

School Magazine for English Learners

Primary School Domovinske zahvalnosti in Knin



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INTRODUCTION

We proudly present the third issue of our school magazine **Whisper**. We have prepared some interesting articles and reports. Some of them deal with grammar and vocabulary, while others describe some important events that have taken place in our school.

Grammar corner deals with the Simple Past Tense. It is a tense which many pupils find hard and demanding because of the irregular verbs, which have to be learnt by heart. We have tried to explain it in the easiest possible way. The rules are also followed by some exercises.

In **Vocabulary corner** we deal with idioms with animals. Have fun learning them!

In the section **Holidays** we present Bonfire Night, also known as Guy Fawkes' Night. It is a holiday which takes place on 5th November and some people consider it the English version of Halloween.

In the section **English speaking countries**, we have tried to point out the most important facts about Australia. Find out something new about this faraway country.

From 5th till 9th November our school was the host of the first meeting of Erasmus + project. Our three pupils, who took part in the project, have written a report about the project, its participants and their impressions.

We thank our dear pupils and colleague teachers who have worked on the third issue. We really appreciate your hard work and assistance.

And you, our dear readers, we hope you'll acquire some new knowledge, but also have fun solving riddles and reading the articles. Until next time!

Your teacher coordinators

Australia

GEOGRAPHY

Australia is an island. Actually, it is the world's largest island.

It is also a country and a continent. It shares no land borders with any other country. It is the only country in the world that covers the entire continent.

It is the hottest, the driest and the flattest continent in the world.



It consists of Australia, the Island of Tasmania, New Guinea and smaller islands.

The name Australia was given to the country in 1824. It comes from the word "terra australis incognita", which means "unknown southern land". It is often called Down Under because of its geographical position.

Oceania is a region made up of thousands of islands throughout the Central and South Pacific Ocean.

The Outback is a large interior area of Australia that is far away from coastal areas. It is not densely populated because it contains the country's largest deserts with scorching temperatures, little water and almost no vegetation.



The bush is a land far away from cities or forests. The bush means wooded area, but not dense forest. It can also be any populated area (farming and mining area) outside of the main metropolitan areas. The bush is a wooded area far away from cities or forests. You can't find dense forest there.

PEOPLE

James Cook discovered Australia in the 18th century. 40,000 years ago Aborigines lived all over Australia. It is believed that they had come from Asia. They were nomads, which means that they moved from place to place looking for food. They lived in small communities and survived by hunting, fishing and gathering. They always tried to live in harmony with the land.



Aboriginal houses were shelters made from branches and tree bark. Sometimes they used caves as a protection from the weather.

They had a special connection with everything that is natural. They believed that powerful spirits created the land and the people. This time of creation is called the Dreamtime. It is the story of Spirits creating the universe.

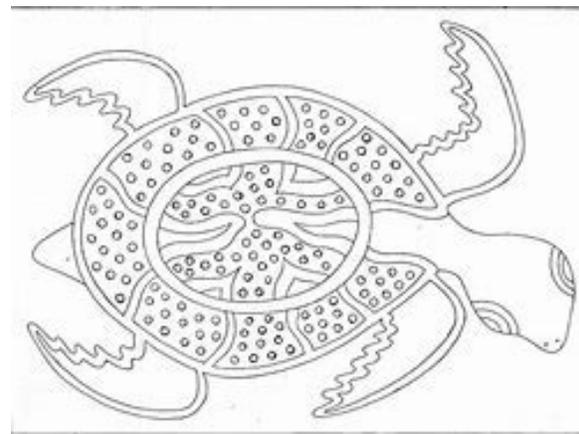


The arrival of white settlers changed their lives forever. At the end of the 18th century British government sent prisoners from overcrowded British jails to Australia. Soon they took away the land from the Aborigines and ruined their peaceful way of life. They started the first colony on the new continent. It was called Sydney.



Aborigines used ceremonies in dancing, painting, story telling and singing to pass on their knowledge and traditions on the next generation.

Their traditional musical instrument is called didgeridoo. It is a kind of wooden trumpet and it is very difficult to play.



Aboriginal art is famous for its dot painting. You can try it yourself. Have fun!

The most famous one-piece-rock in the world , Uluru or Ayers Rock ,is a sacred place to the Aboriginal people. Some parts may not be visited or photographed out of respect for their culture. Rituals are still often held today in the caves around the base.



