

391/01

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**ELang1: Using Language**

A.M. FRIDAY, 26 May 2006

(1½ Hours)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **both parts** of the question: **(a)** and **(b)** .

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Marks for this unit are divided equally between **(a)** and **(b)**.

In this unit you will be assessed on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to the study of language, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression;
- demonstrate expertise and accuracy in writing for a variety of specific purposes and audiences, drawing on knowledge of linguistic features to explain and comment on choices made;
- know and use key features of frameworks for the systematic study of spoken and written English.

Remember that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

*Complete tasks (a) and (b). Each counts for half of the total marks for this unit.*

*The subject of this unit is **new additions to the English language**.*

*Read the information on pages 3 and 4, then complete the **two** tasks which follow.*

## **Tasks**

- (a) Correspondence on the subject of whether the English language is deteriorating or improving has appeared in the letter pages of a quality national newspaper. Write a letter to the editor, for publication in this newspaper, expressing your opinions on the introduction of new words into the language.

**Write your letter in at least 300 words.**

- Select some of the new words on page 4 and make a strong case whether each chosen word should or should not enter the language.
- Using the material on page 3 as a guide, you should aim to provide some information about, or explanation of, how your chosen new words are formed.
- Present your viewpoint clearly and persuasively.
- Use your own words as far as possible.
- Remember to make your text appropriate for a letter to the editor of a quality national newspaper.

- (b) **When you have completed task (a), write about the language you have used (approximately 400 words).**

Drawing on your knowledge of language frameworks and linguistic features, you should explain and comment on the language choices you have made. Comment particularly on your use of language features and how you have made your choices of language appropriate for a persuasive letter to the editor of a quality national newspaper.

**bouncebackability** *noun*

the ability to be successful again after a period of failure

The word **bouncebackability** was first coined by ex-footballer Iain Dowie, now manager of Crystal Palace football club, who famously described his team as showing ‘... great **bouncebackability**’.

The majority of current usages refer to a team’s predicted capacity (or lack of capacity!) to come back and win after one or more defeats, for example:

*The team were determined to show their **bouncebackability** after losing in last week’s game ...  
Tomorrow’s match will be a true test of the team’s **bouncebackability** following last weekend’s defeat.*

The word is, of course, formed from suffixation of the verb *bounce back* with *-ability*, a suffix which is usually used with adjectives ending in ‘able’ to form nouns which indicate a particular quality, such as *dependable* – *dependability*, *suitable* – *suitability*.

So convinced of the need for the term **bouncebackability** are some members of the English-speaking public that they have launched a variety of online petitions for its inclusion in the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED). What’s more, there’s a website called [bouncebackability.biz](http://bouncebackability.biz), where you can buy a T-shirt! UK bookies are even offering odds of one to five as to whether **bouncebackability** will make it into *OED*, dictionary coverage of the word recently being the subject of some debate in the world of lexicography.

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**movieoke** *noun, adjective*

a form of entertainment in which a person acts out scenes from a film by reading lines from a monitor whilst the film scenes are playing silently in the background

The term **movieoke** is a blend of the words *movie* and *karaoke*, the ‘sing-along’ form of entertainment that originated in Japan in the 1970s and became popular throughout Europe and the United States during the 1990s. The word *karaoke* is based on the Japanese *kara*, meaning ‘empty’ (and appearing in words like *karate*, literally ‘empty hand’) and *oke* which is short for ‘orchestra’. The term therefore literally means ‘empty orchestra’. In *karaoke*, the user is prompted by a monitor whilst music minus vocals plays in the background. In **movieoke**, a movie scene is projected onto a big screen behind the user whilst the monitor shows the same scene together with subtitled dialogue.

We’re already familiar with the concept of *karaoke*, the craze of singing popular songs from a monitor while recorded music is played. Now budding performers can move one step further by not only singing but also acting out the roles of their favourite movie stars, as they enter the world of **movieoke**.

Like *karaoke*, the term **movieoke** is used adjectivally, e.g. *movieoke bar/party/star*. The terms **Movieoke** and a currently less common alternative, **Cinemoke**, have already been registered as trademarks.

### **Other potential additions to the language**

**Ambifootrix** – as used by an ITV commentator during the Rugby World Cup to refer to Johnny Wilkinson’s ability to kick drop goals with both feet.

**Archery** – telling lies, getting punished, and then writing a book about the whole crazy escapade as in the case of Jeffrey Archer who was imprisoned.

**Bennifer** – shorthand media term for the on-off-on showbiz couple Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck.

**Bobfoc** – body off Baywatch, face off Crimewatch; a person with an attractive body but an ugly face.

**Bollotics** – a combination of nonsense and political correctness that annoys and amuses in equal measure.

**Connambulating** – aimlessly walking up and down while using a mobile telephone.

**Datasmog** – too much information.

**Deskfast** – breakfast designed to be eaten conveniently at one’s workstation.

**Desk-Yeti** – similar to a desk monkey (someone who spends all day working) but rarer; in fact so rare that they have never been seen.

**Euronating** – what “spending a penny” will become if the UK joins the single currency.

**Helicoptering** – to rise above an issue and take a look at it from a business wide perspective.

**Listmania** – media obsession to categorise anything into lists, be they musical artistes, memorable sporting moments, quotations, words of the year etc.

**Noughties** – the first ten years of the new century.

**Plagiarhythm** – to steal the tunes of rich pop stars by downloading them from the internet.

**Reality fatigue** – when ordinary people get bored with watching ordinary people doing very little on TV.

**Sit-trag** – televisual genre mixing tragedy and situation comedy.

**Snoutcasts** – people who are banished from their workplace because of their smoking habit and huddle around outside doorways.

**Tookies** – (pronounced two keys) word used to describe this decade/century (from 2K).

**Tweenagers** – young children (i.e. under 10s) who take on the behaviour of older children, e.g. having their own mobile phones, “allowances” and (according to the *Daily Mail*) “boob tubes, off-the-shoulder numbers and bottom-skimming miniskirts”.