

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

ENJOY

ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU



PUBLISHED ONLINE

EnJoY (English Journal for You)
JOURNAL ON STUDENT'S CREATIVITY

ISSN 1339-7370

PUBLISHED ONLINE:
Once a semester, twice a year

PUBLISHED BY:
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MESSAGE FROM EDITORIAL TEAM

Dear reader,

You are about to read the current issue of EnJoy, which the members of the editorial team and the contributors have approached from the perspective of the English language itself. Their curiosity and inquisitiveness have unveiled different aspects of the language, ranging from misunderstandings caused by using false friends to the differences between British and American English. They have pointed out the proven fact that the English language not only opens the doors to university studies by becoming an Erasmus student; but in the same way, enables the experience of British culture firsthand by embarking on an adventurous trip to Great Britain. In the same vein, English language enables people to express their feelings, emotions and ideas in poems and bring the literary characters' ups and downs to the Slovak reader in the translations of novels and short stories.

All these aspects make the English language unique and the magazine worth reading.

Enjoy!

The editorial team

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Language

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HOW TO SPEAK AMERICAN ENGLISH

Klaudia Koberová

We can consider English to be a global language. Not only it is the most spoken language in the world but when we take a look at its geographical spread, number of native speakers but also number of second language speakers, we may say that it is a language which is spoken internationally. It is no doubt that English language is the international language of everything. And although English language is believed to be a global language, it is not spoken the same everywhere in the world. English language has many varieties and the words in British English differ from the ones used in American English.

Lexical differences concerning *food*

The word *biscuit* comes from Old French ‘bescuit’ dated from the 12th century, it altered under the influence of cognate Old Italian ‘biscotto’ meaning “twice-baked”. We can see the French influence on the language itself. Biscuit was originally a kind of hard, dry bread baked in thin cakes. When talking about America, this word is recorded from 1818 meaning small, round soft bun. (Online Etymology Dictionary)

As written in the chart below, the word *biscuit*, in America, is replaced with the word *cookie*. When we take a look at the origin of this word, we can see that this word comes from Dutch ‘koekje’ meaning “little cake”. Dutch language is without doubt responsible for affecting and changing many words which belong to the daily use of American English. (ibid.)

British English	American English
beetroot	beet
biscuit	cookie, cracker
chips	French fries
courgette	zucchini
eggy bread	French toast
maize	corn
muesli	granola
porridge	oatmeal
sweet corn	corn
sweets	candy

Lexical differences concerning *clothing*

When examining the words *vest* and *undershirt*, we can see that both words have different origins. The word *vest* was dated from 1610 and it comes from the French word ‘veste’. It was introduced by Charles II “in a bid to rein in men’s attire at court, which had grown extravagant and decadent in the French mode.” We can again see the French influence on the use of the words of British dialect. (Online Etymology Dictionary)

Regarding the word *undershirt* which is used among American speakers, this word is dated from 1640. It is composed from adjective (under) and noun (shirt). We can see similar formation in North Frisian ‘onnensjürt’ and Danish ‘underskjorte’. (ibid.)

British English	American English
boiler suit	coveralls
clothes peg	clothespin
dressing gown	bathrobe
nappy	diaper
pants	underwear
swimming suit	bathing suit
trousers	pants
vest	undershirt
waistcoat	vest
wardrobe	closet

Lexical differences concerning *house & home*

The word *curtain*, used among British speakers, is dated from 1300. Its roots go back to Old French ‘cortine’. When talking about Latin influence, in Late Latin, the word ‘cortina’ meant curtain, but in classical Latin, it meant round vessel or cauldron and from Latin ‘cortem’ it meant enclosure or courtyard. Later on, from 1590, the word was described as a large sheet used to conceal the stage in a theatre. (Online Etymology Dictionary)

British English	American English
bath	bathtub
chest of drawers	bureau
curtains	drapes
flat	apartment
garden	yard
lift	elevator
mixer	blender
rubbish	garbage
wardrobe	closet
washbasin	sink

Lexical differences concerning *education*

The word *holiday* is used mainly in Britain, while on the other hand, this word is substituted for the word *vacation* in America. Originally from Old English ‘haligdæg’ meaning holy or consecrated day. In the 14th century, the meaning developed into ‘religious festival’ and ‘day of exemption from labour and recreation.’ The meaning we are all familiar with, referring to summer holiday, is dated from the middle of 19th century.


The origin of the word *vacation* is dated from the late 14th century, directly from Latin ‘vacationem’ meaning leisure, freedom, exemption, being free from duty, immunity earned by service. This is used as an equivalent of the word holiday and it is attested from 1878. (Online Etymology Dictionary)



British English	American English
break time	recess
porter	janitor
full stop	period
graduation	commencement
holiday	vacation
headmaster	principal
revise	review
test	quiz
timetable	schedule
vice-chancellor	president

It will be interesting to observe how the language will change. British and American English are considered to be one language with the two most dominant varieties – those of the United Kingdom and the United States. And even though the American dialect is superior to the British dialect, we can only guess what the position of these two dialects will be like in the future.





HOW TO WRITE IN AMERICAN ENGLISH

Klaudia Koberová

Some spellings which are considered to be American were once commonly used in British spelling and vice versa. In 1755, *A Dictionary of the English Language* written by Samuel Johnson became a standard for British spelling. In connection with American standard and its spelling, the work of Noah Webster and his *An American Dictionary of the English Language* is considered to be an American standard.

The most common spelling differences occur in words ending in *-our* and *-or*, *-re* and *-er*, *-ise* and *-ize*, and words in which we double the last consonant.

The *-our* and *-or* group

The rule here is very simple. Words ending in an unstressed *-our* are considered to have British spelling, while on the other hand, words ending in *-or* are considered to be American.

