



# Dear Diary

14/10/2024

# Course Objectives

- Build vocabulary
- Revise and consolidate C1-C2 grammar
- Morphological structures
- Listening and speaking skills
- Inferring meaning
- Cultural knowledge
- Relationship between form, audience and language
- Understanding of register
- Drafting and editing skills
- Using reference works

# Course Methods

- genre-based learning
- project-based learning
- interactive elements (bring your phone / laptop)
- small group activities
- listening exercises
- vocabulary exercises
- homework / extra suggestions for reading
- speak as much English as possible!

# Lessons with CEL

- This is your opportunity to work on your English in a smaller groups
- This year you will have the option to give a presentation to develop your speaking skills
- You can use any of the themes and resources from our lessons as inspiration

# Exams

- Moodle exam
  - Reading comprehension
  - Multiple choice questions
  - A writing task
- Preappello
- Summer Session (3 rounds)
- Autumn Session (2 rounds)
- Extraordinary Session (1 round)

# Learning Objectives

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To skim and scan for information

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Techniques for inferring meaning

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To consider markers of social context

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Characteristics of diaries, letters and emails

# Diaries and emails

- A diary is a personal record, so it is likely to use informal language, include dates, times, and perhaps places too.
- Emails tend to be less formal than letters.
- You can start an email with: Dear..... / Good morning / afternoon / evening / Hi
- You can end an email with: Best wishes / All the best / Kind regards / Thanks

**If you need to write me an email,  
you can use these salutations:**

**Dear Caroline,**

**...**

**All the best,**

**.....**

# Vocabulary

Before we read an extract from *Bridget Jones*, let's look at some vocabulary and some techniques for inferring meaning.



# Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks with the following: **to shoot out, merely, to dump, agonising, to witter, pending, traumatised, to mumble, to head out.**

1. She ..... all her work on me just before the deadline.
2. It's not ..... a book, it's an escape into another world!
3. The accident left her ..... and she sought professional help.
4. We plan to ..... early in the morning to avoid the heavy traffic.
5. The car ..... of the garage and raced down the road.
6. The old man liked to ..... about his past adventures.
7. He ..... when he was nervous, so it was difficult to make out what he was saying.
8. The decision on your application is still ..... . We appreciate your patience.
9. The wait for the test results was ..... Each day seemed to intensify the uncertainty.

# Vocabulary

<b>sheepishly</b>	in an embarrassed or shy manner
<b>shadily</b>	in a suspicious manner
<b>dryly</b>	sarcastically / ironically
<b>pending</b>	waiting for an action or decision
<b>traumatized</b>	a severe physical or mental injury
<b>witter</b>	talking endlessly about something unimportant
<b>agonizing</b>	extremely painful
<b>to dump</b>	to leave carelessly, dispose of something
<b>merely</b>	only
<b>to shoot out</b>	to leave quickly (often temporarily)
<b>to head out</b>	to leave
<b>to mumble</b>	to speak in an indistinct and quiet voice
<b>to fancy</b>	to want
<b>pheasant</b>	bird (often hunted)
<b>to shag</b>	to have sex (informal – often considered vulgar)

# Skimming and Scanning

- Skimming = when we read for the general idea or 'gist'
- Scanning = when we read for specific pieces of information, eg. date, time, place, person

## Why are skimming and scanning useful?

- Skimming helps us get the general feel of a text before translating
- Scanning is especially useful if we need to verify key pieces of information

# Skimming and Scanning

Look at questions below. Now skim and scan the extract from *Bridget Jones's Diary* to answer the questions.

- 1) What are Bridget's hopes for the weekend?
- 2) What actually happens?
- 3) What time does Daniel leave the office?
- 4) What is Perpetua discussing on the phone?

**In pairs / threes  
5 minutes**

# Read in detail

Now you've got the gist, read the extract in more detail. You have 3 mins.

# Inferring Social Context

**In pairs / threes  
6 minutes**

Now read the extract in more detail.

- 1) What class do you associate with the names Arabella, Piggy, Hugo, and Perpetua.
- 2) What does the nickname 'Shazzer' suggest about Sharon's character?
- 3) Look at the way Bridget records Perpetua's phone conversation (lines 8-9). What does this show us about Perpetua's social class?
- 4) What do you think the expression 'Pip pip' (line 19) means? What class would you associate it with?
- 5) Do you think Daniel's email demonstrates a professional working relationship? Why? Why not?

# Language in Detail

Bridget uses language creatively.

1) What do you think she means by:

“[she] spends the entire time **in full telephonic auto-witter**”? Think back to the definition of ‘witter’

2) Which adjective does she use for emphasis in this phrase?

3) What does the use of the preposition ‘in’ suggest?

4) How does Fielding show that Bridget is drunk on Saturday night? Can you ‘translate’ her drunken writing? (Drunk English → English)

5) How does Fielding signal the presence of an email?

