



# Top 5 lists (or 10, 20...)

Daily, we receive Facebook requests to publish our 'Top Lists' of favourite songs, films and books. We love it, don't we? After all everyone has an 'inner nerd.'

**lovelorn (adj):** unloved, without love.  
**nerd (n):** introverted socially awkward intellectual.  
**cameo (n):** A single very brief appearance, especially by a prominent celebrity in a movie or song.  
**vinyl junkie (n):** Record collector who cannot get enough vinyl. Obsessive.

Twenty years ago, the British author Nick Hornby published the novel [High Fidelity](#), in which the main character, **lovelorn** record-store owner and all round **nerd** Rob Gordon and his staff compulsively make 'Top 5' lists.

The book was made into a [movie](#) starring John Cusack and Jack Black with a **cameo** role by Bruce Springsteen.

Rob is a **vinyl junkie** who is more interested in his record collection than his relationships.

Nick Hornby pre-empted the craze for 'Top Lists' on social media today as the book was written in 1995 when the Internet was in its infancy.

Here is my tribute to the book and film with my nerdy lists of "Top 5's"

## John's Top 5 Movies

1. Land and Freedom
2. Casablanca
3. Groundhog Day
4. Tess
5. Goodfellas

*"Kiss me.  
Kiss me as if it were the  
last time."*

## John's Top 5 Books

1. Germinal - Emile Zola
2. My Life - Leon Trotsky
3. Confessions of an Irish Rebel - Brendan Behan
4. The Good Soldier Švejk - Jaroslav Hašek
5. Out of the Night - Jan Valtin

## John's Top 5 Vegetables

1. Onions
2. Turnips
3. Rhubarb
4. Leeks
5. Chilli peppers

*"Stop talking rhubarb!"*

## John's Top 5 Live Concerts

1. Frank Sinatra
2. The Clash
3. The Pogues
4. The Smiths
5. Thin Lizzy

*♪♪ I did it my way ♪♪*

## John's Top 5 English Words

1. Serendipity
2. Dialectical
3. Revolution
4. Harbinger
5. Efflorescence

*"It's a harbinger of change"*

## John's Top 5 Places He Has Lived

1. Liverpool
2. Glasgow
3. Sarajevo
4. Al Khobar (Saudi Arabia)
5. Vitoria-Gasteiz

*Liverpudlian, Glaswegian,  
Saudi, Bosnian, Vitorian*

I could go on.....

Why are we obsessed with lists and ranking? Psychologists theorise that humans have a need to make order out of the chaos they find in society.

It is said that Picasso had a long hand written list of what made 'good' art.

Nowadays, lists are omnipresent, the Internet is after all like a long list of stuff! If you are interested here is a list of [127 Reasons Why We're Fascinated By Lists](#).

There is no hope!

**Look at page 2 for some list-based conversation starters**

# Weekly English Practice

19th November 2015

English  
Coaching  
Projects S.Coop.

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

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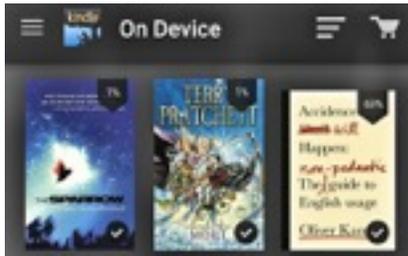
# “iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!

## TESTING, TESTING, ONE, TWO, THREE.. (SOME SPEAKING PRACTICE)

Talk to your Coach or send them an email about the following topics:

**THREE DISHES \* THREE BOOKS \* THREE PLACES  
\* THREE HOBBIES \* THREE BARS \* THREE  
TEACHERS \* THREE ENGLISH WORDS**

- (1) **THREE DISHES:** (i) What's your favourite dish or food? (ii) A dish you hate.  
(iii) The most unusual dish you have ever eaten.



- (2) **THREE BOOKS:** (i) What was the first book you remember reading?  
(ii) What was the last book you read?  
(iii) A book you will always remember.

- (3) **THREE PLACES:** (i) What's your favourite place to go on holiday?  
(ii) A place you really want to visit.  
(iii) A place you want to forget.

- (4) **THREE HOBBIES:** (i) Something you enjoy doing. (ii) Something you want to start doing. (iii) Something you would never want to do.

- (5) **THREE BARS:** (i) For a coffee. (ii) For a night out. (iii) For pintxos.

- (6) **THREE TEACHERS:** (i) A teacher who influenced you. (ii) Your worst teacher.  
(iii) Your favourite teacher.

- (7) **ENGLISH WORDS:** (i) Your most used English word and/or phrase. (ii) Your favourite English word. (iii) English word most difficult to pronounce.

Why not record your answers - on your phone or computer - and then listen to yourself speak. It's a fantastic way to identify mistakes and correct yourself. Send it to your ECP coach too!

## WRITING CIRCLE

*Many people enjoy telling stories, writing poems and being creative.*

*Would like to share your writings with fellow writers in an informal WRITING CIRCLE in any language?*

*A space to get creative support and friendly advice.*

*Contact John for details:*

[john@englishcoachingprojects.net](mailto:john@englishcoachingprojects.net)



We have set up a student-organised group called 'Student Socials'.

Meet other students to have fun and talk in English.

Join the [Facebook group](#) and start socialising in your favourite second language!



After the great success of English Coaching Projects' 1st Pintxo Competition in 2014, we proudly present...

# Do you PINTXO\*?

\* to pintxo: (a new verb invented by ECP)  
(i) to enjoy eating pintxos while practising English in a social situation  
(ii) to create new pintxos and share them with others while practising English

**Come and 'pintxo' with the best at the...**

**2<sup>nd</sup> English Coaching Projects Pintxo Competition**

Friday 11th December @8.05 pm  
San Ignacio de Loyola 15 bajo

Top 3 pintxos win prizes!  
8.05-8.40 pm Welcome drinks and pintxo presentation time  
8.45-9.40 pm Pintxo tasting and socialising (with local craft beer)  
9.45-10.15 pm Judges deliberations\*, popular vote\*\* and award ceremony

\* Our expert judges will decide on the Champion and Runner-up pintxos \*\* Everyone present will vote for the People's Choice pintxo