 'There is no such thing as a time-saving device. They should be renamed time-slaving devices.'

Do you agree? Think of some devices that are supposed to save us time. Do they, in fact? In what ways are our lives obsessed with speed?

2 Think of some examples of nature's clocks at work.

*sunrise hibernation*

3 Rename the months of the year according to where you are and what nature is doing in that month.

4 **T 12.2** Read and listen to the poem. What does it say about how time can appear to go quickly or slowly?

*Time is too slow  
for those who wait,  
too swift for those  
who fear,  
too long for those  
who grieve,  
too short for those  
who rejoice,  
but for those who  
love, time is eternity.*



## LANGUAGE FOCUS

### Linking devices

There are many ways of making links between parts of a sentence or between sentences.

**1** With conjunctions:

... the future comes towards you **and** recedes behind you

This is *the* time, **since** on the first of January 1972 the second was defined as the atomic second ...

**2** With adverbs:

**However**, roughly every year a leap second is added ...

**So** the timekeepers of today must tell the time ...

**3** With infinitives:

... it is added to **accommodate** the earth's unreliable time ...

**4** With relative pronouns:

In cities, **where** time is most chronological ...

**5** With participles:

... there are clocks on corporate buildings and hotels, **blinking** the date and time ...

Find more examples in the article on p110.

▶▶ Grammar Reference p159

**1** Choose the correct linker. Sometimes two are possible.

### A day in the life of

## Benjamin Ellis



I always wake up on the dot of six o'clock in the morning, (1) *unless/wherever/no matter where* I am in the world. I'm a morning person, (2) *so/therefore/since* I like to make the best of my creative period. (3) *As soon as/Whenever/After* I've had a shower, I take the dog out, and (4) *then/at last/finally* it's time for tea and emails. (5) *Since/As/Even though* I work at home, I get a lot of emails, and (6) *providing/if/unless* I clear them daily, they build up and up.

I work downstairs (7) *to not/in order not to/so as not to* wake up the rest of the family.

(8) *Since/In case/Once* everyone is up, we have breakfast, and (9) *after/afterwards/after that* it's the mad rush for school. (10) *Even though/Even so/Although* we ask the children every evening if they have everything for school the next day, there is always something they have forgotten. 'Where's my ...?' is the cry in our house (11) *however/as long as/whenever* a child has lost something. This is followed by the fatuous question from a parent, usually me, 'Where did you last have it?' (12) *Provided/Supposing/If* the child knew that, there wouldn't be a problem.

(13) *When/While/Whenever* everyone's ready, we all pile into the car. I like to leave early (14) *in case/unless/although* the traffic is bad. We go on country lanes (15) *to avoid/so as to avoid /because we avoid* the rush-hour, but (16) *even so/all the same/yet* the journey takes half an hour.

(17) *Immediately/Since/As soon as* I get home, it's back to the computer. (18) *Working/As I work/So that I work* at home, I know how easy it is to be distracted. (19) *As long as/Provided/ Except when* I do about eight hours' work a day, I manage to keep on top. In the evening we all eat together (20) *so that/in order to/ since* we can catch up with each other's news from the day.



**2** Write a paragraph about a typical day in your life, using linking devices.

3 Rewrite each sentence in different ways, using the words in the box.

- 1 The bank robber wore a mask.  
No one recognized him.

so that    so as not to

The bank robber wore a mask so that no one recognized him.

The bank robber wore a mask so as not to be recognized.

- 2 I saw the film. Then I read the book.

having    after

- 3 Look after this carefully. It will last a lifetime.

as long as    provided

- 4 The curry was hot. We couldn't eat it.

so    such    too

- 5 It doesn't matter what you do, but don't touch this switch.

no matter    whatever

- 6 Do I like her or not? I'm not sure.

whether

- 7 I'm on a strict diet. I still haven't lost any weight.

even though    however    even so

- 8 I took an umbrella. I thought it might rain.

in case    as

- 9 He was penniless and starving, but he still shouldn't have stolen the food.

nevertheless    although    despite

- 10 I went to the party. I met Jenny. We got married and had three children.