TOWNS AND CITIES

Most Australians live in the big cities on the southeast and east coast. The capital of Australia is Canberra, but the two largest cities are Sydney and Melbourne. Canberra became the capital city as a compromise when Sydney and Melbourne both wanted to be the capital city and quarreled over it. Melbourne was the host to the Summer Olympics in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.



Sydney Opera House is one of the most famous Australian sights and one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

Sydney Harbour Bridge is 134 metres above sea level . Its nickname is "the Coathanger" because of its arched design. It carries both road vehicles and trains, connecting downtown Sydney with the north shore.



EVERYDAY LIFE

School education in Australia includes preschool education, primary education, secondary education (high schools), tertiary education (universities and colleges). Education is compulsory between the ages of five or six and fifteen and sixteen, depending on the State or territory and the date of birth. There are government schools and private or independent schools.

Elementary school lasts six years.

Summer holidays are long and they last from the middle of December till February.

School children wear uniforms. They have summer, winter and sports uniforms. Every year they get a new teacher so they have to get used to different learning strategies.

Some children live on the farms far away from the cities so they can't go to school.

They listen to the school programme over the Internet. Before it was over radio. This system is called The School of the Air.



Australians are often called "Aussies". They are very friendly people. Sport is a very important part of their culture. The most popular sports are surfing, cricket, swimming, sailing, tennis, golf, horse riding.

Bird-watching is another popular activity. There are about 400 birds that live only in Australia. The main reason for animal diversity is the isolation of the continent from the rest of the world for millions of years.

Australians love to spend their free time on beaches. The most famous beach is Bondi Beach in Sydney. It is a perfect place for Christmas party. It's December and it's summertime in Australia. Very unusual for all of us, Europeans.



Bondi Beach



Christmas party in Australia

Australian animals developed differently. Among the most well-known Australian animals are kangaroos, koalas, dingoes and wombats.

Marsupials are mammals with pouches. Some of them are kangaroos, koalas, wombats and Tasmanian devils.



a kangaroo



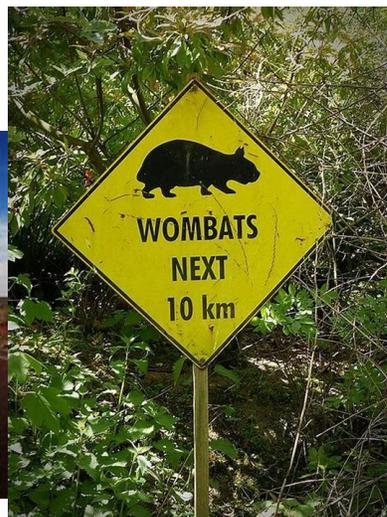
a wombat



a koala



dingoes



Roadsigns in Australia warn drivers about wild animals, mostly kangaroos, that might hop across the road.

AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH

Australian English has a special accent . It is called Strine. Aussies like to abbreviate a lot of words and make them as short as possible. It is sometimes difficult to understand Aussies.

Examples

Australia –Oz or Straya

Chocolate-choccy

Biscuit– biccy

Football-footy

Laptop –lappy

Barbeque– barbie

Christmas– Chrissie

DID YOU KNOW?

Australians drive on the left side of the road.

The Australian Alps receive more snow than Switzerland.

Australia is home to some of the deadliest animals in the world.

A kangaroo is only one centimetre long when it is born.

Aboriginal culture is the oldest culture on Earth.

The first Police Force in Australia was made up of the most well-behaved convicts.

REBUS TIME – AUSTRALIA

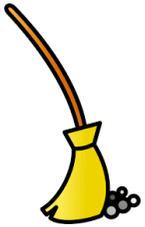


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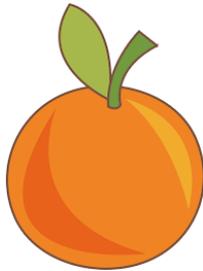


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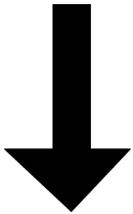
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KING ARTHUR

Once upon a time there lived a king called Pendragon. He fell in love with the wife of a noble knight. He decided to kill the knight and marry his wife. Soon they had a baby son Arthur. Merlin was a wise man, a wizard. He knew that good days came to their end. Pendragon gave his son to Merlin because he was afraid for his son's life, but he trusted Merlin and he knew he would take a good care of him. Merlin sent Arthur to his friend and told him that Arthur was an orphan.

