

May 2020 No 17-18

# ZINGER

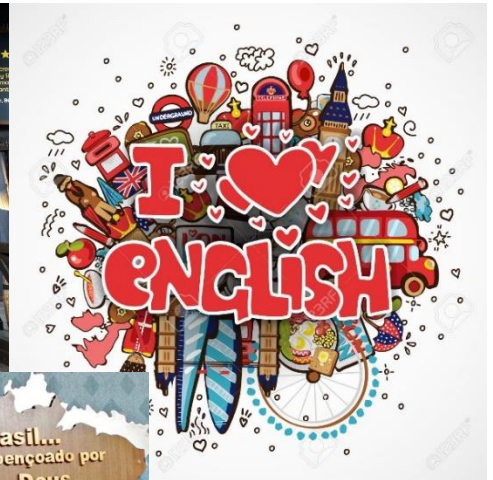


**The English school magazine**  
**Business Academy, Topolčany**

Although it gets me into trouble. I usually always speak my mind cause it hurts too much to bite my tongue.



*Facebook.com/ShutUp.Im.Still.Talking*



Interviews with "The Londoners and Catalans"

Full Coverage of Internships in London & Barcelona

Internship in London and Barcelona Photo Gallery

An Idiom for a Day: Verb-based Idioms

Students' writings

Stay Apart. Laugh Together



The Department of Foreign Languages News

Mother's Day Crossword

A long-term internship in Barcelona

Chris Mann: Hello (From the Inside)

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Dear readers,

To start with, let me say how happy we feel about the fact that we were able to put this double edition of our English school magazine together regardless from the tough times we have been through recently due to the Coronavirus crisis and the quarantine we have been facing for nearly three months now.

Next, I would like to express my great thanks to Lucia Cagalová, one of the student's editors-in-chief, for her hard work on the magazine over the years. As she has just successfully graduated, let me also wish her good luck in fulfilling her future plans, ambitions and dreams.

Anyway, this May's edition focuses on our last Erasmus+ mobility project "Internship in London and Barcelona", written by Mgr. Júlia Hubová Gálová and Mgr. Martin Huba. It was the biggest challenge for the project team so far, but we handled it very well and gave 24 students the opportunity to intern in various types of companies and institutions in London, the capital city of England and 10 more in Barcelona, the Catalan metropolis for a month. We also sent 4 fresh graduates (for the first time in the history of school's mobility projects) to do their long-term internship (4 months) in Barcelona, too. There will be a full coverage of the mobilities from both the teachers and students' point of view with plenty of awesome photographs in the articles plus the project photo gallery.

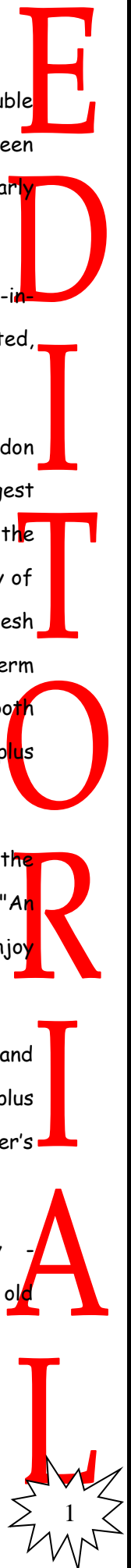
In addition, you will be able to read the Department of Foreign Languages news on the participation of our students in a few language competitions; check out our regular section "An Idiom for a Day" to practise or learn some verb-based idioms, or "Students' Writings" to enjoy many creative works by our students.

Finally, you really should not miss the sections aiming to help you deal with the hard times and have some fun, like Chris Mann's Hello (from the Inside), a parody of Adele's hit song; plus a hilarious collection of memes and jokes on the COVID 19 crisis or just try out the Mother's Day Crossword.

Do not hesitate to check out the website of Business Academy, Topolčany - [www.oato.edupage.org](http://www.oato.edupage.org) for an online full-colour version of this special edition as well as all the old editions of our magazine.

Enjoy reading!

Mgr. Martin Huba





# THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWS

## THE ENGLISH OLYMPICS

In December 2019, the school round of the English Olympics was held as usual under the patronage of the Department of Foreign Languages. The best three contestants in each category were awarded diplomas and small gifts. Here they are:

### Category 2A

1. Martin Janček II.C
2. Daniela Mišurová II.B
3. Laura Rebryová I.B

### Category 2B

1. Matej Antala IV.B
2. Francisc Husar III.A
3. Simona Segetová III.C



In January 2019 the winners of both categories competed in the the district round in Topoľčany where Martin Janček, II. C came 2nd and Matej Antala, IV. B came 2nd, too.

## JUVENES TRANSLATORES

In 2019 the students of 44 high schools and lycées from Nitra, Trnava and Trenčin regions took part in the JUVENES TRANSLATORES/YOUNG TRANSLATOR Contest organized by the Department of Translation Studies of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Constantine



the Philosopher, Nitra in cooperation with the Embassy of Ireland in Slovakia. The contest challenges the students to test the job of the translator and compare their language and translating skills to the others.

The jury received and judged 400 translations in 7 different categories: THE SUBTITLES from English into Slovak; TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT from English,



German, Russian, French and Spanish; and for the first time in the history of the contest also THE MACHINE TRANSLATION from English into Slovak.

Our school was represented by 9 contestants and 3 of them received the Special Award of the Jury: Patrícia Frfálová, IV. B (the Subtitles category); Emma Anna Vyletelková, III. A (the Translation of the Text category) and Simona Segetová, III.C (the Machine Translation).



The best translators met at the Awards Ceremony in the premises of the University of Constantine the Philosopher on 8 Nov 2019. The guest of honour - Hilda Ó Riain, the Ambassador of Ireland, who had supported the contest by choosing her favourite Irish short story to be translated, emphasized the importance of languages in everyone's life in her speech.

### **CAN YOU SPEAK BUSINESS ENGLISH?**



On 7 Nov 2019 three students of our school - Kristína Kopčeková, IV. A; Matej Antala, IV. B and Lucia Cagalová IV. C entered the competition named CAN YOU SPEAK BUSINESS ENGLISH? held annually at Business academy, Přerov, the Czech Republic.

The fifth year of the competition consisted again of two parts (written and oral) and was focused on Business English (Economy, Business Correspondence, Hotel Business and Enterprise).

There were 36 contestants from 14 secondary schools altogether who proved to have great language skills as well as business vocabulary. Our students did very well too – Lucia Cagalová came 7th a Matej Antala 9th. On top of that, Matej was also awarded The Best Reader and our school team came 2nd in the overall results.



#### **REFERENCES:**

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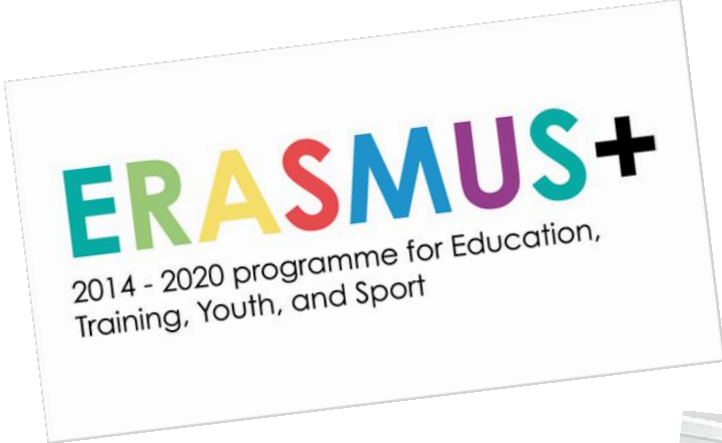
By Mgr. Katarína Quintas and Mhr. Martin Huba



# INTERNSHIP IN LONDON AND BARCELONA

In 2019 the students of Business academy, Topoľčany were given again the opportunity to do their internship abroad thanks to the financial grant of

Erasmus+, the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, aiming to boost skills and employability as well as modernising education, training and youth work while providing opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, gain work experience and volunteer abroad in the period of 2014-2020.



**ERASMUS+**  
2014 - 2020 programme for Education,  
Training, Youth, and Sport

The biggest number of students in the history of the school's mobility projects so far, 38 altogether, travelled away under the project named INTERNSHIP IN LONDON AND BARCELONA, written by Júlia Hubová Gálová and Martin Huba - both English teachers and project managers at the school, to these two European metropolises.



All the applicants for the internship underwent a long and tough selection process including writing general and business English tests, a discursive essay on a chosen topic and a job interview in order to assess their language

skills with an emphasis on fluency and vocabulary range. Their personality characteristics and school results in key subjects (Economics, Accounting, Firm Management, Information Technology and English) were taken into consideration when selecting the final number of them.







After that, very detailed personal profiles of the chosen 38 were created using the information from a set of questionnaires and interviews done by and with the students themselves and their teachers. They had to do an online Cambridge Placement test and attend intense language courses and lectures in three fields: Business English, Speaking and

Culture Clash provided by their English teachers. In addition to this, they also worked on various types of language tasks on the OLS (Online Linguistic Support) courses and did assessment tests provided by Erasmus+ programme.

We also decided to continue with exposing the students to a bit different English from the one they are normally used to hear, so we hired



Mr John Ryder, a native speaker from Birmingham, living and teaching English in Slovakia for the past 19 years, and Mrs Zita Bobulová Lauková, an experienced language teacher and language school owner, who both spent a week with the students doing a bunch of conversational activities, discussions, vocabulary booster tasks and language games with them. Besides the language practice,



they provided the students with useful tips and recommendations regarding both living and working in a foreign country.

„After a few successful mobilities which have been realized in London and Dublin since 2015“, says Júlia Hubová Gálová, „we decided to try out a new destination, which ended up having 24 students on a short-term (1 month) internship in the British capital together with







10 more students in Barcelona, Spain. Moreover, we sent 4 school's fresh graduates to the Spanish city as well on a long-term (4 months) internship.

From August to October the students interned at various types of companies and

institutions in London and Barcelona, such as real estate, marketing and accountancy agencies; language schools and colleges; hotels; community centers; online fashion store or art gallery.

Under the supervision of experienced mentors, the students were in charge of fulfilling work tasks in the field of business, administration and correspondence, they developed their professional competences and language skills. They were staying at multi-cultural host families where

they were provided with board and everyday home care. The work and family placements were realised with our long-term partner and intermediary organisation ADC College, London. In Barcelona we, for the same reason, cooperated with ESPAMOB.