Supposing I hadn't ...

4 Rewrite the biography of Salvador Dalí, using linkers to change each group of sentences into one sentence.

Salvador Dalí was born in 1904.

He was born in a small town, Figueres, in Catalunya, north-east Spain.

His father was a prestigious notary in the town.

Salvador Dalí was born in 1904 in a small town, Figueres, in Catalunya, north-east Spain, where his father was a prestigious notary.

Dalí wanted to study art.

He went to the Royal Academy of Art in Madrid.

He was expelled from the Academy twice.

He never took his final examinations.

In 1928 he went to Paris.

He met the Spanish painters Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró in Paris.

He established himself as the principal figure of a group of surrealist artists.

The leader of the group was André Breton.

By 1929 Dalí found his style.

This style would make him famous.

It consisted of the world of the unconscious.

This world is recalled during our dreams.

In 1927 he met Gala.

She was a Russian immigrant.

She was ten years older than Dalí.

She was married to a French poet at the time.

She decided to leave her husband.

She wanted to stay with Dalí.

In 1940 he went to the United States.

He stayed there for eight years.

In 1948 Dalí and Gala returned to Europe.

They spent most of their time in Spain or Paris.

Gala died in 1982.

Dalí became deeply depressed.

He moved to Púbol.

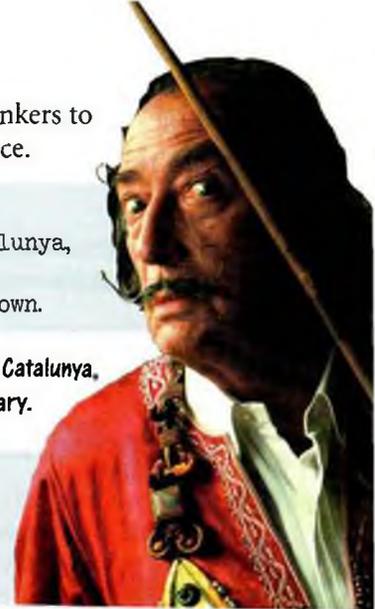
Púbol was a castle.

He had bought it for Gala.

He lived in his castle for the rest of his life.

He died there in 1989.

He died of heart failure.



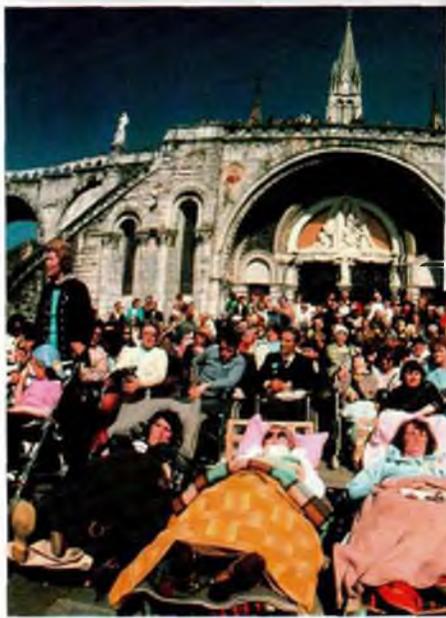
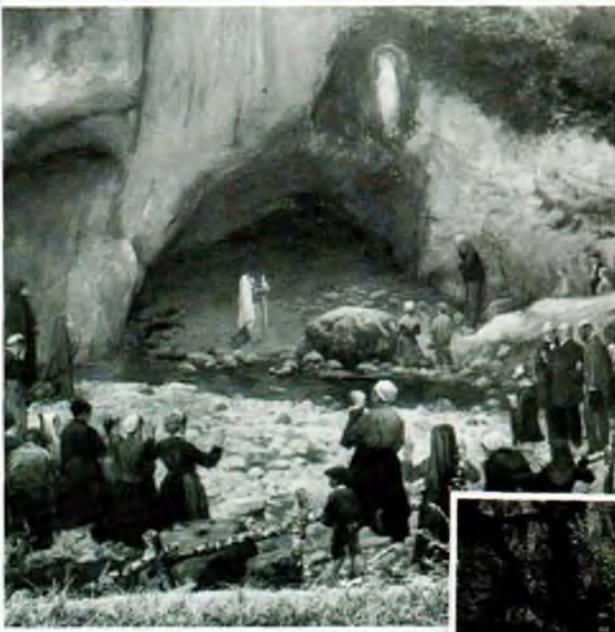
**T 12.3** Listen and compare your answers.