British spelling	American spelling
armour	armor
behaviour	behavior
behavioural	behavioral
colour	color
endeavour	endeavor
favourite	favorite
humour	humor
neighbour	neighbor
rumour	rumor
splendour	splendor

Language

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The *-re* and *-er* group

Some English words of Greek, Latin or French origin tend to end with a consonant followed by *-re*. This ending is pronounced as /ər/ both for British and American English. Most of these words have *-er* ending in American English. This difference is most visible in words which end in *b* or *t* followed by the *-re* or *-er* ending. This rule applies to words like: centre, fibre, litre, lustre, metre, ochre, philtre, sombre, spectre, or theatre. All of these words have *-er* in American spelling. However, we can find many exceptions and words which are spelled with *-er* in both British and American English. This applies in particular to words like: chapter, filter, letter, member, monster, oyster, powder, sober, etc.

British English	American English
amphitheatre	amphitheater
centrefold	centerfold
goitre	goiter
manoeuvre	maneuver
nitre	niter
saltpetre	saltpeter
sceptre	scepter

The *-ise* and *-ize* group

Most words ending in *-ise* in British spelling tend to end in *-ize* in American spelling. However, we can find the suffix *-ize* in some British dictionaries for the following frequent words like finalize, mobilize, organize, popularize, realize, symbolize and vaporize. On the other hand, there exists a group of words which always has *-ise* suffix at the end. This is due to the fact that “*-ise* is part of a longer word element rather than being a separate ending in its own right. For example: *-cise* (meaning ‘cutting’) in the word excise; *-prise* (meaning ‘taking’) as in surprise; or *-mise* (meaning ‘sending’) in promise.” (Online Oxford English Dictionary)

British English	American English
Americanise, Americanize	Americanize
categorise, categorize	categorize
colonise, colonize	colonise
emphasise, emphasize	emphasize
organise, organize	organize
symbolise, symbolize	symbolize
vaporise, vaporize	vaporize

We have mentioned the major differences between British and American spelling. Whilst we are aware of many differences between these two dialects, we can consider the differences between spelling negligible, because it does not affect understanding of the language itself.



ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGISMS IN LYRICS

Terézia Považanová

Learning idioms in any language you speak is a really good idea. By using idioms and phrasal verbs you will sound more natural, your speaking skills will improve, your vocabulary will rise and moreover it can be great fun to compare them with Slovak ones. No you don't have to learn it by heart, there is a better way. What about music? Listen more carefully to lyrics of your favourite songs and catch some phrases and idiomatic expressions. I examined some popular hits for you and here are some interesting phrases hidden in the lyrics:

“Natural” by Imagine Dragons

“Will you hold the line?”

It is not just a phrase used when talking with somebody by phone. The more metaphorical meaning is to stay strong and uphold the position you have, even if you need to overcome pressure and difficulties.

Slovak: vydržať, zotrvať

“When every one of them is giving up or giving in, tell me”

Giving up and *giving in* are phrasal verbs which may be easily confused. The meaning is similar, though not the same. *Give up* means to quit and stop trying, but *give in* is used to express that you admit your defeat, and you agree to do something that you do not want to do.

Slovak: give up = vzdať sa, give in = ustúpiť

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“Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran

“When your legs don’t work like they used to before and I can’t sweep you off of your feet”

Ed Sheeran used the phrase wisely in a literal but on the other hand metaphorical meaning. *Sweep somebody off their feet* expresses that you make somebody fall in love with you deeply, and often suddenly.

Slovak: popliesť niekomu hlavu

“Memories” by Maroon 5

“I’ll carry these torches for you that you know I’ll never drop”

Carry a torch for somebody means to be in love with somebody, especially when the love is not returned.

Slovak: túžiť po niekom, horieť neopätovanou láskou

“Another One Bites the Dust” by Queen

Here is the phrase right in the title of the song. *Bite the dust* means either to fall down dead or to fail, to be defeated. It can be used only in informal situations.

Slovak: padnúť mŕtvy, zlyhať, doslúžiť

“Are you happy, are you satisfied? How long can you stand the heat?”

Stand the heat means staying strong and overcome difficulties. It is excerpted from a longer idiom: *if you can’t stand the heat (get out of the kitchen)*. This is used when you want to tell somebody to stop trying, especially in order to suggest that they are not able to do something, or that they are less able than other people. In a different context it could mean that you should either tolerate something or stop being involved in it.

Slovak: *stand the heat* = odolávať, vydržať; *If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen* is often translated by Slovak phraseologism as *Kto sa bojí, nesmie do lesa*.





"All Star" by Smash Mouth

"Somebody once told me the world is gonna roll me. I ain't the sharpest tool in the shed."

The idiom *not the sharpest tool in the shed* (or *in the box*) can be used when you want to express that someone is not intelligent enough, especially in a sarcastic way.

Slovak: nepatriť medzi inteligentných; Sometimes it is used in the sentence *Nie je to zrovna Einstein*.

"Fed to the rules and I hit the ground running"

Hit the ground running is used when you start a new activity with a lot of enthusiasm. It means to start doing something very quickly and successfully.

Slovak: niečo rozbehnúť, ihneď sa do niečoho s nadšením pustiť

"Someone Like You" by Adele

"I hate to turn up out of the blue, uninvited. But I couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it."

Out of the blue means that something appears or happens unexpectedly, without warning.

Slovak: z čista-jasna, z ničoho nič; Depending on context can be translated with the phrase *akoby z neba spadla*.

Songwriters can be really creative but these phrases are not just metaphorical expressions from art of music. The best thing is that native speakers use them, and so you can really enrich everyday conversations with above mentioned idioms. Hit the ground running and speak like an English person!

FUNERAL BLUES

W. H. AUDEN

Translated by Kristína Bartóková

Zastavte všetky hodiny, telefón odpojte,
Psa veľkou šľavnatou kosťou hneď utíšte,
Utíšte klavíry, nech tlmené bubny sú sprievo-
dom
Pochodu truhly, nech chmúriaci dajú posledné
zbohom.

Za hluku krúžiacich lietadiel nad nami
Maľujúc na nebo slová: „On už niet s nami.“
Okrášlite holúbky krepovými mašľami,
Strážnikom navlečte hodvábne rukávky.