After a few years Pendragon died. For years there was no king to sit on the throne. The nobles fought each other. Everybody wanted to be king. After some time, things became rough so Merlin put a sword into a stone and wrote: "The man who pulls out the sword is the real king of England." Not far away, there were two friends who went to a tournament. One was named Kay and the other one was Arthur. The tournament was held in London so they went there. Unfortunately, Kay forgot his sword so he sent Arthur to get it. On his way back, Arthur saw the sword in a stone. He pulled it out easily and brought it to Kay. Kay was surprised to see Arthur with the sword that wasn't his. "Whose sword is this? Did you steal it?"

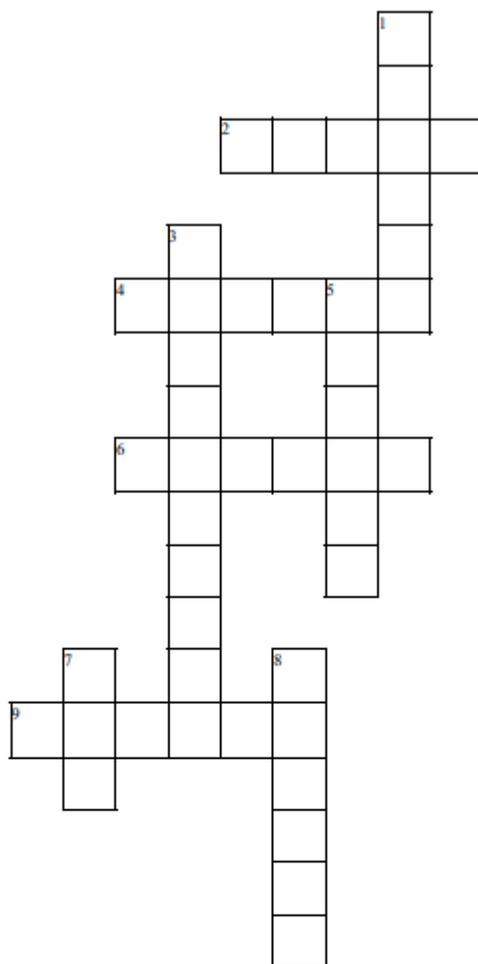
Arthur denied and explained what happened. He put the sword back into the stone. Soon nobles tried to pull the sword out of the stone. Neither nobles nor Kay could pull the sword out of the stone so they told Arthur to try again. He stepped up to the stone and grabbed the handle of the sword. In one motion he freed the sword. Everybody was surprised. They started shouting: "He must be our new king!" "Yes, he is our king", said a voice. Everybody turned around. It was Merlin the Wizard.

This legend tells us that Arthur had a brave heart which gave him strength to rule the country. The sword chose him to be the King of England because he was the true child of king Pendragon.



Check your knowledge and do the crossword. Have fun!

King Arthur



Across

2. It is a weapon. It has got a sharp blade and a handle.
4. Tournament was held there.
6. A man in an armour. He fights on a horse.
9. Kings and queens live there.

Down

1. A wizard who took care of Arthur.
3. A competition with many competitors and many games.
5. A child whose parents are dead.
7. Arthur's friend who went to a tournament with him.
8. A very old story, not always true.

PUPILS' CORNER

Parents and children

My name is Iva. I am 13 years old and I attend Primary School Domovinske Zahvalnosti in Knin. I am in the 7th grade. The members of my family are mum, dad, grandma, grandpa, my brother and, of course, me. My parents are kind, helpful and understanding. They aren't strict at all. My mum's name is Tanja. She works at Konzum supermarket. She is 39 years old. My dad's name is Miroslav, but everybody calls him Miro. It's easier. He is 46 years old. He works at DIV factory. My brother's name is Leo. He attends High School Lovre Monti in Knin. He is in the 3rd grade and he is already 18. He is very stubborn, but he sometimes helps me with my homework. My grandpa also works at DIV factory. He is 64 years old. We all live together. My grandparents are upstairs and mum, dad, brother and me are downstairs. We spend a lot of time together no matter where we are.

I think that parents and children usually get on well, but sometimes there are some problems they have to deal with. Parents often complain about our marks, mobile phones and clothes. Parents always say that we overuse our phones. They think that our marks are low and that we must do our best at school. I agree, but it is sometimes hard to study regularly and to be prepared for all the tests. Children complain about food they have to eat because they don't like vegetables and cooked meals. They like fast food best and there comes a fight.

