

$E = MC^2$



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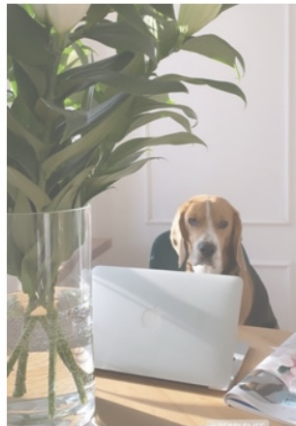
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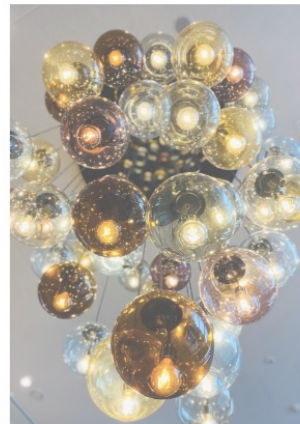
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**18 Listen to a podcast about euthanasia and answer the following questions.**

1. Why did the woman move to Oregon?
2. What is the difference between euthanasia and assisted suicide?
3. What is passive euthanasia?
4. What requirements, laid down by the Death with Dignity Act, do those who want to end their life legally have to fulfil?
5. Why is Switzerland famed for suicide tourism?
6. Why do most doctors refuse to take part in euthanasia?

**19 How do you feel about the information you've just heard?**



**Reference Phrases**

**20 Complete the following sentences from the podcast with the expressions provided. Then listen to check your answers.**

- When it comes to      As if that were not enough      The facts notwithstanding      First off**

1. ...., there are a couple of things we should define.
2. ...., they also have to be at least 18 years old, residents of those states, and have a terminal illness that two doctors agree will lead to death within six months.
3. .... Switzerland, legally assisted suicide is allowed there.
4. ...., it is worth mentioning that in the vast majority of countries, doctors will not participate in euthanasia or assisted suicide.

*The expressions that you used to fill in the sentences in Exercise 20 are all **reference phrases**, which are widely used in speaking and writing to refer to something that has been said before or to lead on to more information.*

**21 Study the following list of useful reference phrases and fill the gaps in them with ONE missing word.**

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. with regard .....             | 12. .... it comes to                |
| 2. .... regards                  | 13. .... a moral standpoint         |
| 3. .... I think of it            | 14. .... reference to               |
| 4. to be ..... specific          | 15. .... that in mind               |
| 5. last but not .....            | 16. .... being the case             |
| 6. in such ..... situation       | 17. believe it or .....             |
| 7. .... that as it may           | 18. and as if that ..... not enough |
| 8. .... my surprise              | 19. it goes ..... saying that       |
| 9. to everyone's ..... amazement | 20. contrary ..... expectations     |
| 10. hard ..... it is to believe  | 21. interestingly .....             |
| 11. .... the same token          | 22. .... and foremost               |



**12 Listen to two girlfriends, Stella and Rebecca, talking about the article on giving your partner an instruction manual to oneself. Answer the questions.**

1. Do they see eye to eye with each other?
2. What arguments does each of them put forward?
3. What does one of them seek to prove by giving the examples of the restaurant scene and politics?
4. What does one of the friends mean by saying that a deterministic paradigm is not incompatible with an experiential one?
5. Whose viewpoint do you find closest to yours?



**13 Listen to some parts of the conversation again and complete the sentences with the words you hear.**

1. I'm not really sure whether it works in the way that you think it might, but being able to think ..... about people is, in my opinion, necessary in order to empathise with them.
2. They are who they are and couldn't possibly be any other way, and loving them means accepting and even ..... that.
3. To me this seems like a cheap way to force people into accepting ..... things.
4. You are talking about a problem here and now, and all the other side wants to do is armchair psychology, and not make ..... presumptions about what kind of a person you are.
5. All of this is besides the point: either provide arguments in defence of your point and in ..... of the other side, or shut up.
6. I think there's actually a degree of maturity about letting the other person handle their own personal problems and not ..... them about it whenever it's convenient for you.
7. This deterministic mindset attempts to examine the "why" of an individual's psychology – it makes no claims as to the truth of their beliefs, the ..... of their feelings, or the validity of their arguments.

**14 Replace the highlighted parts of the sentences with the words from Exercise 13.**

1. How **unlikely** does the possibility of legalizing same-sex marriage in your country sound to you?
2. Do you understand people who say they **treasure** material things more than people because things don't let them down as much as people do?
3. What actions of your politicians make you question the **lawfulness** of democracy in your country?
4. In a debate, do you often tend to follow with a **defensive remark**, or do you prefer eschewing confrontation by admitting that your interlocutor is right?
5. Which existential theory would you rather adhere to: the **stochastic** one, in which everything that happens contains a **random** element and, hence, is **unpredictable**, or the **fatalistic** one, which **predicts** the role we are **destined** to play in society?
6. What do you **question** your new acquaintances about before you decide whether to let them stay in your life or not?
7. Can you give several examples of tactics for disagreeing with your opponent without being **rude**?

**15 Answer the questions in Exercise 14.**

# UNIT 4

## IMPROVEMENT PILLS



### Improvement Pill 1

#### How to Stop Caring About What Others Think of You

##### 1 Answer the questions.

- To what extent do you value other people's opinions of you? Despite the current prevalence of motivational speakers and popular messages about the insignificance of others' views, I ask you again: how much do you *truly* care about their opinions?
- Do you believe that age or exposure to diverse experiences leads to freedom from dependence on others' opinions?
- In your view, who is more susceptible to influence from others' opinions: people from small towns or those from large cities? Why?
- Let's explore a different perspective: to what degree can others' opinions be a positive force that drives us to improve ourselves?

### OPINION Collocations

##### 2 Complete the sentences with the words from the list.

**humble**  
**unanimity**

**prevailing**  
**erroneous**

**divergence**  
**favourable**

1. There is a substantial ..... of opinion regarding whether same-sex couples should be legally allowed to adopt children.
2. Once I have formed a ..... opinion of someone, I happen to become extremely loyal to this person.
3. In my ..... opinion, a person who fails to understand the depth of music and treats it superficially is somewhat aesthetically handicapped.
4. There is an ..... opinion in our society that educated families experience less violence.
5. Despite the ..... opinion that big bosses are the ones who take their companies to new heights, it is often their assistants who hold the reins of administrative power.
6. I'm very glad that most people in my country display a marked ..... of opinion regarding the fact that our system of education needs to be significantly revamped.