

Drunk Spanish Tourists Invade English Coastal Resorts (and more absurdity)

Not really, that is just the headline of an article from the satirical website 'The Daily Mash'. ECP coach Rob Hextall explains how reading satirical news articles can be tough but very rewarding

Before you read the complete article, look at this vocabulary and find it in the text:

- along with:** in company with, at the same time as
- to get the gist of something:** to understand the general meaning or concept
- hordes:** a large group of people
- to lure:** to tempt someone to do something or go somewhere
- Speedos:** a popular brand of swimming trunks (typically very short and tight)

Last month, I wrote about adding a little absurdity to your daily life. Here is a practical example of that idea that will help you improve your English at the same time. **Make sure that you follow the links that are included in this article!**

When I was first learning Spanish in the 1990s, I used to buy [El Jueves](#) every Wednesday. **Along** with Marca and El Correo, this weekly magazine quickly became my main source of new vocabulary and expressions and it really motivated me to try to impress my Spanish-speaking friends.

Nowadays, I love the [El Mundo Today](#) website and have followed it assiduously ever since it published an article about an [old woman invoking the devil](#) because her English pronunciation was so bad. Not only does El Mundo Today make me laugh, but it also teaches me about [cultural stereotypes](#) in Spain and I learn words and expressions that I probably wouldn't have learned (or understood) otherwise.

Satirical websites can be great fun but, because the comedy is often rooted in local cultural concepts and contexts, they can also be very difficult to understand if you are not a native speaker or a long-term resident of the country or region.

Getting the gist of satire in a second language isn't easy and it takes time, but it's definitely worth the effort. For those of you learning English, I recommend [The Daily Mash](#), [The Rochdale Herald](#) and the Irish [Waterford Whispers News](#).

Try this [article](#) from The Daily Mash and chat with your ECP coach about it!

Shirtless Spaniards take over Scarborough

Hordes of drunk, obnoxious Spanish tourists have arrived in Scarborough, a resort in the north-east of England, to enjoy the sunshine and take no interest in any other aspect of Britain.

The tourists, who speak no English and order tapas by calling every waiter Gary, have been **lured** here from Alicante by England's balmy climate and relaxed pace of life.

Delivery driver Wayne Hayes said: "I know they've only come for the sun, but would it kill them to take an interest in our proud, ancient culture?"

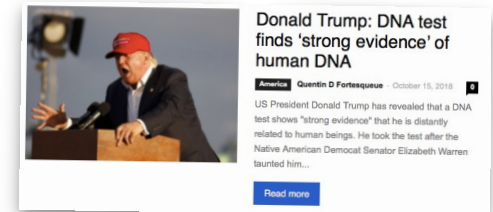
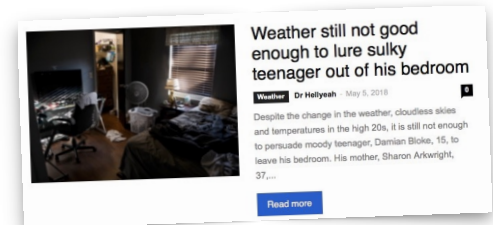
"Instead, they lie on the beach all day in their **Speedos** reading El Pais, picking at olives and manchego cheese before launching into offensive chants about Lionel Messi.

"Then they barge into our fish 'n' chip shops, completely drunk after drinking Rioja for hours, demanding pulpo a la gallega with a well-chilled Fino sherry, and don't even bother to read what's on the menu.

"Local businesses are happy to see them though. Half the seafront has turned into all-night paella bars called Picasso, and the flamenco from Don Quixote's nightclub goes on all night."

Tourist Juan Fernandez said: "Me and the wife are thinking of buying a house here and hanging a massive Spanish flag outside. Why would we ever want to return to our grey existence in Granada?" *The Daily Mash*

- Which satirical websites, TV shows or radio programmes do you like?
- Explain the satire in the article above. Do you think it really happens?
- Which targets do you believe deserve to be satirised most?
- Describe some cultural stereotypes in your country. Are they true?



Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!
Why not record an audio and send it by WhatsApp or email?

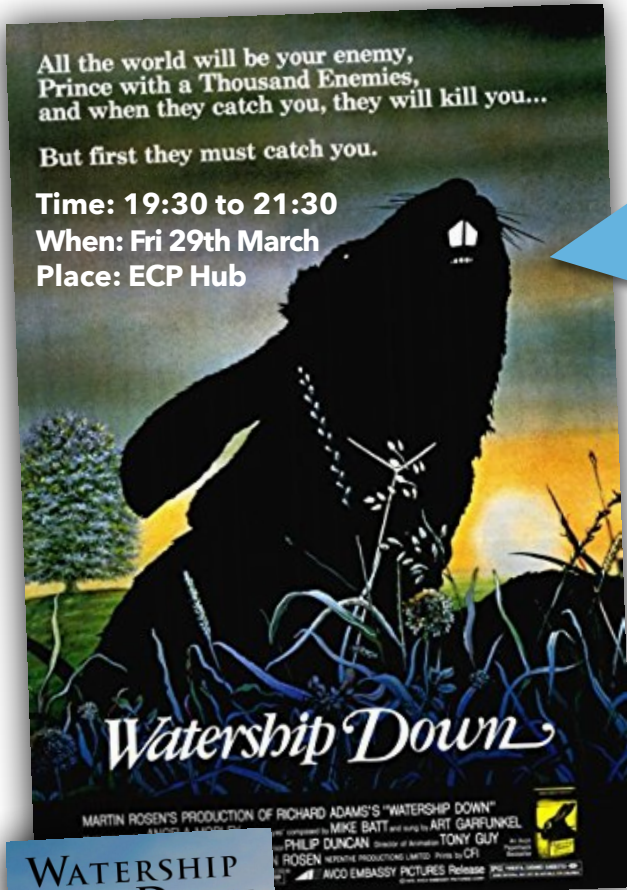
Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



iLook, iThink, iSpeak

Real Language to Express Yourself Better



This Friday 29th March
Watership Down

CINEMA NIGHTS!

Come and socialise in English!

Time: 19:30 to 21:30

Place: ECP Hub (C/San Ignacio de Loyola 15)

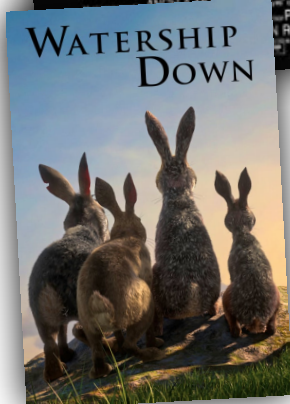
Price: Free! **Friends welcome!**

WhatsApp John for more details on:

657 73 13 54

Every last Friday of the month

Based on Richard Adam's novel of the same title, this animated feature delves into the surprisingly violent world of a warren of rabbits as they seek to establish a new colony free of tyranny and human intervention. Few novels have been as fascinating as **Watership Down** on screen. It is a magnificently gripping adventurous tale. After 41 years it remains a powerful story that strongly resonates today.



Netflix has produced a new version recently. But the original is better!

LIVE!English presents:

COFFEE SATURDAYS!

Come and socialise in English!

Next chat: Saturday 6th April



Time: 11:00 to 12:30

Place: Panadería Bertiz, C/Francia

Price: Just bring enough for a cup of coffee!

Friends welcome!

WhatsApp Alison for more details on:

608 42 64 92

Every first Saturday of the month

Some useful phrases for eating in a restaurant

"How many people are in your party?"

"We'd like a table for 5, please."

"We'd like (type of drink) while we decide on our food."

"Would you like to taste the wine?"

"I'll have...as a starter/appetiser/main course/side order/dessert."

"What would you recommend?"

"What are the specialities?"

"What wine goes well with this?"

"Does this contain meat/nuts/dairy?"

"I can't eat _____, which dishes would you recommend for me?"

"Can we have the bill/check, please?"