# LISTENING AND SPEAKING

## Do you believe in miracles?

- 1 What stories of miracles do you know? Do you believe miracles can happen? Are there any rational explanations for these phenomena?
- 2 Look at the pictures of pilgrims. Where are they? Which religion do they belong to?
- 3 Dr Raj Persaud, a consultant psychiatrist at a London hospital, visited Lourdes to make a radio programme.

- Where is Lourdes?
- What is it famous for?
- Who goes there? Why?
- Why do you think the doctor wanted to go there?



- 4 These words are in the programme. What do you think they refer to?

- reverential
- introspective atmosphere
- in wheelchairs or borne on stretchers
- sanctuary
- 1858
- six million people every year
- paralysed
- multiple sclerosis

**T 12.4** Listen and check your ideas.

- 5 **T 12.4** Listen again and answer the questions.

### Part one

- 1 What strikes Dr Persaud most? Why is this surprising?
- 2 What are some of the statistics he quotes?
- 3 What does the sanctuary consist of?
- 4 What did Bernadette see?

### Part two

- 5 What is special about the spring that Bernadette discovered?
- 6 Why is Dr Persaud puzzled?
- 7 Why, according to Andrew Walker, are Christians divided?
- 8 What is the miracle that he quotes?

### Part three

- 9 What were Jean-Pierre's early symptoms?
- 10 What happened in 1984? What were the stages of his cure?

### Part four

- 11 What, for Dr Persaud, is the danger of modern medicine?
- 12 What is his explanation of the attraction of Lourdes?

### What do you think?

- The programme began with the question 'Can miracles exist in the age of science?' What is your opinion? Can miracles only have existed in the past?
- Is there a conflict between science and religion? What different theories of the creation of the universe do you know?

# VOCABULARY

## Synonyms and antonyms 2

- 1 We often use synonyms for reasons of style. Look at these sentences from the article.

... the earth's **unreliable** time ...  
 ... how **unpunctual** the earth is ...

Complete the sentences with a word that has a similar meaning to the words in *italics*. Sometimes the word class changes.

- It was an *immense* task, but its \_\_\_\_\_ only became apparent when we started working on it.
- Progress will be *slow*, but if we persist, things will \_\_\_\_\_ improve.
- You *can't count* on her. She's totally \_\_\_\_\_.
- You want an *approximate* figure? At a \_\_\_\_\_ guess, I'd say there were about fifty.
- 'Did he *say* how his job's going?'  
'No. He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ it.'
- Massage *eased* the pain in my back, and \_\_\_\_\_ the tension I've felt for so long.
- He's a very *cunning* opponent. He plays some \_\_\_\_\_ tricks.
- He made a *miraculous* recovery, due to his \_\_\_\_\_ strength.
- Soldiers *attacked* the enemy headquarters. The \_\_\_\_\_ took place before dawn.
- Drugs can treat most *illnesses*, but there are some \_\_\_\_\_ that are incurable.

