



English C2.1

[2025/2026]

Using Reference Works
Week 5

Dr. Carlos Lindade

U. PORTO
FLUP FACULDADE DE LETRAS
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

Attendance

2025/2026



b) immigrant: foreign, poverty, desperate, cultural differences

c) guilt: confession, discomfort, lies, dishonesty, debt, judge, trial, sentence

d) freedom: liberty, heroic, spirit, air, running, space, freedom of speech, democracy

e) Hispanic: cultural differences, happy, romantic, spicy food, good dancers, good music, poverty

f) addict: dependency, desperation, drugs, alcohol, alone, treachery, breaking the law, death

g) abuse: child abuse, drug abuse, violence, lies, victims, women, death

h) government: oppression, politics, lies, State, taxes, war, law, power, president, red tape

i) holiday: freedom, happy, beach, play, dance, laugh, no work, Christmas, fun

4. Now, look up the words in both a bilingual and a monolingual English dictionary. Compare the information contained in the dictionary definitions with your own thoughts.



Worksheet 2:

In the following sentences, a series of common English exclamations are featured in bold script. Consider how you might translate into your own language each of the exclamations in the contexts shown. Then compare your translations with the definitions you find in a bilingual dictionary.

1. “**YIPPEE!**” the children cried when the teacher announced there would be no test that day.

your translation:

dictionary translation:

2. “**WHEW!**” she exclaimed, wiping the sweat from her brow after a 45-minute aerobics class.

your translation:

dictionary translation:

3. Getting up from her chair, Denise accidentally knocked over her coffee mug.
“DAMN IT!” she screamed, staring at the ruined pages of her dissertation.

your translation:

dictionary translation:

4. “**JEEZ**, Mom, you never let me do anything!” Nancy whined when her mother refused to give her permission to have her nose pierced.

your translation:

dictionary translation:



Worksheet 3:

Look up the following words in both a bilingual dictionary and a monolingual dictionary. Next, based on the definitions you have found, try to assign each of the words to one of the contexts provided.

wound up

scurry

scamper

worked up

hectic

nerve-racking

rustle

swish

1) cockroaches running across the floor when the light is turned on **scurry**

2) how you would feel if you caught your boyfriend/girlfriend sleeping with someone else

worked up

3) how you might feel just before taking an important exam **wound up**

4) children playing in the garden **scamper**

5) the bride's silk dress as she walks down the aisle of the church **swish**

6) dry leaves when the wind blows through them **rustle**

7) the airport of a large city on July 31 **hectic**

8) trying to get through the airport of a large city with two large, heavy suitcases on the first day of summer holidays **nerve-racking**

OCEANS APART

IT'S NOT JUST THE VOCABULARY THAT SEPARATES BRITONS AND AMERICANS. IT'S HOW EACH LOOKS AT LIFE.
by Jane Walmsley

1. George Bernard Shaw said it best, though many have said it badly ever since. America and Britain are two nations divided by a common language. Between us is a **Great Philosophical and Cultural Divide**, which is obscured by the familiar **lingo**. Our respective heads of government may **bubble on** about “common bonds” and “special



Worksheet 4:

In text 2 (above) a number of words and expressions have been highlighted in bold type. Using the reference works available to you in the library, look for information regarding these words and expressions as requested below

(Note: You will need to use not only monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, but also other sources such as idiomatic dictionaries, dictionaries of English and American culture, encyclopedias and internet.)