I don't have many problems with my parents. We mostly argue about the time spent on my mobile phone. Sometimes they are right and sometimes they exaggerate because I usually use my phone for 2 or 3 hours a day. It is not a big deal, right? From time to time my mum complains about my clothes. She would like me to wear warmer clothes, but I'm not cold and I feel just fine with what I wear.

Counsellors, teachers and psychologists help children who have problems with their parents. Violent parents hit and punish their children. Children call Childline or any other telephone helpline when things get tough. It is not always parents' fault. Sometimes it is children's fault because some children are hard to raise. I would advise to both, parents and children, to love and respect each other to live their best lives.

Iva Ramljak, 7 c

Parents and children

My name is Ana Parlov. I am 13 years old and I am in the seventh grade. The members of my family are my parents, my younger sister and me. We live in a flat in Knin. My mum is OK, but sometimes she can also be strict. We mostly get on well, but there are times when we argue about some things. That is not a problem because it is a part of parenting and growing up. The most important thing is that we love each other. My dad is patient and warm and we love to laugh together. And my sister? Well, she can be really annoying, but she is my baby sister and I love her.

Parents and children mostly get on well, but there are families where parents and children argue all the time. It's sad because parents should help children grow up and children should respect their parents. I usually argue with my parents about food. My mum says I am picky and I like to say that I don't like those meals she usually makes. We sometimes argue about my marks, too. Well, to be honest, they have been low lately. The biggest reason for my low marks is my mobile phone. I know that I spend too much time on my phone, but we are in the 21st century. Everybody has a mobile phone. I am not alone. We communicate using it.

A counsellor helps children and parents who have problems and don't know how to solve them peacefully. I am sorry for those children who have violent parents. Violent parents hit and punish their children. Children can call Childline or any other helpline. It is not always the parents' fault. Some kids are rude and spoiled and they need to be treated differently.

My advice is that parents should be more patient with children and children should listen to their parents because they only want what's best for them.

Ana Parlov, 7c



Bullying– the problem of today

A bully is a boy or a girl who is usually very mean to others. He/she kicks, pushes and insults others to hurt them. Bullies are aggressive, but they are often weak and helpless. They mostly come from families where they shout to each other and they think it is a normal way of communication. Their parents are sometimes alcoholics and they don't take a good care of their children. Bullies choose "smaller "children for their victims . They also bully those who are weaker, quieter and don't know how to defend themselves. There are also bullies who send rude messages and post embarrassing photos on the Internet. I think that cyber bullying is worse than physical bullying because these things can be seen all around the world all the time.

Bullied people are often shy, quiet and lonely. If you are bullied, you feel uncomfortable , unsafe and embarrassed most of the time. You feel alone even if you are in company of your friends. Bullies harrass others mostly at school, but it doesn't stop there. When they get home, they receive ugly messages and it gets even worse because they don't feel safe among their families. They don't know how to solve that problem and most of children don't talk to their parents about it. They behave like weirdos.

I had a bad experience once. One girl sent me rude texts and posted screenshots of a conversation with her friend. It was about me, of course ,and it wasn't nice at all. I talked to my parents and they helped me to stop that. I didn't want to be bullied. Nobody wants that . If you are bullied, you must talk with your parents and if your parents don't trust you, talk to your teachers. Don't fight back! It makes bullies feel happy to continue their work with you. Bullies can change. We can help them change. They must learn how to control their angry feelings and how to turn something bad into something positive.

Blaženka Mandić ,8d



Bullying—the problem of today

Bullying— the problem that most of today's kids have a problem with. Sadly it happens a lot these days and somehow it just keeps growing. A bully is a person who usually isn't happy about himself and his life so he brings out that pain , hatred and suffering to others who are weaker ,shier and not as brave as him. A bully usually comes from a family that doesn't always get along , from a family that uses violence as a solution to almost everything. Bullies hit, spit and use force to bring you down , but there are also cyber, social and verbal bullies whose imagination can hurt you in many ways.

If you are bullied, you just want to hide it, but you can't. You feel hurt, ashamed and unwanted. You feel embarrassed and you just want it all to stop. Sometimes bullies bully people who they call geeks and nerds. Unfortunately, they make those people hate themselves for being smart . Bullies desire to be popular so much that they would do anything to be on a higher level than others. But, if a bully has no attention, bullying sometimes stops. Bullied people are sometimes left out and they feel like nobody wants to hang out with them. If a person walks away fast or cries somewhere in the corner of your school , it 's usually because of that thing— bullying.