Bol môj sever, môj juh, môj východ i západ,
Môj nedeľný pokoj i môj pracovný nával,
Moje poludnie, moja polnoc, moja reč i meló-
dia,
Láska už pominula, prítomná je už len nostal-
gia.

Zažeňte hviezdy, všetky hneď zahaste,
Mesiac i slnko v okamihu odpracte,
Vypusťte oceán, roznieťte háje,
Vzhľadúvať radosť bude už márne.

TRANSLATION

FUNERAL
BLUES

W. H. AUDEN



NICK HORNBY HOW TO BE GOOD

Translated by Jana Ružičková

Pochabý Brian, Hypochonder č.1, je prvý na mojom pondelkovom zozname a vôbec nevyzerá dobre. Viem, že ordinácia lekára nie je miesto kde ľudia vyzerajú najlepšie, ale Brianovi sa veľmi pohoršilo odkedy som ho videla naposledy, asi tri týždne dozadu. Vyzerá to, že má pod plášťom pyžamo, je neoholený, jeho vlasy sú strapaté, tvár má sivú a jeho dych spadá do kategórie alkoholika.

„Ahoj Brian,“ povedala som veselo. „Ponáhľáš sa?“

„Prečo sa pýtaš?“

„To máš na sebe pyžamo?“

„Nie.“

Napriek tomu, že za mnou chodí pravidelne, vôbec mi neverí a vždy si myslí, že sa ho snažím prekuknúť v tom, že nie je ten za koho sa vydáva. A možno ani nie je – možno je to Psycho Mike, Šialený Colin, alebo Bláznivý Lenn – ale moje stanovisko je, že nech je ktokoľvek, nie je zdravým mužom a preto potrebuje pomoc. Ale on to tak nevidí. Pravdepodobne si myslí, že ak sa mi podarí strhnúť mu masku, vykážem ho z ordinácie.

„Chápem. Máš na sebe rovnaké ružovo-modré pásikavé tričko a nohavice.“

„Nie.“

Netlačím na neho (aj keď verte mi, má na sebe pyžamo a len to popiera, pretože keby sa priznal poskytol by mi nejakú dôležitú informáciu, ktorú nechce aby som vedela). Sú isté nepísané pravidlá ako zaobchádzať s PB: môžete sa trochu zabávať – inak by sme všetci boli tak pochabý ako on – ale nie veľmi.

„Čo pre teba môžem urobiť?“

„Mám pokazený žalúdok. A bolí.“

„Kde?“

„Tu.“

Ukázal na svoje brucho. Z predošlých skúseností viem, že sa nesmiem dotýkať žiadnej časti jeho tela, ale tak ako väčšina jeho problémov, ktoré sú spôsobené nie fyziologickou poruchou ale jeho prezývku, zvyčajne to nie je až taký hendikep.

„Cítiš sa zle? Choro?“

„Nie.“

TRANSLATION

„A čo tvoja potreba? Všetko v poriadku?“

„Čo tým myslíte?“ Podozrievavý tón sa vrátil.

„Ale no tak Brian. Ak máš bolesti musím sa ťa pýtať takéto otázky“. Pár rokov dozadu Brian urputne predstieral, že nechodí na veľkú potrebu a priznal sa len k cikaniu. Musela som sa uchýliť k priznaniu, že aj v mojich črevách sa to hýbe, no nepočúval ani mňa, ani personál.

„Prestal som chodiť.“

„Kedy?“

„Niekoľko týždňov.“

„Tak to môže byť ten problém.“

„Naozaj?“

„Áno. Dva týždne nechodenia na záchod je dosť na to, aby ťa bolelo brucho. Zmenila sa ti strava?“

„Ako to myslíte?“

„Ješ niečo, čo si pred tým nejedol?“

„Áno, jasné.“ A povzdychol si, aby zvýraznil hlúposť tejto otázky.

„Prečo?“

„Pretože moja mama umrela, nie?“

Dialo sa veľa vecí: ľútosť, smútok, panika, beznádej. Neuvedomila som si, že Brian mal mamu – podľa mojich papierov má 51 rokov – a úplne to dáva zmysel. Samozrejme, že musel mať mamu a samozrejme, že Briana usmerňovala, a teraz je preč a sú tu pyžamá a krčie v bruchu.

„Mrzí ma to Brian.“

TRANSLATION

NICK
HORNBY

HOW TO BE
GOOD



TRANSLATION

JEROME DAVID SALINGER THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

Translated by Nikoleta Cvejkušová

Niektoré veci sa ťažko pamätajú. Mám teraz na mysli, ako sa Stradlater vrátil z toho rande s Jane. Chcem tým povedať, že sa nepamätám presne, čo som robil, keď som začul jeho hlúpe kroky na chodbe. Pravdepodobne som sa stále pozeral z okna, ale prisahám, že sa nepamätám. Bol som tak strašne znepokojený, to je ten dôvod. Keď sa niečoho naozaj obávam, tak to nie je sranda. Musím ísť dokonca na záchod, keď sa niečoho obávam. Lenže nejdem. Obávam sa príliš na to, aby som šiel. Nechcem prerušiť to moje obávanie tým, že pôjdem. Keby ste poznali Stradlatera, obávali by ste sa tiež. Ja som mal s tým sviniarom dvojité rande niekoľkokrát a viem o čom hovorím. Bol bezohľadný. Naozaj.

Každopádne, po celej chodbe bolo linoleum a tak som dobre počul jeho hlúpe kroky prichádzajúce priamo do izby. Nepamätám sa ani, kde som sedel, keď vošiel - pri okne, či na mojej stoličke, či jeho. Prisahám, že sa nepamätám.

