

IN ENGLISH Education

AT POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Staff development at CLC

This February the staff of Centre of Languages and Communication is working hard to prepare for another challenging semester of online or hybrid learning.

The most important event this month is “English Medium Instruction at European Universities” conference, taking place on the 18th and 19th February. During this conference participants from Poland and many other countries are going to have the opportunity to discuss English Medium Instruction as a system and its practical application strategies and techniques. Considering the pandemic threat, however, the conference is going to be held in hybrid form,

with most presentations and workshops available to the participants online.

The CLC teachers are also taking their time to improve their skills, learn new teaching techniques and learn about the best and newest tools and platforms used in distance learning. We want to ensure the best quality of teaching and make the learning process as smooth as possible for the students. That is why the CLC teachers have access to a number of practical workshops.

We also have Technical Support Team [Zespół Wspomagania Technicznego] – a team of wonderful people devoted to helping the CLC staff with any potential problems the online tools and platforms we are using may generate. They are always there to guide us through more challenging situations and patiently answer all the questions that we might have.

The teachers at CLC hope that by improving our teaching skills, we will also be able to provide an even better and more interesting learning experience to PUT students.

Final exam in languages during the winter examination session 2020/2021

In the winter session 2020/21, the language exam was held remotely using the eMeeting tool. It was the second session held in this form. Students joined the examination committees from their homes, and the examiners stayed in classrooms at Poznan University of Technology. Thanks to the experience gathered during the previous online session and the modifications introduced, the exam went very smoothly. Teachers also received the necessary technical help from the Technical Support Team

and from IT professionals cooperating with the Centre for Languages and Communication. Apart from the online session, a certified ACERT written exam was conducted on the 9th of February. The exam was held for students who expressed the need for obtaining a language certificate and passed the oral exam in the online form in September 2020. Fifty students took part in the exam and they represented the following faculties: Information Communications Technology, Electrical Engineering, Technical and

Information Education, Chemical Technology, Chemical and Process Engineering and Aerospace.

The exam was conducted with the consent of His Magnificence Rector of Poznan University of Technology. The exam took place in a sanitary regime and was administered in the halls of the Lecture Centre of Poznan University of Technology.

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A SHORT UPDATE

on **EntreSTEAM** project

Poznan University of Technology is a partner in EntreSTEAM (2020-2022), which is an Erasmus+ KA203 Strategic Partnerships funded project that aims to help European Higher Education Institutes improve the connection between working-life experience in international teams and our language courses.

Our Finnish-Spanish-Polish project team have already prepared an online module for the course combining language learning with entrepreneurially minded and problem based learning. As a result, students will be able to work in transnational teams focusing on solving current chal-

lenges through design thinking methods. Now, we are moving onto a pilot phase of our online module, which means the first group of students will be invited to take part in the course involving international cooperation within the three universities involved: University of Oulu, University of Zaragoza and Poznań University of Technology.

More to come soon.
Katarzyna Sobańska, M.A.



22ND NATIONAL OLYMPIAD

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR STUDENTS OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES

The Centre of Languages and Communication is organizing the 22nd National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities. Every year Poznan University of Technology is the host of this big event, with hundreds of students

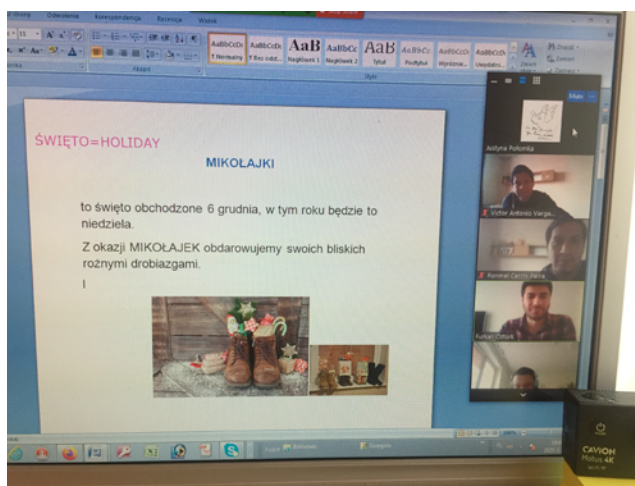
taking part and with lots of sponsors and special guests attending. The first stage is going to take place on 12th March at 4.30 pm and, as it happens annually, it will be held at participants' own universities. Unfortunately, there have been some changes made due to coronavirus rela-

ted restrictions. Needless to say, every part of the Olympiad will be held online, including the second stage and the finals on 23rd April and 24th April respectively. Due to the fact that our participants, who are all over Poland, study online, it is impossible for them to arrive at Poznan University of Technology. In the final stage, students are about to prepare a ten-minute presentation for the given topic. It will be then presented via the Internet. The whole event is organized and managed by a small team of English lecturers from Poznan University of Technology with Waldemar Korczyk, MA, as a coordinator, and Katarzyna So- bańska, MA, Joanna Potrzebska, MA, Hanna Nowak, MA, as team members. The Organizing Team of the Olympiad

cooperates with coordinators from other technical univer- sities from Poland. Every year Poznan University of Tech- nology is the host to members and lecturers from other Polish universities, such as Szczecin, Białystok, Wrocław , Rzeszów, Gdańsk, Gliwice, Lublin, Łódź or Warszawa. The purpose of the Olympiad is to popularize the English language among students of technical universities and colleges in Poland because English is a big asset for every young engineer.

