



Welcome to our Newsletter!

Contributions from all of you are very welcome. Please speak to your teacher or our Academic Manager David if you wish to take part in the next issue. It is a fantastic opportunity to show off your English skills and the experience may enhance your CV.

Seven Christmas Traditions in Poland

by Marti Kapron



Many countries celebrate *Xmas* in their own way. Poland is a Christian country where traditions come from the Bible. Let me tell you what Christmas is like in Poland!

1. Christmas Eve

We have our main dinner on the 24th of December, not like in many countries on the 25th.

2. First Star

We start Christmas Dinner when the first star lights up in the sky. Everyone waits impatiently for this sign to begin celebrating this holy day with family.

3. An empty seat for an unexpected guest

It symbolises the memory of those who cannot spend this year's Christmas with us.



4. Twelve Dishes

This number refers to the twelve apostles. We fast that day, so a lot of dishes include cabbage, mushrooms and peas. One of the main meals is Karp (a kind of fish), not turkey like in the UK.

5. Sharing the wafer

It is the most important part of supper - sharing a special wafer and making the best wishes with your relatives (as Jesus did when He shared bread with his disciples).

6. Hay under the tablecloth

This symbol is supposed to provide happiness in the following year.

7. Christmas Mass at midnight

Christmas Eve evening ends with midnight mass where Catholics pray together and sing carols.



I wait the entire year for these gorgeous days, when I have the ability to spend time with my family, eat this special food and enjoy the magic of Christmas. I hope you liked learning about how we celebrate Christmas in Poland!

Interview

Interview with your Student Support Officer, Federica.

Why did you choose to work in the EFL industry?

I didn't choose the EFL industry, the EFL industry chose me... Jokes aside, I like the opportunity of dealing with people from different backgrounds on a daily basis and helping them have a great experience here in the UK.

What's the best thing about your job?

I like meeting students from different cultures and learning from them, even when sometimes it's something very distant from my experience!

What were you like in school?

I was a good student and I loved learning, particularly stuff that opened my mind like literature, history, arts and philosophy... but I was also the one who always sat in the last row and spent half of my time chatting, writing, or reading novels that I hid below my desk.



Describe your ideal Sunday morning.

My ideal Sunday morning doesn't exist as I would wake up no later than midday. I'm a night owl and it's a real effort for me to function properly in the morning...

What do you like to do outside of work?

I listen to loads of music (mostly edgy hardcore and metal) and attend as many gigs as I can. Manchester is great for this. I'm also a compulsive volunteer: I'm involved in a few cultural projects and organisations in the city, it's great fun.

How would your best friend describe you?

My closest friends say I'm quirky, sarcastic and an overall good egg. They would also add, 'excellent music taste'.

What would your autobiography be called?

Notes from the Margins of the Mosh Pit.

If you could describe Communicate in 3 words, what would they be?

Welcoming, multicultural, evolving.



Image drawn by Amanda Alice, @the_girl_who_draws_things

Call my bluff

Two of the definitions are false, the other one is true – can you guess which definition is the real one?

by Cathy's intermediate class

Clapshot

1. It's a Scottish food made from mashed vegetables.
2. It's a game they used to play in Ireland.
3. It's an old place where people used to go to have a drink.

Mungo

1. It's a type of vegetable used in a salad
2. It's a person who is strange or weird
3. It's a person who looks for valuable things in rubbish.



Funambulist

1. It's someone who makes people laugh.
2. It's someone who can walk on a tightrope.
3. It's something which protects your inner clothes from getting wet.



Pronk

1. It's when you do something to your friend which makes them shocked or surprised.
2. It's someone who is weak or foolish.
3. It's a combination of the words 'prohibited' and 'no kidding'.

How healthy are you?

By the intermediate conversation class

1. How often do you exercise?

- every day
- 2-3 times a week
- never

2. On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (really), how much do you enjoy exercising?

1 2 3 4 5

3. Do you oversleep?

- Yes
- No



4. Do you feel satisfied with your lifestyle?
.....

5. How often do you drink and smoke?

- every day
- once a week
- once a month
- on occasions
- never

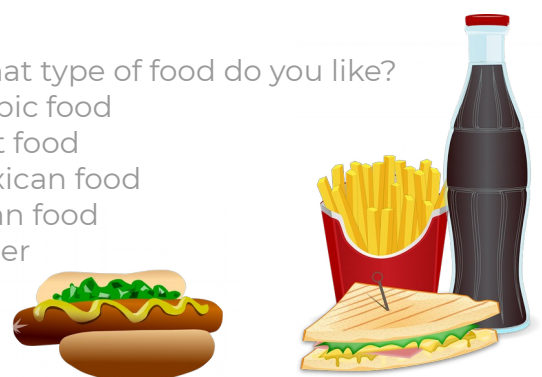


5. Do you think increasing the price of cigarettes/drinks could solve health problems?

- Yes
- No

6. What type of food do you like?

- Arabic food
- Fast food
- Mexican food
- Asian food
- Other



Student of the Month

Student of the Month for November was Billy.

His teachers said: *"Billy always has a smile on his face and is ready to help others whenever they need it. He's improved a lot during his time with us and continues to improve because of his hard work and dedication."*

This is a great achievement, well done! You should be really proud of yourself.



Oman's National Day



Earlier this month, we celebrated Oman's 48th National Day. The day celebrates the birthday of His Majesty Qaboos bin Said al Said, Sultan of Oman. Students threw an incredible celebration and taught us about the traditions and history of their National Day.

There were balloons, flowers, food, activities, songs, and lots more. Students even treated us to a quiz, face painting and a fantastic speech with information about the day.



Thank you so much to our students for your hard work and organisation. Everyone had a great day and it was an honour to celebrate your National Day with you!

Useful Info



Do you know...



... who to call if you have an emergency and need to contact the school out of hours?	Call our emergency number +44(0)7482660030
... who the First Aiders are in school?	Federica and Virginia
... where the fire emergency assembly point is?	On the corner of Dale Street and Paton Street
... who to contact when you have a new phone number or new address?	Email your new details to office@communicateschool.co.uk
... who can help you if you need to see a doctor but don't speak good English?	Ask a Student Support Officer to go with you
... who to ask if you want more homework?	Speak to your teacher after class
... who can help you change your timetable?	Academic Manager David
... who you can speak to if you are not sure which exam to take?	Academic Manager David