Vošiel, nadávajúc aká je vonku zima. Potom povedal: "Kde sú všetci dopekla? Je to tu ako v prekliatej márnici." Ani som sa neobťažoval odpovedať. Keď bol tak strašne hlúpy, že si neuvedomil, že je sobota večer a každý je vonku alebo spí alebo odcestoval domov na víkend, nešiel som mu to ozlomkrky vysvetľovať. Začal sa vyzliekať. Nepovedal ani jedno prekliate slovo o Jane. Ani jedno. Ani ja. Iba som sa naňho díval. Všetko čo spravil bolo, že mi poďakoval za to, že som mu požičal svoje tvídové sako. Zavesil ho na vešiak a dal do skrine.

Potom, keď si dával dole kravatu, sa ma spýtal, či som mu napísal ten jeho prekliaty sloh. Povedal som mu, že ho má na svojej prekliatej posteli. Šiel k posteli a čítal ho, zatiaľ čo si rozopínal košeľu. Stál tam, čítal ho a pritom si hladkal svoju nahú hrud' a brucho s takým strašne hlúpym výrazom na tvári. Vždy si hladkal brucho alebo hrud'. Bol do seba šialene zamilovaný.

Z ničoho nič, povedal: “Prekrista, Holden. Ved’ je to o nejakej hlúpej bejzbalovej rukavici.”

“No a?” Povedal som. Ľadovo.

“Čo tým myslíš - no a? Povedal som ti, že to musí byť o nejakej prekliatej izbe alebo dome alebo tak.”

“Povedal si, že to musí byť opis. Aký je v tom dopekla rozdiel, keď je to o bejzbalovej rukavici?”

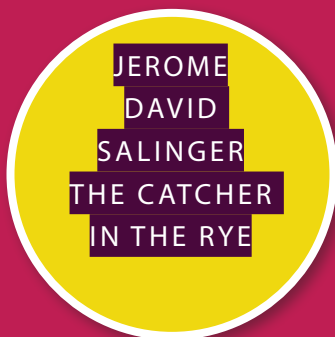
“Došľaka.” Bol pekelné našťavaný. Úplne zúrila. “Ty robíš vždy všetko zle.” Pozrel sa na mňa. “Niet divu, že ťa vyrazili.” Povedal. “Neurobíš ani jednu prekliatu vec, tak ako treba. Vážne. Ani jednu prekliatu vec.”

“Dobre, daj mi to teda naspäť.” Povedal som. Prešiel som k nemu a vytrhol mu to priamo z jeho prekliatej ruky. Potom som to roztrhal.

“Čo to sakra robíš?” Povedal.

Ani som mu neodpovedal. Iba som zahodil tie kúsky do koša. Potom som si ľahol na posteľ a obaja sme dlho nič nepovedali. Úplne sa vyzliekol, len do spodkov a ja som ležal na posteli a zapálil si cigaretu. Na izbách sa nesmeli fajčiť, ale neskoro v noci, keď každý spal alebo bol vonku a nikto nemohol začíť dym, ste si mohli zapáliť. Okrem toho, urobil som to aj preto, aby som nahneval Stradlatera. Išiel z toho zošalieť, keď sa porušovali akékoľvek predpisy. On nikdy nefajčil v izbe. To iba ja.

Stále nepovedal o Jane ani jedno jediné slovo. Tak som nakoniec povedal: “Si späť riadne neskoro, keď mala priepustku len do pol desiatej. Asi zmeškala kvôli tebe, čo?”





NICK HORNBY

HOW TO BE GOOD

Translated by Nikoleta Cvejkušová

David mi oznámi, že ide na pár nocí preč. Nepovie kam, a nenechá číslo - berie si môj mobil, pre naliehavé rodinné prípady - ale predpokladám, že ide ku kamarátovi Mikovi (rozvedený, miestny, dobrá práca, pekný byt, hosťovská izba). Predtým než odíde, mi povie, že mám štyridsaťosem hodín na to, aby som sa porozprávala s deťmi. Nevyslovený predpoklad je, že po tom ako im poviem, ako nevhodne som sa správala, zbalím si veci a odídem. Prvú noc vôbec nespím a cítim, že nikdy nebudem schopná odpočívať, pokiaľ nezodpoviem každú jednu z otázok, ktoré sa mecú v mojej hlave ako ryby v rybárskej sieti. Väčšina týchto otázok (Dovolí mi David prísť v pondelok pozerať program o dinosauroch?) sa zadusí a zomrie; pár z nich, tých významnejších, energetickejších, jednoducho odmietne odísť. Tu je jedna: Aké mám práva? Chápete, ja nechcem rozvod. Dobre, viem, že som chcela, predtým, keď som ešte nevedela, čo to znamená, čo cítim a ako hrozne vyzerá výhliadka - ale teraz nechcem a som taká pozitívna, že by som spravila takmer čokoľvek, aby som vrátila svoje manželstvo späť do starých koľají. A ak to je ten dôvod, prečo by som mala byť ja tá, ktorá to povie deťom? Ak nebude zvažovať akúkoľvek mierumilovnú alternatívu, prečo by som mala robiť jeho špinavú robotu ja? Čo ak to proste neurobím? Čo by robil potom? Takisto chodím v tomto kruhu dokolečka dokola: nikdy nevyviazneme z tejto kaše, zašlo to príďaleko, vždy to bude hrozné, kedykoľvek sa to stane, najlepšie vyviaznuť teraz. . . a po celý ten čas, niekde vo mne viem, že nikdy nebudem schopná sadnúť si a povedať svojim deťom, že ich opúšťam.

“Kde je ocko?” Pýta sa Molly nasledujúce ráno. Vždy je to Molly, kto sa pýta tú otázku, hlavne odvtedy, čo bol David múdry ako Šalamún; Tom sa o to už nezaujíma.

“Je preč pracovne,” poviem, ako keby bol David úplne iná osoba. To je odpoveď zrodená z nedostatku spánku, pretože to by sa nikdy nemohlo aplikovať na Davidov život a prácu. Za posledných pár rokov ho deti počuli hundrať ako musí ísť dole do trafiky, aby použil kopírku. Ako sa potom zrazu stal typom človeka, ktorý zostáva v hoteloch, vo veľkých, hlavných mestách Európy, ktorý máva pracovné raňajky?

