

The Tenerife Property & Business Guide

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Issue 257

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Amazing 3 bedroom Townhouse in Roque Del Conde

Tenerife Properties are thrilled to present this luxurious townhouse, fully furnished and equipped with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (master en suite) plus WC with lots of outdoor space, including a lovely terrace with spa pool and beautiful sea and mountain views, garden with BBQ, and a large, integral garage (65sqm!)

CONTACT US TODAY TO ARRANGE A VIEWING!

See page 2 for more information



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Tenerife Properties



**Fantastic
opportunity!**

Amazing 3 bedroom townhouse in Roque Del Conde

€670,000 Ref: I1514



Tenerife Properties are thrilled to present this luxurious 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom (+WC) townhouse. Upon entering the property you are greeted with a courtyard, a cosy outdoor patio with a sofa – perfect for relaxing and enjoying the warm climate here in Tenerife South. There is an additional seating area in the entrance hall of the property which leads into the bright hallway. On the ground floor you can find the stunning, large living room with modern finishes, the separate, sleek kitchen and utility room – as well as a convenient WC. Progressing upstairs, you will find the 3 bedrooms which are all of good-size, well presented and bright with fitted wardrobes. The master bedroom benefits from a large, ensuite bathroom and a private terrace. In the basement there is a large, closed garage of 66m². This stunning home enjoys an immense amount of outdoor space. There is a large terrace with beautiful views, an outdoor lounge with a TV and the great feature



of a hot-tub looking out towards the lovely views. Downstairs, there is another terrace/garden space of great size with a BBQ and the potential to add a private pool. Roque Del Conde is a popular, residential complex in Costa Adeje with a communal pool.

This property would make a fantastic family home – contact us today!

**For further and information and viewings please contact Tenerife Properties:
(00 34) 922 724 110 (00 34) 608 573 443 lynne@tenerifeproperties.net**

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Los Diamantes, Los Cristianos



EXCLUSIVE!
Stunning penthouse apartment of 1 bedroom in the lovely Los Diamantes III! Entering the apartment, you are greeted with the bright and open living room which is of good size, directly flowing onto the first of 3 terraces. The kitchen is open and set towards the back of the room with fitted cupboards and a new ceramic hob. The first terrace opens up from the living room with an outdoor table, great for Al Fresco dining, and stunning views to the pool/sea. The bedroom is large, well-presented with storage and has direct access onto a private terrace. In addition to the first two terraces there is also a fantastic roof terrace! Sunny, spacious and perfect for sunbathing, enjoying beautiful views towards the coast of Los Cristianos. Los Diamantes III is a popular complex in Los Cristianos with a communal pool, located in the heart of a busy town!

€285,000

Ref: N1667

Paraiso del Sur, Playa Paraiso



Well presented, refurbished studio with stunning sea views.

€229,000

Ref: A525

Ocean Park, San Eugenio Bajo



NEW INSTRUCTION!
Light and large studio with a sunny terrace and pool views just 5 mins from the beach.

€245,000

Ref: A526

Oasis, San Eugenio Alto



EXCLUSIVE!
Lovely 1 bed, 1 bath apartment with sunny terrace and gorgeous sea and pool views.

€255,000

Ref: N1653

Los Geranios, Costa Adeje



EXCLUSIVE!
Large 1 bed, 1 bathroom apartment in a central location. Communal pool.

€275,000

Ref: N1637

Los Geranios, San Eugenio Bajo



NEW INSTRUCTION!
We are delighted to offer this beautifully presented 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment in popular Los Geranios, Costa Adeje! Fully refurbished to a high standard with stylish finishes throughout, this property is not one to be missed – ready to be moved into, no work needed. A large living room with double access onto the terrace. The kitchen is open, set against the far wall with modern, sleek cabinets. The first bedroom is located at the back of the apartment, spacious with fitted wardrobes and of a clean, modern style. The second bedroom is of good-size, with a built in, LED lit shelving and crystal, tinted walls. The double terrace is immense, sunny with optional sun blinds and views towards the communal pool, located in the heart of a busy town!

€475,000

Ref: T1411

Santa Maria, San Eugenio Bajo



Stunning, bright and fully refurbished 1 bed apartment with terrace overlooking the pool.

€275,000

Ref: N1657

Roque del Conde, Costa Adeje



Brilliant opportunity! Fantastic 2 bed, 2 bath corner penthouse apartment with large terrace.

€350,000

Ref: T1406

Parque San Eugenio, San Eugenio Bajo



EXCLUSIVE!
Fantastic 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom duplex in Parque San Eugenio, Costa Adeje for sale. The first floor is compiled of a large living room that is bright and welcoming. Progressing, you will find the separate kitchen that is modern and fitted with sleek, high gloss, cream cabinets and red countertops. The first bedroom is situated on the first floor: it is bright and spacious with a private en-suite bathroom. On the second floor you can find the second bedroom that is of good size with an en-suite bathroom and a private terrace that looks over the communal pool. The third bedroom is on the top floor; it is well-presented with fitted wardrobes and a private terrace. In addition to the other terraces this duplex benefits from a roof terrace as well. Parque San Eugenio is a brilliant complex in a fantastic location plus only a five-minute walk from the beach!

€750,000

Ref: I1510

Holiday Valley, San Eugenio Alto



EXCLUSIVE!
Stunning 1 bed, 1 bath apartment in popular complex. Large terrace. Pool views.

€375,000

Ref: T1400

Las Carabelas, San Eugenio Bajo



EXCLUSIVE!
Lovely 1 bed, 1 bath apartment with large sunny terrace. Gorgeous views to the sea and pool.

€595,000

Ref: I1512

Santa Maria, Torviscas Bajo



NEW INSTRUCTION!
Lovely, bright and spacious studio with large sunny terrace. On complex with pool.

€199,000

Ref: A527

Caledonia Park, Torviscas Alto



Brilliant 1 bed duplex apartment with sunny roof terrace. Pool in complex.

€238,000

Ref: N1669



Translators available for any other languages.



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Sales: Lynne: 699 250 870
Rachel: 608 573 443
www.tenerifeproperties.net
lynne@tenerifeproperties.net



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STUDIO APARTMENT - GOLF DEL SUR



NEW!
EXCLUSIVE

This comfortable studio apartment, located on the complex of Green Park, is situated on the 4th floor, accessible by lift, enabling you to enjoy views of the swimming pool, over the complex and out to sea. The apartment is compact, but the space is well utilised to give it a homely feeling, and is being sold furnished. For those looking for that smaller investment in the current market, this would be a good introduction to the property ladder.

Ref: GOLF01876

Price: €160,000 (approx. £140,500)

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT - GOLF DEL SUR



! REDUCED !

Sit back relax in the afternoon sunshine and take in the stunning views of the rolling fairways of the golf course, that meander up to the mountainous region of Tenerife and only stopping once they arrive at the summit of Mount Teide. This property was originally a large one bedroom and a clever conversion of the terrace, has enabled the owners to provide a second bedroom, which is ideal for guests or little ones.

Ref: GOLF01835

Previously: €220,000 Price: €210,000 (approx. £184,000)

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT - AMARILLA GOLF



NEW!
EXCLUSIVE

Situated on a fabulous community, this charming & spacious, one bedroom apartment is beautifully furnished to a high standard, and ready to move in to. You can step out of your bed and into the pool for your morning swim, as the property is ideally located next to the complex pool, just a few steps from your sunny, south facing terrace. This ground floor apartment is set over one level, and is perfect for holidays or permanent living.

Ref: AMG00652

Price: €235,000 (approx. £206,000)

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT - GOLF DEL SUR



A great opportunity to purchase a two bedroom, one bathroom apartment on a popular, established development in the heart of Golf Del Sur. The apartment occupies a top floor, corner position of a two-storey building and faces towards the sea, and thus guarantees a sunny aspect for most of the day, all the year round. The main terrace is perfect for al fresco dining, or just relaxing on a sunny afternoon.