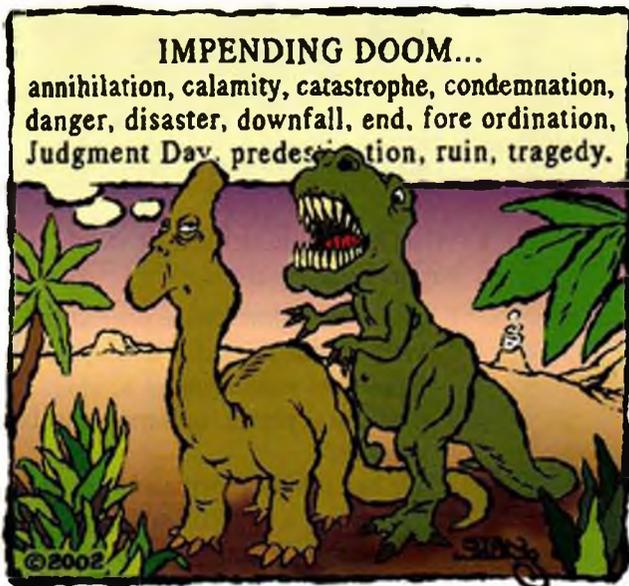
- 2 Divide the adjectives in the box into four groups, with three synonyms and three antonyms for each head word.

ancient	essential	impeccable	petty
antiquated	faultless	irrelevant	prejudiced
antique	faulty	liberal	second-rate
biased	flawed	novel	up-to-date
bigoted	immaculate	trivial	urgent
current	impartial	open-minded	vital

	synonyms	antonyms
old	ancient	novel
fair		
perfect		
unimportant		

- 3 Match adjectives from exercise 2 with nouns from the box that they collocate with.

machinery	crime	organs	Greece
idea	Press	vase	manners
racist	performance	mail	affairs



*Ironically, a well developed brain actually contributed to the early extinction of the Thesaurus Rex.*

# THE LAST WORD

## Euphemisms

- 1 A euphemism is a polite way of expressing something thought to have negative connotations.  
For example, a blind person is *visually challenged*, a fat person is *full-figured*, and politicians don't lie, they are *economical with the truth*.
- 2 Complete the newspaper article with euphemisms from the box.

pass away	low IQ	Ministry of Defence
companion animal	disadvantaged senior citizen	working to rule
leisure garden	disabled	under the weather
retirement pension	job seeker's allowance	lower income bracket
taking industrial action	have a dialogue	

## Letters

### Stop being coy

#### I will die – not pass away

I AM an old cripple, drawing an old-age pension, working hard to raise vast quantities of vegetables on an allotment, and well aware that, one of these days, I shall die. All this is fact.

If, however, I listen to the voice of officialdom, it turns out that I am a (1)\_\_\_\_\_, registered as (2)\_\_\_\_\_, drawing a (3)\_\_\_\_\_, renting a (4)\_\_\_\_\_, and presumably immortal, because I shall never die – I shall merely (5)\_\_\_\_\_.

The euphemisms which pour from the lips of politicians and trade union leaders are endless. (6)\_\_\_\_\_ equals going on strike, and (7)\_\_\_\_\_ equals being bloody minded.

And let us please do away with the following:

- (8)\_\_\_\_\_ (poor)
- (9)\_\_\_\_\_ (ill)
- (10)\_\_\_\_\_ (stupid)
- (11)\_\_\_\_\_ (unemployment benefit)
- (12)\_\_\_\_\_ (Ministry of War)
- (13)\_\_\_\_\_ (talk)
- (14)\_\_\_\_\_ (pet)

All this effort to avoid unpleasantness is certain to fail, because the euphemism quickly acquires the stigma of the word it replaced. I, and probably others, do not feel younger because I am called a senior citizen.

**Bryan Heath**  
*Retired vet*



'I've never been fired, but I've been de hired a few times.'



'I need some short-term economic stimulus.'

- 3 What do you think these political euphemisms mean?
  - 1 The rebel fighters were *neutralized*.
  - 2 With all due respect, I think your figures are *misleading*.
  - 3 Could you please *regularize* your bank account?
  - 4 We had a *frank, open exchange of views*.
  - 5 This is not a *non-risk policy*.
  - 6 The company is in a *non-profit situation*.
- 4 Can you translate any euphemisms from your language?