During the internship the students got familiar with the business sector in both countries and compared it to the Slovak

one; they improved their communication and language skills in a foreign language environment; they got to know different cultures and way of life.

The project helped them not only in their professional, but also personal development. They were led to self-reliance, professionalism and teamwork; courtesy and respect in communication; tolerance to otherness, diversity and other cultures; fight against racism and xenophobia.





„The students were accompanied by supervising teachers in case of emergency throughout the whole stay“, continues Martin Huba, „who helped them with solving the problem situations and planning their free time. That way they could exploit their unique mobility experience of both

cosmopolitan cities to the full, either individually or with their teachers.“

„In London the students took tours of world-famous places of interest like The Tower, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, The Shakespeare’s Globe, Royal Albert Hall or Royal Observatory Greenwich. They tried out the popular attractions - Madame Tussauds, London Eye, Sea Life London Aquarium, London Bridge Experience, London Zoo; visited plenty of museums and galleries - National Gallery, Tate Modern, Natural History Museum, Science Museum,



V&A Museum, RAF Museum; enjoyed the views from The Shard and Sky Garden; tasted the cuisines from all over the world at Borough and Camden Market; went on a trip to Windsor where they toured Windsor Castle (the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world) and Legoland as well as to Warner Bros Studios (the site where Harry Potter series were filmed).“

„There was a lot to see and enjoy in Barcelona for sure – La Rambla, the famous 1180-metre-long street with the popular market called

Boqueria; narrow streets of Barri Gotic, a gothic district with a well-known Cathedral of Barcelona, Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar; or Antonio Gaudí’s (a famous architect) stamp on a still unfinished cathedral Sagrada Família, amazing buildings La Pedrera and Casa Batlló or Park Guell, which is his masterpiece. The students made a trip to the Tibidabo mountain, with a beautiful







view of the city, a historical amusement park and a church Temple de Sagrat Cor; took a ride on an 80-year-old cable car from the port to Montjuic, a green hill with the Olympic stadium from SOGs 1992, a castle Castell de Montjuic (a former political prison), botanical gardens or Font Màgica, a playing fountain; relaxed by the sea on a city beach Barceloneta, or enjoyed football at Camp Nou,

home arena of FC Barcelona.“

After their arrival, the participants were involved in a bunch of the project's dissemination activities including giving presentations on the mobility experience to the first 3 grades of the students of Business Academy; writing about the mobility and giving interviews for the school, local and Slovak-wide magazines and newspapers;



sharing the experience during the Business Academy's Open Day, on the Internet via social networks or posting the mobility video-clips on YouTube, etc.

In cooperation with the Town Council and Alexandra Gieciová, the Mayor of Topoľčany we also held the Erasmus+ Conference for the teachers and students of regional primary and secondary schools where we shared our experience with the mobility projects and encouraged all to take up writing, joining or taking part in them in the future.

„Because of the obvious benefits of the mobility projects“, adds Júlia Hubová Gálová, „the school has a

strong interest in carrying on with them. As a consequence of Brexit we were forced look for other destinations, so besides Dublin, Ireland where we would love to return, we are also aiming to send our students to Malta this year via the project named SHAPING OUR FUTURE. No matter how successful our application will be, we do want to give the students the chance to do their internship abroad thanks to Erasmus+ programme (or its successor after 2020) in the future.“

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By Mgr. Martin Huba



# INTERVIEW(S) WITH *THE LONDONERS*

*After the summary of the Erasmus+ project „Internship in London and Barcelona" you have just read, we want to give you the chance to see how the project's participants felt about it. We interviewed all of them and were interested in various aspects of their mobility experience. Enjoy the interviews, first with 24 "Londoners" interning in London and then with 10 „Catalans" interning in Barcelona (see page XX).*

LUCIA CAGALOVÁ, IV. C – Maple Estates

### ***What did you enjoy most about the stay in London?***

I had the best time at work. My colleagues were lovely and helped me to understand their business quickly and carry out the tasks I was given. I enjoyed working in a real estate industry.



### ***Would you like to come back to London for any particular reasons?***

Definitely. There are many places I have not seen yet. I would love to come back and have more time to check Notting Hill, for instance. Most of all it would be a great opportunity to reunite with the people I met there. I dare to say I became friends with the people from work.

### ***How do you think the mobility experience will help you in the future?***

Thanks to the Erasmus+ experience I realised my strengths and weaknesses, that is something I consider to be essential for any further development. I am more prepared for face various challenges in life and I am positive it will be a great reference for any university or employer as well.

MICHAL HLINKA, IV. C – Sona Tours Ltd

### ***Can you imagine living in London in the future? Explain why yes/no.***

Before I took the part in this mobility I had never thought or imagined that I could live in a big city like London one day. However, this experience definitely changed my mind and now I have more confidence in myself to be able to live in a big city like London in future.



### ***What did you enjoy most about the stay in London?***

I enjoyed sightseeing a lot because I could

explore the beauty of London. I also enjoyed talking in English language and I found solving problems in a foreign language challenging.

***How would you describe the Erasmus+ experience in 3 words?***

Experience, challenge, fun.

LUKÁŠ RYBANSKÝ, IV. B & TOMÁŠ ULIČNÝ, III.B – Let's Talk Property



Lukáš:

***Were you scared of going abroad? If yes, how did you cope with you fears?***

I was not scared because there is nothing to be afraid of. It is like being on vacation in a foreign country. Am I scared of vacation? No, so why would I be afraid of this? Yes, I was a bit stressed of flight but only because it was my first time on a plane.

***What did you enjoy most about the stay in London?***

I enjoyed exploring the city most, like for example visiting the museums, parks, historical buildings, etc. during my free time after work and weekends.

***Was there anything that you were particularly disappointed with?***

There is only one thing I was a bit disappointed with and it was the food, exactly the ready-to-cook food. Sometimes it did not taste very good. I was expecting a higher quality of that food because people in London, they mostly eat this food. But it is not a big deal.

Tomáš:

***Did you experience anything that you had not expected from your stay? How did you cope with that?***

I did not experience anything that I had not expected because I was prepared for any situation in my head; you know, if you are abroad, you have to be ready for these things, it is not like at home. You have to deal with that on your own and that can give you a great lesson for your future.

***Did this experience change your opinion of or attitude to anything?***

It changed my opinion on people. Almost every day I had small talk with random people in the tube. I thought they would not speak to a stranger, but here we are, they did.

***Was there anything you did not like or would like to change about the internship project?***

Nothing. I think it was well-managed as it was.



SIMONA MARKOVÁ, IV. C – Citydeal Estates



***What surprised you most about the Erasmus+ experience?***

During Erasmus+ mobility I was mostly surprised by the people's behavior. Everybody was so nice, sweet and very kind.

***How do you think the mobility experience will help you in the future?***

My mobility experience in London will help me with my future work placement. Thanks to this internship I know how to work in a team, how to solve problems, how to communicate in business sphere and many others great things.

***What is the best thing the mobility experience taught you?***

London internship showed me the basics of business life. The mobility experience taught me how to work with different cultures, with customers and how to think more economical.

MATEJ ANTALA, IV. B – Century 21 Putney

***What is the best thing the mobility experience taught you?***

This is really a hard question. I am not really sure how to answer it. The experience surely strengthened my faith in diverse communities. I was able to experience what I had experienced only online until my London internship – many people from across the globe living together in harmony. London is an amazing city, with a fascinating history, I am glad I had this chance. To summarize, and actually answer the question. I do not think I have any particular experience that could be pointed out as "the best". The whole weeks themselves are one huge experience.



***Would you like to come back to London for any particular reasons?***

I think I would like to come back to London for more reasons than one. First of all, I believe I did not manage to see even tenth of it. Therefore I would definitely like to return as a tourist. Secondly, I really liked the vibes of the city. I could imagine myself living there

***If you had a chance to undergo the internship as a Business academy graduate, would you do that?***

I would not. I think it does not have much sense to undergo the internship as graduate. It's way better to go either work for salary, or go study at university which offers possibility to undergo internships as a student.



MATÚŠ ŽELISKA, IV. B – Midas Property Club

***How would you describe the Erasmus+ experience in 3 words?***

Experience, responsibility, fun.

***Can you imagine living in London in the future? Explain why yes/no.***

I definitely can imagine living in London. The main reason why is because of how the city looks itself, then the people here and the possibility of work there.

***Were you scared of going abroad? If yes, how did you cope with your fears?***

I was not scared of going abroad. Why would I be scared? Travelling is part of my life so I was enjoying every moment of it.



RÓBERT HERDA, IV. C – English Studio Language School



***What did you expect from your work experience? Did it come true?***

Mainly, I expected practicing my English-speaking fluency, expanding my vocabulary and learning some new words or phrases. I was working in school for the duration of my mobility and that means I was able to do all the things which were mentioned earlier. At the end I feel very satisfied and happy. The work experience was a great upgrade for my skills in English language.

***How do you think the mobility experience will help you in the future?***

I gained useful experience so now I feel more confident in living, working or doing any kind of job abroad. I realised that I do not have any problem with working in a team, communicating with English native speakers, understanding them or cooperating with unknown people, so personally I would say that the mobility helped me with my fear of living in a foreign country.

***What are the biggest differences you felt between the UK and Slovakia?***

I would say that the biggest difference is in the attitude of people abroad. In England they try to help you more willingly, people seem less tense and much more open. They are used to talk with foreign people and because of that communication feels pleasant.

You can find a bigger variety of entertainment opportunities, shops and means of transport, which makes England or London precisely an interesting place. You have a much easier access to information and history. In London tourists can find interesting museums, historical buildings, cathedrals or churches. In Slovakia you would hardly find so many restaurants, theatres, cinemas, and shops with different products at one place. In my opinion this could mean a problem to people who like to travel fast, because the centre of London is always so busy that any kind of transport takes a bit too long.

LILIANA VANČOVÁ, III.C – Dolphin Hotel

***What was the most difficult thing or situation you had to deal with?***

The most difficult thing that I had to deal with was travelling. I was afraid that I could get lost somewhere. But the time went and travelling was the easiest thing of all. When my job started I had to deal with new colleagues and costumers as well. I was afraid of speaking to them, because I was pretty shy. After this internship I realized that my communication skills have improved a lot and I am really glad for that.