Ref: GOLF01851

Price: €285,000 (approx. £250,000)


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**1 BEDROOM APARTMENT
- TORVISCAS BAJO**



Located in the heart of the tourist area, this third floor, one bedroom apartment offers location, views and endless shopping & entertainment on your doorstep. A superb double balcony gives you plenty of space for daytime sunbathing, or evening relaxation, while you enjoy the view of the tastefully designed pool area and out to the Atlantic. The property offers rental potential, or is ideal as a bolthole for those looking for sunshine.

Ref: LA01985

Price: **€289,000** (approx. £253,500)

**2 BEDROOM APARTMENT
- SAN EUGENIO BAJO**



A rare opportunity, this cleverly converted two bedroom apartment offers a sunny balcony overlooking the pool and sea views. Located on the complex Los Geranios in the area of San Eugenio, and situated within a well maintained, secure development, which is in a fantastic position in the middle of the tourist area of South Tenerife. With no car needed, as everything on your doorstep, this is one to view.

Ref: LA01984

Price: **€359,500** (approx. £315,500)



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Palm Mar, Club de Mar

REDUCED!



We are delighted to present this lovely, fully furnished, large townhouse comprising (on the ground floor) spacious lounge with double patio doors leading to the garden, a mezzanine floor dining area, kitchen, utility room and guest toilet. On the first floor is the master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and a small balcony; and on the second floor are a further two good sized bedrooms, plus bathroom and storage cupboard. All bedrooms have built in wardrobes. A staircase leads to the roof terraces, from where you have sea views and all day sunshine. Also included in the sale is an integral, very large garage accessed directly from the lounge.

€499,000

Palm Mar, Los Balandros

PRICED TO SELL!

Lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, spacious apartment, price recently reduced. It is fully furnished and the price includes a storeroom and secure, underground parking space. There is a partial sea view from the ample terrace and the property is within easy reach of all that Palm Mar has to offer.



€340,000

T: (0034) 922 732862
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Calle Luis Alvarez Cruz,
 nº6, Edf Bahia Azul, Local 8C
 Las Galletas - Next to post office

Arico, La Listada

Amazing contemporary, fully furnished semi-detached house built in 2024, located in the quiet seafront village of La Listada, about 15 minutes east of El Médano. With just a few homes, a local shop, and the beach on your doorstep, it's a popular choice for buyers. The property features a heated pool, garden, and parking. Inside offers an open-plan fitted kitchen and living area, bathrooms on both floors, and 2 double bedrooms (one sea-facing, one mountain-facing). Enjoy a balcony with sea views. The property also holds a full holiday letting licence.

€575,000

Ref: LL-C575



Chayofa, Commercial Unit

Located in basement level of a residential complex, the unit is currently operating as a nail and beauty salon, with the option to continue this or convert to any other use. The premises offer well-distributed space, a welcoming atmosphere, and good lighting, ideal for beauty services, wellness, a private office, or a consulting room. Located in a well-established residential area with easy parking and a stable clientele, this unit offers an attractive investment or self-employment opportunity.

€129,000

Ref: C-L129



San Miguel, Rural House

Charming 87sqm house set over 2 floors, offering a peaceful setting and plenty of character in the south of the island. Ideal as a main residence or holiday home. To the rear is a large 325sqm rustic plot, accessed by stairs, perfect for a garden, growing space, or outdoor living. Please note: the property is not currently mortgageable, making it best suited to buyers with their own financing.

€199,000

Ref: SM-SM199



Costa del Silencio

Unique investment opportunity just metres from the seafront, offering a spacious, fully furnished home with fixed monthly income. Located near Las Galletas, this 3-bedroom single-level property can be reconfigured to add a 4th bedroom or separate apartment. Recently renovated, it features open-plan living, garden, and terraces. Storage units on-site generate steady income. Set within a complex with a pool but with its own private entrance, it offers excellent privacy and easy access to local amenities, bars, cafés, and shops.

€849,000

Ref: CDS-G849



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REDUCED!



Ref: S-05 1380



Oroteanda Baja

Luxury 5 bedroom villa with pool and parking on huge plot. Suitable for subdivision. Included in the Sale Price is a Project to build two one bedroom apartments in and above the garage.

€P.O.A.



Stunning, fully furnished and equipped, 5 bed, 3 bath (master en suite) detached villa with heated pool on 2,000sqm plot. This spacious property has a huge terrace to the front which can accommodate up to 8 cars, and a private garden/terrace with lovely sea views to the rear with BBQ area, jacuzzi, orchard and various seating areas (this significant area is eminently suitable for subdivision to create an excellent-sized plot suitable for the construction of a separate independent villa with pool, parking and lovely sea views.) There is a large lounge/ dining area, an open plan, fully equipped fitted kitchen and garage for 3 cars with direct access. One

of the bedrooms is situated in such a way that it could easily be converted into a separate studio, or granny flat. Extras include aircon and central heating throughout, and solar panel heating for hot water and the pool. This large Villa is very well situated in a small, very central village, located between the airport and the southern resorts of Los Cristianos and Playa de las Américas. With nearby property very popular as exclusive holiday let's this property has fantastic potential as a letting investment. It's rare to find such a large property on a very large plot with sea views in such an excellent location. Call now, come see for yourself!



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GOLF DEL SUR



Beautifully converted 2 bed, 3 bath top floor apartment with cloakroom, solar panels and spacious private roof terrace enjoying pool and sea views. Parking space available separately.

€289,000

SAN MIGUEL



Spacious townhouse situated in a quiet residential location with 2 large terraces giving stunning views. This well-maintained property also boasts a good-sized basement and large Integral double garage. Close to all amenities

€345,000

AMARILLA GOLF



1 bed garden apartment with 2 terraces giving all day sun. In quiet location.

€205,000

AMARILLA GOLF



Elevated 2 bed, 2 bath duplex with stunning views and 2 terraces. Prime golf course location.

€299,000



C.C. El Trebol, Local 37,
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El Medano, 4 bed, 2 bath 4 terraces



Charming home opposite La Tejita Beach with sweeping views of the sea and Red Mountain. Approx. 200 sqm, currently 2 bedrooms (originally 3, easily converted), plus an independent studio. Multiple terraces, rooftop solar hot water, extra functional spaces, and a 2-car garage.

€495,000

Ref: 317-1125

Costa del Silencio, Maravilla



Cozy ground floor 1 bed, 2 bath (1 en suite) apartment (ex-studio converted), with southeast-facing terrace enjoying lovely views of the complex's heated pool. The property (45sqm + 10sqm terrace) is in very good condition and ready to move into. Ideal as a permanent residence, holiday home, or investment.

€275,000

Ref: 327-0226

Costa del Silencio, Sunflower



Corner townhouse in the small "Sunflower" complex, set over two floors with 83 m². East-west facing for all-day sun. Features living room, veranda, terraces, kitchen, two bedrooms (one en-suite), plus extra room. Includes garage and storage. Requires renovation, offering strong potential in a quiet setting near the communal pool.

€239,000

Ref: 330-0326

Costa del Silencio, Garanana



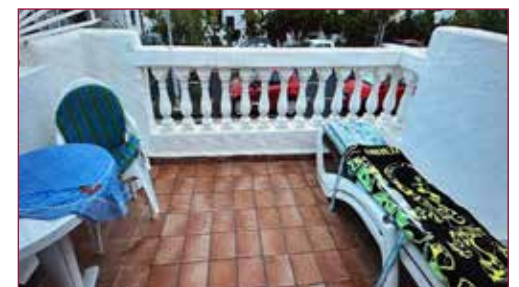
Meticulously maintained 3 bed, 4 bath (3 en suite) property (230sqm on 340sqm plot) with open-plan living/dining area, fully equipped open plan kitchen, a lovely terrace with mountain views, a large garden and a rooftop terrace with solar panels. The garage, with direct access from the street, includes ample storage space.

