VOL. 5 WEEKLY IN ENGLISH Ogni settimana Di che cosa parla il mondo anglofono WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23 TO 29, 2026

The Lucerna

SETTIMANALE IN INGLESE VOL.5 ACQUISTI NATALE CINEMA

TESTI IN INGLESE SPIEGAZIONI IN ITALIANO – L'EDIZIONE PER I LETTORI ITALIANI

BLACK FRIDAY WEEK IS HERE!

Friday, November 27: the big day. The sales began in October – and run to Monday, November 30.

Venerdì 27 novembre Il Black Friday è già cominciato

Il bilancio e le bollette invernali Vedi pagina 6

THE BIG STORY Titolo

Black Friday Week: The Sales Started Early

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: A2

On Friday, November 27, the shops open early for Black Friday – the biggest shopping day of the year. But the sales did not wait for Friday. In Britain, Currys started its sale on October 28, and Argos opened its sale at the end of October. Amazon's Black Friday Week runs from Thursday, November 19, to Cyber Monday, Monday, November 30 – twelve days of deals.

Black Friday is one day. The sales last all month. The shops call it "Black November": a month of offers, not a day. And the warnings are out too. Which?, the consumer group, tracked 175 products through the 2024 sales – and found none of them at its cheapest price of the year on Black Friday itself. For Amazon, 88% of the deals it tracked in 2024 were the same price, or cheaper, at another time of the year.

So the rule for this week is simple: check the price before you buy. A bargain is not a bargain if you did not need it. A price cut is only a cut if the old price was real. This issue shows you how to read a deal – and how to say "no" to it, in English.

There is help with winter, too. The Budget of October 28 gives £100 to many homes in England this winter, to help pay for energy – for homes in Council Tax bands A to D. The 5p cut in fuel duty, and the VAT cut on home electricity, run until July 2027.

Welcome to VOL.5 – and to the Christmas countdown.

Nota – Black Friday = Venerdì Nero (il grande giorno dei saldi dopo il Ringraziamento) · a bargain = un affare · Cyber Monday = Cyber Monday.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS In cifre

Nov 27 – Black Friday (Venerdì Nero) · Nov 30 – Cyber Monday

12 – giorni della Black Friday Week di Amazon

175 – prodotti seguiti da Which? nel 2024 (nessuno era il più economico quel giorno)

£100 – aiuto energia per quest'inverno (100 sterline)

TRY IT NOW Prova subito

A2 **1.** Black Friday is on ___, November 27.

A2 **2.** Cyber Monday is on ___, November 30.

A2 **3.** The ___ started before Black Friday.

A2 **4.** Which? found no product at its ___ price.

B1 **5.** The Budget gives £___ for winter bills.

B1 **6.** A ___ is a thing bought for less than usual.

SEARCHES OF THE WEEK

Ricerche della settimana Google Trends

1. black friday
2. wicked for good
3. i'm a celebrity
4. strictly blackpool
5. advent calendar

Snapshots, mid-November: search interest changes during the day.

Popolarità relativa, non numeri esatti.

IN THIS ISSUE Sommario

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THE WORD OF THE WEEK

"bargain"

a thing bought for less than its usual price. "A real bargain!" = a very good price.

Un affare. A bargain is a good price, not a cheap thing.



A wild turkey, drawn by John James Audubon. Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 26 – the day before Black Friday, and the first day of the long shopping weekend.

John James Audubon – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

ONE DAY, FOUR DAYS

Black Friday is one day: Friday, November 27. But the sales run for four days – Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Cyber Monday, November 30. That is why the shops say "Black Friday Weekend".

Read page 6 for the Budget – and the numbers behind the sales.

IN BRIEF In breve

BUDGET
Oct 28: the Chancellor's first Budget. £100 for winter energy bills. (p. 6)

JUNGLE
Mon, Nov 16, 9 p.m.: I'm a Celebrity returns to ITV1. (p. 5)

WICKED
Nov 21: Wicked: For Good opens in cinemas. (p. 3)

LIGHTNING QUIZ Quiz lampo

Leggi pagina 1, scegli la risposta giusta Risposte a pagina 8

A2 **7.** Black Friday 2026 is on... A. Nov 26 · B. Nov 27 · C. Nov 30

A2 **8.** Cyber Monday is on... A. Mon, Nov 30 · B. Fri, Nov 27 · C. Thu, Nov 26

A2 **9.** Amazon's Black Friday Week runs... A. 2 days · B. 7 days · C. 12 days

B1 **10.** The £100 energy payment is for... A. every home in the UK · B. homes in Council Tax bands A–D in England · C. shops

The First Sunday of Advent: Four Candles, Four Weeks

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: A2

On Sunday, November 29, the first candle is lit. It is the first Sunday of Advent – four Sundays of waiting, four candles, and then Christmas Day, on Friday, December 25. In Britain, Advent is the quiet start of Christmas: the markets open, the lights go on, and the countdown begins.

The Christmas tree has a long story in Britain. The first royal tree stood at Windsor in December 1800, put up by Queen Charlotte, the German-born wife of King George III. But the tree became famous in 1848, when the Illustrated London News printed a picture of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their children around a candlelit tree at Windsor Castle. The tree in the picture stood on a table – not on the floor. In 1850, an American magazine printed the same picture, with the royal family changed into an ordinary family.

The tree stood on a table, not on the floor. That is the sentence to remember from this page – and the picture on this page is the American copy, from Godey's Lady's Book, December 1850.

This year, the Christmas countdown has a new face. On Tuesday, November 3, John Lewis showed its Christmas advert for 2026: “Gloria and Pickles”. Gloria, played by Dame Kristin Scott Thomas, is a grandmother who wants to give her grandchildren a real present – not money in a card. Pickles, her old toy dog, comes to life and talks her into one last shopping trip. The song is Sam Fender's cover of the Rolling Stones' “You Can't Always Get What You Want”. The line is: “Don't give up on giving.” It is the twentieth John Lewis Christmas advert.