***If you had a chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you prefer to go to?***

I would prefer to go to Dublin, Ireland.

***Were your English skills good enough for you to communicate at work, home or anywhere else?***

The first week was hard for me but in next two weeks I realized that my communication at work was not that bad at all. I think it was good enough for my work. Also it was the same in communication with my host family and during my free time.

DANIELA MIŠUROVÁ, II.B – Redmond Community Center

***What was the best thing that happened to you/you did or experience in London?***



I can say that the whole internship was the "best thing". Like I mean I experienced a plenty of new things, met lots of people. It was a great opportunity to improve my competences, skills in general. After this month I feel more confident and open-minded.

***How did you find your travelling to work or around London in general?***

I found travelling less difficult than I thought it would be. As I see it, you can adapt to it easily.

***Was there anything you did not like or would like to change about the internship project?***

I would not change anything about the internship project. I had a great host family and I liked my work placement as well. So there is nothing I can complain about.

HENRIETA BALÁŽIKOVÁ, III.B – Central School of English

***What was the best thing that happened to you/you did or experience in London?***

The best thing that happened to me in London was that I had the opportunity to meet and work with really kind and amazing people.

***Did this experience change your opinion of or attitude to anything?***

Not really, I think.

***Was there anything you did not like or would like to change about the internship project?***

Nothing, actually I liked everything about this internship because it was pretty good experience.



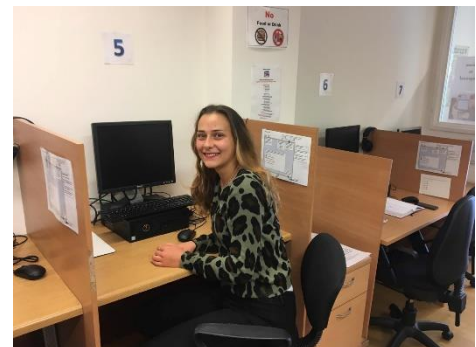
LAURA HAJNOVIČOVÁ, III.A – The Iranian Association

***What was the most difficult thing or situation you had to deal with?***

I guess there were not any difficult situations I had to deal with.

***How do you think you could use the knowledge, competences and skills you acquired during the internship in the future?***

I can use the language at college and at work. And I learnt how to deal with problems and solve them.



***If you had a chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you prefer to go to?***

I would like to go to Ireland if I had a chance next year.

SEBASTIÁN MIKULA, IV. B & FRANCISC HUSAR, III.A – College of Haringey

Sebastián:

***Would you like to come back to London for any particular reasons?***

Yes, I would love to go to London again. I absolutely fell in love with the city and its architecture.

***If you had a chance to undergo the internship as a Business academy graduate, would you do that?***





I probably would not go on a long-term internship but I would like to work and live in London.

***What surprised you the most about the Erasmus+ experience?***

I was most surprised about the food in London. For example, the breakfast in UK are much lighter than in Slovakia and I like to have a proper breakfast.

Francisc:

***Did this experience change your opinion of or attitude to anything?***



My opinion or attitude did not really change I was always open-minded and did not judge people by races, religion or anything like that. So in that matter no. Anything else neither.

***What was the most difficult thing or situation you had to deal with?***

The most difficult situation I had to deal with was when my mobile battery died and I was kinda lost in underground because it was only my first week so I was nervous at that time the most I think. Fortunately, I was able to get home alright.

***Was there anything you did not like or would like to change about the internship project?***

About the internship I do not think that there is any need to make really dramatic changes. I really did not mind anything at all and I was quite pleased with this experience.

MÁRIA WENDERLOVÁ, III.B & KRISTÍNA BALÁŽOVÁ, III.B – Fingertips and Beauty

Mária:

***How did you find your travelling to work or around London in general?***

Well, at first I was scared because I had never travelled somewhere alone before. But later I got used to it. Although the fact was that I did not have to travel on my own there. I travelled to work and around London as well with my roommates.

***If you had a chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you prefer to go to?***

I would go anywhere as I love travelling and exploring new things, but I guess I would prefer to go to Dublin.

***Did this experience change your opinion of or attitude to anything?***

Yes, it does. I look a bit differently at living and working abroad. It also gave me a chance to see different lifestyle and I liked it and maybe it was



the right thing I needed to start living my life better.

Kristína:

***How did you find your travelling to work or around London in general?***

I enjoyed travelling a lot because it was not as difficult as in Slovakia. If you missed the underground train another one came in less than 10 minutes. The same with the buses and trains.

***What was the best thing that happened to you/you did or experience in London?***

The best experience for me was that people around me were kind and nice. Everyone was there to help you when you were lost – it was amazing.

***Were your English skills good enough for you to communicate at work, home or anywhere else?***

It seems they were. I think I improved my vocabulary a little bit and also became a bit more confident in communicating with people.

KARIN BEŇOVÁ, III.B – LOVE VELO



***Did you experience anything that you had not expected from your stay? How did you cope with that?***

I think I did not. Everything or most of things were just as I have expected.

***If you had a chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you prefer to go to?***

I would go to London if I had the chance again. I love that city, the people and the atmosphere of the city itself. Maybe I would think of Barcelona but probably I will go to London again.

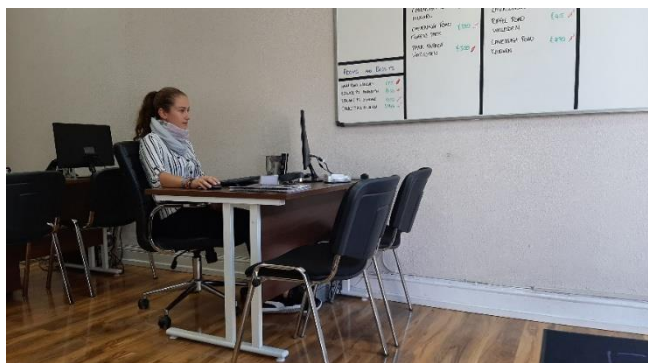
***Did this experience change your opinion of or attitude to anything?***

I learnt that no problem is that big that it cannot be solved peacefully and without shouting or things like that. British people are so nice and no problem is too bad for them. In Slovakia, people would shout at you or be angry with you, but in England they would not.

CARMEN GRMANOVÁ, III.B – North West Properties

***What was the most difficult thing or situation you had to deal with?***

When I had to talk to costumers for the first time. It was very stressful for me. But later I managed it.



**Were your English skills good enough for you to communicate at work, home or anywhere else?**

Yes, they were. But sometimes I was in situations, when I talked to people and I did not know what they were saying.

**How do you think you could use the knowledge, competences and skills you acquired during the internship in the future?**

Probably at university, maybe in my future job, I think. Actually, it does not matter how or where, but I know I will use the fact I improved my communication and language skills a lot.

DAVID RIEČICA, IV.C – CENTURY 21 Walthamstow



**Was there anything that you were particularly disappointed with?**

No, everything was nice and I enjoyed it a lot.

**What are the biggest differences you felt between the UK and Slovakia?**

The biggest difference I felt was probably in kindness of people, multiculturalism and lifestyle.

**What did you expect from your work experience? Did it come true?**

I expected improvement in office work, administration, language. I was looking forward to gaining some experience and work habits as well.

NINA HROTEKOVÁ, III.B – TJ Spring (Abbey Spring)



**How do you think you could use the knowledge, competences and skills you acquired during the internship in the future?**

I think I can use it in real life, like every day English and many things I can use in school.

**What was the most difficult thing or situation you had to deal with?**

At my workplace there was the most difficult thing to communicate with costumers but I found it great and challenging.

**If you had a chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you prefer to go to?**

London was amazing but next year I would prefer Spain.



MICHAELA KRAJČOVÁ, III.C – As Accountancy



***How did you find your travelling to work or around London in general?***

No problem, I found everything on the Google Maps.

***How do you think you could use the knowledge, competences and skills you acquired during the internship in the future?***

I think I could use it maybe in my employment if I will work abroad.

***What was the best thing that happened to you/you did or experience in London?***

I would say that the best thing was that I had opportunity to participate to project like this and I could try how it going in the normal employment and besides that I could saw a culture of London and lot of monuments.

RICHARD LUKAČOVIČ, III.A – Active Care

***Did you experience anything that you had not expected from your stay? How did you cope with that?***

No, everything was as I expected and wanted it to be.

***What was the most difficult thing or situation you had to deal with?***

I cannot really say that something was difficult or hard. I needed some time to get to know the city and then everything was alright. Yes and sometimes when I met really weird people around that was like "What?" but I nodded and went away.



***If you had chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you prefer to go to?***

I love all big cities around the world, so I would appreciate the USA, some big cities like NYC or Los Angeles, something like that, but I know it is impossible through Erasmus+, so any European city would be fine.

MARIÁN MOKOŠ, III.A – Elizabeth House Community Centre



***How do you think you could use the knowledge, competences and skills you acquired during the internship in the future?***

I think the knowledge and skills that I acquired during my work experience in London I can use maybe in my next work experience but also it can help me in my job in the future.

***If you had a chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you***

***prefer to go to?***

I would prefer maybe Scotland or Ireland or maybe somewhere in Spain but as it is not an English-speaking country I would rather go to one of the first two.

***Was there anything you did not like or would like to change about the internship project?***

No, I literally liked everything about this project.

ALEXANDRA NOVÁČIKOVÁ, III.B – Beauty Professional

***Were your English skills good enough for you to communicate at work, home or anywhere else?***

I think yes, but I had a little problem because I did not know much Business English, but in every other way my English was good enough.

***How did you find your travelling to work or around London in general?***

At the beginning I travelled with Google Maps but after a few days I managed to travel by underground just by using maps that were there. In fact, it was very easy.

***Did this experience change your opinion of or attitude to anything?***

It changed my opinion about my future, mostly about living abroad because now I think about it very often.



# AN IDIOM FOR A DAY

In this section of our magazine we regularly provide you with a bunch of idiomatic expressions and phrases referring to one topic. This time we have decided to broaden your vocabulary with the idioms relating formally – the idioms which consist of a verb + (adjective/preposition) + noun or in other words: verb-based idioms. After a little theory to begin with, you will find two exercises to check your comprehension. The KEY is on page 44.