If I were bullied, I would let somebody know right away so that it can be solved as fast as possible. I would turn to social service or a counsellor to help me with my problem . I think bullies can turn good . Everyone deserves or should be given a second chance, so as them. They have a rough time, too. Somewhere in there , there is a caring person and somebody should help them realize it. Bullies can become our best friends , but we need to help them to change.

Luka Kalat, 8d



Bullying—the problem of today

A bully is a lonely person. He can have friends , but he feels lonely and weak even when he is in their company. It is something inside of him that makes him hit and hurt others. He thinks that he is the boss if he insults others. That gives him the strength to feel complete. His family is often bad and the members of his family are in bad relationships. He usually bullies people who are weaker than him.

Bullied people are forced to do something for the bully or the bully will do something mean to them. Bullied people are lonely , sad and scared all the time. They always have huge problems on their minds. They don't know how to defend themselves from the bullies. In some cases, they even need to steal for them. Bullied people behave like loners avoiding contacts with other people . They are introverts and you can recognise them easily.

If you were bullied, you should ask for help. It is best to turn to your parents or maybe to police. You have to try to solve the problem . Bullies need help, too, and I think that they can be helped. They need some kind of a therapy or spend some time apart from their families. They should talk about their fears and things that make them be the worst they can.

Ivan Galić,8d



Erasmus +

I'm glad to inform you that our school has been a part of such a big and important programme called Erasmus +. The aim of this project is to prevent and stop bullying at schools. Bullying has become a major problem in our reality. Bullies are everywhere.

People who are involved in this project(teachers and pupils) travel around Europe to exchange their ideas and tools needed to reduce bullying. In November we did our best to be good hosts to our dear friends from five European countries: Italy, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Turkey and Portugal. Trying to welcome our guests and to make an impression on them, we prepared a drama about bullying with a great pleasure. Nikša was great in a role of a bullied boy. The way he walked and the way he spoke were really convincing. And the girls? Iva, Marija, Gabriela and me were bullies. We spoke angrily and loudly trying to assure him that he was too weak and miserable to be untouched by us, bullies. Ana M. was a real friend. She gave him hope and strength to be better than us. Hatred, threats and fights aren't the right ways to communicate with peers. Our teachers say that the audience had no trouble believing that we were the real characters. It's nice to hear that. Even though , there are always certain things we have to work on. Our classmate Klara played an important role as well. She was playing the guitar while we were singing "Best Friendship Song Ever" by Bruno Mars. It wouldn't have been the same without her. Our first graders Linda and Toma stole our hearts performing a sweet song "You are my Honey Bunch".

This was a great experience, not just because we travelled around our country and further, it's because we met new friends, spoke English and had a wonderful time. The guests were fascinated by the beauties of our little town and by the hospitality of our people. I liked them all, but the Portuguese boys were the best. We promised to stay in touch. Luckily, we are the children of modern world and Instagram makes it easier!

Lana Marijanović , 7c



GRAMMAR CORNER

Simple Past Tense

Simple Past Tense is used for finished actions in the past. You know exactly when something took place. The most commonly used adverbials are: yesterday, the day before yesterday, last week, two months ago, in 1998, when I was a baby etc.

We have to distinguish between regular and irregular verbs. To make the past tense of a regular verb, add –ED (-D or – IED).

For example: work – worked jump – jumped
 dance – danced play – played
 study – studied chat – chatted

Irregular verbs have a special form for the past tense.

Remember: There is always a list of irregular verbs at the end of your book.

For example: take- took sit – sat
 speak – spoke write – wrote

Questions: DID + INFINITIVE

Mary worked all day yesterday. Did Mary work all day yesterday?

John wrote an e-mail two days ago. Did John write an e-mail two days ago?

Negatives: DIDN'T + INFINITIVE

Peter stopped in front of the car. Peter didn't stop in front of the car.

My mum took me to school yesterday. My mum didn't take me to school yesterday.

PRACTICE

Put the following verbs into Simple Past Tense:

Write the PAST SIMPLE of the following verbs.

look _____

see _____

rub _____

try _____

have _____

play _____

hate _____

forget _____

be _____

travel _____

Complete with the PAST SIMPLE of the verbs in brackets.

When my aunt _____ (be) little, they _____ (have) electricity in her home. But they _____ (not have) TV. They only _____ (listen) to the radio. That _____ (be) their only connection to the outside world. They _____ (go) to the cinema, but they _____ (not go) to the theatre because there _____ (not be) any theatres in their town.

