Contemporary English—a challenge for non-native speakers

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Abstract

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1. Introduction

The Silkworm

The Quickie

2. Typical features of English

2.1. Typical features of English vocabulary

The Quickie *round*

He cold-eyed me

Let there be some explanation, Paul. Something I can stomach

cul-de-sac

a dead end

*I had just enough time to tuck my head between his shoulder
blades before we screamed up the hill of my cul-de-sac like a bottle rocket*

2.2. Typical features of English grammar

already yet

OK? What do you say? That be

'You get through?' I called down

3. Current trends in English vocabulary and grammar

The Quickie

And to answer your first question, yes, obviously I'm nuts

buddy

buddy

'You

see either of our buddies, Mark or Vince', Trahan advised,....

It took five minutes of nonvirtual cutting and pasting in the last stall of the ladies' room to tape over every incident of my cell number on the LUDs with Scott's home number

When I was able to concentrate again, I lifted my head up and squinted at the face of the shadowed figure who was standing with an unnerving stillness behind the blinding flashlight

tsk

He tsked after a

few seconds, snapped it shut

The ultrasound showed everything was fine', I said
that

3.1. Vocabulary

I decided to leave the lights off and crack open a dusty case of calla-lily-scented candles from the front-ball closet

It was life-threatening

We'd been one of those sickening, best-friend married couples. The let's-die-at-the-exact-same-movement Romeo-and-Juliet soul mates

Some ER doctor is sewing Scott's stitches right at this moment

*The gold badge I'd been given when the NYPD promoted me to detective
New York City Police Department*

*My father had to give me CPR until they
defibrillated me*

—'Maybe more, but we're still waiting on the ME so we can roll him'

*I watched as even the commissioner, standing beside the ME
offices' hearse, cupped a hand over his eyes*

*My boy Scotty, he was Freddy Krueger with a badge, more twisted than
a pretzel*

*My heart floated like the bubbles in my glass
As he stepped out of
the van, one thought pounded through me like a sledgehammer*

the rat race *'The family that quits the rat race together...', I said.*
'Stays together', Paul said

*Every hammerhead, blue,
sandtiger, maybe even a great white or two, will be all over you like a bum on a bologna sandwich
It was my baby shower*

*'My daughter
Caroline's fourth birthday is today and I have to make a Dora the Explorer cake or the world will end',
Veronika said, staring into my eyes*

*a
shoulder* *He slapped me across the face before he lifted me
up and threw me into the passenger seat then steered the van back on to the shoulder*

a conman
I sat there, staring at my
incredible conman of a husband. What an amazing liar he was

3.2. Grammar

Inside were conference rooms, several flat-screen TVs, a well-stocked weight
room

I did a headstand as the van sprang forward, then a belly flop as it
dropped back down with a hard bounce
under arrest'
'Paul, you're

Approaching a rusted tin wall at the rear of the junkyard, I hear a loud
metal screech
I heard its contents being dumped on to the table as I
scanned the room for another exit

And if what
brother Mark said about Scott being involved with them was true, then hell, maybe even he had it
coming

Because
he never did nothing without some twisted reason, believe me

You getting the picture now? You feeling me?'

have + gotten
have
Have gotten
gotten any more disgustingly perfect?
have got
get
Our wedding song. Could it have

‘...when this loud, drunken moron storms in and demands that the Patriots game be put on’
should be put on

be sure
sure

The Lord’, Mike said, ‘He sure
do work in mysterious ways’

that

The thought that somebody else could possibly get hurt out there made me
almost physically sick haunting tenor that would have made Ronan Tynan jealous

go and

and Go talk to her

get

get to do sth

I never got to hear him finish his sentence

get

*'I'm guessing you'll think you're going to get lucky—a passing boat or plane will spot you,
pick you up' '... since I got pregnant'*

4. Conclusion

—I parked at a hydrant, feeling like I was in a trance as I watched Paul get out of the Jag, carrying the Tiffany bag

cell phone toward tidbit gray

jiffy ‘Be back in a jiff, honey’

Jiffy in a jiffy

a woman scorned There's no better informant than a woman scorned

on board
machine, the poured myself a glass of wine to calm my shot nerves. Then I remembered the baby on
board
my guts to, it was him
leave it alone 'Leave it alone, partner', I said

baby
—Back home I checked my answering
spill your guts
If there was anyone who I could—and—should—spill
leave it out

consisted of riding the subway here to the last stop
housed in a repurposed nineteenth-century firehouse
thoroughly disturbed female executive neighbor, who was on the phone

his post-retirement exercise routine
Monticiano itself was
'Sorry', I said to my
'I know I'm being a pain in the neck',

test, I want to talk to my lawyer, but she says to calm down, she's not going to boil any rabbits

—I tell her I want a paternity

It was going to be incredibly hard to get used to not being a cop

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