

Teatime Titbits

WALKING ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Who gives a f**K about
grammar anyway?



Tina is designed by Susann

Tina is on the way to a walking English dictionary.
by Dave Preston

Walking English Dictionary (WED) 1.

Thank you for buying this book and I hope it'll live up to its name for you! Well, maybe not yet A WED, but certainly bring you (a long way) further down the road. What's more, I hope that The WED will sometimes put a smile on your face and maybe make you laugh (out loud) with my sometimes tongue-in-cheek writing – inspired by my author idol – Bill Bryson. For me, enjoying what you are doing is half the battle makes learning much easier.

WED 1 as its name implies is the first PDF book in the WED series and is a collection of Teatime Titbit posts organised into neatly packed topical chapters. The chapters are short and sweet so you can 'consume' them quickly and easily during your "downtimes" - during a break at work, your commute to/from work or even during a sitting (on the toilet). Find out more about WED 2, 3 & 4 in the Bonus Chapter at the end.

WED 1 brings together the topics of 'learning', 'people', work, 'news & business stuff', to name a few and 'world of words & weird (sounding) words' on a less serious side. Vocabulary is written under the text with German translations.

WED 1 is only available in PDF form for a number of reasons:

Firstly, simplicity – you downloaded it (no long waits) and can read it on any device.

Secondly, financially – "Lifelong learning for the price of a cuppa tea!". I can keep the book cheap for you because there are no (financial) costs to create it, except for the beers I had to buy my Dad to proofread it. Still notice any typos ?! – don't look at me.

Thirdly, environmentally – physical books require paper and paper means dead trees. Help me save the planet !! Don't print the book off, if at all possible, pretty please.

Finally, the pass-on-ability, – yes, you read that correctly. Please pass the book on to family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances and 'fluffy' the dog so you can take them down the road to Walking English Dictionary too. Remember: Secrets are for politicians and spies – are you one of them?

P.S. After all my 'planet saving' rhetoric I understand many people still prefer a physical book in their hands. Indeed, I actually plan to produce a physical book (WED 1- 4 compilation). So your feedback, likes/dislikes, comments, suggestions and especially testimonials are very valuable to me and I hope you will write me something at dave@teatime-titbits.de - even if it's only a thumbs up or down!

to live up to sth (etw gerecht werden), **smile** (Lächeln), **tongue-in-cheek** (witzelnd), **to be half the battle** (Das ist schon die halbe Miete), **'as it's name implies** (wie der Name sagt), **collection** (Sammlung), **neatly (packed)** (ordentlich (eingepackt)), **to be short and sweet** (kurz + bündig), **to 'consume' sth** (hier: lesen), **commute (to/from work)** (Pendlerzeit), **a sitting (on the toilet)** (Sitzung halten), **weird** (merkwürdig), **device** (Gerät), **except for** (außer), **to proofread** (Korrektur lesen), **typo** (Typfehler), **to require sth** (benötigen), **to print off** (drücken), **pretty please** (Ach bitte, bitte), **'pass – on – ability'** (man kann etwas weiterleiten bzw. verteilen), **acquaintance** (bekannte), **spy** (Spion), **indeed** (in der Tat), **actually** (eigentlich), **compilation** (Zusammenstellung), **testimonials** (Referenz), **to be valuable to sb** (wertvoll), **'thumbs up'** (Daumen hoch)

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WED books to come
The Workplace English Toolkit Set
Teatime Titbit Book Club

Life-long learning for less than the price of a cup of tea – buy it now and start your journey to a Walking English Dictionary:

<https://teatimetitbits.de/downloads/walking-english-dictionary-1/>

Chapter 1. WWW 1 - Learning.

In my regular posts 'Wonderful Wednesday Words' I focus on one word and bring its story to life. In Chapter 1, I have bundled 5 posts together which are about learning (English) and in 'Titbit', I explain the mission of my blog Teatime Titbits. Enjoy!

Titbit.

