The big issue
6 Google!

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Celebrities
Geri Halliwell
That’s it, I have to say something!

What is it, dear?

Guys! Come on! Dinner time is the only time when we can all be together. Please, let’s sit together.

It’s nice to sit together.

One day, you’ll miss your parents.

You’re right, dad.

Sorry. The family has to stick together.

That’s not quite what I meant.

What did you say, dad?
Hello everybody,
and welcome to A Tot of English, your ticket
to the world of English. We’ve got exciting news from
the UK and from all over the world for you to read
and listen to. So come on board and let’s start!
Have fun!

Julia

Good news for the environment*

The world’s largest water reserve*

The largest water reserve in the world is in Kiribati in the Pacific Ocean. Kiribati is a small area made up of 33 little islands. In Kiribati there are many species of coral, fish, sea birds and turtles. The reserve is called Phoenix Islands Protected Area.

It is an area of outstanding beauty where the views are breathtaking. There are beautiful white beaches, crystal clear waters and incredible wildlife.

One of the islands is called Butaritari. Can you guess what it is famous for?

A  coconut trees
B  bread trees
C  cherry trees

The answer is on page 15

Mr G. Rama

In this issue we cover:
• past simple
• question words (who, why, when)
• relative pronouns (who, which)

Welcome to Tot

Glossary

breath-taking: something that takes your breath away because it is very beautiful

crystal clear: very clear,

transparent

environment: nature

outstanding: incredible

reserve: a protected area

wildlife: animals and plants that live in nature freely
Ex*-Spice Girl, UN* ambassador and now children’s author*, Geri certainly knows how to spice* up her life. Read Geri’s biography and match the headings to each section.

Geri’s background

Geraldine Estelle Halliwell, aka* Geri Halliwell or Ginger Spice, was born on 6 August 1972 in Watford, Hertfordshire, UK. In 1996, Geri joined an all-girl pop band called The Spice Girls. Before becoming a member of The Spice Girls, she was a club dancer in Majorca, a TV presenter in Turkey, an aerobics instructor, a cleaner and a barmaid. The other Spice Girls were Emma Bunton (aka Baby Spice), Melanie Chisholm (aka Sporty Spice), Melanie Brown (aka Scary Spice), and Victoria Beckham (aka Posh Spice).

Going solo

In 1998 Geri Halliwell split from The Spice Girls and launched* a successful* solo career* with four number ones. Her image changed and she became a UN Goodwill ambassador. She published her autobiography* If Only. In 2008, Geri Halliwell published another book called Ugenia Lavender, a children’s book about the adventures of nine-year-old Ugenia and her friends.

Here is a summary of Ugenia Lavender. Use the words in the box to complete it.

Thoughtful, ___________ and sassy*, Ugenia Lavender is an amazing_______. With loads of energy, tons of attitude and brainwaves*, Ugenia leaps into _________that are as packed with personality as their________, Geri Halliwell. Each book in the series contains three_______ plus Ugenia's Big News, Top Tips and extra Brain Squeezer puzzle pages.

---

* glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ambassador</td>
<td>(here) Geri represents the United Nations’ (UN) work in different countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aka</td>
<td>also known as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author</td>
<td>a person who writes books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autobiography</td>
<td>a book about your life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brainwaves</td>
<td>(here) intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>career</td>
<td>work, job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex</td>
<td>not any more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>launched</td>
<td>started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sassy</td>
<td>fashionable and clever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spice up</td>
<td>make exciting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>successful</td>
<td>very good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The answer is on page 15
Caught in the Web

Doing a web search is easy.

It’s dad’s birthday tomorrow. Are you sure you know what present you’re looking for?

Of course I am. There’s a web site here with gift ideas.

Look, it says there’s a special offer here.

A fishing kit! That’s exactly what dad wants.

Shall I order? Can I have the credit card?

Is it safe?

Of course it is. Done!

Great! Now all we have to do is wait for the postman.

THEO’S BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday!

Ummm! I think they like the cake, too.

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Google is an Internet search engine. It is the most popular search engine on the Web*. It is 10 years old and millions of people all over the world are googling right now! Let’s find* out more.

Who invented Google and when?
Larry Page and Sergey Brin are the inventors of Google. They were two university students who loved computers and who loved the Internet. They were also very good at maths. Larry and Sergey wanted to invent a system which classified* information on the Web. They wanted users* to be able to search* for specific information, like images or music or books. One day, in 1998, Larry and Sergey invented a complex* system which is now so easy for us to use.