€494,000

Ref: 322-0126

DIRECT FROM OWNER

Los Cristianos, Port Royale



Recently refurbished (new kitchen, bathroom and all-new aluminium doors), fully furnished and equipped studio with sunny terrace in sought after complex with lovely pool area in hugely popular Los Cristianos. Close to all amenities.

€195,000

Owner (UK)
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APARTMENT IN PLAYA DE LAS AMERICAS
Ref: 82-852 €435.000,=

Property details

- Property Space: 65 sqm
- Living Space: 49 sqm
- Terrace: 16 sqm
- Floors: 4
- Levels: 3/4
- Elevator: Yes
- Parking: Street
- Community Pool: Yes

Characteristics

- All Day Sun: Yes
- Sea View: Yes
- Pool View: Yes
- Mountain View: Yes
- Wheelchair-Friendly: No
- Community Fees: €230/month

Exploitation Contract current till end of 2026



VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SALES OFFICE

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1 BEDROOM DUPLEX - PARQUE SANTIAGO 3

**! REDUCED!
FROM €499,000**



PERFECT LOCATION

An enviable address in the heart of Las Americas, located next to the beach and surrounded by designer shops and restaurants offering all types of cuisine along the golden mile. This complex has everything for the holiday maker including 24 hour reception and heated pool. The fully furnished, one bedroom, duplex property has two south west facing sunny terraces from the lounge and bedroom. The complex is one of the most sought after, in a prime location.
Ref: LA01972 **Price: €450,000** (approx. £395,000)

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Large Urban Land



Exceptional 8,560 m² urban plot between Adeje and La Caleta, ideal for a luxury residential or hotel project with confirmed building parameters and panoramic coastal, golf, and mountain views. Prime, high-value location near beaches, schools, restaurants, and major roads.

Ref.: 2928 **Price: 8,700,000€**

Freehold Pool Bar for Sale



Freehold pool bar in busy holiday complex, fully refurbished with new kitchen, bar, and license. Ideal for an owner-operator or couple. Prime poolside location with high foot traffic, seating for 25, and **potential to convert to a studio apartment too!**

Ref.: 2905 **Price: 180,000€**

Freehold Club in Los Cristianos



Freehold opportunity in prime Los Cristianos location: a 250 m² licensed bar-discoteca with terrace and capacity for up to 400 guests. Fully licensed for late-night trade until 04:00, with strong local Spanish and Latin clientele and proven revenue during peak nights.

Ref.: 2936 **Price: 2,500,000€**

Freehold including Business



A rare chance to acquire a freehold local including a fully equipped, long-established printing, embroidery and garment customisation business with 30+ years of success and a loyal client base. The freehold commercial unit is located centrally in Las Americas.

Ref.: 2895 **Price: 150,000€**

Freehold Pool Bar Investment



A freehold pool bar sold as investment in Los Cristianos, located within a complex of 175 apartments, currently rented with tenants in place, offering secure income, poolside visibility, exclusive on-site position, and strong long-term value with future redevelopment potential.

Ref.: 2941 **Price: 350,000€**

Freehold Hair Salon



Freehold property with established hair salon in central Las Americas, just off the beachfront, surrounded by hotels, bars, and shops. 28 m² with storage, toilet, 2 washing stations, and 4 working stations, sold with the business included—ideal to run, rent out, or repurpose.

Ref.: 2909 **Price: 80,000€**

Freehold Dry-Cleaning



Great opportunity to acquire a long-established laundry and dry-cleaning business including the freehold premises, of 52m², in prime Costa Adeje, offering over 20 years' trading, loyal clientele, strong income, full licensing, professional equipment, and long-term security.

Ref.: 2961 **Price: 260,000€**

Freehold Disco Bar



Freehold in Playa la Arena: 339 m² premises and a terrace for 32 guests, unique DISCO & BC licenses to operate until 5 AM, stage, DJ booth, and ample storage. Previously generating over €1,000,000 annually, it can be rented for €5,000/month with traspaso. Closed today.

Ref.: 2804 **Price: 690,000€**

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MOTORWORLD

THE PENALTY POINTS SYSTEM AND HOW IT WORKS IN SPAIN

Tenerife, as part of Spain, follows the Spanish driving licence “points system,” which differs in several important ways from the system used in the UK. Understanding these differences is particularly important (and useful) for Residents, tourists planning extended stays, or anyone considering driving regularly in both countries.

In Spain, drivers begin with a balance of points on their licence—generally 12 points for experienced drivers and 8 points for new drivers. The system is designed as a deterrent, under which points are deducted for traffic violations such as speeding, using a mobile phone while driving, or driving under the influence. The more serious the offence,

the more points are deducted. If a driver loses all their points, their licence is suspended, and they must complete a re-education course and pass a test to regain it (generally this is the Theory part of the Spanish Test).

One interesting feature of the Spanish system - which applies in Tenerife - is the ability to regain points over time. If a driver avoids committing any further offences for a set period (usually 2 or 3 years depending on the severity of prior infractions), their points balance can gradually return to the maximum. Additionally, drivers can voluntarily attend approved driving courses to recover a limited number of points, offering a proactive way to maintain their

licence.

In contrast, the UK operates a penalty-based system rather than a “points balance” model (drivers accumulate penalty points on their licence when they commit offences, which remain on the licence for a specified period—typically 3 to 11 years depending on the offence. If a driver accumulates 12 or more penalty points within a three-year period, they can be disqualified from driving. Unlike Spain, UK drivers do not start with a set number of points that decrease; instead, they build up points as they commit infractions - and which can often affect insurance costs.

Another key difference is how new drivers are treated. In the UK, drivers who accumulate 6 or

more penalty points within two years of passing their driving test can have their licence revoked and must retake both the theory and practical tests. In Spain, new drivers start with fewer points (8 instead of 12), but the process for losing and regaining them remains broadly the same as for experienced drivers.

The methods of notifying and enforcing the system also differ slightly. In Tenerife, traffic infractions are typically managed by the Spanish traffic authority (DGT), and fines may be issued on the spot or sent later. The Police body responsible for this is the Guardia Civil (Tráfico). If fines remain unpaid there is a (fairly) lengthy process that ends up with Hacienda which adminis-

ters the system and effect collections.. In the UK, enforcement involves various agencies including the police and local authorities, with offences often processed through fixed penalty notices or court proceedings.

In summary, the Tenerife (Spanish) system emphasizes maintaining a positive points balance and encourages rehabilitation through courses and good driving behaviour. The UK system, by contrast, focuses on accumulating penalties and imposing consequences once thresholds are reached. Both aim to promote road safety, but they reflect different philosophies: one preventative and restorative, the other cumulative and punitive.

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The ancient reason there are 60 minutes in an hour

By Jocelyn Timperley, a senior journalist for the BBC's science features team



Amysterious 5,000-year-old decision led directly to how we still count time today.

In October 1793, the newly established French Republic embarked on an ill-fated experiment. It decided to change time.

The day, the revolutionaries decided, would now be divided by 10 hours, not 24. Each hour would have 100 minutes *décimales* in turn made up of 100 *secondes décimales*.

The time system was part of a wider revolutionary calendar which aimed to rationalise (and de-Christianise) the years' structure, including a new 10-day week. Work soon began to convert existing clocks to the decimal system. Town halls mounted decimal clocks and official activities were recorded using the new calendar.

It quickly began causing no end of headaches, says Finn Burridge, a science communicator at Royal Museums Greenwich in London, UK, home of the Royal Observatory and the place where Greenwich Mean Time was established.