Most homes _____ (know) about telephones, but they _____ (not know) about computers.

Write questions in the PAST SIMPLE using the prompts.

1 people/ have/ cars _____

2 they/ use/ mobile phones _____

3 what/they/ listen to _____

4 where/they/ go _____

Put these sentences into the interrogative form.

1 Jenny grew up in Liverpool. _____

2 She liked school. _____

3 She had good marks. _____

4 She liked maths. _____

5 Her parents bought her a piano. _____

6 She went to music school. _____

Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Night

Bonfire Night, often referred to as Guy Fawkes Night, is a commemoration which takes place on 5th November, primarily in the United Kingdom. Its origin dates back to the events of 5th November 1605, when Guy Fawkes and his followers tried the Gunpowder Plot. They had placed some explosives beneath the House of Lords and tried to kill King James I. The king survived, while Guy Fawkes was arrested while guarding explosives.



Celebrating the fact that their King had survived, people lit bonfires around London.

It was primarily celebrated as a public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure.

Within a few decades Guy Fawkes' Night became a focus for anti-Catholic sentiment. Common folk burnt effigies of some popular hate-figures, such as the Pope. Eventually, the violence was dealt with, but it was only in the 20th century that it became an enjoyable social commemoration. The present-day Bonfire Night, as the name itself tells, is celebrated as an organised event, centred on a bonfire and firework displays.

English settlers exported Guy Fawkes Night to overseas colonies, where it was known as Pope Day.

Over the years, 5th November has been overtaken by Halloween, and for many people the distinction between the Fifth and Halloween is not clear.



There is also a popular English verse about this holiday.

The Fifth of November

*Remember, remember!
The fifth of November,
The Gunpowder treason and plot;
I know of no reason
Why the Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!
Guy Fawkes and his companions
Did the scheme contrive,
To blow the King and Parliament
All up alive.
Threescore barrels, laid below,
To prove old England's overthrow.
But, by God's providence, him they catch,
With a dark lantern, lighting a match!
A stick and a stake
For King James's sake!
If you won't give me one,
I'll take two,
The better for me,
And the worse for you.
A rope, a rope, to hang the Pope,
A penn'orth of cheese to choke him,
A pint of beer to wash it down,
And a jolly good fire to burn him.
Holloa, boys! holloa, boys! make the bells ring!
Holloa, boys! holloa boys! God save the King!
Hip, hip, hoor-r-r-ray!*

VOCABULARY CORNER

Idioms with animals

Idioms are a type of figurative language, i.e. their meaning should not be understood or translated literally. By using an idiom, you get to express yourself in a whole new way. Here are some idioms with animals.

ants in the pants= be agitated, excited or worried

He is having a live performance tonight. He's had ants in the pants all day long.

busy as a bee= very hardworking, diligent

I'm working on my music project. I've been as busy as a bee all day.

A little bird told me.= Somebody secretly told me.

Happy birthday! A little bird told me it was today.

All bark and no bite. = a harmless person

My boss yells a lot, but he's all bark and no bite.

have butterflies in one's stomach= be very nervous

I have a maths test. I've had butterflies in my stomach all morning.

bull in a china shop= a very clumsy person

He's just broken another plate. He's a real bull in a china shop.

open a can of worms= cause new problems

Well, you really didn't need this. You opened a real can of worms.

Let the cat out of the bag= reveal a secret

Tell us everything about your new sweetheart. Let the cat out of the bag!

dog eat dog= very competitive

It's a dog eat dog world out there.

wild goose chase= something that won't be accomplished easily

I've been trying to find some contracts. I've searched the whole apartment, but, obviously, it's been a wild goose chase. I couldn't find them

watching like a hawk= watch something very closely

I can't take a break now. The boss is watching me like a hawk.

Hold your horses= slow down

Hold your horses! There's no need to rush.

That really gets my goat. = That annoys me.

He's done it again. That really gets my goat.

pig-headed= stubborn and inflexible

He never listens to anyone. He is so pig-headed.

Quit cold turkey= stop (a habit like drinking or smoking) completely

Look at him. He is a new man. He has completely quit cold turkey.

weasel out of something= abandon your responsibility or commitment in a sneaky or cowardly way

I am so mad at her. We were supposed to do a science project together, but she weaseled out of it.

like a fish out of water= uncomfortable in a particular situation

I'm getting used to my new job. I feel like a fish out of water.

wouldn't hurt a fly= a gentle and nonviolent person

We love our history teacher best. He never raises his voice at us. He wouldn't hurt a fly.