## VERB-BASED IDIOMS

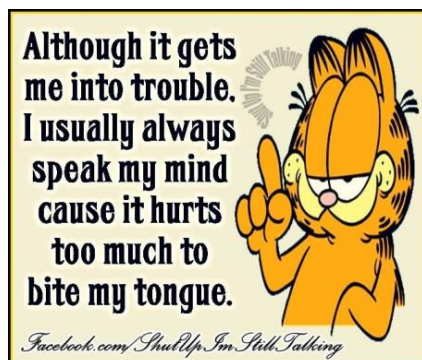
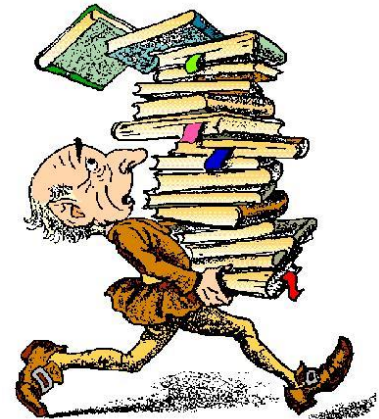
If you **miss the point**, you do not understand the main idea of what s.o. is saying. (neporozumieť/keď uniká pointa)

If you **cover for s.o.**, you help them out by taking s.o.'s place and assuming their responsibilities. (zastúpiť niekoho)

If you **keep a straight face**, you do not laugh or smile even though you find sth funny. (mať kamennú tvár)

If you **speak your mind**, you say exactly what you think in a very direct way. (povedať, čo si myslieť)

If you **hit the books**, you study hard or prepare for class. (šprtať/bifľovať sa/drtiť sa)



If you **bury the hatchet**, you stop quarreling and become friendly with s.o. (zakopať vojnovú sekeru/zmieriť sa)

If you have **caught the sun**, your face has become red or brown from being in the sun. (spáliť sa/zhorieť)

If you **pick s.o.'s brain(s)**, you ask them questions to find out more about sth. (ťaháť rozumy z niekoho)

If you **drive a hard bargain**, you negotiate forcefully. (byť neoblomný/nekompromisný/tvrdý pri jednaní)

If someone **eats their words**, he or she has to admit they were not right about sth they said earlier. (uznať svoj omyl/vziať svoje slová späť)

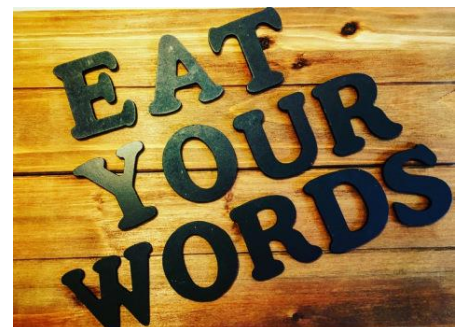
If you **shake/shiver like a leaf**, you tremble violently because you are afraid, nervous or very cold. (triasť sa ako osika)

If you **get in deep water**, you are in trouble. (dostať sa/byť v kaši)

If you **play second fiddle**, you are in a subordinate or weaker position than s.o. else. (hrať druhé husle)

If you **spill the beans**, you reveal a secret. (prezradiť tajomstvo)

If you **lick s.o.'s boots/shoes**, you act in a servile or obsequious way toward someone, especially to gain favor from them. (podlizovať sa/pchať sa do zadku)

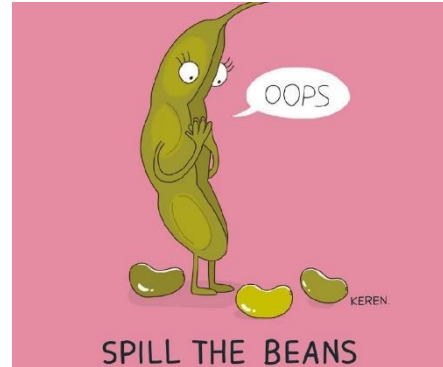




If you **grease s.o.'s palm**, you bribe them secretly. (podmazat/podmastit/podplatit niekoho)

Choose the correct option carefully.

1. You might **get into deep water** / **shake like a leaf** hanging out with the Taylors every night.
2. I did enjoy making John **covering for me** / **eating his words** and saying sorry to me.
3. Stop **picking your boss's brains** / **licking your boss's boots** all the time – it won't help you to get promoted anyway!
4. Mike **couldn't keep a straight face** / **catch the sun** when he saw Tom trip over the rake lying on the ground.
5. You **buried the hatchet** / **missed the point** saying I was against Mr Smith's expansion plan. I just didn't like its last stage.
6. You surely need to **spill the beans** / **hit the books** quite regularly to pass this law course.



**drive a hard bargain.**

7. I don't believe you always have to **grease one's palm** / **eat your words** to get something arranged in this country. It just can't be that bad.

8. Hannah **was playing second fiddle** / **shaking like a leaf** while waiting backstage for her first live public performance.

9. We'd better be very careful when selling the company to them. I've heard they do **get in deep water** /

10. Although I'm normally quite reserved, I **speak my mind** / **keep a straight face** when I feel somebody's lying to me.
11. Will you please **cover for me** / **lick my boots** at the reception while I have a word with the manager? Yes, of course.
12. Could I **grease your palm** / **pick your brain** about these equations? I have no idea how to solve them.
13. After not speaking with each other for years, my two older brothers finally **drove a hard bargain** / **buried the hatchet** last Christmas.
14. She'll never trust you anymore if you **spill the beans** / **miss the point** about that night.
15. I understand why Jack left the firm. He didn't want to **play second fiddle** / **hit the books** after he hadn't become a partner.
16. Your back doesn't look very well at all. You must have **spoken your mind** / **caught the sun** falling asleep on the beach in the middle of the day.

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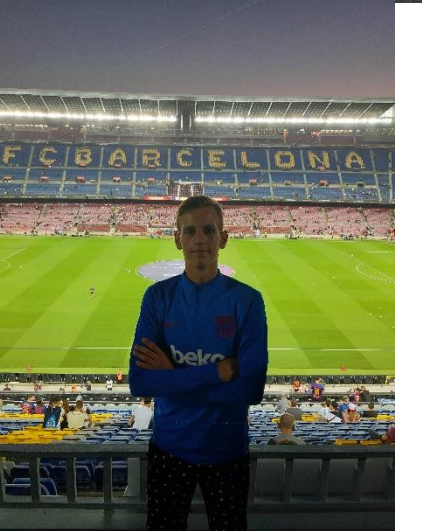
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By Mgr. Martin Huba



# INTERNSHIP IN LONDON AND BARCELONA





# ERASMUS+ KA1 PROJECT 2019 PHOTO GALLERY





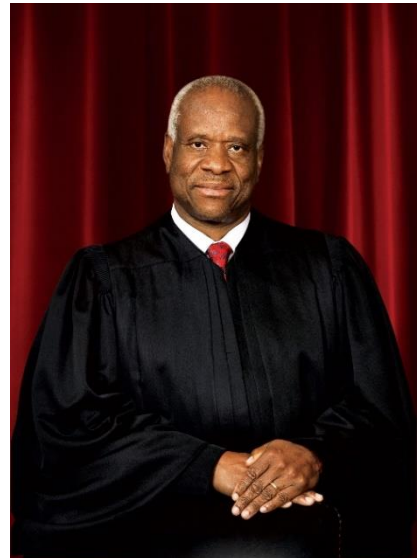
# STUDENTS' WRITINGS Part 1

*In every edition of our magazine we try to pick up the most interesting written works of the students of our school in the past year and share them with you. Although we are sort of short of space owing to the extensive coverage of the Erasmus+ project, here are the first four of them - two biographies, an article and a story. You will find some more in STUDENTS' WRITINGS Part 2 on page 32, so do not hesitate to check them out as well.*

## CLARENCE THOMAS

Clarence Thomas was born on June 23, 1948, in Pin Point, Georgia. He serves as the associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, the second African American justice to ever serve on this court.

Before he became a justice, Thomas had pursued other ambitions. His grandfather encouraged him to pursue a religious life. During high school, Thomas transferred to St. John Vianney Minor Seminary. He wanted to become a Catholic priest. He graduated in 1967 and then continued his studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Missouri. After the assassination of MLK in 1968, Thomas left the seminary after he had heard a student making fun of MLK's death. Thomas went to Holy Cross College, in Massachusetts, where he studied English. He became active in many social causes there, including protesting the Vietnam War and campaigning for civil rights.



After college, Thomas went to Yale where his views became more conservative and then returned to the South to work as an assistant to Missouri's Attorney General.

After several years as a lawyer for the agricultural giant Monsanto, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he eventually received several appointments from President Ronald Reagan. Another president, George H.W. Bush, gave Thomas his first and only judgeship, nominating him to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In 1991, President Bush nominated Thomas to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to serve on the court. Critics attacked Thomas for his rigidly conservative views. Some also thought that he had too little experience as a judge. One of the most infamous moments in Thomas's career, which almost cost him his post, was when one of his former aides, Anita Hill, came forward and testified that he had sexually harassed her during the time the two worked together. Thomas patently denied the allegations. The committee decided that there was not enough evidence to prove her claims. Thomas was approved by the Senate by a very small margin, a 52-48 vote.

Since his appointment in 1991, Thomas has often sided with his fellow conservatives on the court, especially Justice Antonin Scalia. He has opposed decisions in favor of affirmative action, such as the 2003 ruling that continued the program at the University of Michigan's law school. Thomas, based on his opinions and speeches, also clearly supports the idea of a limited federal government. True to his conservative leanings, Thomas dissented in the Supreme Court's decision in 2015 to legalize gay marriage.

Thomas is married to Virginia Lamp. The couple adopted his grandnephew Mark in 1997. Thomas also has a son, Jamal, from his first marriage to Kathy Ambush.

I decided to write about Thomas because he is probably my favorite justice on the Supreme Court. I like him due to his views on the role of the State in free society. I am a libertarian so I do not like the government, so there, we are on the same page. But I disagree with him on one issue and that is gay marriage. I think the State should not be involved in people's personal lives at all, so I want people to have the right to marry whoever they want to. Overall, I think he is a great justice and a good man.

*By Martin Janček, II.C*

### **EATING HABITS IN SLOVAKIA**

Eating habits depend on people – their origin, wealth, lifestyle, work or feelings.

In Slovakia a typical day starts with home-made breakfast. Typical breakfast consists of a slice of bread with butter, ham, cheese or jam, sausages or eggs with fruit juice, cocoa, hot tea, milk or coffee.