Redesigning and converting existing clocks proved extremely tricky. The system isolated France from neighbouring countries, while the rural population hated the day of rest becoming only every 10th day. Ultimately, decimal time lasted barely more

than a year in France. To understand how we started counting, and still count today, 24 hours in a day, 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute, though, we need to wind the clock back to an era before the dawn of timekeeping. Because it's the story of one of the earliest number systems that started us off on this track – and explains why this awkward system has long outlived the civilisations who invented it.

A base of 60

At the origin are the Sumerians, an ancient people who lived in Mesopotamia (roughly modern-day Iraq) from around 5300-1940BC and one of the first civilisations to ever form cities. Along with many other inventions including irrigation and the plough, they are credited with creating the first known writing system. This happened to include a number system based on the concept of 60.

Hold up your hand in front of you, bend a finger, and you'll see it has three joints. Count all the joints on the fingers of one hand (not including the thumb) and you'll reach 12. Count this 12 as one using a finger on your other hand and restart the count to 12 on the first hand, until all five fingers on your second hand are used. What have you just counted to? Sixty.

This is one of the speculative theories as to why

the Sumerians based their emerging mathematical system on 60, not 10 – a decision that still has implications for how we measure time today.

Their development of written numbers was driven by a need to keep records for the increasingly large and complex farming system supporting their growing cities, says Martin Willis Monroe, an expert in cuneiform (the early writing systems of the ancient Middle East) cultures at the University of New Brunswick in Canada.

They began using small clay tablets, often the size of a smartphone or smaller, to keep track of numbers, impressing the details into soft clay. Other pictorial notations soon followed, developing into the Sumerians' famous cuneiform text.

It was only in the mid-19th Century that these clay tablets were uncovered and started being de-

ciphered. They show that the Sumerians used a whole host of number systems, says Monroe, but the most prominent for mathematics, and thus ultimately astronomy and time, quickly became a so-called sexagesimal system. The Sumerians used 60 in a comparable way to how we now use 10. When we reach nine, we move over a space to the left, write a one and add zero to the right, says Erica Meszaros, who recently completed a doctorate in history of the exact sciences and antiquity at Brown University in the US. "[It's the] same thing with sexagesimal: they get up to 59 and instead of having a number higher than 59 they just use a one, but one place over."

Hours, minutes and seconds are a useful heritage from ancient times so deeply ingrained that changing the system now would probably just be too much to handle

Despite the tempting finger-counting theory set out above, it's not clear why the Sumerians settled on a base-60 system. "There's not a tonne of evidence where 60 itself comes from," says Monroe. Some scholars have suggested the sexagesimal system may well have predated the Sumerians.

Its ease of use, however, is clear. Sixty can be divided by one, two, three, four, five, six, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30 and 60 without the need for fractions or decimals. Con-

trast that with 10, which can be divided only by one, two, five and 10 and its advantages start to become clear. "If you're developing numbers for very practical purposes, like accounting, taxes or measuring fields and dividing fields for your sons' inheritance, having an easy way to do these mathematical operations can be really helpful," says Meszaros.

The origin of time

There's no clear evidence that the Sumerians used time, although timekeeping likely did exist in the region before the first documented use of sundials and water clocks by the Babylonians (an ancient Mesopotamian civilisation which came after the Sumerians) in around 1000BC, says Monroe.

The first civilisation known to divide the day into hours were the ancient Egyptians, says Rita Gautschy, an archaeoastronomer at the University of Basel in Switzerland, and this shows up in religious texts from around 2500BC. The first known objects related to hours initially referred to the 12 hours of the night: these were diagonal star clocks found on the inner lid of the coffins of noble Egyptians from between around 2100 and 1800BC, says Gautschy.

It's not certain why exactly the Egyptians chose a subdivision of 12 – eventually leading to 24 hours in the full day. The Egyptians had a zodiac cycle of 12 constellations, but this was likely introduced after the first references to 12 hours. Counting to 12 using the joints and fingers of one hand is another possibility. Some experts think it may have been due to how their choice of a 10-day week intersected with the visibility

of certain stars.

The earliest known instruments to measure time, sundials and water clocks, appeared in Egypt around 1500BC. Some were used during daily work, but most were "likely more related to the religious sphere and rituals" than timekeeping, says Gautschy. "Personally, I think that a lot of them were gifts to the gods, votive gifts," she says. "We don't have much information about scientific time keeping [from the era]." Initially, in texts about the business of daily life, the smallest time unit was generally the work shift, says Gautschy – usually imagined as being either morning or afternoon. But by the Roman period of ancient Egypt (from 30BC), hours became the standard, with half hours also starting to appear, she says.

The arrival of minutes

Meanwhile, the Babylonians had also been developing their use of hours. They would ultimately be the first to break the hour down into much smaller units – albeit not for timekeeping purposes.

The Babylonians, who thrived from 2000BC to 540 BC, adopted both the cuneiform script and sexagesimal number system from the Sumerians. By around 1000BC, says Meszaros, they had developed a calendar based on how long it took for the sun to return to the same position in the sky – a little more than 360 days.

It's a system that worked well enough for the Babylonians that the people who came after them took it wholesale in order to take the astronomical data and traditions as well – Erica Meszaros

This was a handy number for a civilisation already using a counting system based on 60. "Wow, isn't that nice in a sexagesimal system?" says Meszaros. "In fact, it led really nice-

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A decimal clock shows the new time system introduced by the French Revolutionary Government in the 18th Century



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ly to 12 months of 30 days each", which also fit in with the moon cycle, she says.

The Babylonians developed a practical time system for day-to-day use which divided both day and night each into 12, as the Egyptians did. The lengths of these "seasonal hours" would vary with the length of day and night. "We broke down the day into 12 because we break down the night sky into 12 months and 12 zodiacal signs," says Meszaros.

Many other ancient civilisations used seasonal hours and they were still in use in 15th Century Europe and 19th Century Japan. This seasonal time was never divided into smaller units for practical use, though, notes Monroe. "[That] isn't really a thing until the early modern period... It doesn't exist in Mesopotamia and other ancient cultures, because there's really no need for it."

The Babylonians also developed another time system for calculating and measuring astronomical events, which wasn't for daily use. This divided the day into 12 "beru", which we can think of as the same as two modern hours. Babylonia wasn't the only ancient culture to use them: they also appeared in ancient China and Japan, for

example.

Driven by the need to measure more granularity in their calculations, the Babylonians started breaking down these beru double-hours into 30 ancient minutes known as ush, each equal to four of our present-day minutes. These were further divided by 60 into smaller units called ninda, each worth about four modern seconds. These subdivisions were likely used "because we break things into groups of 60 in the sexagesimal system", says Meszaros.

However, the Babylonians were "not thinking about it as like subdividing time", notes Monroe. "They're thinking about it as subdividing numbers that measure distance in the sky or velocity of planets."

It can be hard to say exactly who built upon whom amongst all these ancient developments of time, says Gautschy. "From around 330BC onward, Egypt, with the new centre of science in Alexandria, became a melting pot where people, and with them their ideas from all regions, amalgamated," she says. "That's what we call the Hellenistic world."

Still, it's clear the ancient Greeks adopted the Babylonian astronomical time system, says Meszaros. "They kept the same division because this allowed them to just add new observations to existing ones...

It's a system that worked well enough for the Babylonians that the people who came after them took it wholesale in order to take the astronomical data and traditions as well."

A timeline of accurate time

12th Century: The first mechanical clocks were built, accurate to an hour or so.

16th Century: Even accurate pendulum clocks would drift by 10-15 minutes per day.

18th Century: The H4 watch was invented which wouldn't lose minutes for weeks. "It led to the minute and the second being used in common society," says Burridge.

1920s: The development of quartz clocks wildly improved accuracy, losing only a second in 3 years.