And on Monday, November 30, Scotland has its own day: St Andrew's Day, a bank holiday in Scotland. St Andrew is Scotland's patron saint – and the day is the last day of the sales, Cyber Monday, too. One day, two reasons to stay at home – or to go out.

Four candles, four weeks. Light one each Sunday, and Christmas will come.

THE CALENDAR Calendario

Nov 29 – Prima domenica di Avvento · Nov 30 – Sant'Andrea, Scozia (Sant'Andrea)

Dec 25 – Christmas Day, Friday (Natale, venerdì) · Nov 3 – pubblicità John Lewis (uscita)

WHAT IS ON THIS WEEK?

Second story of the week – and it is on your screen. On Saturday, November 21, the dancers go to Blackpool for Strictly Come Dancing, and the new Wicked film opens in cinemas. On Thursday, November 26, Zootropolis 2 opens – and on Friday, November 27, the sales reach their peak. Page 3 has the film guide, page 4 the sport.

On television, the week is just as full. I'm a Celebrity is on every night from the jungle, and the shops are full every day. Advent begins on Sunday – and the first candle is lit.

How do you say the date of Christmas? “On Friday, December 25.” is the sentence of the week. The phrase box below shows three ways to say it.

Nota – Advent = Avvento · a candle = una candela · a patron saint = il santo patrono.



“The Christmas Tree”, from Godey's Lady's Book, December 1850 – the American copy of the famous 1848 Windsor picture. The tree stands on a table, with the family around it.
After Joseph Lionel Williams – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

DID YOU KNOW?

Advent means “coming”: four Sundays before Christmas.

Queen Charlotte's tree of 1800 was the first royal Christmas tree in Britain.

The 1848 tree was a fir about eight feet high, with six tiers of branches.

AND YOU? E tu?

What does your family do in the last week of November? Do you light a candle, open a calendar, or go to a market? Write three sentences in English for VOL.6.

Cosa fa la tua famiglia a fine novembre? Tre frasi in inglese.

SAY IT: MERRY CHRISTMAS! Come dirlo a Natale

Three greetings for the season Tre saluti per le feste

Happy Advent!
Buon Avvento!

Merry Christmas!
Buon Natale!

Happy St Andrew's Day!
Buon Sant'Andrea!

an advent calendar = a calendar with 24 doors
a candle = a stick of wax that burns
a market = small shops outside (un mercato)
a saint = a holy person (un santo)

EXERCISES Esercizi di pagina 2

Risposte a pagina 8 Cerca per numero

A THE DATE

Completa le frasi secondo data e ora.

A2 11. Completa
Advent begins on Sunday, November __.

A2 12. Completa
Christmas Day is on __, December 25.

A2 13. Completa
St Andrew's Day is on __, November 30.

A2 14. Completa
The advert came out on November __.

A2 15. Completa
The first royal tree dates from __.

B WILL

Riscrivi con will + verbo (promesse).

A2 16. Riscrivi
Families (light) the first candle on Sunday. → __

A2 17. Riscrivi
Christmas (come) in four weeks. → __

A2 18. Riscrivi
We (open) the calendar on December 1. → __

B1 19. Riscrivi
They (watch) the advert again? → __

C COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 2, scegli la risposta giusta.

A2 20.
The first Sunday of Advent is... A. Nov 22 · B. Nov 29 · C. Dec 25

A2 21.
The 1848 tree stood... A. on the floor · B. in the garden · C. on a table

A2 22.
The advert is called... A. “Gloria and Pickles” · B. “Happy Advent” · C. “The Christmas Tree”

A2 23.
St Andrew's Day is a bank holiday in... A. England · B. Scotland · C. Wales

D THE WORDS

A2 24–27. Abbina

24. an advent calendar
25. a candle
26. a market
27. a saint

a. a holy person
b. a calendar with 24 little doors
c. a place with small shops outside
d. a stick of wax that burns

At the Movies: Two Witches and a Fox

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: A2 → B1

On November 21, a familiar name returns to the cinema: Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West. “Wicked: For Good” is the second half of the story that began with “Wicked” in 2024. Cynthia Erivo plays Elphaba, and Ariana Grande plays Glinda, the Good Witch. Jonathan Bailey plays Fiyero, Jeff Goldblum plays the Wizard, and Michelle Yeoh plays Madame Morrible. Jon M. Chu directs.

The first film was a hit: it took more than $750 million around the world. Now the second film is expected to open big. Early forecasts put the first weekend at $112 million to $115 million in North America alone, and about $200 million around the world. The story comes from L. Frank Baum's book “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz”, published in 1900 – the picture on this page is from that first book.

Two witches, one fox – and a ballroom in Blackpool. That is this week in one line: two witches on the big screen, a fox on the big screen too – and dancing in Blackpool on Saturday night.

The fox is Nick Wilde – and Judy Hopps, the rabbit police officer, is back with him. “Zootropolis 2” opens on Thursday, November 26. Judy and Nick chase a snake, Gary De'Snake, voiced by Ke Huy Quan. The first film, in 2016, took more than $1 billion around the world and won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature. The directors, Jared Bush and Byron Howard, are back too.

And on the dance floor? On Saturday, November 21, at 6:35 p.m., Strictly Come Dancing goes to Blackpool. Eight couples dance in the Tower Ballroom. Last Sunday, Will Best and his partner Dianne Buswell left the show, one week before Blackpool – they lost the dance-off to Jaime Winstone and Carlos Gu. At the top of the leaderboard: Cach Mercer and Maddie Ingoldsby, with 39 points out of 40 for their Charleston.