“Nemá žiadnu prácu,” povie Tom vecne.

TRANSLATION

“Áno, má,” povie Molly, sladko a lojálne.

“Akú teda?” Tom práve môže uprednostňovať matku pred otcom, ale jeho neschopnosť odporovať krutosti, keď sa vyskytne príležitosť, prichádza odo mňa.

“Prečo si vždy odporný k ockovi?”

“Prečo je odporné pýtať sa, akú ma prácu?”

“Pretože vieš, že nemá žiadnu a ty to rozmazávaš. “

Tom sa pozrie na mňa a trasie hlavou.

“V hádaní sa, si nanič, Molly.”

“Prečo?”

“Pretože si práve povedala, že nemá žiadnu. To je presne to, čo som povedal ja a ty si mi povedala, že som odporný.”

Molly sa zarazí, chvíľu premýšľa, povie Tomovi, že ho neznáša a odíde chystať sa do školy. Chudák David! Dokonca ani jeho najvernejšia obhajkyňa nedokáže presvedčiť samú seba, že jej ocko robí čokoľvek, čo by aspoň pripomínalo riadnu prácu ockov. Keby som bola akýkoľvek typ správne zmýšľajúceho rodiča, zasiahla by som, vysvetlila, že otcovia robia všetky druhy rôznych vecí, ale práve teraz nenávidím Davida tak veľmi, že sa tým nedokážem zaťažovať.

“Tak kde vlastne je?” pýta sa ma Tom.

“Je u kamaráta.”

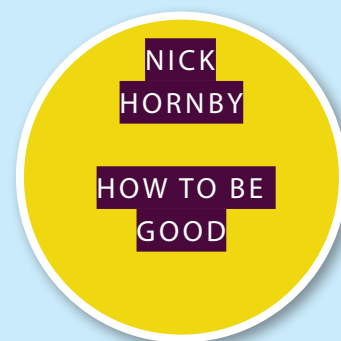
“Pretože sa rozvádza?”

“My sa nerozvádzame.”

“Tak prečo je u kamaráta?”

“Ty tiež ostávaš u kamarátov. To neznamená, že sa rozvádzaš.”

“Ja nie som ženatý. A keď idem ku kamarátovi, tak ti poviem, že idem a poviem maj sa.”





THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE LONDON

THE LARGEST
CITY IN
ENGLAND

Katarína Fáberová

Thanks to its atmosphere, London is one of the most charming cities in Europe. This metropolis and the largest city in England is known for its beautiful landmarks, rushing squares and spectacular views. Together with New York, Paris and Tokyo, it ranks among the most important cities in the world. In the following article, we will take a look at the 8 places everyone has to see while visiting this beautiful place.

Westminster Palace

One of the most visited sites in London is the Westminster Palace, also known as the Houses of Parliament, as it houses the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The reason why this place is so popular among tourists is Big Ben — one of the most important British landmarks. Interestingly, the name of the tower itself is Elizabeth Tower. The name or nickname is derived from the name of the 16-ton bell, which has been ringing in this tower with smaller breaks for 160 years. It is also possible to have a tour in the Houses of Parliament, with a ticket price of around £20.

Buckingham Palace

The Red Road will take you right in front of the official seat of the monarchs of England in London — the Buckingham Palace. A place so often sought after for the event of changing the guards in traditional uniforms, and especially for the opportunity to see Her Majesty the Queen herself which, however, is very rare. The palace is situated in the heart of London and is surrounded by two royal parks, where the entrance is free and curious tourists are welcomed by squirrels waiting for some treats. The palace tours are available only in the months of July to September, during which visitors can explore 19 Staterooms and wander through a beautiful garden. The ticket price is £24, for a student with a valid card it is £13.50.

Tower of London

This historic fortress is located right next to the also famous Tower Bridge. In the past, the fortress served as a prison, where among others, several monarchs were kept within its walls. Since the 13th century, however, it houses royal regalia preserving the royal Coronation Jewels. The fortress is associated with the tradition of ravens, which you can also see within the tour. Legend says that these ravens guard the royal Crown and the kingdom itself. If these 6 ravens leave the tower, the kingdom together with the fortress will fall. Today there are 7 ravens, six plus one extra in the fort. The tour price of this fortress is £24.

National Gallery

Situated on the north side of Trafalgar Square is the National Gallery which was founded in 1824. Within its walls, you will find over 2000 works by world-famous artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Rembrandt or Leonardo da Vinci. The entrance to the gallery is free, so you can enjoy remarkable artistic moments in full swing. However, before visiting the gallery, it is advisable to inquire about the current situation, as some events or exhibitions may be charged. There is also a shop in the gallery where you can buy various books associated with the paintings exhibited in the gallery and other artwork.

Tower Bridge

One of the most famous monuments in the world is certainly Tower Bridge, which has been rising over the Thames since 1894. Its name was derived from the aforementioned Tower of London. To this day, the bridge is fully functioning. In both towers of the bridge, there are historical exhibitions of photos, period writings or film where you can learn about the construction of the bridge itself or the people who participated in it. It is also possible to see both historical and modern control centres, which were/are in charge of lifting the bridge while boats cross the river Thames. Visiting its glass floor will also give you unforgettable panoramic city views. The Tower Bridge tour costs £8.90.

St Paul's Cathedral

The cathedral, where Princess Diana's wedding took place, attracts tourists thanks to its beautiful appearance and rich history. It dates back to the 17th century and is the largest Protestant cathedral in the world. Sitting on the highest point of the city of London, the cathedral includes various galleries and also a library. The magnificent dome of this cathedral is such an important architectural gem that a law was created to protect the view of it. Accordingly, no building around this cathedral may overlap the dome of the cathedral. For its beautiful appearance, it can be seen in many movies. The entrance fee to the cathedral is £20.