Between breakfast and lunch we usually have a snack called “desiata“. It is a small portion of food usually eaten at school or at work. Students usually bring their snacks from home or they buy it in the school buffet. As a snack people usually have a sandwich with ham or cheese, vegetables, fruit, chocolate or some sweets.

At midday we have lunch, the main meal of the day. Some people have their lunch at work, at school, at restaurant or they wait and eat their lunch when they come home. It is often a two-course meal which consists of soup, main course and occasionally some dessert. There are many variations of soups, but the main course is meat, for example, roast pork or beef, Vienna steak, with side dish rice, potatoes with some vegetable salad or stewed fruit.

Later we have a snack again, this one is called „olovrant“. It is usually some fruit or some type of candy bar.

In the evening, we eat dinner. It is not very nutritious in Slovakia. It may be a cold meal, some people prefer a hot meal or they have the same dish as at midday or

they order food from the restaurant. Some people just have a snack like ham rolls, a cake with milk or tea.

Each country has its traditional meals. Our national dish is “bryndzové halušky“, small potato dumplings mixed with sheep cheese, served with roasted bacon and milk. Then we have „pirohy“, dumplings filled with cheese or with a fruit jam. We also have traditional soup „kapustnica“, soup made from sauerkraut and sausage. I personally do not like those dishes, except „pirohy“, I love those. In general, Slovak food is considered to be less healthy, we eat a lot of floury, sweet and fatty meals, such as dumplings, pastry, fat pork and bacon.

Nowadays especially young people are bringing new trends in food to Slovakia. Many of them traveled abroad, found something interesting there and brought it to Slovakia. The main trend is, that we are no longer conservative about food, we try new things and, above all, we have opened our kitchens to the world.

*By Sophia Vaščáková, IV. C*

### **ARIANA GRANDE**

I have decided to write a biography of Ariana Grande because I admire her a lot. Her songs mean a lot to me and she inspires me to be strong because she has been through a lot and she still keeps going.



Ariana Grande-Butera is an American singer, songwriter and actress. She was born on July 26, 1993 in Boca Roton. Her parents' names are Edward Butera and Joan Grande and she also has a half-brother named Frankie Grande.

When she was 9, her parents divorced and she moved to New York city with her mother. She's lived here ever since. She attended North Broward Preparatory School and she played in the children's theater. When she was 15, she got her first role on Broadway in a musical called „13“. In 2009, she got the cast for the role of Cat Valentine in Nickelodeon's TV show „Victorious“. Later, she left school, but her teachers were sending her materials, so she could study with tutors.

Ariana released her debut album in 2013. It is called „Yours truly“ and it debuted at number one in the Billboard hot 200 chart. So far, she's had 5 studio albums and 4 headline tours. She won a Grammy for the best pop vocal album with her album „Sweetener“ in 2018. She has also won 3 MTV Music Video awards and was nominated for 12. A few months ago she revealed that she co-produced the soundtrack for the movie Charlie's angels.

I started listening to her music around the year 2017 because her songs were catchy and meaningful at the same time. Her vocal range is incredible and I like her fashion sense as well. She's a huge role model and inspiration of mine.

*By Barbora Fialová, II. C*



## A TERRIBLE DAY

When I came home yesterday, I realized I had had a really terrible day. It was a rainy day. My parents went to attend the wedding of one of my relatives in the near village. I did not accompany them because I wanted to read and prepare my homework at home. However, I was instructed to attend the feast at 2 o'clock. Mother had not cooked anything because I was supposed to join the feast. I got the keys from the house and I was told to lock the house properly while leaving.

At around 9 o'clock in the morning my uncle came. He was a very old man. He had come to our house on foot, so he was tired. It was my duty to offer some coffee or tea to my uncle. I went to the kitchen and searched for the coffee bin, but I could not find it. I tried to prepare a cup of tea for him instead, but there was no sugar for some reason. I became nervous. I went to our pantry to get some new sugar. Then, unconsciously, from all those nerves I grabbed salt and added it to the empty sugar bowl. When I offered it to my uncle, he gladly accepted it. Just after the first sip, he made a disgusted face expression. I realized my mistake well when he asked for the sugar again. This time I brought a bag of sugar, but when I approached the table I accidentally tripped over the table leg and it spilled it onto the table. I quickly swept some of the sugar into his cup and finally gave it to him.



After the tea, my uncle decided to watch some documentaries on TV. Maybe he thought that my parents would come back soon. The previous night I had watched movies till midnight, so I accidentally fell asleep while I was just chilling in bed, waiting.

Finally, I woke up at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. My uncle had gone home obviously. I quickly started preparation to attend the feast, although it was late. In a hurry, I locked only the lower lock and forgot to lock the upper security lock.

When I came to the bus stop, I found out that the bus had already left, probably just a few dozens of seconds before. The only option left was a bicycle. I had never driven a bike outside of the town, and it was not worth the risk. Although I was hungry, I decided to stay at home. My parents came back at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. They looked worried, probably about my inability to attend the feast. After they had heard about everything, they pitied me for my bad day.

*By Ján Gajdoš, II.A*

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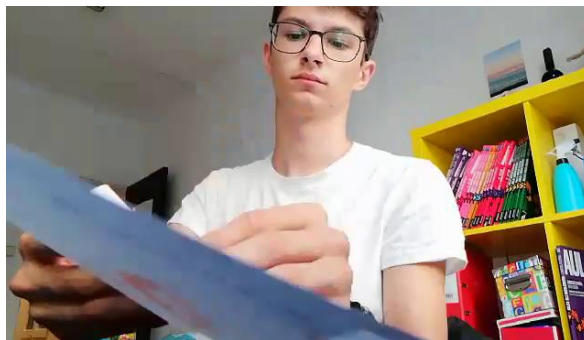
# INTERVIEW(S) WITH *THE CATALANS*

*As promised, here start the interviews with all the students interning in the heart of Catalonia: Barcelona. Enjoy their views of the mobility experience.*

MAREK JANČEK, IV. C – Bcn Sunlight

***Would you like to come back to Barcelona for any particular reasons?***

I definitely would love to, me and my friend have actually already talked about a short trip to Barcelona. The main reason would be the amazing atmosphere of the city. Whether it would be the beauty of the city centre with historical building or the beach. This would be my main reason to go back, even though there are more, such as the food or the friendly and welcoming people.



***What is the best thing the mobility experience taught you?***

The best thing about these experiences in other countries is being able to spend time with people of other nationalities. To learn about and understand their culture. In terms of learning, the biggest improvement happened in my communication skills.

***What did you enjoy most about the stay in Barcelona?***

The most enjoyable thing about my stay was probably the food and the beach. We would regularly take the amazing food that Barcelona offers with us to the beach, where we would sunbath and enjoy the sea.

SÁRA JENDRÁLOVÁ, III.A – Galeria Barcelona Maxi S.L

***What was the best thing that happened to you/you did or experience in Barcelona?***

I think that the best thing that happened to me was my job. I wanted to work in a place connected with art and so did I. I worked in an art gallery and I think I could not get a better job.



***What was the most difficult thing or situation you had to deal with?***

The most difficult thing was our housekeeper. Sometimes she was not nice to us, did not do her responsibilities and the most difficult situation was that once when we were having dinner, she was talking to us in Spanish and refused to talk in English and pretended that she doesn't understand.

***Was there anything you did not like or would like to change about the internship project?***

I would not change anything. It was a challenge for me and I am glad that I participated on this project. I gave self-esteem, independence and I improved my English and Spanish skills.

VLADIMÍR ĎURINA, IV. A – Hotel SERHS Rivoli Rambla

***What did you expect from your work experience? Did it come true?***

I expected everything related with hotel, which means check in, check out, some administrative stuff and so on. And that is what I was doing. So it come true.



***How do you think the mobility experience will help you in the future?***

I am more communicative. This is such a huge plus I gained in Barcelona. Now I am not that shy to talk to strangers in english. I am sure this will help me in the future. Then I had a chance to see what it is like in foreign country.

***Was there anything that you were particularly disappointed with?***

No, there is nothing.

TOMÁŠ BOŽIK, III.C – Hotel Aranea



***How do you think you could use the knowledge, competences and skills you acquired during the internship in the future?***

I think that I can use it on another internship, in the school or job.

***Did this experience change your opinion of or attitude to anything?***

I don't think so.

***If you had a chance to do the internship next year, which city (country) would you prefer to go to?***

I would probably go to Malta. It's a beautiful place.

ANDREAS PECHÁČ, IV. B – World Class Barcelona

***If you had a chance to undergo the internship as a Business academy graduate, would you do that?***

Definitely. The internship gave me so much experience that I would gladly participate in it again.

***Was there anything that you were particularly disappointed with?***

I was disappointed with the family and the agency that took care of us, Espamob. In family there were no conversations whatsoever because we were not living with our host that we were supposed to, but with her mom that did not know a word in





English. The food was often inedible and she was always late with the laundry. The agency blamed everything on cultural differences.

***Can you imagine living in Barcelona in the future? Explain why yes/no.***

No, I can't. Barcelona is a beautiful city, do not get me wrong, but the attitude that people have towards everything and the heat is not for me. Nothing is done on time.

DENISA LAKATOVÁ, III.B – Brasil y Belleza



***Were your English skills good enough for you to communicate at work, home or anywhere else?***

Yes, of course. Sometimes I did not know a word. Whenever I did not understand, they tried to explain it to me.

***Did you experience anything that you had not expected from your stay? How did you cope with that?***

I lived with a lady. At the beginning it was difficult to adapt to new environments, especially in the family. I often did not understand much with my family. Until it ended, she refused to speak to me in English even though she knew I could not speak Spanish. After that, I apologized to her for my behavior and eventually we began to understand each other.

***How did you find your travelling to work or around Barcelona in general?***

I made a travel plan to get to work and home. I also downloaded a map of the metro which I used to transport the most to my mobile. I often used Google maps where I found the monument on the map and the quickest way to it.

SIMONA LACIKOVÁ, IV. A & ADAM BELOHOREC, IV. B – Hotel Front Maritim

Simona:

***Would you like to come back to Barcelona for any particular reasons?***

I don't think so. There are many other countries to visit. But I would recommend exploring Barcelona to all students who want to experience working abroad.

***What is the best thing the mobility experience taught you?***

To be confident speaking in English not only around friends but more important - at a workplace.