What does “google” mean?
The word “google” comes from the word “Googol” which Milton Sirotta invented. Sirotta was the nephew of a famous mathematician called Edward Kasner. “Googol” is the name of a very large number which doesn’t actually exist: it is 1 followed* by one hundred 0s.

* glossary
ads: advertisements, publicity
allows: lets
awards excellence: gives a prize to excellent projects
as well as: also
came up with: invented
classified: divided into similar groups
complex: complicated
find out: discover
followed by: something comes after it
navigate: surf, use, search the Internet
popped up: came up suddenly
search: look for
spreads across: covers
Stock Market: a list of the richest companies in the world
users: (here) people who use the Internet
Web: the Internet
When did it become successful?
In 2000, Larry and Sergey came up with another great idea. They created AdWords, an Internet search programme which matches words to ads. This meant that every time a user searched for a word, an ad popped up. By 2004, Google was on the Stock Market. It won the Marconi Fellowship Award which awards excellence in business and communication.

What is Google like now?
Google has more than 6 million web pages. Every day, users do more than 200 million searches in more than 80 different languages. You can download, save and print books, films and music as well as photos, lessons on any subject and gossip about every celebrity. Google allows us to navigate for information in a way that was not possible before.

What else can Google do?
The google “family” is now very big. There’s GoogleAlert which allows you to send information to an email address; there’s GoogleMaps and there’s GoogleEarth which allow you to find any place in the world using satellite technology; there’s GoogleCalendar which reminds you of important dates. And there’s lots more!

True or false?
1. Google Story is a book by David Vise and Mark Malseed about the history of Google.
2. The word “Google” is associated with “goggles” which protect our eyes.
3. Google is the name of a planet.
4. “Google” is a form of magic used in Africa before going on a hunt.

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FAMOUS BUILDINGS
Can you guess what this building is?

It is London’s national gallery of international modern art. It is located on Bankside, on the River Thames. It is one of a family of four galleries. The other galleries are in Liverpool, St Ives and another one in London. This famous gallery was created in the year 2000 from a disused power station in the heart of London. Now, millions of people from all over the world visit it every day. It contains art from the 1900s to the present day. It has a permanent art collection which includes these very famous European artists: Picasso, Matisse, Rothko, Warhol, Magritte and Dali. You can walk from here to St Paul’s Cathedral over the Millennium Bridge.

Write the answer here:

.......................................

*The answer is on page 15*
Dear Simon,

what you feel is not nice, but it is something that most of us feel at some point in our lives. Art, like music, is very hard when you are not particularly artistic: some people seem* to be able to draw anything, quickly and accurately; others take* ages to draw simple shapes! Your teacher doesn't want you to feel like this and is probably trying to give you new things to try and improve*. Why don't you find out about the history of art? You can read about some famous artists that you like. Your teacher will appreciate this and you can begin to enjoy art in your own way. Good luck,

Tot

Simon

Celebrity quotes

Pablo Picasso was a very famous Spanish painter, but not everybody thought he was very good. Can you put this famous sentence by Picasso in the right order?

to Picasso | “I wish they were!”.

A man said | Picasso answered:

that his drawings were like a 5-year-old’s.

The answer is on page 15

Glossary

blank: white, nothing on it
can't face: don't want to do something
dread: feel frightened at the idea of doing something
freeze: stop because you can't do something
getting left behind: staying behind everybody else
improve: get better
seem to: look like
stare: look at something for a long time
take ages: take a long time
Jessica Alba is an actress. She started acting when she was 13 years old.

Jessica’s childhood
When Jessica was little, she lived in many different cities in America. Her father was an air pilot and the family had to move a lot because of his work. She went to drama school when she was 12. She got her first acting break at 13 with the film Camp Nowhere. She then became famous when she played Sue Storm in the Fantastic Four series.

Acting is hard work
In 1996, Jessica played Maya in the TV series Flipper. Maya was a mermaid who befriended some dolphins. Jessica had to move to Australia for two years to film Flipper. She also had to learn to scuba dive.

In 2000, she played a part in another TV series called Dark Angel. She had to spend eleven months training in a gym, she had to learn martial arts and she also had to learn to ride a motorbike! For the part she played in The Eye, Jessica had to learn to play the violin, too.

Bashful beauty
Not only is Jessica a very talented actress, but she is also very beautiful. When people tell her that she is very pretty, she blushes. When she was at school, nobody paid her much attention and she had to wait for ages before anybody invited her out.