1950s: Atomic clocks arrived, which use atoms as timekeepers and are so accurate "they won't lose a second of time in billions of years", says Burridge.

Counting seconds

While the Greeks had sand clocks at court "to make sure that people had the same amount of time to speak", the Babylonian time system they adopted was only used conceptually by astrologers and largely "not really relevant for daily life", says Gautschy.

But the concepts of



This Sumerian tablet from around 3200BC features some of the earliest known mathematical exercises

hours, minutes and seconds that emerged from the Hellenistic melting pot were passed through the centuries to the present day. It was only a few hundred years ago, however, that timekeeping devices became accurate enough for minutes and the seconds to start being used day to day.

The second is now used in countless scientific definitions, and once we started counting time units smaller than a second, scientists did move to a metric system, breaking it down to milli and microseconds (a thousandth and a millionth of a second, respectively).

In the 20th Century, atomic clocks allowed scientists to redefine the second more precisely, moving from defining it based on rotations of the Sun to a precise value based on

the absorption and emission of microwave radiation by caesium-133 atoms. Today, our global network of atomic clocks keep the time of pretty much every modern clock, and is behind everything from the internet to GPS to super accurate MRI imaging.

Tracing the history of timekeeping, though, reveals that it is actually a human construct, determined by human decisions. Hours, minutes and seconds arrived with us through a series of choices, coincidences and happenstance. But they stayed with us as useful heritage through the centuries, a hangover from ancient times so deeply ingrained that changing the system now would probably just be too much to handle.

Even during France's 18th Century attempt to

decimalise time, in practice the new system was barely used, even while the Republic's similar efforts to decimalise distance measurements and currency were adopted and are used to this day. Decimal time lasted just 17 months, although the calendar stayed in some use for about a decade. "It was tried, but it was unsuccessful, it didn't take off," says Burridge.

A 1795 speech by Claude-Antoine Prieur, a member of the French National convention, may have been what put the final nail in the coffin of decimal time. As well as offering hardly anyone a marked advantage, he argued, it cast a bad light on the other new metric measurement systems – which were, in contrast, he said, useful.

The precious 'white gold' fuel buried in the Earth

By Chloe Farand, Author, Climate Home News



Sometimes called 'fairy circles', circles such as these in Brazil can form when high-pressure hydrogen causes land to rise then sink

Naturally occurring "white hydrogen" lies in vast reservoirs beneath our feet – now the gold rush of the clean energy era is beginning.

Investors had lost faith in Edwin Drake's obsessive hunt for oil when the American entrepreneur finally struck black gold in an underground reservoir in Titusville, Pennsylvania, in 1859. The discovery spurred an exploration frenzy that launched the modern oil age.

Now, a new generation of wildcatters are racing to replicate that Titusville moment, hoping to bring about the dawn of a major new energy resource. However, it's not fossil fuels they are looking for, but a commercially viable source of natural – and

low-carbon – hydrogen.

Hydrogen, the smallest, simplest and lightest molecule on Earth, is currently used mainly for refining and chemical industries, such as producing ammonia for fertilisers. The vast majority of this hydrogen is made from polluting methane gas or coal gasification. But there are already other, lower-carbon ways to produce hydrogen. And hydrogen's ability to store three times more energy than oil, while only producing water when burnt, has made some view it as an attractive clean fuel option, especially for industries which are hard to decarbonise by electrification, such as aviation, shipping or steel production.

"Green" hydrogen, for example, is a cleaner alternative made by splitting water between hydrogen and oxygen molecules in a process powered by re-

newable energy. "Blue" hydrogen, made from fossil fuels using carbon capture and storage to reduce the emissions, is another alternative.

If just 2% of estimated levels of natural hydrogen was recoverable, it could meet projected global hydrogen demand for around 200 years, according to the USGS

Green and blue hydrogen have received huge attention as potential low-carbon fuels in recent years, but they also have significant downsides. Both are expensive and faced challenges

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and delays in their roll-out. And while their use is slowly growing, together they still only make up around 1% of global hydrogen production. Some researchers have also raised doubts over how low-carbon blue hydrogen really is due to associated leaks of methane – a potent greenhouse gas which is 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide (CO₂) over a 20-year time span.

Meanwhile, in recent years scientists have found that naturally occurring hydrogen is actually much more widespread than previously thought, leading some to believe it could be tapped as a cheap and carbon-free fuel.

This "geologic" hydrogen, also called natural or white hydrogen, is produced naturally when underground water encounters iron-rich rocks in a process known as serpentinisation. Because hydrogen is so light, it usually seeps through porous rocks and cracks, eventually rising to the atmosphere. That's if it isn't first consumed in underground reactions or eaten by subterranean microbes.

But in some geological settings, hydrogen can become trapped under rocks with low permeability, such as salt or shale rocks, which create a seal under which the gas can accumulate. It's these hydrogen accumulations in the Earth's subsurface that prospectors hope may be viable for commercial exploitation.

According to a 2024 study from the US Geological Survey (USGS), there could be anywhere between one billion and 10 trillion tonnes of hydrogen in the subsurface, with a best guess of around 5.6 trillion tonnes trapped in geological formations.

Most of this hydrogen is likely to be "in accumulations that are too deep, too far offshore, or too small to be economically recovered", the study's authors, USGS geologists Geoffrey Ellis and Sarah Gelman, wrote. However, if just 2% of this white hydrogen was recoverable, it could meet projected global hydrogen demand

for around 200 years, they found. It would also, they added, contain roughly twice as much energy as is stored in all the proven natural gas reserves on Earth. The idea has sparked huge interest in what could be lying under our feet. At least 60 companies have publicly said they are exploring for white hydrogen, with investment estimated to have reached \$1bn (£740m), says Eric Gaucher, a French geochemist who co-leads a white hydrogen expert group convened by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The hope is to make a big discovery in the next three or four years. My dream is that this natural hydrogen can play a role, maybe as oil played in the past
- Eric Gaucher

"That's more or less a rush," he says. Gaucher left a job at oil giant Total four years ago and now runs an independent consultancy advising companies "who want to win the race for natural hydrogen". Exploratory drilling, he notes, has already taken place in Australia and the US.

Prospectors like Gaucher argue the discovery of a commercially viable hydrogen reservoir could usher in a new age of exploration in the same way that Drake's 1859 find fired the starting gun for the oil economy. "The hope is to make a big discovery in the next three or four years," he says. "My dream is that this natural hydrogen can play a role, maybe as oil played in the past."

Still, Gaucher admits prospectors should currently remain "modest" about white hydrogen's potential role in the energy transition. Not least because huge uncertainties remain about how much of it could actually be recoverable from the Earth's mantle. "Currently, we really have no idea," says Ellis, of the USGS. "That's the big

question. From what we know today, there's just too much uncertainty to really make any predictions about how impactful [natural hydrogen] might be."

The only place where white hydrogen extracted from the Earth is currently used is in the village of Bourakebougou in western Mali. The local community's fate changed in 1987 when the cigarette of a worker digging a water well sparked a small explosion as he leaned over the edge. Nearly pure hydrogen was later found at the bottom of the borehole. It is now used to produce electricity for the village.

Odourless, colourless and tasteless, hydrogen is difficult to detect without specifically looking for it. But in early 2025, a team of geologists announced they found a clue for where to start looking.

Using simulations of plate tectonic processes, they showed that rocks that had been pushed closer to the surface during the formation of mountains could be hotspots for white hydrogen. The researchers identified mountain ranges stretching from the Alps to the Himalayas as possible targets for exploration. "Avoiding environments that bring them into contact with the hydrogen is important in preserving hydrogen in economic accumulations."

Although exploration of white hydrogen has been gathering steam, no commercially viable wells have yet been found. In its 2024 global hydrogen review, the IEA described white hydrogen production technology as scoring five out of nine on its technology readiness scale.