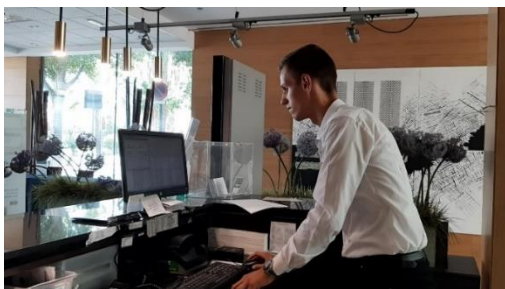


***How would you describe the Erasmus+ experience in 3 words?***

Take the opportunity

Adam:

***Would you like to come back to Barcelona for any particular reasons?***



I would like to go back to Barcelona with my family. I would show them the city, the sea, historical monuments and much more. I will definitely visit the hotel where I worked and meet my friends there. I also plan to visit Barcelona with my classmates.

***What is the best thing the mobility experience taught you?***

Mobility mainly taught me independence, because I had to be able to transport myself around the city and also solve problems at work. I made new friends and seen many historical monuments in Barcelona. Of course, I improved my English.

***How do you think the mobility experience will help you in the future?***

I have „Europass“, it will help me to find a job in Slovakia or abroad. I can better use a foreign language. I learned skills and competences and learned to work in a team. It will help me not only at work but also in the person's life.

ERIK BURZA, IV. A & RADOVAN GABAJ, IV. B – Hotel Autohogar

Erik:

***What did you enjoy most about the stay in Barcelona?***

The whole city. It was super awesome. I enjoyed even the road to the work. The beach was great as well. We spent a lot of hours there.



***If you had a chance to undergo the internship as a Business academy graduate, would you do that?***

I've been thinking about it a lot, to be honest, but I would not probably do that. Why? Because if the stay was just 2 months I would be interested, but 4 months seems so long.

***What are the biggest differences you felt between the Spain and Slovakia?***

I didn't feel pretty much any cultural difference. The people there were more like they didn't care much but still they were highly responsible for everything they did.

Radovan:



***Were you scared of going abroad? If yes, how did you cope with your fears?***

Absolutely not. I love travelling, getting to know foreign cultures, people, etc. and considering I have been to Dublin in 2018 for my first Erasmus+ experience, I knew roughly what to expect.

***What surprised you most about the Erasmus+ experience?***

The first thing would be work attitude of Spanish people.

It is so different in comparison to my country. The people there are more chilled and don't stress as much as we do here. The second thing would be my working hours. I was surprised when they told me that I'd be working just for 5 hours.

***How would you describe the Erasmus+ experience in 3 words?***

Great life experience.

# STUDENTS' WRITINGS PART 2

*Enjoy reading some more interesting works written by our students throughout the school year – we have a story, a biography and two informal letters here.*

## ONE HELL OF A DAY

When I came home yesterday, I realized I had had a really terrible day.



It all started when I woke up in the morning really late. I realized that I had not set my alarm the day before. I had to rush to get to school on time. It started raining on my way there. Of course, I had not brought an umbrella with me, so I got all wet.

I got to school late and my teacher got really mad at me. She gave me detention, so I had to stay at school for one more hour. Then we took a test in our Chemistry class. I had not studied at all, so I failed the test. I could not understand anything that the teacher was saying in our Math class and I even forgot to take notes. During our lunch break, I overheard some girls

making fun of my outfit, which made me really sad. On top of that, I'd forgotten to bring lunch, so I was hungry the whole day.

When I finally got home from school, I had an argument with my mum. She got mad at me for getting a bad grade and she grounded me, which meant that I could not go out with my friend like I had planned and I had to stay at home for the rest of the day in a really bad mood.

*By Barbora Fialová, II.C*

Dear Trevor,

It's been a long time since we were in touch. I was really pleased when you reached me. So, you want to know something about our food in Slovakia. As far as I can say, you were a really big fanboy of Italian cuisine, so I'm quite surprised that you want to try something different.

Where should I start? First of all, I'm going to tell you that probably everyone in this country is obsessed with some kind of food. Everyone here has some favourites. When I look at myself, I wouldn't have survived my childhood and teenage years without bread rolls or if you want "rožky". I've never seen them in countries like the USA and other western countries. For me they're like the whole meaning of life. Maybe I am overacting, but it doesn't matter. However, I realize, they're really far from a real dish. I can bet that you





didn't write me just because you wanted to know that we have bread rolls.

If you want to try a real Slovak dish, you should have potato dumplings with sheep cheese and bacon. It is our traditional dish. Our people really love it and when they have the opportunity they do not hesitate. Nevertheless, I don't like it much. The problem is that I hate sheep cheese. Potato dumplings themselves are not the problem even though I prefer the ones without potatoes in it but only with flour. I know it's kinda plain, but my taste is really special.

I've also found a really good website where you can find the top list of our dishes <https://theculturetrip.com>. You can just log on this site, type "10 Traditional Slovak Dishes You Must Try" and you can enjoy all the meals.

Your last question was about when we eat – well, most of the people just wait for lunch, I think. It's like the best time to have something to eat. You can take a break from your work or study and just relax. But evenings at restaurants are not so bad either. From my point of view, it doesn't matter when or where you eat, the main thing is that you eat.

I hope this letter will teach you something about our dishes and I'm looking forward to seeing you try out some of them soon.

Your close friend,

Ondrej

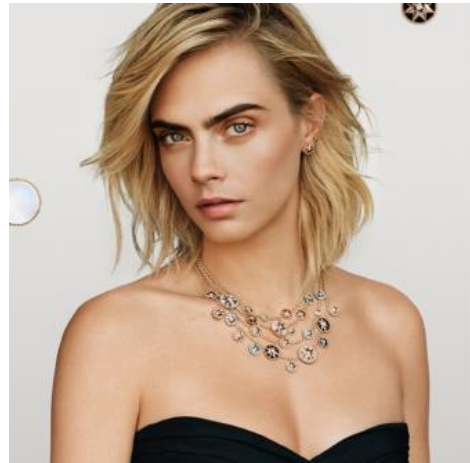
*By Ondrej Krížan, IV.C*

### **CARA DELEVINGNE**

I have chosen an English model Cara Delevingne because she is my idol and I like her style a lot.

Cara Delevingne is an English model, actress and singer. She was born on August 12, 1992 in London. She has two older sisters Poppy and Chloe and she also has a half-brother, Alfie Jaffe.

Cara attended Francis Holland School for girls in London. When she was 16, she moved to Bedales school in Steep in Hampshire. In Hampshire she focused on drama and music. After a year, she followed the career path of her sister Poppy into modeling.



Cara has had her first modeling job when she was 10 in an editorial shot for Vogue Italia. In 2009 she got signed to Storm Management. She was in industry for a year and then she went through two seasons of castings before her first runaway show. Her first catwalk was in 2011 at the Fashion week in London for Burberry. Through the Fashion month she walked in more than twenty shows.

In 2012, she for the first time co-starred in film Anna Karenina. In 2015, she acted in film Paper Towns by John Green's novel. In 2017, she recorded the title song for

the film Valerian and the City of the Thousand Planets, which she also acted in. Cara got the cast in many films and series too. For example, this year she has co-starred in Amazon series Carnival row.

Cara is openly bisexual and she is in a relationship with Ashley Benson. She has many tattoos. I admire her because she is an animal lover and eco activist.

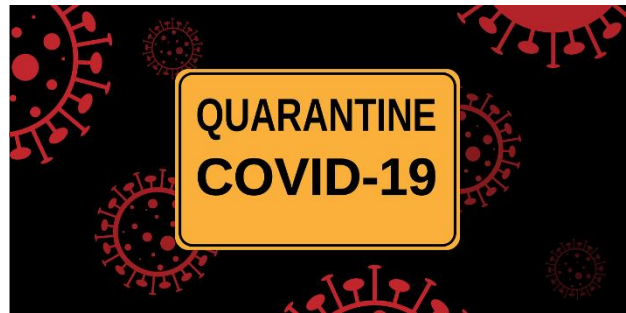
*By Paulína Kvaková, II.C*

Dear Jane,

I'm sorry I haven't written to you for so long. How are you? I hope that you and your family are okay.

I'm home now. Our school was closed two weeks ago because of coronavirus. Of course, it isn't like holidays because we have to study at home and it's a lot more work than in school. These two weeks I spend most of my time doing things to school. I sit at the computer a lot so my back hurts a little bit. If I have some free time, I draw or play the keyboards.

I also really want to help my mum more with the household and I'm sorry I haven't got more time for it. She and my dad can't work at home, so they work normally. My mum sews sofa covers and these days face masks too. It's hard work and now, when they wear face masks it's even harder, so she comes home very tired.



I'm very sorry that we can't visit my grandparents. Sometimes we go there when mum needs to give them something, but we don't go very close to them.

It's a very strange situation, isn't it? Suddenly the whole world is different and nobody knows when it will be normal again. People are scared. It's a strange feeling just to go to the shop.

I miss my family, my friends, classmates. I communicate with them, we call each other, but it isn't the same. I just want this whole situation to be over very soon.

And what about you? What does your life look like these days? I hope that everything will be fine and we'll see each other soon.