COMING SOON Prossimamente

Nov 21 – “Wicked: For Good” opens in cinemas. The first film took more than $750 million worldwide.

Nov 21 – Strictly Come Dancing: Blackpool, 6:35 p.m., BBC One. Eight couples left.

Nov 26 – “Zootropolis 2” opens in cinemas. Judy and Nick chase a snake.

A film is not only a story – it is also English practice. Listen for three things: the catchphrase (the line everybody repeats), the joke (why does the room laugh?), and the ending (happy, sad, or open?). After the film, try to tell the story in five English sentences.

And if you stay at home, the same rule works for a series: one episode, five sentences, in English. The best five-sentence reviews will be printed in VOL.6 – send yours to the newsroom.

Nota – a witch = una strega · a forecast = una previsione · a dance-off = una sfida di ballo · a leaderboard = una classifica.

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 3, scegli la risposta giusta.

A2 28.
“Wicked: For Good” opens on... A. November 20 · B. November 21 · C. November 26

A2 29.
Elphaba is played by... A. Cynthia Erivo · B. Ariana Grande · C. Michelle Yeoh

A2 30.
The first Wicked film took... A. less than $100 million · B. about $200 million · C. more than $750 million

B1 31.
“Zootropolis 2” opens on... A. Nov 21 · B. Thu, Nov 26 · C. Nov 29

B1 32.
The snake in Zootropolis 2 is voiced by... A. Ke Huy Quan · B. Jason Bateman · C. Jared Bush

B1 33.
Blackpool night is on... A. Sunday · B. Friday · C. Saturday, November 21

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

A2 34. Completa
The film __ on November 21.

A2 35. Completa
Nick Wilde is a __.

B1 36. Completa
The first Zootropolis film __ an Oscar.

B1 37. Completa
Cach and Maddie scored 39 __ out of 40.

C THE WORDS

A2 38–41. Abbina

38. a witch
39. a forecast
40. a dance-off
41. a leaderboard

a. a list that shows who is winning
b. a woman with magic powers
c. a dance that decides who leaves
d. a guess about what will happen

D PAST SIMPLE

Riscrivi al passato semplice (cose già accadute).

A2 42. Riscrivi
The first film (take) more than $750 million. → __

A2 43. Riscrivi
Baum (publish) the book in 1900. → __

B1 44. Riscrivi
Will Best (leave) the show on Sunday.→ __

B1 45. Riscrivi
The first film (win) an Oscar.→ __



The Wicked Witch of the West melts – W. W. Denslow's drawing from the first edition of “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” (1900). The film's witches come from this book.
W. W. Denslow – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

THE WITCHES Le due streghe

Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, and Glinda, the Good Witch: two friends, two choices, one story. The book is from 1900 – the film is from this week.

FIVE SENTENCES

After any film or episode, tell the story in five English sentences: who, where, what happened, the surprise, the ending. Five sentences are enough – and they are excellent practice.

Example: “A witch leaves home. She meets a friend and loses her. She learns a hard truth. She flies away – free. Then the story starts again.” Now it is your turn.

Cinque frasi | who, where, cosa è successo, la svolta, la fine: cinque frasi bastano.

Derby Weekend: Liverpool, Arsenal, Twickenham

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: B1

Sunday, November 29, is derby day – twice. At 12:00, Everton play Liverpool in the Merseyside derby. At 4:30, Arsenal play Manchester City. Two derbies, one Sunday, and the title race in between. The Premier League's twelfth week begins on Friday, November 27: Nottingham Forest play Chelsea at 8 p.m. On Saturday, November 28, Manchester United play Brentford – and Leeds play Coventry.

The league returns this Saturday, November 21, after the international break: Manchester City play Fulham at 12:30, and Newcastle play Arsenal at 5:30. On Sunday, November 22, Liverpool play Manchester United at 4:30 – and on Monday, November 23, Brentford play Everton at 8 p.m. Then, a week later, comes the derby weekend.

Rugby has a final, too. The Nations Championship – the new name for the autumn internationals – ends with a Finals Weekend at Twickenham, from Friday, November 27, to Sunday, November 29. The first final is on Sunday, November 29. Before that, on Saturday, November 21, England play New Zealand at Twickenham at 2:10 p.m. – the biggest game of the autumn. England have already beaten Australia, 45–22, and Japan, 78–15, at Twickenham this month.

And tennis ends its year in Turin. The ATP Finals run from Sunday, November 15, to Sunday, November 22. The eight best singles players of the year play in two groups of four. The champion of the last two years, Jannik Sinner, is out with a knee injury – so a new champion is certain. The semi-finals are on Saturday, November 21. The finals are on Sunday, November 22: the doubles final at 3 p.m. local time, and the singles final not before 6 p.m.

The first international ended 0–0 – and football has never stopped since. That was Scotland against England, on November 30, 1872, at Hamilton Crescent in Glasgow. About 4,000 people watched. The picture on this page is from that day – and November 30 is still a football date: it is St Andrew's Day, and Cyber Monday, too.

How do you follow three sports in one day? Choose one game to watch fully, and follow the others on your phone. That is the modern fan: one screen for the game, one screen for the scores.

WHY NOVEMBER 30? Perché il 30?

November 30, 1872: the first international, Scotland 0–0 England. November 30, 2026: St Andrew's Day in Scotland – and Cyber Monday. Football began on a St Andrew's Day.

The ATP Finals in Turin run from Sunday, November 15, to Sunday, November 22. The eight best singles players of the year play in two groups of four: Alexander Zverev, Carlos Alcaraz, Ben Shelton, Daniil Medvedev, Flavio Cobolli, Arthur Fils, Frances Tiafoe and Rafael Jodar. The champion of the last two years, Jannik Sinner, is out with a knee injury.

Nota – a derby = un derby locale · a final = una finale · a break = una pausa · a draw = un pareggio.