There is also still insufficient evidence to prove white hydrogen is even a renewable resource for use at scale, says Laurent Truche, a professor of geochemistry at Grenoble

Alpes University in France who researches natural hydrogen. That's because it's not clear whether or not hydrogen is generated quickly enough to replace any that might be extracted from reservoirs. Truche says the rate of hydrogen generation is "several orders of magnitude too slow compared to what we would expect to produce".

He worries about the hype, noting that "natural hydrogen production is currently tiny, the hydrogen that is found is rarely pure, [and] many discoveries are of dissolved gas, which is difficult to produce".

Even if a large discovery was made in the next few years, it would take at least another decade to develop an industry at scale
- Laurent Truche

Naturally produced hydrogen is also unlikely to be located where it is needed and hydrogen is difficult to transport and store, although proponents told the BBC it could support fuel sovereignty by powering local industries.

But extracting white hydrogen could also come with unintended consequences, including impacts on the climate that could undo some of the benefits of replacing fos-

sil fuels.

Hydrogen reservoirs can contain methane, which could offset the benefits of white hydrogen unless it were captured. What's more, once in the atmosphere, hydrogen competes with methane for hydroxyl, a compound which breaks down methane molecules. This means that any hydrogen that escapes during extraction would also make methane in the atmosphere last longer and cause even more warming.

These methane emissions, alongside the emissions embedded in drilling infrastructure, mean white hydrogen production wouldn't be totally carbon free.

One initial estimate suggests that, in cases where reservoirs have a high percentage of hydrogen and low amounts of methane, 0.4kg of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) would be emitted for every kilogram of hydrogen produced. That's less than the average 1.6kg CO₂e generated with each kilogram of green hydrogen, which requires the construction of vast renewable energy infrastructure.

However, emissions associated with white hydrogen production would increase the more methane is in the reservoir and the less productive the well becomes. A well with 75% hydrogen and 22.5% methane would emit 1.5 kg CO₂e per kg of hydrogen, according to the same study.

White hydrogen propo-

nents tell the BBC that methane emissions can be filtered, while extracting and burning hydrogen as a fuel would reduce the amount that naturally leaks to the surface and reaches the atmosphere.

But Truche disagrees. Large-scale white hydrogen production would lead to increased hydrogen leakage into the atmosphere, he says. It could also impact underground ecosystems and the microbial life that rely on hydrogen as an energy source, he adds. These microbes play an important role in the cycle of the Earth's chemical elements and compounds – yet relatively little is known about the deep terrestrial subsurface, according to a scientific review by Rachel Beaver and Josh Neufeld at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

Even if a large discovery was made in the next few years, it would take at least another decade to develop an industry at scale, says Truche, meaning white hydrogen will not have an impact on the energy system anytime soon.

Other experts have also argued white hydrogen extraction "simply won't be available" to replace the fossil fuel-produced hydrogen currently in use within the timeframe needed to meet global climate goals.

For Emmanuel Masini, founder and chief executive of Mantle8, a French hydrogen exploration start-up backed by Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy, however, the urgent need for decarbonisation is exactly the reason for accelerating white hydrogen exploration.

"We are convinced there could be really significant [hydrogen] reserves, we need to go ahead and deliver them," Masini says.

To do this, Mantle8 has developed a technology which uses geology, geophysics and geochemistry data and sensors to create 4D images (in three dimensions and across time) of the Earth's mantle to pinpoint the specific location of white hydrogen reservoirs and quantify and monitor the



A Mantle8 geologist tests if there is hydrogen seeping from an underground reservoir in the French Pyrenees

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volume of hydrogen in each.

The technology could be used to map the entire planet and take out the guesswork in exploration by identifying replenishing reservoirs, saving both time and money, says the start-up. Masini says it has already identified 12 promising locations across Europe and aims to identify 10 million tonnes of hydrogen reserves by 2030 – a goal he is confident it can meet.

In February 2025, Mantle8 secured financing to pilot the technology in the Pyrenees mountains

in southwest France. The company aims to begin exploratory drilling in 2028 and produce its first kilogram of hydrogen by 2030 at around \$0.80 (£0.60) per kg. That would make it cheaper than any other hydrogen form and at least five times less than the cost of green hydrogen. Researchers at Stanford University have also estimated that white hydrogen could be produced below \$1 (£0.74) per kg under optimal conditions.

Tools and expertise developed by the oil and gas industry could be adapted to extract the gas, argues Viacheslav Zgonnik, a pioneer in natural hydrogen

exploration and chief executive of HyReveal, a start-up developing ways to detect and monitor hydrogen underground. "It presents an amazing opportunity for the hydrocarbon industry to make the pivot" to cleaner energy sources, he argues.

Oil companies are indeed showing growing interest. In Brazil, Petrobras is researching the possibility of natural hydrogen extraction. Oil giants BP and Chevron have joined a consortium studying natural hydrogen, and BP recently invested in UK-based natural hydrogen start-up Snowfox Discovery.

Others are considering

stimulating hydrogen production by injecting water into underground iron-rich rocks to produce "orange" hydrogen, a process which could theoretically be coupled with carbon sequestration but remains more complicated and uncertain.

Zgonnik is optimistic white hydrogen can provide "the missing link" to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors, starting with the fertiliser industry. Still, even under a best-case scenario, he estimates it could replace "only a few percent" of global fossil fuel use by 2050.

But others, like Truche, argue it is too early to de-



A team from Indonesia's energy ministry take samples of natural hydrogen found at a bathing location in the Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia

termine what role, if any, white hydrogen could play in the energy transition. Whether replenishing reservoirs of extractable hy-

drogen exist underground "is a genuine scientific question", he says. "But it remains to be proven."

The puntastic pleasures of wordplay

By Mark Mason, columnist, *The Spectator*



Puns are what language is all about.

If you tweeted about a particular snooker referee being the ex-boyfriend of one of the women in *The Human League*, and a friend of yours replied with 'Don't cue want me baby?', how would you react? Would you groan, sneer and dismiss the pun as the lowest form of wit? Or would you – like me – laugh out loud and feel a surge of joy at the beauty of the wordplay? If the latter, come and stand with

me in defence of puns. Not in a 'guilty pleasure' way, either, but as a proud statement that puns are wonderful and important.

I hate the snobbery that surrounds puns, the way they're seen as second-rate language. A good pun – be it a joke, a newspaper headline or simply thrown into conversation – is everything language should be about. It's concise, it's economical, it's effective. It can be a striking and memorable way of getting your point across. And even if it's there just

to raise a chuckle, the skill in its construction is something to admire.

A lot depends on context. Shakespeare is allowed to do puns because he's Shakespeare. When he writes, 'made glorious summer by this son of York', people nod approvingly. When a camping shop announces a January sale with 'now is the winter of our discount tents', people lift their eyes to the heavens. Maybe it's because humour is seen as trivial, as though the things we laugh at can't matter very much.

Actually the best humour (according to some theorists) works precisely because it relates to a fundamental truth.

Some comedians have built their entire careers on puns. Tim Vine, for instance: 'I was at sea the other day and loads of meat floated past. It was a bit choppy.' And Milton Jones: 'My aunt Marge has been so ill for so long that we've started to call her, "I can't believe she's not better".' Yes, exposure to too many 'dad jokes' at once can be wearing – but then so is exposure to too much of anything. The great Barry Cryer was always quick to defend jokes that depended on wordplay such as: 'What do you call a hen looking at a lettuce? A chicken caesar salad.' The construction of that is as pleasing to behold as a well-made watch movement.

The best puns are the ones that obey the 'jumping a gap' theory of comedy. For a joke to work, your brain needs to have made an effort – similar to the physical effort of jumping over a gap – so that you feel rewarded. But if the gap is too big, you either resent the effort involved, or don't make it to the other side at all. That's why 'chicken caesar salad' is so good: the three words fall neatly into place, giving that pleasing sensation when you reach the end.

