

- 7** *Mostly about a Name*
Who's Who, **7**; Be careful of "puns", **7**; Sir Reginald's midnight sun trip, or: A semantic note on *Mrs* and *mistress*, **8**; "Do you mind...?" or: How Táňa mixed up yes and no, and so mixed up her lovers, **10**; Meeting you somewhere in the "lower middle", for purely pedagogic reasons, **11**; A so-called long-distance call, **14**.
- 15** *The True Englishman*
Hoping that the story of the Vierlingers will help to cure your English-language complex, **15**; The effects of a perfect Oxford accent on my sex life, **17**; When to say "please", and when to keep your mouth shut, **20**; A world language is a language mostly spoken by foreigners, **22**; How to say J and G, **23**.
- 26** *Carpets and Spaniards*
Status symbols: Carpets in the British Foreign Office, and the sudden promotion of a nincompoop, **26**; How to say "jak prosím" in a foreign language, or: The importance of learning the things you know, **29**; Churchill discussing trains, **31**; – and poisoned tea, **34**; "Call it a day" (and let's make a night of it), **34**.
- 35** *The Lemon Cure*
A lady without prejudices: Madame Tussaud, **35**; Please translate into Czech: "He is a *character* and

a little *pathetic*", 37; How to use dictionaries, 40; How to cut lemons, 42; How to say "z", 44; How to write *t* in English, and 1, 7, ?, etc., 45; How to prevent you from cheating, 46.

48 *NOW*

Suggesting a comfortable form of sexual intercourse, 48; My publisher is against it, 50; Males and females, 50; Undertakers and employers, 51; The horrible life stories of non-smokers, 52; A word on ashtrays, 55; Please translate into Czech: *eventually* and *actually*, 58; Why English is easy, and why it is not, 59.

62 *The Joke Trick*

Where the word "snob" comes from, 63; Who on earth gave them the right to light my cigarette?, 64; How to make people laugh at a poor joke, 65; Our first quarrel, mainly concerning this book, 68; Our second quarrel, mainly concerning the use of foreign words, 73; – followed by a sentimental outbreak on my part, 75.

77 *Pollution*

What is, or rather was, Tea in England?, 77; "Er-er-ahm-ahm" combined with "sort of" will make you speak fluent English, 80; Nothing succeeds like success, 81; Remember: *casually*, 82; Our third quarrel, this time about four-letter words, 86; Teaching you to write decimals, and getting very passionate about it, 87.

88 *O for a Muse of Fire*

Personally, I like this chapter because (a) most of it is by Shakespeare, (b) it is short, and (c) it attempts to show that words are too important to be obscene.

90 *Dear Mr Jimbob*

Second thoughts on my pollution guilt: Defending myself with various arguments, most of them beginning or ending with “*after all*”, **90**; Drafting a letter, **93**; A little episode in Piccadilly Circus which you are free to interpret any way you like – frankly, it’s something of a *leitmotif* (a word which is perfectly good English), **98**.

100 *Digressions*

Talking to you like a dentist, with my fingers in your mouth, **101**; – while, figuratively speaking, I want to go to bed with you, **102**; Sociolinguistics of telephone bells, **103**; Bathrooms, toilets, lavatories, loos, water closets and the like, **104**; The English, the British, and myself, **107**; Bedside instructions how to pronounce an English sound called “w”, **109**.

111 *Pronounced*

Bernard Shaw and Miss Universe, **111**; Teaching you the secret of English pronunciation and getting no thanks for it, **114**; How I learnt my English, and how you can learn yours, **117**; A personal note on a very cold country, on childhood, and on the true nature of an English teacher called Pygmalion, **117**.

119 *Positions*

The mystery of the 173rd position, **120**; What to call a nameless country whose capital is London, **120**; The blanket, or: Patricia and the capitalist system, **123**; Prepositions, or: John Donne and modern language teaching, **124**; A little grain of sugar on the floor, or . . . , **124**; An Underground lift in London, or: Position Number One, **125**.

