

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*

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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*

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150 *Uncle Moshe*

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168 *Embarrassing*

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189 *The Factory*

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204 *Introducing Johnny*

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224 *Inside Words*

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234 *The Sorriest of Countries*

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239 *Printed in...*

The end is strictly between ourselves.

245 *Doslov k českému vydání*