Did you know that ....
- Jessica is a massive football fan?
- Jessica loves playing golf?
- Jessica’s nickname is Sky Angel?
- Jessica’s got two dogs, Sid and Nancy?
Here at ELI, we believe that learning is fun both in the classroom and outside the classroom. This is why we’ve decided to take you on a trip* around the UK to see what lessons we can learn outside the classroom. Our first lesson is cooking and it takes place in Herefordshire, in the Wye Valley in England.

Learning to cook

The flavours of Herefordshire

Herefordshire is an area of England near the Welsh border. It is an area rich in pastures* and rivers which produce the natural ingredients for the most delicious food: Wye salmon, Hereford beef and Herefordshire apples.

Food festival

The Herefordshire Food Festival takes place between October 25-26. This is where famous chefs show you how to cook with pride* and passion in their Food Theatre. You can learn more about bees and how they produce honey. You can go on a Food Trail and learn to carve* pumpkins, press fresh apple juice or try apple bobbing. The Herefordshire food festival is also where you can learn about edible and poisonous mushrooms, how to catch fish and how to make ice-cream with local milk and cream.

Seasonal food

Seasonal food is food that grows naturally and locally* at certain times of the year. October is the month in which you can find apples, mushrooms, pumpkins, beetroot, lamb, mussels and courgettes. Seasonal food tastes nicer and is better for you because it grows naturally.

Monkland Cheese Dairy

Hereford is famous for its Little Herefordshire Cheese, a local cheese made by hand. At the Monkland Cheese Dairy you can watch and help farmers make this delicious cheese which uses local, fresh milk.
Seasonal recipe

Here is a recipe for apple sorbet. Use the verbs to complete the instructions for making it.

Ingredients
1 litre of freshly pressed apple juice
a little icing sugar
lemon juice

Method
1. ______ a little icing sugar and lemon juice into your apple juice.
2. _______ into plastic dishes 2cm deep and ______ them in the freezer.
3. Take them out of the freezer when the mixture is just frozen (but not hard) and scratch* up into a soft sorbet with a fork.
4. _______

The answer is on page 15

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* glossary

- carve: cut and make into a shape
- locally: near where you live
- pastures: fields where animals can graze
- pride: happiness about something you can do
- scratch up: (here) use a fork to break the ice
- trip: journey

infinitive of purpose (how to do something), imperatives for instructions
Brain teasers

Test your memory of this month’s Tot with our quiz page!

Google

Fill in the gaps

Larry and Sergey were __________ with a passion for maths. When they were 25 years __________, they founded Google. They wanted to find a system for classifying __________ on the Web because they wanted to help people to find information __________. Google doesn’t advertise. It makes money because other people __________ on Google. People who work at Google spend 20% of their time thinking up new __________.

- information
- quickly
- students
- ideas
- old
- advertise

UK traditions.

Complete the following sentences using the comparatives and superlatives below.

1. Carving a pumpkin is __________ than carving a turnip.
2. The __________ pumpkin in the world weighed 513 kilos.
3. The __________ pumpkins can weigh just 1 kilo.
4. You can get blue pumpkins __________ orange ones.
5. Pumpkins can weigh __________ 1 kilo.

Answers on page 15
ANSWERS: p. 3: Good news:


2. as well as,

3. biggest,

4. as little as;

5. pour,

6. easier,

7. serve;

8. Sin City;

9. true;

10. the biggest, 3.smallest, 4. as well as, 5. little as; p. 16. Did you know ... number 7 is false: you can restore it by soaking it overnight in water, not olive oil.

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Here are 10 interesting pumpkin facts. Which one is false?

1. Pumpkins come from the same family as the cucumber.

2. You can grow pumpkins all over the world - except in Antarctica.

3. The pumpkin capital of the world is the USA. Morton, Illinois is the place to go for your pumpkins.

4. Pumpkin’s are easier to carve than turnips.

5. There are over 50 different types of pumpkin.

6. The smallest pumpkins can weigh as little as 1 kilo, whilst the largest can weigh over 70 kilos.

7. If your pumpkin lantern shrivels* up, you can restore it by soaking* it overnight in olive oil to rehydrate it. But remember to take out the candle, first.

8. Did you know that you can get blue, green and white pumpkins, as well as the traditional orange ones?


10. Pumpkins are medicinal, as well as fun and tasty. The seeds are used for de-worming* and the pulp is often used to relieve* burns.

---

**glossary**

- de-worming: a disease where worms go into your body.
- relieving: (here) make better.
- shrivels up: become dry and get smaller.
- soaking: leaving in water.