127 *Butter Rations*

With all due respect to Churchill, it was me who saved London from the Nazi bombs, **127**; Remember: *to muddle through*, **129**; Attempting to translate Sir Harold's understatements into Czech, **130**; Remember: *sophisticated*, **131**; Continental intellectuals are touchy, **131**; Dr Liebermann, **135**; With such a wistful eye. . . , **136**.

138 *The Podger*

"Familiarity breeds contempt", or: Risking my authority as your teacher, **138**; An English conversation course for people who won't even talk in their own language, **139**; To be or not to be a native, **142**; What about an encyclopedic dictionary for you?, **147**; Remember: *Suffer fools gladly* and *Correct me if I am wrong*, **148**.

150 *Uncle Moshe*

A pedlar in Whitechapel, **151**; Remember: He *would* do this or that, meaning "he used to", **152**; Paying in cash and writing "oylib", **152**; Not paying at all and writing "oil", **153**; There is a pretty good reason why the English never correct you, **154**; What's in a name?, **154**; A philosopher's humpback, **155**; In the schoolyard, **156**.

157 *A Brief History of Britain*

From William the Conqueror to Waterloo, or: The price of a first-rate tolliple, **158**; Rabbi Schomol and his headache, **160**; Another quarrel of ours, **161**; – or: The advantages of speaking bad English, **163**; Examining you on British history, **165**; A melodramatic outburst of mine for which I will be punished in the next chapter, **167**.

168 *Embarrassing*

An author by the name of Eduard Czech, **168**; The world's greatest love scene, **169**; Rakvičky se šlehačkou, Hamlet, and one's country, **173**; A writer's Ten Commandments, **175**; Quoting Kurt Tucholsky, **178**; Again: the world's greatest love scene, also called the Balcony Scene, **179**.

181 *Page One*

I don't give a damn, **181**; An influenza, also called "flu", **182**; People have the fullest understanding for problems you don't have, **182**; Remember: *to relax*, **182**; A note on so-called English food, **184**; How to pronounce "again", **185**; It's about time I showed you the place, **186**; Can one really enjoy oneself?, **187**.

189 *The Factory*

Unless you have a painting signed by Picasso, you probably have one signed by me, **189**; Kindly introduce me to your husband, **191**; "Painting Is Dead", **192**; Producing abstract paintings on the conveyor belt, **193**; Twenty odd synonyms for "swindle", **196**; Various views on Britain's collapse, **202**.

204 *Introducing Johnny*

Making love, **204**; – and talking about commas, capitals and dates, **205**; How I met Johnny, **207**; Why I was Graham Greene, **208**; Remember *dial* and, if you wish, dial my telephone number, **212**; Proverbs and sayings illustrating British hypocrisy and other national characteristics, **215**; Gilding the lily, **216**; Making love once more, **216**.

217 *More About Johnny*

Johnny at breakfast, or Angus Wilson's "Anglo-Saxon Attitudes", **217**; Again: Learn the things

you know, **219**; English for masochists, or: “lie – lay – lain” / “lay – laid – laid”, **220**; Attributes of a Continental, **220**; Johnny’s latest amour, or Henry Miller’s “Sexus”, **221**; It’s more fun writing bad books than reading good ones, **222**.

224 *Inside Words*

My money is running out, **224**; A watched pot never boils, **226**; Trying to translate “já taky”, or: How To Reach Orgasm, **226**; If you don’t remember the following words, kindly read the whole chapter again: bother, **25**; bully, **74**; drudgery, **173**; fishy, **189**; fun / funny, **195**; patronizing, **74**; rub in, **215**.

234 *The Sorriest of Countries*

“Civilized” – a very modest word for a very great thing, **234**; The silent conversation, or: Communicating by going out of one’s way, **235**; Johnny leaves a certain country for certain reasons, **235**; How one can enjoy being hit in the back, or: As long as people are sorry there is every reason to be happy, **237**.

239 *Printed in...*

The end is strictly between ourselves.

245 *Doslov k českému vydání*