Pupils' corner

RespACT Your Peer; Don't Bully, BE FRIENDLY

GENERAL

ERASMUS+ is a project founded by the European Union. It encourages tolerance and friendship between peers. It helps us learn about other cultures as well. Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, Turkey and Croatia are included in this project. From November 5th till November 9th our school was the host of the first meeting.

FIRST DAY:

In the morning we welcomed all partner schools. Around 10:30am the participants started presenting themselves, their cities, countries and schools. After lunch we went to the Fortress of Knin and we visited a few museums. When we got to the top, we saw the entire city.

When we got back to school, there was a short welcome programme. We saw the performances of our school choir, Drama club and folklore. After the programme, the students headed out to a cafe bar under their parents' supervision.

SECOND DAY:

In the morning we had a discussion entitled "What is Cyberbullying" in which we worked on tablets in groups, among which we tried to guess people's emotions by their faces. Around 10:30am we had a public debate by Nino Ljubas and Ante Raić Perutina, whose moderator was Roko Tojčić. The thesis of the debate was "School uniforms should be accepted in schools". Also, we had to make a short comic book about bullying which was really fun. After lunch we went to a nearby city called Šibenik. In Šibenik we saw St James' Cathedral and we ate in McDonalds.

THIRD DAY:

In the morning we had a presentation about "peer-coaching and how it can be done at schools". It was presented to us by the Turkish teacher and students. At 10:00am we went to the Plitvice Lakes. There we visited two biggest lakes and our guests were amazed by their sheer beauty. On our way back, we stopped at the famous Croatian restaurant Macola.

FOURTH DAY:

First, we made handprints of clay and we wrote some texts around handprints. After that we went to Split, the second biggest city in Croatia. In Split we went sightseeing, saw the Palace of Diocletian, the statue of Grgur Ninski and the famous Riva of Split. On our way back, we visited the biggest shopping center in Split, Mall of Split. When we got home the students and teachers had an afterparty with some great music and food.

LAST DAY:

On Friday we took some photos and escorted the guest students and teachers to the bus station.

My best friend

My best friend is Max. He is a dog. Max lives next to my house.

Max is medium-height. He is slim. His coat is black and white. His eyes are brown.

Max is playful and curious. I like my dog because he is really cuddly and playful. Max and I usually play fun games and explore together. My dog's favourite game is Pull. The game is very simple. The dog has to grab the toy and the other dog or the owner needs to grab it as well and pull. The one who lets go of the toy, loses the game. We repeat it as long as we don't get tired of it.

Ivan Belak, 5th grade

My mother

My mother's name is Adrijana. She is forty-five years old. She lives in Knin. She is married and has got two children. My mother is a faculty teacher.

My mother is short. She is thin. Her eyes are brown. She has got dyed hair. Her hair is also short and straight.

My mum is hardworking. I love her because she is helpful and nice.

Petra Kegalj, 5th grade

Modern technology and its influence on everyday life

Modern technology is everything that has something to do with advanced electronics. We use it every day, on many different occasions. There are a lot of modern devices like mobile phones, computers, tablet computers etc. People in the past used some modern technology, but it wasn't anything like today.

The major advantage of a cell phone is that you can call anyone at any time. Another advantage is for educational purposes. You can learn things from the Internet and have fun doing so.

Technology has its disadvantages, too. Here are some of them. You are available to everyone, at every time. There are too many unwanted ads and a lot of scamming. When people, especially teenagers, overuse it, they become addicted to it and they start to feel trapped by it. They simply cannot imagine their life without it.

I use electronic devices two hours a day, sometimes even less. I often use them just for fun, but there are such cases when I use them for education and communication. My parents think it's good to use them, but only in normal amounts. I think that, in the future, modern technology will have an even bigger impact on our lives.

Andrija Klemić, 7th grade



Sleep and the importance of sleeping

People usually sleep at night. There are five stages of sleep. In the first two stages we sleep lightly and could be woken up easily. In the next two stages we sleep deeply, like a log. The last stage of sleeping is called REM. It stands for rapid eye movement. In that stage we dream and our eyes move quickly. We usually dream several times , but we usually don't remember all our dreams.

We need sleep to work normally. Our body cannot function without sleep. Melatonin is the darkness hormone. It helps us sleep and grow. We need at least eight hours of sleep to be able to perform our daily duties.