I hate the snobbery that surrounds puns, the way they're seen as second-rate language

I probably admire puns so much because I can never think of them myself. This

doesn't matter for the kind of stuff I write (you'll note I'm not even attempting any puns in this piece), though I often play the game of trying to think of headlines for my pieces. I never can. The only one I've ever suggested that *The Spectator* went for was on my piece about hating Agas: 'Aga can't.'

Curiously, my friends who are good at puns can be dismissive of their skill. John Sturgis (of this manner and an ex-tabloid journalist who earned a reputation as king of the headline) has even told me he sometimes sees his compulsion as a curse. But there's pride when he comes up with a true winner (it was John who fathered 'don't cue want me baby'). 'It's like playing a fruit machine,' he says, 'where the identifiable aspects of the story are the columns and you want them to align in a meaningful or recognisable phrase.' He reminisces about legendary headlines: 'Sometimes it'll be on a massive story – like George Michael cottaging, "Zip Me Up Before You Go Go" – but I prefer an outstanding pun on a story that gets forgotten. For instance when Eminem discovered he was descended from a medieval Welsh prince I did "The Rhyll Slim Shady" for the Sun. That still does the rounds.'

Probably the most famous British headline ever was about a Scottish FA Cup upset: 'Super Caley Go Ballistic, Celtic Are Atrocious'. Across the pond, people still talk about the New York Post's 'Headless Body in Topless Bar'.

I've always had a soft spot for the one about a certain pop star falling off her horse ('Ze Fallen Madonna With Ze Big Bruises') and for the one about Gianni Versace's murder ('Shoot You Sir').

Another puntastic *Spectator* writer is Patrick Kidd. 'Wordplay is very much an English thing,' he says. 'Parody, humorous songs, cryptic crosswords – they all rely on verbal dexterity and twists on familiar words. It's part of us showing how clever we are, but also how clever we think our audience is to get them.' His career shows that puns aren't confined to headlines. 'On a cricket tour in India, when England were playing in the home town of a famous cricketer the week before Christmas, I began my piece with: "Once in Rahul Dravid's city..."'

I know from experience (usually in pubs) that Patrick, like John, can think of a pun in a millisecond. But (and Barry Cryer was the same) it's never annoying, never showy-offey. It's something that comes naturally to them – and the results are magnificent to behold.

And now, inevitably, I can't think of a pun with which to end this piece. 'When all's said and pun?' 'Pun and dusted?' Not good enough. So, I'll leave you with another tweet from Master Sturgis, concerning a recent story about football fans fighting over pies at half-time. John responded with 'Affray Bentos'. It got 500,000 views.



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The EU's failed Green Deal is a warning to us all

By Magnus Henrekson, Christian Sandstrom, and Mikael Stenkula



In 2020, the European Union launched its Green Deal.

Six years later, investments in hydrogen-based projects have collapsed, and electricity prices are twice as high as in the US and China. Europe is losing its competitive edge. In our research for the Institute of Economic Affairs, we identify eight reasons why the EU Green Deal is not working. In doing so, we draw policy lessons for the United Kingdom.

In December 2019, the European Commission presented the Green Deal as a historic project. Europe would become the world's first climate-neutral continent while strengthening its industrial base. Six years later, the picture is considerably bleaker. Electricity prices for industrial customers are about twice as high as in the US and China, several large-scale hydrogen projects have been postponed or cancelled, and the EU's global competitiveness continues to

weaken.

This development is not surprising. The green deal marks a clear break with traditional environmental policy, which has historically been based on emissions pricing, technology neutrality and incremental improvements. Instead, the EU has embraced a mission-oriented industrial policy in which the policy identifies winning technologies, sets detailed sectoral targets and channels large resources to selected projects and companies.

In a new collective volume – 'The Green Entrepreneurial State? Exploring the Pitfalls of Green Deals' – we, together with 17 other researchers, analyse the green agenda from both a theoretical and empirical perspective. The conclusion is clear: green industrial policy suffers from structural problems; therefore, it rarely works as intended in

practice.

First, the policy attempts to solve complex, systemic challenges with tools that require overview, control and predictability. But climate and energy systems are characterised by uncertainty, rapid technological development and global dependencies that cannot be controlled from above through roadmaps drawn by politicians. Germany's Energiewende is a cautionary example: A politically motivated nuclear phase-out has contributed to high electricity prices, continued fossil fuel dependence and weakened industrial competitiveness.

Second, the green agenda ignores the fact that politicians and authorities are not neutral social planners but are influenced by self-interest, emotional narratives and special interests. The result is rent seeking, clientelism and support for projects that are politically attractive rather than socio-economically valuable. Europe's investments in hydrogen, steel and battery production are stark illustrations of this problem.

Third, competition is distorted. When certain technologies – such as hydrogen, wind power or specific industrial projects – receive extensive support, the mar-

ket's decentralised selection process is undermined. Technologies that are not socio-economically viable are kept alive, while alternative solutions are squeezed out. This is exacerbated by the fact that system costs, grid expansion and storage requirements are often ignored in decisions.

Fourth, government risk-sharing increases moral hazard. When taxpayers bear a large part of the downside, the incentives to take excessive risks become stronger. Experience from several green mega-projects shows that technological optimism is often combined with a lack of cost control.

Finally, behavioural economic mechanisms play a central role. Climate policy has typically been couched in alarmist terms where threats are exaggerated and opportunity costs downplayed. In such a 'loss framing', even very risky and expensive projects become politically rational, despite the uncertainty of their benefits.

This does not mean that climate policy should be abandoned. On the contrary, history shows that well-designed environmental policy can be effective. The EU's carbon diox-

ide emissions have fallen sharply since 1990, while the economy has grown and the emissions of several hazardous air pollutants have been almost eliminated. These successes have been achieved mainly through pricing, technology neutrality and gradual improvements – not through large-scale industrial policy.

Against this background, the EU's climate strategy should be revised. Instead of detailed regulation and technology selection, the policy should be based on two principles: a uniform and comprehensive emissions trading system and strict technology neutrality. A well-functioning price on emissions gives companies incentives to find the most cost-efficient solutions themselves. Targeted subsidies and sectoral targets should be phased out, and complementary support – where justified – should be time-limited, competitive and carefully evaluated.

The EU's Green Deal was launched with great ambition. But ambition cannot replace realism. Without a reorientation, Europe risks continuing to combine high climate policy costs with weak climate benefits – thus losing both industrial competitiveness and public support for climate policy.

How the way you count reveals more than you think

By Anand Jagatia, BBC Features correspondent

Many people around the world learn to count on their fingers, but we don't all do it in the same way.

Could there be a better method?

How would you count to 10 on your fingers? Do you start with the thumb or the index finger? Left hand or right? Dactylonomy (counting on your hands) seems like such a simple and natural thing to do that you might assume it's nearly the same everywhere.

After all, it's no coinci-

dence that we have 10 digits on our hands and the most common number systems have 10 digits. This way of counting (called a base 10 system) probably arose because we have 10 fingers. If we had evolved with 8 or 12 fingers, our number system might be quite different. And the word "digit" in the sense of numerals comes from the Latin digitus, meaning finger or toe – because of the way we use them to count.

But it turns out that people around the world have vastly different techniques for keeping track of numbers on their hands.

For example, if you're

from the UK or many parts of Europe, you probably start counting with the thumb, and finish with the pinky. While in the US, they start counting with the index finger, ending with the thumb. In parts of the Middle East like Iran, they begin with the pinky, whereas in Japan they start with the fingers extended in an open palm, drawing them in to make a closed fist.

However this cultural diversity in finger counting hasn't always been appreciated. "What struck me was that most researchers treated it as if there was just one way of counting with your

fingers," says Andrea Bender, a professor of cognition, culture and language at the University of Bergen, Norway.