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 4, scegli la risposta giusta.

B1 46.
The Merseyside derby is on… A. Sat, Nov 28 · B. Sun, Nov 29, 12:00 · C. Mon, Nov 30

B1 47.
Arsenal play Manchester City on… A. Fri, Nov 27 · B. Sat, Nov 28 · C. Sun, Nov 29, 16:30

B1 48.
The Nations Championship final is on… A. Sunday, November 29 · B. Saturday, November 21 · C. Friday, November 27

B1 49.
England play New Zealand on… A. Nov 14 · B. Sat, Nov 21, 2:10 p.m. · C. Nov 29

B1 50.
The ATP singles final is not before… A. 3 p.m. · B. 12 p.m. · C. 6 p.m. local time

B1 51.
The first international was played on… A. November 30, 1872 · B. November 30, 2026 · C. November 21, 1872

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B1 52. Completa
Everton v Liverpool is a ___.

B1 53. Completa
The Nations Championship ends with a ___.

B1 54. Completa
England have ___ Australia and Japan at Twickenham.

A2 55. Completa
Scotland 0–0 England: the game was a ___.

C THE WORDS

B1 56–59. Abbina

56. a derby
57. a final
58. a break
59. a draw

a. a pause between parts of a season
b. a game that ends with the same score
c. the last game of a competition
d. a game between two teams from the same city

D PAST SIMPLE

Riscrivi al Past Simple (per partite finite).

B1 60. Riscrivi
England (beat) Australia 45–22 on November 8. → ___

B1 61. Riscrivi
Scotland (play) England in 1872. → ___

B1 62. Riscrivi
About 4,000 people (watch) the game. → ___

B1 63. Riscrivi
Sinner (miss) the ATP Finals with a knee injury. → ___



The first international: Scotland against England, November 30, 1872, at Hamilton Crescent, Glasgow. The game ended 0–0. The drawing is by William Ralston.

William Ralston – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

DERBY WEEKEND Fine settimana

Fri Nov 27: Forest–Chelsea 20:00. Sat Nov 28: Man Utd–Brentford, Leeds–Coventry.

Sun Nov 29: Everton–Liverpool 12:00, Arsenal–Man City 16:30.

Rugby finals weekend: Fri Nov 27–Sun Nov 29, Twickenham.

ONE SCREEN, TWO SCREENS

The modern fan watches one game fully and follows the others on a phone. Try it in English: “The score is 1–0.” “Who scored?” “Liverpool are winning!” – short sentences, live English.

Inglese del calcio | punteggio, chi ha segnato, chi è in vantaggio: le frasi brevi sono l'inglese in diretta.

Into the Jungle: Eleven Campmates, Three Weeks

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: B1

On Monday, November 16, at 9 p.m., eleven famous faces walk into the Australian jungle. “I'm a Celebrity… Get Me Out of Here!” is back on ITV1 – and it will be on every night for about three weeks. Ant and Dec are back too, live from the camp near Murwillumbah in New South Wales.

Who is in the camp? Wayne Rooney, the former England captain, leads the line-up. Joanna Page, who plays Stacey in “Gavin & Stacey”, is there. So is Ade Adepitan, the Paralympic medallist and television presenter – the first wheelchair user ever to take part in the show. ITV has changed the camp for him: the paths and the trials are built so a wheelchair can use them.

The other eight are AJ Odudu, the Big Brother presenter; Ricky Wilson, the Kaiser Chiefs singer; Sharky, the YouTuber from the Beta Squad; Chloe Burrows, from Love Island; Claire Sweeney, the actress; Jack Skipper, the comedian; Leomie Anderson, the model; and Mariella Frostrup, the broadcaster. Eleven campmates – and more may arrive later. Late arrivals are a tradition on this show.

What do they do in the jungle? They live together, cook together, and take Bushtucker Trials – the challenges that win food for the camp. Each star is a meal: win ten stars, and the camp eats ten meals. The public votes, and the last one standing is the King or Queen of the Jungle.

In the jungle, a star is a meal. That is the sentence to remember – and the reason the trials matter. A star is not a prize for the wall. It is dinner.

Why does Britain watch? Because the jungle is honest television: famous people, no make-up, no phones, and rice and beans for dinner. And because the launch is a national moment: the show usually starts on a Sunday, but this year it starts on a Monday – because England played Spain in the Nations League on Sunday, November 15.

THE CAMP IN NUMBERS Il campo

11 – campmates on the first night. 3 – weeks in the jungle, about. 1 – first wheelchair user in the show's history.

If you want to practise jungle English, try this: watch one trial, and say what happened in three English sentences. “He ate the bug. He won five stars. The camp eats tonight.” Three sentences – and a whole evening of practice.

Nota – a campmate = un compagno di campo · a trial = una prova · a star = una stella (= un pasto) · the public = il pubblico

A COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 5, scegli la risposta giusta.

B1 64.
“I'm a Celebrity” starts on… A. Sun, Nov 15 · B. Mon, Nov 16, 9 p.m. · C. Fri, Nov 20

B1 65.
The first wheelchair user in the show is… A. Ade Adepitan · B. Wayne Rooney · C. Ricky Wilson

B1 66.
The camp is near… A. Sydney · B. Perth · C. Murwillumbah, New South Wales

B1 67.
How many campmates on the first night? A. 8 · B. 11 · C. 12

B1 68.
A star in a trial means… A. one meal for the camp · B. one vote · C. one night

B1 69.
The show starts a day late because… A. of the rain · B. of the film · C. England played Spain on Sunday

B SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B1 70. Completa
Eleven famous faces walk into the ___.

B1 71. Completa
Win ten ___, and the camp eats ten meals.

A2 72. Completa
The public ___ for the King or Queen of the Jungle.