Take care,

Katka

*By Katarína Kočicová, III.A*

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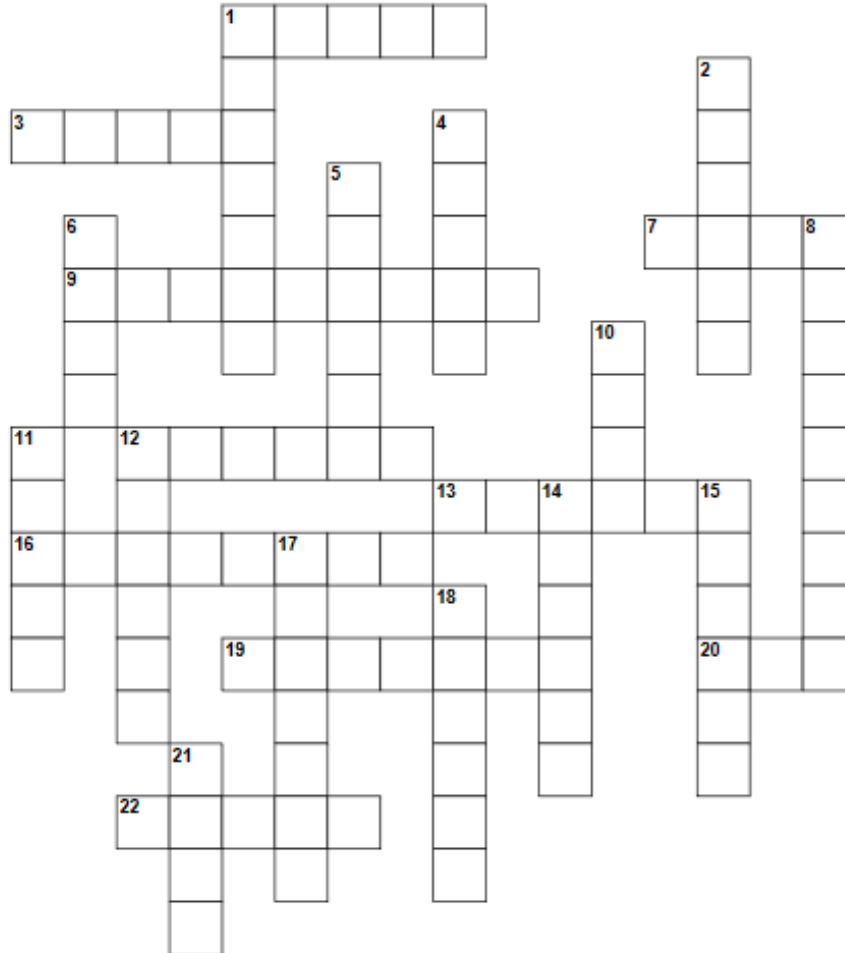
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# MOTHER'S DAY CROSSWORD

(Find the clues below the crossword and the KEY on page XY)



By Evelyn Johnson - [www.qets.com](http://www.qets.com)

## ACROSS

- 1 Young human
- 3 Send a letter
- 7 Female Spouse
- 9 Child or descendent
- 12 Person whom you know well and like and who likes you
- 13 Sound judgment
- 16 Call to mind
- 19 Bunch of flowers
- 20 Embrace affectionately
- 22 Flowers with thorny stems

## DOWN

- 1 To care for
- 2 Have extreme fondness
- 4 Put into the ground to grow
- 5 Area used for growing flowers
- 6 Place where a person lives
- 8 Expressing warm affection
- 10 Printed document sent on a special occasion to a friend
- 11 Act of bringing a new baby into the world
- 12 Group made up of parents and their children
- 14 Female having the same parents as another person
- 15 Female parent
- 17 Male person have the same parents as another person
- 18 First day of the week
- 21 Piece of writing with words that rhyme

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# A LONG-TERM INTERNSHIP IN BARCELONA

*As we have already mentioned earlier, for the first time in the history of mobility projects granted by Erasmus+ programme, we managed to realize a long-term internship of the 4 fresh school graduates – Vladimír Schneidgen, Aneta Čukanová, Bronislava Smolková and Filip Gál (former IV.B classmates) who spent four months (Sept-Dec 2019) interning in Barcelona*



*companies. Vladko interned at a hotel, Anetka and Filip at language schools and Brona at an Internet fashion store.*

*They developed their professional competences; practised and improved their English language and communication skills (even learnt some Spanish); exploited the city, its surroundings and other parts of this beautiful country and made a lot of friends. Last but not least, they gained a lot of invaluable experience which helped and will help them shape themselves as strong and competent individuals ready for the labour market in the future.*

*We were interested in how they found the Erasmus+ mobility experience throughout their studies at Business Academy, Topolcany (as all of them had also done a short-term internship before). That is why we asked them to compare the mobilities they took part in; to talk about the benefits they obtained and also about their future plans with the programme.*

*Here are the 3 same questions we addressed to them:*

- 1. How was the long-term internship in Barcelona different from the previous short-term one(s) you had done?*
- 2. What were the main benefits of the internship(s) for your professional and personal development?*
- 3. Are you planning to use the Erasmus+ programme or its successor during your university studies?*

VLADIMÍR SCHNEIDGEN – Hotel Front Maritim

I think that in a long-term internship you have much more time to make better and stronger friendships with different people, such as your colleagues, etc. You will know the country better and understand some cultures better. Also not living in a host family is a huge advantage because you have to rely mainly on yourself so you are slowly becoming more independent person.



Due to long-term internship you can learn more things and do more difficult tasks almost each week and that is a big difference. I think that the most of long term interns will feel like they are no longer just "interns" but the regular employees of the company.

I became more punctual and independent in each way and I understand more, how accountancy and administration work in foreign countries and what it takes to start a business abroad. I met so many inspiring people who enriched me in many ways. My English is much more fluent now and I learnt a bit of Spanish language, too. Also I got rid off my shyness and was more able to speak to and in front of people and I kind of fell in love with my job and the city. I will definitely come back to Barcelona.

Regarding to my great past experience with Erasmus+, I will definitely consider using the programme in the future. I think that everyone should use Erasmus+ programmes if they have a chance, because you cannot even imagine what all this can give you.

ANETA ČUKANOVÁ – Expanish (Programas Educativos ARVA S.L.)



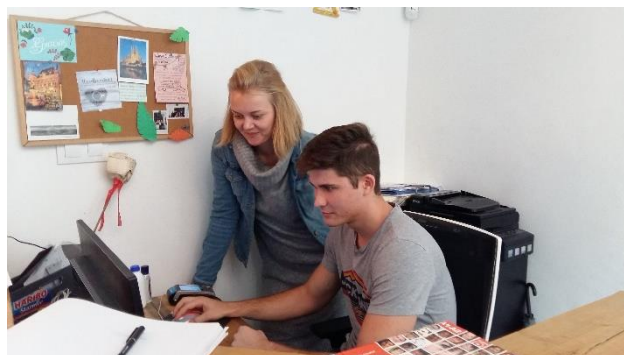
Well, the duration obviously gave you more opportunity to really adapt to culture, language, etc. in depth. Of course, making new friendships is easier, because you get to meet new people during such a long period of time and you do not have to worry about leave-taking after 2 weeks. Exploring the city is number 1 on my list, the transition from seeing the city from tourist point of view into „I feel like I have lived here entire life" kinda point of view.

Starting with my personal development, the main difference I still feel right now is that I realized I did not have to rely or depend on others. I can (and I have to) do my dishes, laundry, cleaning, schedule my time, organize my morning routine, transport myself to work, etc. It kinda trains your will power in some way. Also, being separated from your parents plays a huge role in self-development, as well as getting on with your flatmates. And lastly, realizing you can do whatever you want to, which can be great fun but also responsibility. When it comes to professional development, I have to say – communication. I think we are told enough and have no idea about how important a good communication is at a workplace. It takes a lot of confidence and explicitness, which is hard to keep when you are not entirely sure about your task. I had to learn where the line was between asking too many questions (being annoying after some time) and listening to the people around you better. Keeping it professional, but human. That is all I would say about this.

I wish, but the grants are not that generous at universities, unfortunately, therefore I was grateful that we got a chance to attempt this long-term internship straight after finishing my high school, and I will be grateful for that forever. But you never know, we will see.

#### FILIP GÁL – World Class Barcelona

The main difference between the short-term internships in London and Dublin and the long-term internship in Barcelona I participated in was that during 4 months in Barcelona I truly find out how it is being part of a work team, I had enough time to learn how the company I had my internship in worked, so I was entrusted with a bigger range of tasks than in London or Dublin. And last but not least, this 4-month-long stay gave me an opportunity to discover not only the city of Barcelona, but also the places all over Spain.



I practised the competences and skills I had had before and I learned the new ones, I learned a new foreign language – beautiful Spanish, I discovered the beauties of Barcelona and surrounding places and I made a lot of new friends I have kept in touch with since I came back to Slovakia in December. These are the biggest benefits of my internship in Barcelona.

Of course, I would like to use some Erasmus+ project at university, there is no better



way to earn new knowledge and gain language or other skills than in foreign countries.

### BRONISLAVA SMOLKOVÁ – Brasil y Belleza



My previous short-term internship was in Dublin and to be honest I did not believe that anything could beat my internship there. However, Barcelona was the whole new level. The main difference was living in the apartment with my classmates not with host families, which I really enjoyed. That meant having to tidy up the whole apartment, buying groceries, cooking and just doing everything

by ourselves. That was a very big experience for me because I had not had the opportunity to live alone before.

The next very big difference was being able to get to know our colleagues at work better and get to know the work itself better, because we spent a longer time there. I really did enjoy work with Spanish people, they were nothing but kind to me during the whole stay. I really felt like I was a citizen during these 4 months there, because when you spend such a long period of time somewhere, you are able to get to know the city very well and also learn a language if you really want to and because of that you can really feel like being part of the place.

I think I can say that my biggest benefit of the internships I have done was learning responsibility. During these months which I spent in Barcelona or Dublin I had to be very responsible for all of my actions. I had to learn how to plan my travel to work, because I could not be late. I had to learn how to listen to my boss or mentor if I wanted to do a good job. I improved my English skills and also learnt some Spanish. I learnt how to work under the pressure, when something has to be done in a short time. I really learnt how to work in a team and help each other at the work. The mobilities gave me a lot and I am beyond thankful for them as I can say it was a lifetime's experience for me.

I would really love to take advantage of Erasmus+ in the future, but it depends on many things. Unfortunately, college is a bit different than high school. So time will tell.

*Introduction by Mgr. Martin Huba*

# CHRIS MANN: HELLO (FROM THE INSIDE)

## Making quarantine fun

We have been stuck at home for weeks now. Who would guess activities we have taken for granted, such as meeting friends, going out to eat or going to the hairdresser's will become so precious.

Singer-songwriter and former contestant of The Voice competition, Chris Mann, took the lockdown as an opportunity to have some fun while being in quarantine.

When all his concerts got cancelled because of the pandemic, Mann decided to make his own version of the single "My Sharona", The Knack's hit from 1979. He renamed it to "My Corona" and released the song on March 15. It went viral immediately. The video has garnered almost 7 million views to date.

Seeing the response to "My Corona," Chris decided to make another cover. This time he took on Madonna's "Vogue", which he renamed "Stay Home Vogue".

After gaining over 50 000 subscribers, he decided to recreate Adele's "Hello". "I thought it would be hilarious to do with personal lyrics about what we are feeling in my house, about what it's like to have not been outside, not have seen your friends, and not eat out. It's about all the little sacrifices we've made that have made a difference," he said.