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

Go back several centuries by visiting this breathtaking theater. It is a reconstruction of the original building from 1599, and was constructed according to available records of the original. It is only 230 meters away from where the original building once stood. You can either see a play (where prices vary) where no spotlights, microphones, or speakers neighbour to keep the atmosphere of the original Shakespearean play. Or you can go on tour where you will peek behind the curtain of the theater space, learn about the construction, life in Shakespeare's London, discover how plays were prepared in Shakespeare's time and how it is now and enjoy live demonstrations. The guided tour price is £20.

Oxford Street

One of the most famous shopping streets, and also the main thoroughfare of London, is Oxford Street. With a number of daily visitors of approximately 500,000 and a length of 1.9 kilometers, the street is Europe's busiest street. This place is indeed crowded with visitors from all over the world, but the atmosphere of the street ensures that this fact will not hinder you at all. It gains beauty every Christmas season, as Christmas lights and decorations are installed, making Oxford Street fairytale-like. From small souvenir shops to business giants – everyone will find their own. As the street is really long, there are up to four Underground stations nearby. If you plan on visiting the street, make sure you have some space in your suitcase as you will definitely not leave without at least one shopping bag.

If you plan to travel to London in the near future, this article may serve as a stepping stone for exploring the beauty of this city. Of course, the city has a lot more to offer and that is why in the end we would recommend you to buy a London pass when you visit the city, which will allow you to take advantage of many discounts when entering 80+ places or even get free admission for some sights or attractions. You can buy this pass for one, two, three, six or ten days.

BRISTOL ADVENTURE



Photos by: Barbora Jelenáková

Dominika Krišková

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL

Once we got off the plane the reality hit us. The only thing we knew was the language. Unfamiliar faces, the struggle was real. The train from the airport to Bristol was crowded. As our budget was pretty limited, we had to think smart and took a coach bus.

Tired, hungry, sweaty and clueless, we looked for our hostel. And once we finally found it, believe me, it was nothing like the pictures we saw. Being the humble girls we are, we certainly didn't have high expectations. BUT once our eyes saw the horror that was our so-called room, we lost it. Trying to keep it positive, we went for a walk. One thing led to another, we found ourselves crying in the middle of a crowded street.

Barbora Jelenáková,

Dominika Krišková

England has always been a place close to our hearts. When we met it was one of the many things we had in common. And the idea was born – we are going to England. But where? Mr Gulliver, our former teacher, was kind enough to suggest Bristol. He thought it'd be the perfect fit for us.



A PLACE CLOSE
TO OUR HEARTS



Why? You may ask. The city, unfamiliar places, the accommodation was ridiculously overpriced. As our

DAY 2 – ADJUSTING

We soon realized that all was not lost. We discovered the true beauty of this majestic city. The street art was exceptional. Everything was colourful and lively. There were many places we wanted to explore, so we had to manage our time wisely. Our first target was the harbour, which was the place to be. Anything you can imagine was there. People were chilling on the warm concrete, enjoying the sunny weather.

DAY 3 – TWO FACED CITY

This day showed a completely different side of Bristol. The area we stayed in was a poorer part, therefore not so outstanding. Clifton, on the other hand, proved us wrong. Being one of the richer areas, it astonished us with its beautiful architecture, many cathedrals, antique bookstores and many universities. The center of our attention, however, was the Clifton Suspension Bridge. The view was spectacular.

DAY 4 – BATH

On our way to Bristol something caught our attention. It was a city in the distance. We instantly knew we had to give it a visit. Then came the day and we bought return bus tickets. Bath was nothing but magical. We took two double-decker tours, one around the city and the other around the outskirts. The surroundings of the city took our breath away. Cottages, trees, farms – it had it all. We also stopped by the famous Roman baths, which are a part of UNESCO heritage.

DAY 5 – BITTERSWEET GOODBYE

The last day was the biggest challenge of all. It was the last chance to see the city, so we walked and walked. After a long day a shower was needed. Everything was as usual, except that time, we had visitor. There was a snail showering with us. As if it wasn't enough the fire alarm went off and smoke entered through the window. We had to exit the bathroom with shampoo in our eyes, wearing just towels. Thankfully it was taken care of. When the day came to an end, we packed our stuff and booked the bus tickets to the airport. We barely had any money left so we picked a cheaper alternative. That meant we had to travel during the night and spend the whole day in London before getting on the plane.

As we laid resting, a party started, and we got no sleep. Tired and exhausted, we had to leave very early in the morning to catch our bus to London.

DAY 6 – LONDON

Even more tired, sweaty and clueless we arrived to the big city. From Big Ben through London Eye all the way to the Tower Bridge, we found ourselves lying on the grass in Hyde Park. We wondered around the city, traveling by tube. Camden Town. The place where we had the most fun. We ate street food, bought souvenirs, listened to live music and experienced the atmosphere of the beautiful street festival. Our final stop was Victoria Station. Where we waited for hours and hours, sleep deprived and scared, until the late-night hours.

DAY 7 – GOING HOME

It was midnight, our bus to the airport finally arrived. What we didn't know was that we were about to have our second mental breakdown. There was an accident in London, therefore many streets were closed. We were the only passengers in the bus. The bus driver told us there was no way we'd catch the flight. After begging him to speed up, he listened and became our hero. Thankfully we arrived on time. Ironically enough, the flight ended up being delayed for three hours. We waited and waited.

DISCOVERING THE WORLD THROUGH THE ERASMUS PROGRAMME

Tereza Keherová

English might not be an official language of Belgium, but in Leuven – a town in Flanders situated 30 kilometres from Brussels, you can hear English everywhere you go. The reason is that the town is home to a well-renowned university that attracts students from all over the world, virtually from all the continents. I was lucky to spend a year at Leuven University, take their courses aimed at English literature, linguistics, history, and education. I lived in a dormitory with American and European students, which means I was constantly in contact with English. And do you know what the good news is? So can you! Anyone can enrol for an Erasmus exchange and spend one to three terms abroad. Our department offers you to take this opportunity in these countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Northern Ireland, Poland, Spain, and Turkey.