I can imagine that when you first read this word, you possibly thought it is something erotic, understandably so! Well, (unfortunately) it isn't! A titbit can actually be a small bit of useful information and what a better time to pick up some titbits than during your (tea)break. This gave me the name of my blog: 'Teatime Titbits' to give you English language content for you to read during a break, a commute, whilst waiting, sat relaxing on the sofa, or even the throne (aka toilet). Here's another titbit for you, did you know that the American English word is 'tidbit? A lot less erotic, don't you think? Read more about the Teatime Titbits story – link to story.

To save you the hassle of typing in www.teatimetitbits.de every time, why not put the Teatime Titbits icon – with a direct connection to the website onto the home screen of your mobile/cellphone? Finally you could also subscribe to the weekly Teatime Titbits newsletter 5B,5M (5 bullet points in 5 minutes), which keeps you up-to-date with all things Teatime Titbits (posts/special offers/5B,5M readers unique content) and all things business English learning. It comes in 5 short (5 bullet points with a short text, vocab, and links to videos/longer Teatime Titbit blog posts on the website/free downloads/tips & tricks/recommended books) quick (5 minutes to read) titbits to get your week off to a great start because it is sent out on Monday mornings 8.30 a.m.

Hope you will enjoy Teatime Titbits, the posts, this books, future books and become a fan for life – as the saying goes "learning is a marathon, not a sprint".

to imagine (sich vorstellen), **content** (hier: Material), **commute** (Pendlerzeit), **hassle** (Mühe), **to subscribe to sth** (abonnieren), **fortnight** (14 tägig), **post** (Beitrag), **as the saying goes** (wie es heißt)

Redundant.

I got chatting to a young mum the other day and what do proud parents talk about? Their kids, of course. When I told her that my son is growing up trilingual, she sighed and said "Ah that's such a good start in life for him, I wish". You know what's coming next. Since I first came to Germany 20 years ago ish, this is what I have never really understood about Germany/Germans. You don't live on an island (like the Brits do) !!!!!

Why have you never taken up the 'small nation' mindset? Look at the Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries, etc. They don't dub their TV, they watch

films/programmes in the original version with subtitles. Why has Germany never taken this approach?

And why is TV so important you may ask? Kids still spend quite a lot of time glued to the box, or increasingly a screen regardless of how disciplined you are as parents. As a parent myself, there are still times you have a million and one other things to do or you simply need ½ an hour peace & quiet – I know I'm living through it.

I said to the young mum, "it's easier now than it's ever been, just switch on YouTube, find the English video of Feuermann Sam and 18 years later you'll have a fluent English speaker in the house".

Think it's a bit far-fetched? My wife watched Italian TV growing up in Albania and happily natters to Italians we know today.

Plant the seed when they are young, make watching English programmes as normal as brushing their teeth and watch the sapling grow as they watch vlogs/shows on Youtube/Netflix of their own accord etc and see them develop into a strong, healthy and intelligent tree that'll make me redundant in my lifetime.

P.S. If you don't, you'll regret it for your lifetime especially when it comes to doing homework and they are looking to you for help.

To make sb redundant (hier: überflüssig machen), **to be proud** (stolz sein), **to sigh** (seufzen), **ish** (zirka), **to dub** (synchronisieren), **to approach** (Herangehensweise), **to be glued to sth** (vor etw kleben), **the box** (TV-Kiste), **regardless** (egal), **peace & quiet** (Ruhe und Frieden), **far-fetched** (weithergeholt), **to natter** (plaudern), **seed** (Samen), **sapling** (Bäumchen), **of one's own accord** (von sich aus)

Immersion.

Back in the day, learning German in Sheffield, UK, it was nigh on impossible to 'immerse yourself' in any language except some strange form of English aka Sheffieldish (an offshoot of Yorkshire English). The only way I could immerse myself in German was to spend time in the country – an expensive undertaking, my parents will surely agree.

Today, you don't have to go anywhere!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You only have to look to the end of your hand for your 'immersion tool' – your smart phone. Listen, read, speak, learn vocab(ulary) and even write in English with that thing that goes WHEREVER you go. You CAN set yourself up to 'win' in the game of language learning – do you want to?

All my clients, who really move on in leaps & bounds are the ones who take this advice on board and follow through with discipline.

Nowadays, English really is everywhere, leverage this fact, go all out, turn off the German (you're native speakers anyway), switch on the English and immerse yourself !!!!.