Hanna Nowak, MA

POLISH CULTURE WEEK IN DECEMBER 2020



cuisine having a possibility to taste different Polish dishes.

Polish Culture Week has been a week of interesting pre- sentations, fascinating film shows and exciting workshops on Polish history, geography, customs and traditions since 2014. However, December 2020 was totally different due to the coronavirus pandemic and its restrictions. Culture Week had to be limited to online meetings only. Students learnt about some typical December festivities like “An- drzejki” (St. Andrew’s Night) or “Mikołajki” (Saint Nicolas’ Day) and the way they are celebrated in Poland.

Since the students were unable to experience anything by themselves, it was extremely challenging to talk about the customs and traditions and to describe them in a fascina- ting way to make the students interested and engaged. However, their active participation in online discussions and games prepared by the team of Polish teachers from CLC proved to be worth the effort.

Barbara Tarko, MA

Polish Culture Week is a colourful event organised yearly, usually at the beginning of December, by the Centre of Languages and Communication. The week-long event meant for international students at PUT, is filled with interesting presentations, film shows and workshops. Students learn about Polish hi- story, culture and traditions, prepare posters and have fun singing Polish songs. They are also introduced to Polish

Life in quarantimes

Fancy celebrating a virtual happy hour with a quarantini or two? Or do you just want to quarantine and chill?

The Covid-19 pandemic has wrought changes in all aspects of our lives, including in the way we communicate. We are using certain words, expressions, and abbreviations such as self-isolate, quarantine, mask, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and WFH (Work from Home) much more frequently, as well as a whole range of neologisms (newly coined words and expressions) that have officially and unofficially entered the English language, and many other languages, too.

This new vocabulary has sprung up to help us navigate these quarantimes, make sense of the new world that we live in, and cope with the psychological stress of ill health, social distancing, and financial uncertainty. Let's have a look at the new covid-lingo / coronaspeak.

Coronavirus, itself, has at least two monikers: the Rona (and variations thereof), and Miley Cyrus, or simply, Miley (used as Cockney Rhyming Slang) – 'He's got a case of the Miley's'. The latter name started out on a satirical news site and was later taken up by twitter users. Someone with 'the Rona' who, perhaps unintentionally, spreads it to a large number of people is known as a super-spreader, while those people who ignore lockdown rules are called covididiots. Those that refuse to wear a mask in public may suffer mask shaming as other members of the public confront them for their antisocial behaviour.

Turning to relationships and free time, we talk about our social bubble, quaranteam or pandemic pod, i.e., a small group of friends, family, neighbours or co-workers outside of our own household that we socialize with – this may include quaranteens (teenagers) or even coronababies (babies born over the past year). If we've tested positive for covid antibodies, indicating that we've already had coronavirus, we may hang out with our anti-buddy (someone who also

displays covid antibodies). We might meet up with those people not in our social bubble by holding a covideo party (on a video conferencing platform) and have a few quarantinis (quarantine + martini) at home in the locktail hour while sitting in our own zoom room (a real room in our house that we use for video-calling). A contactless pizza delivery would keep us well-fed but would also lower the risk of our catching covid-19.

However, lockdown and social distancing are having some adverse effects on us: many of us have been on a corona-coaster (suffering from severe mood swings during lockdown), while too much time spent in videoconferences may give us zoom fatigue or leave us feeling zoomed out. If we've lost track of what day it is, perhaps it's blursday (all days look the same during lockdown). Moreover, our non-stop doomscrolling or doomsurfing (searching the internet for bad news) may eventually drive our real-life partners away: zumping (getting dumped on zoom) is becoming the norm and covidivorce rates are climbing.

So, when will it all end? Are there any signs of covexit? We are pinning all our hopes on vaccination, known in the US as the fauchie ouchie after Dr Anthony Fauchie, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical advisor to the US president. The signs are promising and who knows? This summer, we might

even get a safecation (a holiday somewhere thought to be safe from coronavirus), but is anywhere safe anymore? Perhaps social distancing is the new normal.

Nuala Mederski, MA

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MAKING **APPOINTMENTS**

Making and cancelling appointments is an important skill. It is worth knowing certain phrases which would apply to formal or informal register in this respect.

We all make appointments, whether it is an informal meeting with friends or an official conversation at a workplace. Below you will find certain phrases you may need when you take out your diary and jot down the details of your appointment.

Informal questions vs. Formal queries

- Can we meet on the 15th?
- Are you free next week?
- Would Tuesday suit you?
- Is next Friday convenient for you?
- Are you available on the 17th?

Cancelling an Appointment

- Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen business, I will be unable to keep our appointment for tomorrow afternoon.
- Would it be possible to arrange another time later in the week?
- I'm afraid that I have to cancel our meeting on Wednesday, as something unexpected has come up.
- You know we were going to meet next Friday? Well, I'm

very sorry, but something urgent has come up.

- I'm afraid that I'm not going to be able to meet you after all. Can we fix another time?

Unavailability

- You may not be available at the specified time or you may find a given time inconvenient for you. Thus, it is possible to use the following phrases:
- I'm sorry. I'm all booked up next Monday. – No problem. Are you available Tuesday instead?
- Unfortunately, he has a meeting at 9 a.m. that morning. – That's okay. Would 3 p.m. work instead?
- I'm sorry. I don't have any availability next week. I'll be on holiday. – No worries! Are you free the Monday after that?

Now you are set with the knowledge in a nutshell of how to make appointment in English. Remember to consider your audience when you choose the formal or informal register. Marta Strukowska, MA

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