The Northern Ireland, more specifically *St. Mary's University College* in Belfast, was selected by Kristína Bartóková – a student of English Language and Culture, you can read more about her experience in the interview below.



Photos by: Kristína Bartóková

Why did you decide to go for an Erasmus and why to Northern Ireland?

I've always wanted to travel and Ireland was my dream county. I hesitated at first, but I am glad I decided to go in the end.

You spent the winter term there, wasn't the weather unpleasant?

Oh yeah, the weather surprised me – it was much colder than at home. When I was leaving Slovakia, it was 20 degrees and when I came to Ireland, it dropped to 10 degrees and there was a hurricane passing through the island. I knew the Irish weather is rainy most of the time... that didn't "disappoint" – there was plenty of rain.

Where were you accommodated?

The college provided me a place in a house. I lived there with three other people – a Slovak from our university, though not my classmate, and a Polish and an Italian student.

Many people have problems with comprehending some accents, and the Northern Irish one is not an exception. Was that your case? Did you have some problems with understanding what the Irish were saying, or did you adapt very quickly?

It took me two weeks till I finally started to understand what they are saying, but then it was easy. Of course, they use some phrases which are completely unfamiliar to us, but you get used to it. The only exception is the accent from West Belfast, because they slur so much that even the Irish have problems understanding them.

Which courses did you take? Did you have any problems with course recognition here in Nitra when you came back?

I didn't have any problems with the recognition, all my courses were recognized either for a compulsory course, or as an additional C-course. I took Modern English literature, History of Ireland, Introduction to Music, Culture, Unity and Diversity, and European Integration. We also had few lectures on the Irish language.

Would you recommend our students to go to Belfast and take the exact same courses? Or some were better than the others? What are your tips?

Yes, I definitely recommend taking at least the cultural ones. In the European Integration we were participating in many different excursions around Belfast, from which we made presentations about architecture. The Culture was taught by a German professor, and it was very interesting to discuss the cultures from the perspective of her, the native students and the Erasmus students. If you want to be a teacher of small children, then the Introduction to Music is also a nice choice, we've been taught how to teach music to children.

You've mentioned Erasmus students. How many international students were there?

Well, the students of the university were all from Northern Ireland. There were 21 international students from all around the world: Americans, Chinese, and from European countries, most of the students were from Poland, Spain, and Portugal.

How did you spend your free time? Did you travel around the whole island? Which place is your favourite?

I was sightseeing a lot around Belfast, there is so much to see. I'd recommend everyone taking the Free Walking Tour around the city, the guides are very informative and funny. I visited a lot of museums, some of them more than once. If you go to Belfast, make a stop in the Botanical gardens, in September they are full of beautiful roses. I spent a day in Dublin, it was fine. The library of Trinity College is a must see, but I didn't enjoy Dublin as much as I thought I would. Maybe because of all the tourists in the city as Dublin is a very popular travel destination. My favourite place in Northern Ireland is the Giant's Causeway – what an amazing place to see! When I wasn't at the college or travelling, I participated in the Pink Run and the Belfast Beer and Cider festival as a volunteer. There are a lot of offers for volunteers, and it's a great way to learn something new and make friends. I was also a singer in the college choir, so if you go for your Erasmus studies to St. Mary's College, enrol yourself there as well, no matter whether you can or cannot sing. They were very pleased that Erasmus students wanted to sing in the choir.

How do you perceive the cultural differences between the Slovaks and the Irish?

The Irish are unbelievably kind and open people. You can make friends with anyone, even the bus driver. You can see that on such trivial things as speaking to dog owners. If you try to pet someone's dog in Slovakia, the owner will probably give you a mean look. That's not the case in Ireland. What we have the same is that both nations are so enthusiastic about football. But the Irish have many sports about which the rest of the world never heard of.

How do you feel the natives received you?

Because they are so open, they are easy to talk to. Many were surprised that I came there from such a long distance, some didn't even know where Slovakia is. Therefore, they were interested in our country, culture, and the politics as well. Since they are open, you also get the chance to know THEM better. They are very helpful, too. The college building was a labyrinth, and when I got lost, everybody tried to help me, no one was angry or stressed that they would come late for their courses. The relationships with the teachers were also more friendly-based.

What were you missing from Slovakia?

My family and friends the most, of course, but also such things as Slovak bread. In the UK you have thousands of toast breads and many kinds of pastry, but not our proper traditional bread.

What are you missing the most right now from your exchange?

The people. I made many friends and I loved our teachers.

Would you go for an Erasmus again? Where?

Yes, I would. I wanted to go to Belgium this year, but as I'm in my last year of Bachelor studies, I was afraid to go. I'd like to go to Denmark or Turkey in the future.

... some
didn't even
know where
Slovakia is...



Photo by: Kristína Bartóková

DISCOVERING SLOVAKIA THROUGH THE ERASMUS PROGRAMME

Tereza Keherová

Thanks to Kristína, you know more about how it is for a student from Slovakia to study abroad. But what about a foreign student who is on Erasmus in Slovakia? Well, the next interview is exactly about that – Milena Čantrak is from Serbia and she spends this winter term in Nitra, taking courses at our department.

Can you please introduce yourself? Where are you from, what do you study?

I am a student from the Faculty of education at the University of Kragujevac. I am a book author, I have published two books of poetry and I am currently writing the third one, which is going to be multilingual, with poems in English, Spanish, Italian, Turkish, and, after my Erasmus stay, I hope in Slovak too. In my free time I do public speaking and event organizing for different associations in my hometown Užice.

Why have you decided to go for an Erasmus, and why to Slovakia?

I like exploring different cultures and spending a term abroad while expanding my knowledge was my dream I had for many years. Slovakia seemed like a perfect choice for fulfilling it, because of fascinating nature and interesting language.

Do you like Slovak language? Do you study it?