"In the past, researchers have believed that finger counting, and especially the way that we do it in the West, is essential for children when they start to learn counting, and when they try to grasp what numbers actually are. One reason for casting doubt on that is that there is so much cultural diversity in how fingers or body parts are used for counting."

In India, for example, they use the lines between the segments of the fingers to count. This means each digit can represent four numbers and the whole hand can represent 20. While in parts of Eastern Africa like Tanzania, among speakers of some Bantu languages, they use both hands in a symmetric way as much as possible. The number six, for example, is shown with the index, middle and ring finger of both hands. There's also the indigenous Northern Pame people of

Mexico, who count on their knuckles, and the (now extinct) Yuki language in California, which used the spaces in between the fingers.

However, some cultures don't use quantities of fingers to represent numbers at all – they use symbols. In China, they count from one to five in the same way as the US, but six to 10 are represented symbolically. Six is shown by extending the thumb and pinky, while 10 is either a closed fist or crossing the index and middle fingers. And the ancient Romans also used a clever (but difficult to master) symbolic system that allowed them to count into the thousands.

Bender says that finger counting can be richly varied and researchers may have barely scratched the surface of the multitudes of ways different cultures do it. Her group is about to start on a much bigger survey to try to document finger counting around the world in much more detail.

"We know a little bit about how much diversity is possible, but we have no idea yet

of how big the differences actually can be," she says.

Cognitive scientists like Bender are beginning to show that there is still much to discover about the relationship between gesture and language learning. For example, gestures can change how we hear words. But we don't know whether the gesture informs the choice of word or vice versa. "What I think is extremely exciting is – what cognitive implications do these differences have? How do children who grow up with different representations for numbers learn counting?"

At some point, probably hundreds of thousands of years ago, our ancestors started to count and developed different counting systems, concludes Bender.

Not only can finger counting reveal where in the world you come from, it may also shed light on how we learned to understand the concept of number – as children and even as a species. Even though counting on your hands feels as easy as one-two-three, in reality it's not so simple.

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Bar and cafe with loyal year-round clientele, live music, and simple daily food concept. 70 m² premises with bar license until 03:00, fully equipped. Ideal neighbourhood bar with strong resident customer base. **Monthly rent: 635€**

Ref.: 3001

Price: 65,000€

Jetski Excursion for Sale



REDUCED

Established jetski excursion company in Marina del Sur. Including 5 Yamaha jetskis, all licenses, strong online booking system, and simple two-staff operations - a turnkey entry into Tenerife's thriving watersports market. **Monthly rent: 898€**

Ref.: 2945

Price: 120,000€

Busy Restaurant in El Camison



Well-established restaurant in a busy central area of Los Cristianos, known for its strong reputation and loyal international clientele, featuring a fully equipped open kitchen and a cozy terrace. **Monthly rent: 2,200€**

Ref.: 2967

Price: 99,000€

Fish & Chips Take Away



REDUCED

Long-established takeaway bar renowned for English fish & chips and fast food favourites, in San Eugenio. Steady trade, loyal clientele, seating for 13, and fully equipped for immediate takeover. **Monthly rent: 1,600€**

Ref.: 2930

Price: 59,000€

Adult Bar in Las Americas



Beautifully refurbished restaurant and cocktail bar in central El Médano, featuring an 80 m² interior, a 150 m² terrace, a fully equipped professional kitchen, and a restaurant license - turnkey and stylish business. **Monthly rent only: 1,700€**

Ref.: 2960

Price: 69,000€

Turnkey Diving Company



Diving company for sale with 18 years of successful operation, including a purpose-built aluminium diving boat, office, van, licences, and full equipment. A turnkey, reputable business with proven profitability. **Monthly rent: 1,100€**

Ref.: 2956

Price: 450,000€

Spanish Bar in Adeje Town



Long-established 110 m² local bar in the heart of Old Adeje with decades of loyal Spanish clientele, low overheads, drinks-only service, however the local has a simple kitchen. Perfect for a single person or couple. **Monthly rent: 1,500€**

Ref.: 2945

Price: 45,000€

Commercial in Las Americas



NEW

Excellent opportunity to rent a 104 m² commercial unit with a 25 m² private terrace in Las Americas, located in a busy central area surrounded by hotels, nightlife, and tourist activity. Needs refurbishment. **Monthly rent only: 1,200€**

Ref.: 2974

Price: 2,500€

Large Rental with Sea View



Large local of 300m². Located in Torviscas Bajo - offering partly sea and beach view. It used to be a restaurant but is currently closed and empty. Ready to reopen as a bar, restaurant, shop or office. **Monthly rent: 3,000€**

Ref.: 2970

Price: 3,500€

Pool Bar in Los Cristianos



Reduced

Pool bar with indoor and terrace seating for up to 40 guests, offering a relaxed setting for drinks and casual dining. Efficiently run by two people with a simple concept, open daily from late morning to evening. **Monthly rent: 1,102€**

Ref.: 2934

Price: 25,000€

PROPERTIES: www.tenerife-property.com

1-bedroom in Torviscas Bajo



Spacious, fully refurbished 51m² 1-bedroom apartment with modern bathroom, open-plan kitchen, stylish living area, and a terrace with sea views. Ideal for rental in a community with swimming pool and close to shops and restaurants.

Ref.: D1399

Price: 235,000€

Undeveloped urban land

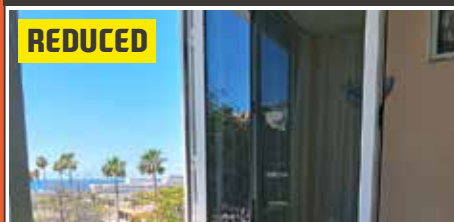


Undeveloped urban land at Barranco de las Torres, Adeje Golf with a total area of 8,560 m², ideal for a residential development of up to two stories or a hotel. A recent urban planning report on the plot is available.

Ref.: D1388

Price: 8,700,000€

1-Bedroom in Las Americas



REDUCED

1-bedroom apartment of 52 m² in Los Agaves, Playa de las Americas, located in a gated complex with communal pool and lift, offering sea views and excellent central location close to the beach and amenities.

Ref.: D1390

Price: 275,000€

1-bedrooms in Parque Albatros



Fully renovated 1-bedroom apartment with a spacious bathroom, open-plan kitchen, bedroom with built-in closet, and living room with access to a terrace with garden views. Sold furnished. Located in a rental complex with pools.

Ref.: D1396

Price: 270,000€

Modern 2-bedroom House



South-facing 1-bedroom apartment in Island Village Heights with a large living room, fully equipped kitchen, and a 30 m² terrace, with stunning views. Fully furnished and in good condition. The complex offers elevator, communal pool and gardens.

Ref.: D1380

Price: 320,000€

Plot of Land in Adeje



Productive 7,000 m² plot in San José de los Llanos with two independent houses set in complete natural tranquility. Main house: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms; second wooden house: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Moreover, fruit trees, wine cave, photovoltaic system, and sustainable irrigation.

Ref.: D1387

Price: 260,000€

Modern 2-bedroom House



Fully renovated, modern furnished, semi-detached house with a vacation rental license. 85m² interior with a large equipped kitchen, 2-bedroom and 2-bathroom. Moreover, a 55m² garden/terraces, garage space, and 6m² storage. In a quiet, secure complex with 2 community pools.

Ref.: D1395

Price: 430,000€

Large Finca in El Tanque



Productive 7,000 m² plot in San José de los Llanos with two independent houses set in complete natural tranquility. Main house: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms; second wooden house: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Moreover, fruit trees, wine cave, photovoltaic system, and sustainable irrigation.

Ref.: D1397

Price: 650,000€

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English, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, German, French, Danish

we are here too

