

# Weekly English Practice



12th March 2015  
English Coaching Projects

[weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com](http://weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com)

Pompeii - buried by Vesuvius in AD 79,  
rediscovered in 1748 by the  
Spanish military engineer Rocque  
Joaquin de Alcubierre



## TWO LOST CITIES FOUND DEEP IN THE HONDURAS JUNGLE

*Archaeological team find a place untouched by humans for at least 600 years in a site that may be the 'lost city of the monkey god'*

**effigy:** a model representation of a person or object

**to bushwhack:** to cut through dense vegetation

**hoot and holler:** to shout loudly; making "monkey noises"

**crops:** cultivated plants, like cereals, grown commercially

**to mirror:** to reflect or correspond to

**carvings:** a cut and designed wooden or stone object

**vultures:** a large bird of prey which eats dead meat

**a hard pill to swallow:** something difficult to accept

Archaeologists have discovered two lost cities in the deep jungle of Honduras, emerging from the forest with evidence of a pyramid, plazas and artefacts that include the **effigy** of a half-human, half-jaguar spirit.

The team of specialists in archaeology and other fields, escorted by three British **bushwhacking** guides and a group of Honduran special forces, explored on foot a remote valley of La Mosquitia where an aerial survey had found signs of ruins in 2012, in a place that had gone untouched by humans for at least 600 years.

"Even the animals acted as if they've never seen people," said Chris Fisher, the lead US archaeologist on the team. "Spider monkeys are all over the place, and they'd follow us around and **hoot and holler** and throw food at us. To be treated not as a predator but as another primate in their space was the most amazing thing about this whole trip."

They found a human-created landscape, not only with houses, plazas and structures, but also features "much like an English garden, with orchards and house gardens, fields of **crops**, and roads and paths."

In the rainforest valley, they said they found stone structural foundations of two cities that **mirrored** people's thinking of the Maya region, though these were not Mayan people. The area dates from between 1000AD and 1400AD, and while very little is known without excavation of the site and the surrounding region, Fisher said it was likely that European diseases had, at least in part, contributed to the culture's disappearance.

The expedition also found and documented 52 artefacts that Virgilio Paredes, head of Honduras's national anthropology and history institute, said indicated a civilisation distinct from the Mayans. Those artefacts included a bowl with intricate **carvings** and semi-buried stone sculptures, including several that merged human and animal characteristics. The cache of artefacts - "very beautiful, very fantastic," in Fisher's words - may have been a burial offering, he said, noting the **effigies** of spirit animals such as **vultures** and serpents.

"This wasn't like some crazy colonial expedition of the last century," he added. Despite the abundance of monkeys, far too little is known of the site still to tie it to the "lost city of the monkey god" that one such expedition claimed to have discovered. In about 1940, the eccentric journalist, Theodore Morde, set off into the Honduran jungle in search of the legendary "white city" that Spanish conquistadors had heard tales of in the centuries before.

Fisher also said that the pristine, densely-wooded site was dangerously close to land being deforested for beef farms that sell to fast-food chains. Global demand has driven Honduras's beef industry, Fisher said; something that he found worrying.

"I keep thinking of those monkeys looking at me not having seen people before. To lose all this over a burger, it's a really **hard pill to swallow**."

*This story was adapted from:*

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/06/archaeologists-find-two-lost-cities-deep-in-honduras-jungle>

### “ Something to chat about ”

- Can you imagine being the first person to discover something or somewhere? Describe how you would feel.
- Do you think that we will ever find places such as "Atlantis" or "The City of Gold"? Did they ever really exist?
- Should the world's cultural heritage be more important than feeding people? Why/Why not?
- Describe a situation that you think would be "a bitter/hard pill to swallow".



# “iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!

## WIN AN EASTER EGG!

What are your plans for Easter? Are you going on holiday?

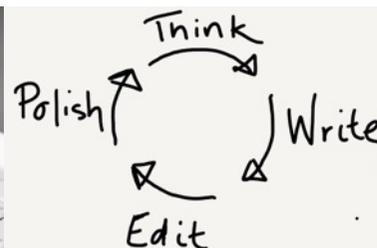
Write a description of your plans in an email to your coach.

**The best 3 will win tasty chocolate Easter Eggs!**



## WRITING COMPETITION HOLIDAYS

**Deadline: Friday 20th March!!**



## ECP PRESENTS A... LIVE! ENGLISH EVENT



## COME TO OUR PINTXO POTE NIGHT ON...

**THURSDAY 26TH MARCH AT 9PM**  
**MEETING POINT: ECP HUB**  
**(C/SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA 15 BAJO)**

Is there any better way to practice your English than chatting over a drink while munching on a bar snack? Eat and drink and practice English with your ECP coaches and other students - see you there!

Win a prize too in our Pintxo Pote prize draw!

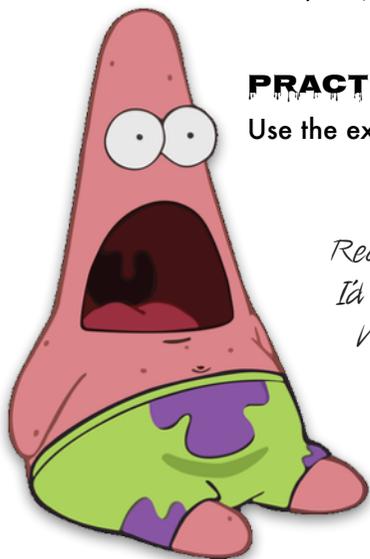
Please confirm your attendance with your coach, by email or in reception.

## SOME EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE TO USE IN SPEAKING AND WRITING

**PRACTICE THEM WITH YOUR ECP COACH AND CLASSMATES**

Use the expressions below to respond to statements like this:

*“Last night my house was attacked by zombies!”*



Really?  
I'd never have guessed!  
What?  
What a surprise!  
Well I never!  
You're kidding!  
I don't believe it!  
Are you serious?

I'm speechless!  
You don't say!  
I don't believe it!  
Unbelievable!  
That's incredible  
Blimey!  
You're joking!  
That's amazing!



Jesus!  
Bloody hell!  
That's the last thing I expected!

Adapted from: <http://www.ihbristol.com/useful-english-expressions/example/surprise/6>