*Hint: think about ‘modes’*

**Discuss in  
pairs / threes  
5 minutes**

# Pronouns and articles



# Personal Pronouns

- Pronouns are a major subclass of nouns. They can sometimes replace a noun in a sentence.

- Personal pronouns replace nouns that refer to people.

John got a new job → He got a new job

**subject pronoun**

- Personal pronouns have a subject and object form.

I gave John a new job → I gave him a new job

**object pronoun**

# Other types of pronoun

- There are lots of other types of pronoun beyond personal pronouns.
- 1. Possessive
- 2. Reflexive
- 3. Reciprocal
- 4. Relative
- 5. Demonstrative
- 6. Interrogative
- 7. Indefinite

possessive adjectives:  
my, your, his, her, its, their.

# Pronouns

Type of pronoun	pronouns	example
		The red car is <b><u>mine</u></b> .
Object pronoun		
	who, what, when, why, where...	
reflexive		
	anything, anybody, somebody, nothing...	
	this, that, these, those	
	I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they	
Reciprocal		
	that, which, who, whose, whom ...	

# Pronouns

Type of pronoun	pronouns	example
Possessive	mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs	The red car is <b><u>mine</u></b> .
Object pronoun	me, you, him, her, them, us, you, them	He gave <b><u>me</u></b> a present.
Interrogative	who, what, when, why, where...	<b><u>Who</u></b> is Jack?
Reflexive	myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves	He injured <b><u>himself</u></b> playing football.
Indefinite	anything, anybody, somebody, nothing...	Find me <b><u>somebody</u></b> to love.
Demonstrative	this, that, these, those	I like <b><u>this</u></b> .
Subject pronoun	I, you, he, she, it, they, we, you, they	<b><u>I</u></b> do the shopping once a week.
Reciprocal	each other, one another	They clearly love <b><u>each other</u></b> .
Relative	that, which, who, whose, whom ...	The book <b><u>that</u></b> you gave me is great!

# Indefinite pronouns

- An indefinite pronoun is a pronoun that refers to people or things without saying exactly what or who they are.
- There are four main compounds:
  - some- (someone / somebody / somewhere...)
  - any- (anyone / anybody / anywhere ...)
  - every- (everyone / everybody / everywhere ...)
  - no- (no one / nobody / nowhere...)

# Indefinite pronouns

Look at the following song lyrics and work out a rule for when we use some- / any- / no- / every –

1. **Somewhere** over the rainbow blue birds fly.
2. Can **anybody** find me **somebody** to love?
3. Help! I need **somebody**. Help! Not just **anybody**!
4. I don't believe that **anybody** feels the way I do about you now.
5. I don't belong to **anyone** but **everybody** knows my name.
6. **Nobody** knows you when you're down and out.

# Indefinite pronouns

- We use some- compounds when we are thinking of a particular, but unspecified person, place or thing.
- We use any- compounds when we are thinking of people, place or things in general.
- Every- compounds refer to all people, places or things.
- No- compounds are used to an absence of people, places or things. NB: use with positive verbs!
- Any- compounds are also used with negative verbs and verbs with a negative meaning.

**Find me somebody to love**

**Find me anybody to love**

**Nobody knows you...**

**I don't belong to anyone...**

# Some / any / every as determiners

- While some- / any- / every- compounds are used as pronouns, the words some, any, and every can also act as determiners.
- Determiners include the definite (the) and indefinite (a/an) articles, but many determiners express quantity: all, both, many, every, several, few, enough, no
- Numerals are also determiners when they appear before a noun, eg: first impressions, two books.
- We use some as a determiner to express a limit.  
*eg. **Some** people like Marmite, **others** hate it.*
- In this sentence, 'some' is a determiner, but 'others' is a pronoun which has replaced 'other people'.



# Homework

# Language in Detail

**In pairs / threes  
10 minutes**

Look at the second part of the extract (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March).

- 1) What features make it obvious this is still a diary?
- 2) Are there any language features that indicate this book was published in 1998?
- 3) Sharon uses the term 'emotional fuckwit' in line 23 to refer to Daniel. What does this mean? What is the abstract noun used in the second part?
- 4) What abbreviations does Bridget use? What do they mean?
- 5) What do you notice about the use of pronouns and articles on Saturday and Sunday's entries?

# v. confused

Rewrite Sunday's entry using articles and pronouns and expanding abbreviations.

In pairs /  
threes  
5 minutes

**8 a.m.** Ugh. Wish was dead. Am never, ever going to drink again for the rest of life.

**8.30 a.m.** Oooh. Could really fancy some chips.

**11.30 a.m.** Badly need water but seems better to keep eyes closed and head stationary on pillow so as not to disturb bits of machinery and pheasants in head.

**Noon.** Bloody good fun but v. confused re: advice re: Daniel. Had to go through Jude's problems with Vile Richard first as clearly they are more serious since they have been going out for eighteen months rather than just shagged once. I waited humbly, therefore, till it was my turn to recount the latest Daniel instalment. The unanimous initial verdict was, 'Bastard fuckwittage.'