A2 73. Completa
More campmates may ___ later.

C THE WORDS

B1 74–77. Abbina

74. a campmate
75. a trial
76. a star
77. the public

a. the people who watch and vote
b. a person who lives with you in the jungle camp
c. a challenge that wins food
d. one meal, won in a trial

D PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Riscrivi al Present Continuous (ciò che sta accadendo).

B1 78. Riscrivi
The campmates (live) in the jungle. → ___

B1 79. Riscrivi
Ant and Dec (present) the show. → ___

B1 80. Riscrivi
The public (vote) every night. → ___

B1 81. Riscrivi
They (cook) rice for the camp. → ___



A tiger in a painted jungle: Henri Rousseau's “Surprised!” (1891). The real jungle is on television every night – and the campmates are in it.
Henri Rousseau – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

SPEAK UP IN THE JUNGLE La giungla

“I'm a Celebrity – get me out of here!” “Ten stars!” “The camp eats tonight!” – three sentences for three weeks. Learn them, and Monday night in English is yours.

THE TRIALS

A trial is a test: eat it, hold it, find it. The stars are counted in public, and the camp watches every one. The worst trial is the one with no stars at all.

Le prove | Mangiare, prendere, cercare: le stelle si contano in pubblico e tutto il campo guarda.

AFTER THE JUNGLE

After three weeks, one campmate is crowned King or Queen of the Jungle. The others go home – to showers, to phones, and to real food. The jungle stays in Australia. The stories come home with them.

The Budget and Your Winter Bills

By The Lucerna newsroom Reading level: B2

On Wednesday, October 28, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Healey, stood up in the House of Commons and read the Budget. It was his first Budget – and the first Budget of the new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham. The slogan was “Breathing Space now, Hope for the Future”. In plain English: help now, hope later.

What is a budget? It is the government's plan for the year: how much money it will take in tax, and how much it will spend. A budget is a plan, not a present. The money has to come from somewhere – and this Budget says it will not come from higher taxes on working people. That promise was in the government's 2024 manifesto, and the Chancellor says he will keep it.

So what changes for you? Three things this winter. First, £100 for energy: households in Council Tax bands A to D in England get a £100 Household Energy Payment this winter. Second, the 5p cut in fuel duty – the tax on petrol and diesel – runs until July 2027. Third, the VAT cut on electricity at home runs until July 2027 too. A hundred pounds does not buy a winter – but it buys a warmer one.

What else? The Budget also raises money in other places: a temporary 3% rise in the tax on the profits of banks and building societies, for fifteen months from January 2027. And the Finance Bill – the law that turns the Budget into rules – was introduced in Parliament on November 3.

What happens next? The Budget is not one day. The Welsh Government publishes its draft budget on November 17. The Scottish Parliament sets its tax rates on December 3. Parliament debates the Finance Bill, line by line. And the help arrives in the winter – when the bills arrive too.

A note on numbers in this issue: this paper prints the Budget of October 28, and says so. The numbers are the ones the Chancellor read to the House of Commons. When the Finance Bill becomes law, VOL.6 will report what changed.

A PRACTICE BILL Una fattura

Your winter bill: electricity £120 a month · gas £90 a month. The £100 payment covers most of one month of electricity. The numbers are practice numbers – they teach how to read a bill, not what you will pay.

This issue went to press on Monday, November 16, 2026. The Welsh draft budget comes out on Tuesday, November 17 – one day after press time. VOL.6 will carry the Welsh numbers.

Nota – a budget = il bilancio · a manifesto = un programma elettorale · fuel duty = l'accisa sui carburanti · a bill = una fattura; una legge.

READ THE CHART Leggi il grafico

How big was the help? The chart is the Budget of October 28 – not a prediction.

Budget day: Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Energy payment: £100, Council Tax bands A–D, England

Fuel duty cut: 5p a litre, until July 2027

VAT cut on home electricity: until July 2027

Bank tax rise: 3%, fifteen months from January 2027

Next dates: Wales November 17 · Scotland December 3

A CHART READING

Leggi il grafico del bilancio e scegli la risposta giusta.

B2 82.
The Budget was read on… A. Nov 16 · B. Wed, Oct 28 · C. Dec 3

B2 83.
The energy payment is… A. £100 · B. £5 · C. £1,000

B2 84.
The fuel duty cut runs until… A. Nov 2026 · B. Jan 2027 · C. July 2027

B2 85.
The bank tax rise lasts… A. 3 months · B. 15 months · C. 3 years

B2 86.
Wales publishes its draft budget on… A. November 17 · B. November 3 · C. December 3

B2 87.
Scotland sets its tax rates on… A. Nov 17 · B. Oct 28 · C. Dec 3

B COMPREHENSION

Leggi pagina 6, scegli la risposta giusta.

B2 88.
A budget is… A. a present · B. a plan for the year · C. a bank

B2 89.
The Chancellor says taxes on working people will… A. not rise · B. rise a lot · C. fall to zero

B2 90.
The £100 payment is for… A. shops · B. every home in the UK · C. homes in bands A–D in England

B2 91.
The Finance Bill was introduced on… A. Oct 28 · B. Nov 3 · C. Dec 3

B2 92.
The Budget's slogan is… A. “Breathing Space now, Hope for the Future” · B. “Black November” · C. “Don't give up on giving”

B2 93.
What will VOL.6 report? A. the 2024 sales · B. the jungle final · C. what changed when the Bill becomes law

C SENTENCES

Completa le frasi con le parole.

B2 94. Completa
The ___ is the government's plan for the year.

B2 95. Completa
The Chancellor says he will ___ his promise.

B2 96. Completa
The fuel duty cut runs ___ July 2027.

B1 97. Completa
Parliament ___ the Finance Bill, line by line.

B1 98. Completa
The help ___ in the winter.