Chris took a break from funny videos to release a version of Alanis Morissette's "Thank You" dedicated to all the frontline workers that are helping in the fight against COVID-19.

The singer-songwriter keeps making new songs. His most recent video is a shout-out to parents who must spend all day with their children, called "Daycare Closed," recreating the hit song "Old Town Road".

He says he will continue enterprising. His next project will be a show from his living room in which he will interview celebrities and sing parodies.

Check out the lyrics of Chris Mann's "Hello (From the Inside)" and try to choose the correct option.



**CHRIS MANN: Hello (From the Inside)**  
(parody of "Hello (From the Outside)" by Adele)

Hello  
It's me  
I'm in **1. L. A./California** dreaming about going out to eat  
Just a burger  
With **2. cheese/fries**  
Or a shaken **3. margarita/martini**, baby back ribs from Chili's

Is there something else to watch  
Besides the news and Finding **4. Nemo/Dory**  
There's social **5. distance/isolation** between us  
And I'm freaking out

Hello from **6. COVID/Corona** life  
I've FaceTime called a 1,000 times  
To show you I'm **7. lying/sitting** right here on the couch  
What's the point of putting on **8. pants/clothes** anyhow, anymore?

Hello  
How are you?  
Do your fingers hurt from scrolling through  
The **9. dog/cat** memes on your iPhone?  
I hope that you're well  
Did you ever make it out of that town  
Before they closed the **10. Target/Costco**?  
It's no secret that the both of us  
Haven't **11. showered/washed** yet

Hello from the inside  
It's just me and myself and I (myself and I)  
And a Stay **12. Inside/Home** Order that's breaking my heart  
But it's clearly what we should have done from the start

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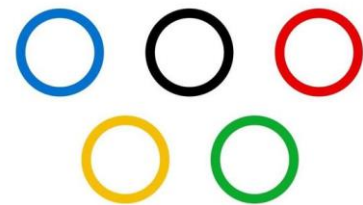
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/04/21/chris-mann-coronavirus-parody>

By Lucia Cagalová, IV.C



# STAY APART. LAUGH TOGETHER

*Although the situation all over the world due to COVID 19 does not seem to be funny at all, humour and laughter will surely help you get you through it as they always do in hard times. We do hope you will appreciate a little break with the memes and jokes on the Coronavirus crisis below.*



Me after washing my hands for 20 seconds 57 times in one day

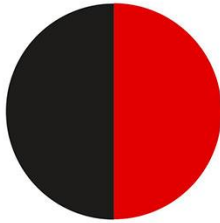


A couple of weeks of isolation with the family. What can go wrong?



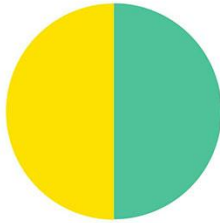
## THE APOCALYPSE

WHAT I EXPECTED



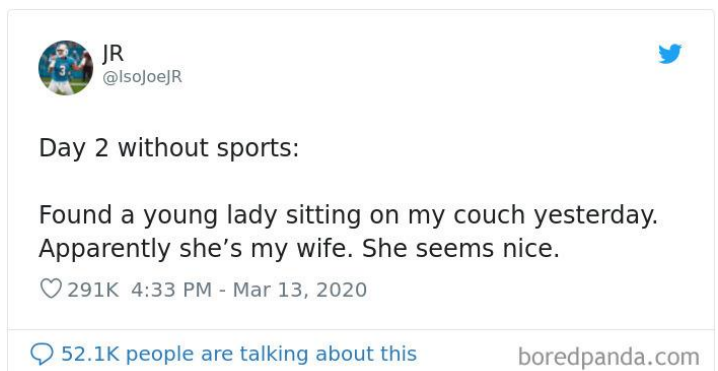
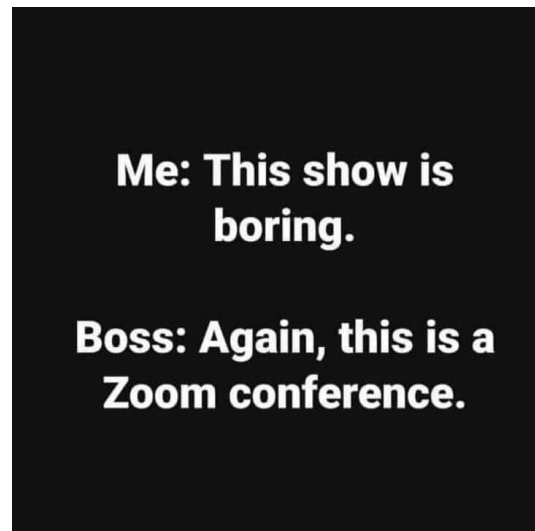
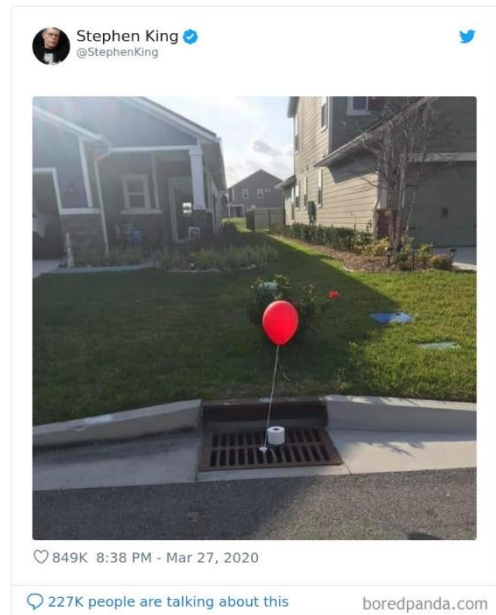
● ANARCHY  
● ZOMBIES

WHAT I GET



● HOMEOFFICE  
● NO TOILET PAPER

There are 2 types of people in the world...



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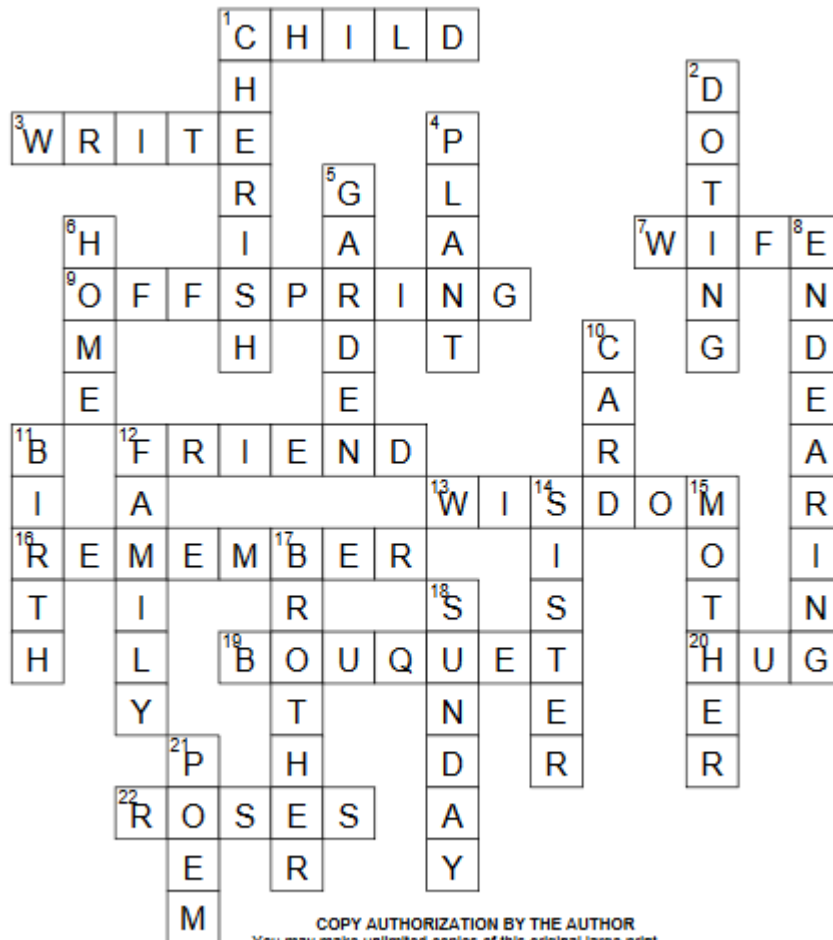
# KEYS AND SOLUTIONS

## An Idiom for a Day: Verb-based idioms; p. 20-21

1. You might **get into deep water** hanging out with the Taylors every night.
2. I did enjoy making John **eating his words** and saying sorry to me.
3. Stop **licking your boss's boots** all the time – it won't help you to get promoted anyway!
4. Mike **couldn't keep a straight face** when he saw Tom trip over the rake lying on the ground.
5. You **missed the point** saying I was against Mr Smith's expansion plan. I just didn't like its last stage.
6. You surely need to **hit the books** quite regularly to pass this law course.
7. I don't believe you always have to **grease one's palm** to get something arranged in this country. It just can't be that bad.
8. Hannah **shaking like a leaf** while waiting backstage for her first live public performance.
9. We'd better be very careful when selling the company to them. I've heard they do **drive a hard bargain**.
10. Although I'm normally quite reserved, I **speak my mind** when I feel somebody's lying to me.
11. Will you please **cover for me** at the reception while I have a word with the manager? Yes, of course.
12. Could I **pick your brain** about these equations? I have no idea how to solve them.
13. After not speaking with each other for years, my two older brothers finally **buried the hatchet** last Christmas.
14. She'll never trust you anymore if you **spill the beans** about that night.
15. I understand why Jack left the firm. He didn't want to **play second fiddle** after he hadn't become a partner.
16. Your back doesn't look very well at all. You must have **caught the sun** falling asleep on the beach in the middle of the day.



## Mother's Day Crossword; p. 35



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## Chris Mann: Hello (From the Inside), p. 41

1. California
2. cheese
3. margarita
4. Dory
5. distance
6. Corona
7. sitting
8. pants
9. cat
10. Costco
11. showered
12. Home

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**The full-colour version of the latest edition of ZINGER magazine  
as well as all the old ones can be found  
on the website of Business Academy, Topolčany:**

**[www.oato.edu.sk](http://www.oato.edu.sk)**

**Do not forget to check it/them out.**

**And at the very end, here are all the people responsible for this edition:**

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