

English Champions | Business English | Term 1 2020/2021 – 5

https://englishchampions.fr/business-english-class-materials/06_07_08_48_02

Sian@EnglishChampions.fr
martyrnwhittaker@gmail.com

Welcome to English Champions (on-line edition)!

November 2, 2020 20h30 - 21h30

Copy this link into a browser: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83557612942>

Vocabulary

Gonna (slang): Going to..

Restroom (US): toilets

Pee: Urinate

Guac: Abbreviated version of Guacamole (a dish of mashed avocado mixed with chopped onion, tomatoes, chilli peppers, and seasoning)

Chip: (US) A thin slice of food (typically potato) made crisp by being fried, baked, or dried and eaten as a snack. (UK) A long rectangular piece of deep-fried potato.

Scapegoat: a person who is blamed for the wrongdoings, mistakes, or faults of others, especially for reasons of expediency.

The double genitive

Julien asked why we used an apostrophe after Mr Tufty in the following sentence:

“The local vet, Mike Houghton, was a good friend of Mr Tufty’s.”

The following is a brief explanation.

In English grammar, the double genitive is a phrase in which possession is indicated by the preposition of followed by the possessive form of a noun or pronoun, as in a friend of Eric’s. Also called a double possessive, an oblique genitive, and a postgenitive. Some linguists argue that the double genitive is not a true genitive but rather a type of partitive construction.....

Examples ...

The Dude: Who are you, man?

Knox Harrington: Oh, just a friend of Maudie’s.

(The Big Lebowski, 1998)

We heard the news from a neighbor of Alice’s.”

Nordquist, Richard. "Double Genitive in Grammar." ThoughtCo, Aug. 27, 2020, [thoughtco.com/double-genitive-grammar-1690474](https://www.thoughtco.com/double-genitive-grammar-1690474).

A humorous look at COVID rules

<https://www.tiktok.com/foryou?lang=en#/@frenchjulien/video/6883513708153146629>

Man A: You’re new in California, so I’m going to explain what the COVID-19 rules are.

Man B: OK

Man A: Bars are closed but the bars that serve food are open.

Man B: So, I can go to the bar, order a drink and as long as I get food I’m fine?

Man A. Well no. You can’t go to the bar. You have to order at your table and then stay there.

Man B: So once you’re seated you can’t get up?

Man A: You have to stay there.

Man B: What if I need to pee?

Man A: Well then you get up and go to the restroom.

Man B: So I'm allowed to get up and walk to the restroom but I can't walk to the bar.

Man A: Exactly.

Man B: Okay.

Man A: And once you're seated, like I said, they will not serve you drinks unless you order food.

Man B: Why?

Man A: They decided that if you order food its safer. If there's food on the table you can't catch COVID.

Man B. Oh you can't catch COVID if there's food on the table?

Man A: Apparently not! But if there's only drinks at the table you gonna get the COVID but if you put some chips and guac in the middle, dude, you're safe..

Man B: Wow It's crazy how science works.

Questions for discussion

1. What do you think the real reasons are for these California rules for bars?
2. How do you explain the recent increase in COVID cases even though we have been wearing masks and socially distancing for several months?
3. Do you believe that young people socializing and partying are the cause of the continued infections or are they being used as scapegoats?
4. Do you think the new lock down in France will be successful in 'flattening the curve'? Might it just prolong the longevity of the disease?
5. Should social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook censor people's view points?

Temporary closure of Disneyland Paris

(From <https://www.disneylandparis.com/en-us/>)

In line with latest direction from the French authorities, Disneyland Paris will be closing end of day on October 29th. In anticipation of celebrating the Christmas holiday season we will be taking reservations from December 19 – January 3 and hope to be open based on prevailing conditions and government guidance at that time. Disneyland Paris will be closed from January 4 through February 12. Please check back on the website for regular updates. If you have a booking with us during the above-mentioned periods, please check here for our latest commercial conditions.

We thank you for your continued loyalty and understanding during this difficult period.

1. What conclusion might you draw from the scheduled closure between January 4 through February 12?

The pronunciation challenge

The pronunciation challenge has been recorded and posted to the English Champions web site:

<https://englishchampions.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pronunciation-challenge.mp4>

Dates des cours

	septembre	octobre	Novembre (on-line)
Intermédiaire / avancé lundi 20h30 - 21h30	21, 28	5, 12	2, 9, 16, 23, 30