Teenagers usually don't sleep much. They play video games all night. If we lack sleep, we will be angry, nervous and won't act appropriately. Teenagers mostly play computer games late at night, so that results in them not having enough sleep. The result of that is usually bad performance at school.

I don't sleep much on weekdays. It depends on how my day was. If everything was OK, I sleep like a baby, but when something bad happens, I usually can't sleep a wink. My parents always warn me to go to bed early, but I don't always listen to them. I usually regret that the next day.

Andrija Grgić, 8th grade

Sleep and the importance of sleeping

All people sleep. Sleeping is a process of resting our body and mind. There are five stages of sleep. In the first two stages, you sleep lightly. Almost anything can wake you up. In stages 3 and 4 you sleep deeply. You hear no sounds and see no lights. There is also the REM stage. In this stage we dream. We dream five to six times during the night, but we usually don't remember our dreams.

Sleep is very important, especially for teenagers, because when you dream, you release a hormone melatonin. It is essential for our growth. According to most experts, you should sleep at least eight hours every night.

Many teenagers don't sleep enough because they keep staying up late playing video games or watching TV. Teenagers who don't get enough sleep may experience anxiety or depression. Some schools have decided to start their classes later to give their students more time to sleep.

On school nights I get around 7-8 hours of sleep, which is why I am sometimes tired during the classes. On weekends I sleep a lot because I don't have any chores to do. My parents want me to go to sleep earlier. If people have problems falling asleep, they shouldn't consume caffeine, exercise before bedtime, watch TV or eat much before going to sleep. By following some of the listed advice, things should improve.

Gabriel Hrga, 8th grade



Tell me a story

A few sixth graders wrote a story about times long ago..these are some of them...

THE KNIGHT AND A DRAGON

Once upon a time there was an old and wise king. He lived in a big and beautiful castle.

He had a beautiful wife and a daughter. One day a dangerous dragon came and kidnapped king's wife. The dragon took the queen in a cave at the top of the mountain. The king was desperate. He sent his best and courageous soldiers to save the queen. Many soldiers tried to save the queen but didn't succeed. A few days later a young man came to the king and said that he could save the queen. The king gave him everything he needed. The man came to the cave and killed the dragon.

When the two returned to the king, he gave him a prize-a lot of money and gold and a castle of his own. Also, the young man married the king's daughter.

Finally, the whole family was together. They lived peacefully and were very happy. He life in the whole kingdom was blissful.

Some time after, the king died and the young man became the king.

He ruled wisely and fair. The people loved him very much. The king and his people lived happily ever after!

Mladen Grgić, 6d

LEGEND OF A WIZARD NAMED.....BILLY

Once upon a time there lived a wizard. His name was Billy. He led an interesting life. Every day he was doing tricks. He was very popular, he lived in a big castle and worked for the king, Eduard.

The king and his wife Witchy enjoyed watching him every evening.

One day he went to the garden and met a little princess. She asked him to make the biggest trick yet for the upcoming king's birthday. But the big secret was that the wizard was very old and his tricks didn't work as they used to. He was very sad that he wouldn't be able to perform any of his tricks, so he wrote a letter to the king and went to the woods. Everybody was disappointed that he just left.

Suddenly a fairy godmother Aurora showed up. She was very friendly and helpful. She found Billy and promised to help him. She gave him her magic wand and all the power it came with it.

Meantime, there was a big party going on in the castle. But the people were sad because Billy wasn't there.

Suddenly, a few moments before midnight Billy entered the castle, and the people jumped from joy. He made the best trick ever and the king was over the moon!

And in the corner, Aurora sat, watching all of it. She was so proud of Billy.

Billy continued to work and live in the castle for many years to come.

Josip Anić-Bare, 6d

A BOY CALLED RYAN

Once upon a time there lived a boy called Ryan. He was very poor and miserable. One day he went to the woods and met an old wise wizard. He told him to go and find a land called Snowland where he would find his happiness.

He went into the darkest part of the woods and fell into a deep hole. There he met a huge blue dragon. Ryan was scared but he asked if the dragon knew where Snowland was. The dragon was good and kind and told Ryan to find a blue tree in the deepest part of the cave and the next turn right was the place of Snowland.

He walked for eighty days, but finally, hungry, scared and shivering, he came to the blue tree, turned right and saw- the Snowland.

It was a land of snow, beautiful and clean snow. It was a place filled with kind and friendly people. He finally found his happiness. He was never hungry and lonely again.

He was happy.

Ivan Gambiroža, 6d



Happy winter holidays