B1 99. Completa
The Budget ___ money from the banks.

THREE WINTER HELPS Tre aiuti

£100 energy payment · 5p fuel duty cut · VAT cut on home electricity. All three run this winter.

A PLAN, NOT A PRESENT

A budget is a plan, not a present. Learn the plan, and the winter makes sense.

Un piano non è un regalo | Il bilancio è un piano, non un regalo: capisci il piano e capirai l'inverno.

WHO PAYS?

Every budget has two sides: who gets help, and who pays. This Budget helps homes with their bills – and asks the banks to pay a little more, for fifteen months.

Chi riceve aiuto e chi paga? | Ogni bilancio ha due facce: chi riceve aiuto e chi paga.

WORDS A2 bargain

Nota – bargain significa «affare»: buon prezzo, non per forza roba scadente.

bargain = a thing bought for less than its usual price. “A real bargain!” = a very good price.

A2: “I bought a book for £5 – a real bargain!” The price is low, and the book is good. A bargain is a good price, not a cheap thing.

Try it: sale / bargain – the sale is the event, the bargain is the thing you buy. “The sale is on. I found a bargain.”

WORDS B1 more / less

Nota – comparative = il comparativo: con more than / less than parliamo di quantità e dimensioni.

more than = a bigger number than. less than = a smaller number than. £100 is more than £5. £5 is less than £100.

B1: “£100 is more than the £5 I spent.” With numbers, use more than and less than: more people, less money, more seats, less time.

Try it: “The film is longer than the trailer.” “The book is cheaper than the film.”

GRAMMAR A2 will + verb

Nota – will + infinito: per ciò che accadrà; nelle domande, will va all'inizio.

The sales will end on November 30. Advent will begin on Sunday. Will the price fall again? Nobody knows.

Rule: will + verb, no -s, no -ed. “She will buy.” “They will watch.” Question: “Will they shop on Friday?”

GRAMMAR B1 have done

Nota – present perfect = il present perfect: have/has + participio passato, per ciò che è iniziato e vale ancora.

The sales have started already. The shops have opened early. “Have started” = they started, and they are still on.

Rule: have/has + past participle. “I have bought a book.” “She has lit the candle.” Question: “Have you bought a bargain?”

GRAMMAR B2 headlines

Nota – headline present = il presente dei titoli: i giornali raccontano al presente ciò che è già successo.

Newspapers often use the present in headlines for what already happened: “Shops Open Early for Black Friday” – the shops opened, but the headline says Open. The present makes the news feel fresh. This issue's headline does the opposite on purpose: “Black Friday Week: The Sales Started Early” uses Started, the past – because the news is the early start, not the day itself.

GRAMMAR B2 if + will

Nota – first conditional = il primo condizionale: if + presente, will + verbo, per parlare del possibile.

If you buy early, you will save money. If the price falls, I will buy two. If = when this happens, that happens.

GOLDEN SENTENCES

Frasi d'oro (frasi originali di questo numero): imparale a memoria e la prossima volta potrai scrivere così.

“Black Friday is one day. The sales last all month.”

–– From page 1 of this issue.

“A bargain is not a bargain if you did not need it.”

–– From page 1 of this issue.

“The tree stood on a table, not on the floor.”

–– From page 2 of this issue.

“Two witches, one fox – and a ballroom in Blackpool.”

–– From page 3 of this issue.

“The first international ended 0–0 – and football has never stopped since.”

–– From page 4 of this issue.

“In the jungle, a star is a meal.”

–– From page 5 of this issue.

“A budget is a plan, not a present.”

–– From page 6 of this issue.

“A hundred pounds does not buy a winter – but it buys a warmer one.”

–– From page 6 of this issue.

THE DRILLS Esercizi

Completa con queste parole: bargain / more / less / will / started / whether / chose / opens.

A2 100. Completa
“A ___ is a thing bought for less than usual.”

B1 101. Completa
£100 is ___ than £5.

B1 102. Completa
£5 is ___ than £100.

A2 103. Completa
The sales ___ end on November 30.

B1 104. Completa
The sales have ___ already.

B2 105. Completa
Nobody knows ___ the price will fall again.

B2 106. Completa
ITV ___ Monday for the launch.

A2 107. Completa
“Zootropolis 2” ___ on November 26.

ERROR CLINIC Errori

A2 108. Correggi
“The sales is starting early.” (wrong verb)

A2 109. Correggi
“A bargain are a good price.” (wrong verb)

B1 110. Correggi
“£100 is less then £5.” (wrong word)

B2 111. Correggi
“Nobody knows if the sales will end or not whether.” (wrong structure)



Samuel Johnson, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds in 1772. Johnson's dictionary fixed English words – and this page fixes yours.

Sir Joshua Reynolds – public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

THE TOOLBOX Strumenti

A2 – “A bargain is a good price.” Un affare è un buon prezzo.

B1 – “£100 is more than £5.” 100 sterline sono più di 5 sterline.

B2 – “If you buy early, you will save money.” Se compri presto, risparmi.

READERS' CORNER Lettere

VOL.4 promised real letters from VOL.5. No letters arrived by press time. This page keeps the promise open: send your letter, your three sentences, or your five-sentence film review to the newsroom. Real letters, with your name and city only if you give them, will appear here from VOL.6.

Il VOL.4 lo aveva promesso: dal VOL.5 pubblichiamo le lettere vere dei lettori. Alla chiusura non era arrivata nessuna lettera – la promessa resta valida: invia la tua lettera, le tue tre frasi o la tua recensione in cinque frasi alla redazione. Le lettere vere appariranno dal VOL.6, con il tuo nome e la tua città solo se lo accetti.

AN EXAMPLE LETTER Esempio

This letter is written by the editor, only to show the shape. It is not a reader's letter. No name and no city are given, because no real letter has arrived yet.