1. Who was (is):

- George Bernard Shaw? **(1856-1950) Irish playwright and political pamphleteer dedicated to the cause of socialism. Most well-known for his play Pygmalion, on which the movie musical My Fair Lady was based.**
- Adam Smith? **(1723-1790) Scottish economist and philosopher. Best-known for his book The Wealth of Nations, on which the doctrines of free enterprise and capitalism are based.**
- Miss Piggy? **one of Jim Henson's muppets, prominent star of television's The Muppet Show.**
- Johnny Carson? **television "Tonight Show" talk show host and comedian from 1962 to 1992. The "Tonight Show" was watched by millions of Americans as a sort of beforeshow ritual for 30 years.**

2. What is:

- a Chevy? **Chevrolet (American car)**
- a food processor? **kitchen appliance used to chop, mix, blend, beat and otherwise prepare food**
- a compost heap? **pile of biodegradable refuse used as fertilizer**

 **Worksheet 5:**

Briefly define the following words and expressions and identify the part of speech they represent as used in text 2. State whether the words are generally used in standard or colloquial English. Indicate if any of the words are foreign or archaic, and if any are favored by American or British speakers. (Numbers in parentheses refer to location, by paragraph, of words in the text.)

- 1. lingo (1) informal, colloquial word for “language”**

- 2. burble on (1) informal, colloquial, meaning speak vacuously**

- 3. bridge (1) standard, used here as a verb meaning to establish a connection, to close a gap**

- 4. nose job (4) informal expression for plastic surgery on the nose**

5. bad form (6) **bad manners (British only)**

6. cool (7) **calm (somewhat informal)**

7. schlepp (16) **(American only), colloquial for “loser” (from Yiddish)**

8. hedge (16) **defense (standard)**

9. pooh-pooh (18) **think little of, consider unimportant (informal)**

10. unbridled (26) **uncontrolled, wild (standard)**

11. beholden (27) **(archaic, formal) indebted**

 **Worksheet 6:**

Find as many synonyms as you can for each of the following words as they are used in text 2. (Numbers in parentheses refer to the paragraph location of the words in the text.)

1. **cherish (1)** **value, believe in, hold dear, treasure, prize, appreciate**

2. **skinny (5)** **thin, slim, slender, lean**

3. **fruitless (6)** **useless, futile, of no use, without purpose, unproductive, unrewarding**

4. **snatch (9)** **steal, remove, take away, rob, grab, seize**
5. **random (11)** **unplanned, haphazard, chance, arbitrary**
6. **loathe (11)** **detest, hate, dislike, revile**
7. **edgy (13)** **uncomfortable, ill at ease, uneasy, nervous, tense, touchy**
8. **greedy (14)** **avaricious, insatiable, selfish**

 **Worksheet 7:**

Locate the cultural, geographical and historical information requested below.

1. Paragraph 21 refers to New England patriots disguised as Mohawk Indians dumping chests of taxed British tea into Boston Harbor. Explain this historical reference, and its significance with regard to Anglo-American relations. Also, say which states make up the New England area today.

2. Paragraph 3 refers to the unofficial American national anthem. What is the *official* national anthem of the U.S.? Explain its history (author of lyrics, year that it was adapted as the national anthem).
3. What are the possible origins of the term "Yank" (par. 12)?
4. Define the general political tendencies (conservative or liberal) of the Tory and Labour parties in the U.K. (see paragraph 24).

 **Worksheet 8:**

Briefly define or explain the following expressions.

1. keep a weather eye on (6) **be vigilant, watch with suspicion**

2. Sword of Damocles (6) **impending threat**

3. roll with the punches (6) **offer no resistance, take life as it comes**

4. look out for Number One (21) **be mindful of one's self-interest**

5. It's been downhill all the way (15) **Things have deteriorated at a steady pace**

6. throw down the gauntlet (25) **make a challenge**
7. go to the wall (25) **be eliminated or conquered**
8. not-so-hot (8) **not very good**
9. à la carte (13) **picking and choosing (restaurant expression meaning there is no set menu, and one chooses the individual items most to one's liking)**
10. touch a chord (22) **connect with the sensibilities of, establish rapport with**
11. stick in the throat (24) **Something sticks in one's throat when one finds it difficult to say out loud because one does not agree with it, or does not want to admit that one does.**
12. *noblesse obligé* (19) **the obligation of generosity associated with high rank or birth**
13. E Pluribus Unum (12)
Latin for “Out of many, one”. Official slogan of the United States, to be found on the back of the one dollar bill.