



Here/There

produced by English in Action

March 2016

Volunteers helping newcomers speak English

March 2016						
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WHEN?

Last, previous, next, following. How do we know when to use each of these words? When you make plans to meet your friend, or when you describe something that happened in the past, it's important to use the right word, or else it will change the meaning of what you are trying to say.

Last is an adjective that is used to describe something that happened before the present time.

Last week it snowed. (We are talking about the week before today.)

The previous is used to describe something that happened before a time we are talking about.

*Last week it snowed, but **the previous** week it was sunny.* (We are describing the week before last week, not the week before this week.) We can also say: Last week it snowed, but **the week before** it was sunny.

Next is an adjective that is used to describe something that will happen after the present time.

Next week, they are predicting more snow.

The following is used to describe something that will happen after a time we are talking about.

*Next week, they are predicting more snow, but **the following** week will be warmer.* We can also say: Next week, they are predicting more snow, but **the week after** will be warmer.

PRACTICE ACTIVITY

Using the calendar above as a point of reference, fill in the correct dates for each blank. Pretend that today is Thursday, March 17th, 2016.

Tomomi's birthday is next Thursday ___(1). The following Thursday ___(2) is Kaori's birthday.

I have been on vacation since last Monday ___(3). I haven't seen my friends for two weeks because the previous Monday ___(4) I was sick.

Next year ___(5) I'm getting married. I hope to start a family the following year ___(6).

I finally found a new job last year ___(7).

I had been looking for work since the previous year ___(8).

ANSWERS:

1) March 24 2) March 31 3) March 14 4) March 7 5) 2017 6) 2018 7) 2015 8) 2014

Grammar Exercise

Spring into Action* with these Idioms

Sunday, March 20th marks the official first day of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Even if it doesn't feel like springtime, using these idioms will help to get you into a spring mood!

***spring into action** – to suddenly begin doing something

Let's spring into action on these financial reports, before we miss our deadline.

spring for something – to buy something for someone

After we go to the gym, I'll spring for ice cream.

spring to life – to suddenly feel more lively

A second cup of coffee made her spring to life.

spring up – to appear or develop suddenly

Complications always seem to spring up, no matter how carefully I plan.

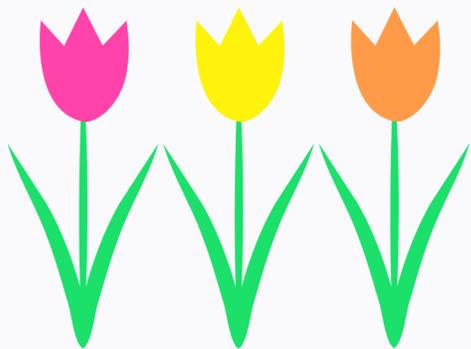
no spring chicken – no longer young

Though she's no spring chicken, she can still beat me at tennis!

spring something on someone – To surprise someone or pull a trick on them

He tried to spring a trick on Sally when she was least expecting it.

See if you can make up new sentences with your conversation partner, using these idioms.



Culture Corner

April Fools' Day: Coming Up Soon!



April Fools' Day is on the first day of April. It comes from the custom of playing practical jokes* on that date. Although it has been observed for centuries in several countries, the origin of the custom is unknown. It resembles other festivals, such as Hilaria of ancient Rome and the Holi Festival of India (at the end of March). Its timing may be related to the spring equinox, when nature "fools" us with sudden changes in the weather.

The custom of playing April Fools' Day jokes was brought to this country by the British. To this day, April Fools' Day continues to be popular among children and adults alike. Sometimes the jokes are simple pranks. Other times, they can be elaborate hoaxes, so be prepared!

If you play a joke on someone, don't forget to let them know they've been fooled by saying "April Fool!"

**practical joke — a mischievous trick played on a person, especially one that causes the victim to experience embarrassment, indignity or discomfort*



St. Patrick's Day

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, a day to celebrate the Irish roots of many of our family and friends. There are St. Patrick's Day parades, and green is the color of the day. You will see people wearing green, and you may even see green-colored food and drinks. Other symbols of St. Patrick's Day are the shamrock (four-leafed clover), which is considered lucky, and mischievous leprechauns.

They say that on St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish!

Erin Go Bragh! (Ireland forever!)

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