“Dear Lucerna, I read the Black Friday story with my class. We checked the prices together – £100, 5p, 88%. My question: is a bargain still a bargain if I buy two? Thank you for the numbers.” – A reader, somewhere in the world.

Questa lettera è stata scritta dalla redazione, solo per mostrare il formato. Non è una lettera di un lettore. Non riporta nome né città, perché non è ancora arrivata nessuna lettera vera.

NEXT WEEK Anteprima VOL.6

Cyber Monday and the first week of December: the jungle final, the Strictly semi-final, the first Nations Championship final – and your letters, the first real ones.

A CLOZE Completa il testo

Maya is a student in London. This week, she is following the sales. On (112)__ morning, November 26, she watches Zootropolis 2 with her class. On Friday, she reads the news about Black Friday. She learns a new word: a bargain is a thing bought for less than usual. She (113)__ the word in her notebook. On Saturday, she writes a sentence: “Black Friday is one day, but the sales (114)__ all month.” Her teacher smiles: “The shops (115)__ their sales on October 28.” Maya (116)__ the prices in her notebook: the shops (117)__ their prices every day. On Sunday, she (118)__ an advent candle with her family. And on Monday, she (119)__ her three sentences about the week to the newsroom.

Opzioni:

112. [A2] A. Monday · B. Thursday · C. Friday

113. [A2] A. write · B. writes · C. is wrote

114. [A2] A. lasts · B. last · C. lasting

115. [A2] A. started · B. start · C. starting

116. [B1] A. write · B. writes · C. writing

117. [B1] A. changes · B. changed · C. change

118. [B1] A. lighting · B. light · C. lights

119. [B1] A. sends · B. send · C. sending

B MULTIPLE CHOICE Scelta

A2 120.
How many days is Amazon's Black Friday Week? A. 7 · B. 12 · C. 30

A2 121.
Black Friday 2026 is on... A. Fri, Nov 27 · B. Thu, Nov 26 · C. Mon, Nov 30

A2 122.
How many products did Which? track in 2024? A. 12 · B. 88 · C. 175

A2 123.
“Zootropolis 2” opens on... A. Nov 21 · B. Thu, Nov 26 · C. Nov 29

A2 124.
The first Sunday of Advent is... A. Nov 29 · B. Dec 25 · C. Nov 22

B1 125.
The Nations Championship final is on... A. Nov 21 · B. Sun, Nov 29 · C. Nov 27

B1 126.
The Budget gives £100 for... A. winter energy bills · B. new films · C. football tickets

B1 127.
The first international was... A. England 1–0 Scotland · B. Scotland 0–0 England · C. England 4–1 Scotland

B1 128.
St Andrew's Day is on... A. Sun, Nov 29 · B. Fri, Nov 27 · C. Mon, Nov 30

C READING Comprensione

Tom is a teacher in Manchester. On Monday, November 16, his class is reading about Black Friday. “The sales started in October,” he says. “And Black Friday is on November 27.” The class asks: “Is a bargain always a bargain?” “No,” says Tom. “Check the price first. Which? found no product at its cheapest price on the day.” Then Tom opens the second story: “On Sunday, Advent begins.” The children smile – Tom is holding an advent calendar with 24 little doors.

B1 129.
Tom is... A. a student · B. a teacher in Manchester · C. a reporter

B1 130.
The sales started in... A. October · B. December · C. January

B1 131.
Tom is holding... A. a turkey · B. a football · C. an advent calendar

B1 132.
Tom's class is reading about... A. the Ashes · B. Black Friday · C. the film

D SENTENCES Completa

B1 133.
Will future: “The shops (open) early on Friday.”→ __

B1 134.
Past simple: “The sales (start) in October.”→ __

B1 135.
Comparative: “£100 is __ than £5.”

B2 136.
Whether: “Nobody knows __ the price will fall.”

E TRANSLATION Traduzione

B2 137.
Traduci: “Black Friday is on November 27.”

B2 138.
Traduci: “Advent begins on November 29.”

B2 139.
Traduci: “A budget is a plan, not a present.”

B1 140.
Traduci: “In the jungle, a star is a meal.”

F WORDS Abbina

A2 141–144. Abbina

141. a bargain
142. a budget
143. a trial
144. a draw

a. a game that ends with the same score
b. a thing bought for less than usual
c. the government's plan for the year
d. a challenge that wins food

G DIALOGUE Dialogo

– Two tickets for Zootropolis 2, please. – Which (145)__? – The front row, please. – Here you are. Is this the (146)__ about Judy and Nick? – Yes, the rabbit and the fox. – One large (147)__ and two drinks, please. – What time is the next (148)__? – At eight. – And the film opens on (149)__, November 26? – Yes, Thursday. Enjoy the film!

Levels: 145–149 [A2]

H WRITING Scrittura [B1]

Write a short text (80 to 100 words): “My Friday, November 27”. Tell us: did you go shopping, what did you buy, what did you watch on television, what did you read about the Budget – and one sentence about the film on Saturday. The best texts will appear in VOL.6 (page 7, “Readers' Corner”).

Scrivi in inglese da 80 a 100 parole: il mio venerdì 27 novembre. Di' se sei andato a fare shopping, cosa hai comprato, cosa hai visto in televisione la sera, cosa hai letto del bilancio e una frase sul film del sabato.



The Main Reading Room, Library of Congress – Carol M. Highsmith, public domain.

MODEL Testo modello

On Friday, November 27, I went shopping with my mother. The shops opened early, and the streets were full. I bought a book for £5 – a real bargain! In the evening, we watched the jungle on television together with my family. On Saturday, we will watch the new Wicked film. On Sunday, Advent begins, and we will light the first candle. I read about the Budget in class: the government gives £100 to help with winter bills. It is a busy week of sales, films and stories – and I am learning to say it all in English.