Yes, I like it very much. I am taking the course “Slovenský jazyk pre cudzincov” and I’m studying it in my free time, so I can feel less of a “cudzinka”. It’s a Slavic language, so it’s similar to my mother tongue. Yet, it’s different because it has a softer pronunciation and a slightly different grammar. My favourite words are: *sloboda*, *lásk*a, and *spolužiačka* (-giggles-). My favourite phrase is “*Milujem Slovensko*”.

What do you think about studying in English? Are the courses you are taking interesting for you?

English language is my first love, because I started learning it when I was five years old. On the other side, teaching is a tradition that runs in my family for many generations. Combining what I love the most with the purpose of teaching English means continuing the tradition and fulfilling a calling. I’m enjoying courses aimed at English teaching, because they drew us all closer to this goal. Studying in English and about the English language is a unique opportunity that I’m very grateful for.

How do you like Slovak people? Do you feel we received you well?

I really like Slovakia and Nitra in specific! Slovakia is often described as a “land of castles”, and I would also add “of outstanding landscapes”. I’ve made many Slovak friends who are very welcoming, open-minded and willing to help with the language. *Erasmus Student Network* is a significant part of our experience as Erasmus students, we got the chance to participate in many events, make international friendships and enjoy trips.

How are you spending your free time here?

I have a group of international friends that I'm very grateful for: Eliška from Czech Republic, Veronika from Slovakia, and Sheyla and Irene from the Canary Islands. We went to see an ice-hockey game for the first time and cheered for the winning team *HK Nitra*, explored Nitra and enjoyed a picnic in Mestský Park Sihot', saw movies and we hope that many great moments of our Erasmus experience are yet to come.

Do you travel around Slovakia? Which is your favourite place?

I have many trips in plan and many cities on the bucket list: Bratislava, Bojnice, Trenčín, Banská Bystrica... But the favourite place remains the same – Nitra, Mestský park Sihot'.

How do you perceive the cultural differences between Slovaks and Serbs?

Slovak people are slightly more active in the cultural aspect of life – going to the theatre plays more often, paying more attention to their manners in everyday social situations... But it came to my attention that Slovaks are a bit more reserved in making new friends – following timetables is really important when arranging a meeting, for example. For Serbs, it's a bit more natural and easy-going. Also, basketball and volleyball are the most popular and watched sports in Serbia, while in Slovakia, ice-hockey is favoured the most as a national sport. Discovering it for the first time was a memorable adventure!

What do you wish we were more like?

As a student and friend, I've always felt welcomed and equally respected, but I wish people outside of our faculty that we come across in day-to-day situations, understood that learning a foreign language takes time and that they would be more encouraged to speak English.

Would you recommend students from Serbia to study at our university/department?

Yes, of course, and I'm looking forward to motivate students to engage in this unique experience. We are grateful that the professors understand the challenging part of Erasmus mobility and make it easier by supporting and welcoming us and that fellow students are very friendly and welcoming as well!



Photo by: Tereza Keherová

...we hope that many great moments of our Erasmus experience are yet to come

What do you miss from Serbia?

Apart from family and friends, I miss some of our unique traditional food, but I'm happy to cook it here and get my Slovak friends to try it.

What will you miss the most when you'll come back home?

I can already tell that coming back won't be easy, because there's something special about Nitra. I will miss my professors, friends, classmates, plays at the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, creating memories in an international circle, all of the moments we get to share together, that make Erasmus mobility an unforgettable experience.

Would you go for an Erasmus again? Where else?

This Erasmus experience motivates me to come back to this university as a full-time student. I wish to return for my Master's degree to the Pedagogical faculty.



Photo by: **Tereza Keherová**

I would love to thank both Kristína and Milena for their time.

I hope that you are now encouraged to go for an Erasmus yourself one day, or maybe you know a foreign student to whom you can recommend our university for their studies. Going on Erasmus might be a challenge, and there is a lot of bureaucracy connected with it, but you always get more than you can lose. We are students of the English language, and a life in an international environment is the best way to practice one's language skills. Additionally, you get a chance to travel and to learn more about other worlds – other cultures and people that use English for communication, just as you do. I wish good luck to all.

POWER

Matej Jelínek

There's a force which rules this planet.
That gives men the desire to seize it.
Our nature makes it very clear,
That the only thing we have to fear,
is power...

Some may use it, some abuse it.
Not just for their own benefit,
But for their own desires and outfit,
The thing that motivates the world
is not money.
Now I know it may sound funny...
But what truly makes men cower,
In their darkest, deepest hour,
is power...

Power in the hands of one person
Is more dangerous than any bogeyman.
For from there things can only worsen.
If the might is in the hands of one man.
No matter their ability, one person can only
handle so much responsibility.
And when pushed to the edge of their capability, the only thing they can
use
is power...

There's never peace, always just war
And all because someone wants more
It's like a hallway with open doors
...that never close...

...and even if you shut one down,
another ten will open wide.
Because greed and our desire,
make this situation dire.



Everyone in a war is a liar, when you think about it...

(I only did what I had to do I didn't mean to hurt them I was just following
my orders I'm sorry I'm sorry Please forgive me Oh God what have I
done)

They lie to each other, to themselves.
War just makes zero sense.
Expect to the people in control,
the people who started the war.
And all because of a single goal...

How many innocent lives were made sour?
How many people died from guns or fire?
For what reason, for what desire?
Just because someone
 wanted more
 power...



MAGIC

Jana Ružičková

Snowflakes falling down from dark sky,
frostings on the cold windows,
silence everywhere, as everyone is sleeping muffled up under big, warm
feather quilt.

Only one man is up, walking through snowdrifts,
looking more like a snowman, covered with snowflakes.

Heavy bag filled with secrets for each person behind those cold windows
was hanging from his shoulder, pulling him on one side from the weight.

His steps were echoing through empty streets on crusty snow,
and only after the first light appeared behind the dark windows,
giving them a glimpse of life,
and the last secret was put in front of the last door on the street,
the snowman could leave and continue his journey.



ISSN 1339-7370

PUBLISHED ONLINE:
Once a semester, twice a year

PUBLISHED BY:
Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies
Faculty of Education
Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

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