ANSWERS Risposte e note (pagine 1–8)

– Pagina 1 –

1. Friday (venerdì) · 2. Monday (lunedì) · 3. sales (sales = i saldi) · 4. cheapest (il più economico) · 5. 100 (100 sterline) · 6. bargain · 7. B · 8. A · 9. C (Dodici giorni di offerte su Amazon) · 10. B

– Pagina 2 –

11. 29 (29 novembre) · 12. Friday (Natale, venerdì) · 13. Monday (Sant'Andrea, lunedì) · 14. 3 (3 novembre) · 15. 1800 (l'anno 1800) · 16. Families will light the first candle on Sunday. · 17. Christmas will come in four weeks. · 18. We will open the calendar on December 1. · 19. Will they watch the advert again? · 20. B · 21. C (L'albero è sul tavolo) · 22. A · 23. B (Giorno festivo bancario in Scozia) · 24. b · 25. d · 26. c · 27. a (saint = un santo a)

– Pagina 3 –

28. B · 29. A · 30. C · 31. B · 32. A (Ke Huy Quan dà la voce al serpente cattivo) · 33. C · 34. opens · 35. fox (fox = una volpe) · 36. won (win → won) · 37. points (point = un punto) · 38. b (witch = una strega b) · 39. d · 40. c · 41. a · 42. The first film took more than $750 million. · 43. Baum published the book in 1900. · 44. Will Best left the show on Sunday. · 45. The first Zootropolis film won an Oscar. (win → won)

– Pagina 4 –

46. B · 47. C · 48. A · 49. B · 50. C · 51. A · 52. derby · 53. final (final = una finale) · 54. beaten · 55. draw (draw = un pareggio) · 56. d (derby = un derby d) · 57. c (final = una finale c) · 58. a · 59. b (draw = un pareggio b) · 60. England beat Australia 45–22. · 61. Scotland played England in 1872. · 62. About 4,000 people watched the game. · 63. Sinner missed the ATP Finals.

– Pagina 5 –

64. B · 65. A · 66. C (Il campo è nel Nuovo Galles del Sud) · 67. B (La prima sera, 11 concorrenti) · 68. A (una stella = un pasto) · 69. C (Rimandato di un giorno per la partita dell'Inghilterra) · 70. jungle · 71. stars (star = una stella) · 72. vote (vote = un voto) · 73. arrive · 74. b · 75. c · 76. d (star = una stella d) · 77. a · 78. The campmates are living in the jungle. · 79. Ant and Dec are presenting the show. · 80. The public is voting every night. · 81. They are cooking rice for the camp.

– Pagina 6 –

82. B (Il bilancio, 28 ottobre) · 83. A (Aiuto energia di 100 sterline) · 84. C (Il taglio dell'accisa sui carburanti fino a luglio 2027) · 85. B (Il prelievo sulle banche, 15 mesi) · 86. A (Bozza di bilancio del Galles, 17 novembre) · 87. C (Aliquote fiscali della Scozia, 3 dicembre) · 88. B (Il bilancio è il piano di un anno) · 89. A (Le tasse dei lavoratori non aumentano) · 90. C · 91. B · 92. A · 93. C · 94. budget · 95. keep (keep = mantenere) · 96. until (until = fino a) · 97. debates · 98. arrives · 99. raises

– Pagina 7 –

100. bargain · 101. more · 102. less · 103. will · 104. started · 105. whether · 106. chose · 107. opens · 108. Correct: The sales are starting early. (sales, plurale: are) · 109. Correct: A bargain is a good price. (singolare: is) · 110. Correct: £100 is more than £5. (more than, la struttura) · 111. Correct: Nobody knows whether the sales will end. (whether introduce una subordinata)

– Pagina 8 –

112. Thursday (giovedì 26 novembre) · 113. writes (writes, terza persona singolare) · 114. last (last, presente) · 115. started (started, passato) · 116. writes (writes, terza persona singolare) · 117. change (change, presente) · 118. lights (lights, terza persona) · 119. sends (sends, terza persona) · 120. B (Dodici giorni di offerte su Amazon) · 121. A (Il Black Friday è il 27 novembre) · 122. C (Which? ha seguito 175 prodotti) · 123. B (Zootropolis 2, 26 novembre) · 124. A (Prima domenica di Avvento, 29 novembre) · 125. B (Finale del Nations Championship, 29 novembre) · 126. A (Aiuto energia: 100 sterline) · 127. B (La prima partita internazionale, 0–0) · 128. C (Sant'Andrea, 30 novembre) · 129. B (Tom insegna a Manchester) · 130. A (I saldi sono cominciati in ottobre) · 131. C (Tom tiene un calendario dell'Avvento) · 132. B (La classe di Tom legge del Black Friday) · 133. The shops will open early on Friday. (will + infinito) · 134. The sales started in October. (start → started) · 135. more (more than, il comparativo) · 136. whether (whether = se) · 137. Il Black Friday è il 27 novembre. (Black Friday = Venerdì Nero) · 138. L'Avvento comincia il 29 novembre. (Advent = Avvento) · 139. Il bilancio è un piano, non un regalo. (budget = il bilancio) · 140. Nella giungla, una stella è un pasto. (a star = una stella) · 141. b (bargain = un affare b) · 142. c (budget = il bilancio c) · 143. d (trial = una prova d) · 144. a (draw = un pareggio a) · 145. row (row = una fila di posti) · 146. film (film = un film) · 147. popcorn (popcorn = i popcorn) · 148. show (show = uno spettacolo) · 149. Thursday (Thursday = giovedì) · 150. Compito aperto – punti chiave nel riquadro di scrittura; testo modello nel riquadro a pagina 8 (Valutazione per punti chiave)