

Education

IN ENGLISH

AT POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Dear readers,

The second issue of Education in English in the academic year 2014/15 focuses mainly on international students. According to information from Lifelong Learning and International Office this semester the total number of students from foreign countries is about 240 and 120 of them are Erasmus students. Now it is common to meet international students at PUT as they are seen or more often heard almost every day. This issue focuses on Polish Week; an orientation week for international students during which they are given the opportunity to experience Polish culture and visit many interesting and attractive places situated in Poznań and its vicinity. You can also read students' opinions about the event, their reasons for choosing to study at our university and their first impressions of PUT.

International students pose a challenge for all university staff and academic teachers in particular. Therefore, you are offered some tips for teaching international students which may be useful in completing a task successfully.

Finally, the current edition is released in December (a very special month because of Christmas) so there is also an element concerned with the occasion; The Christmas Crossword. I hope you will relax doing the crossword and check your competence as far as Christmas customs and tradition are concerned.

Enjoy and have a nice Christmas!

Dorota Kudła, teacher of English at CLC
Editor



POLISH WEEK

At the end of September, lecturers from the Centre of Languages and Communication at PUT (Barbara Tarko, M.A, Justyna Połomka, M.A and Małgorzata Konopko, M.A) organised Polish Week for international students who came to Poznań to study at our university. The idea of Polish Week was introduced in 2008 and it has been organized twice a year since then (one week before the beginning of the summer and winter terms). Over these years, Polish Week has become so popular among Erasmus students, that nearly all of them decide to come to Poland one week earlier to take part in this event.

This year it was held between September 22nd and September 26th and about 100 hundred students participated in it. Traditionally, the majority of students come from Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Italy and France. Also, there were students from Hungary, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Great Britain, Finland and Germany. In addition to this, this year a few students come from as far afield as India and Morocco!



As usual, Polish Week was filled with many different activities which helped students to learn something about Poland and also to get to one another. They had the opportunity to see unique, old Poznanian fortifications, visit historical buildings, listen to Poznanian legends and watch a short film about the history of Poland. They also visited the Lech Brewery and regarded the beer production process. The

biggest attraction, however, was the trip to Wolsztyn, where students visited the Engine and Locomotive Museum and the Open Air Ethnographic Museum. Afterwards, they had the opportunity to try some traditional Polish cuisine as they were invited for a typical Polish meal including chicken soup, meat chops with potatoes and salads in a restaurant near Wolsztyn.

During the week, students had their first classes at our university and they learnt a few basic phrases in Polish. Polish Week was an unforgettable experience both for students and the lecturers who organised this event.

Małgorzata Konopko, M.A.
Polish Lecturer at CLC

STUDENTS' OPINIONS

/students' original spelling/

What do you like most about Polish Week?

I enjoyed learning about how Polish people lived in the past in the Wolsztyn houses and also I liked the train museum. Then I enjoyed having lunch with the Erasmus students because we had opportunity to exchange and meet. (Abdelhamid, Mechanical Engineering).

The guided tour around the city of Poznań was really interesting, as well as the visit to Fort 6. (Luis Manuel, Mechanical Engineering).

The Polish week was a great way to get an impression about Polish culture, history and tradition. Also, I got to know and see some diverse perspective from the architecture, cuisine and language. Therefore, I would say the Polish week opened my knowledge on Poland and I met some wonderful people. (Irungbam, Architecture).

I liked visits each day, each one was different. I think the best day was Tuesday when we visited Poznań. (Pauline, Mechanics and Management).

Why did you decide to study at PUT?

I decided to study here because, first I have never went to Poland, then my French university is smaller than PUT so I had an opportunity to study at a big university. (Guibert, Mechanical Engineering).

I had 3 choices. I wanted to see Poland. I searched a little of

PUT. It's a good university. I chose PUT. (Batu, Engineering Management).

I decided to study at PUT after a conversation with an Italian girl. She went to Poznań for her Erasmus and she told me that PUT is a good university and the city is beautiful. (Federico, Architecture).

I decided to study architecture in Poznań (PUT) because I want to improve my English during this year (the lectures are in English) and because I never went to the east of Europe. My choice was decided also because two friends of mine were in Poznań at PUT two years ago. (Atne, Architecture).

What are your first impressions of PUT?

I think PUT is 'first class' university. Therefore all of teachers who I met are very polite to me when I was talking or asking something. (Meria, Civil Engineering).

I feel like being in a family. (Ouazzani, Mechanical Engineering).

I was surprised not to see all the departments of PUT in the same place. For example, the architecture school is far away. (Atne, Architecture).

I've been impressed by the faculties here in the campus but when I saw where architecture is I felt quite disappointed because it's not a really good connection between the faculty and the campus. I think there are things that can be improved. (Alberto, Architecture).

SUCCESS IN TEACHING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

/part 2/

PRE-CLASS TIPS

- Check the pronunciation of key words
- Plan and write down key questions in your plan
- Practice your talk out loud
- Watch yourself speak in the mirror
- Prepare questions, examples, realia and slides
- Prepare short assignments and feasible tasks
- Make sure your instructions are clear and simple
- Prepare handouts when you plan to use PowerPoint

IN-CLASSROOM TIPS

- Articulate ideas in a simple way and keep structures of presentations clear
- Paraphrase students' questions to check if you understand them correctly
- Make sure students understand instructions and assignments (write them down)
- Use simple sentences and a consistent signposting language
- Try to give examples or models of what you are talking about
- Ensure that students are not afraid of making mistakes
- Make students work in groups or pairs first. When confident enough, encourage them to speak in front of the class
- Encourage students to take part in group work as it is important to complete the tasks
- Set the time for each task
- Monitor pair and group work
- Check if your students follow you

- Try to help them overcome their intimidation, whatever the reason
- Suggest what is to be covered next time
- Provide short and clearly explained home assignments

TESTING TIPS

- Comment first on the meaning and organisation of the assignment
- Comment on errors in a benevolent manner
- Set up a hierarchy of errors
- Focus on meaning first of all
- Reinforce the student's strengths while explaining what he/she still needs to work on
- Give students the opportunity to query their grades. Be willing to provide additional clarification

"DON'TS" TIPS

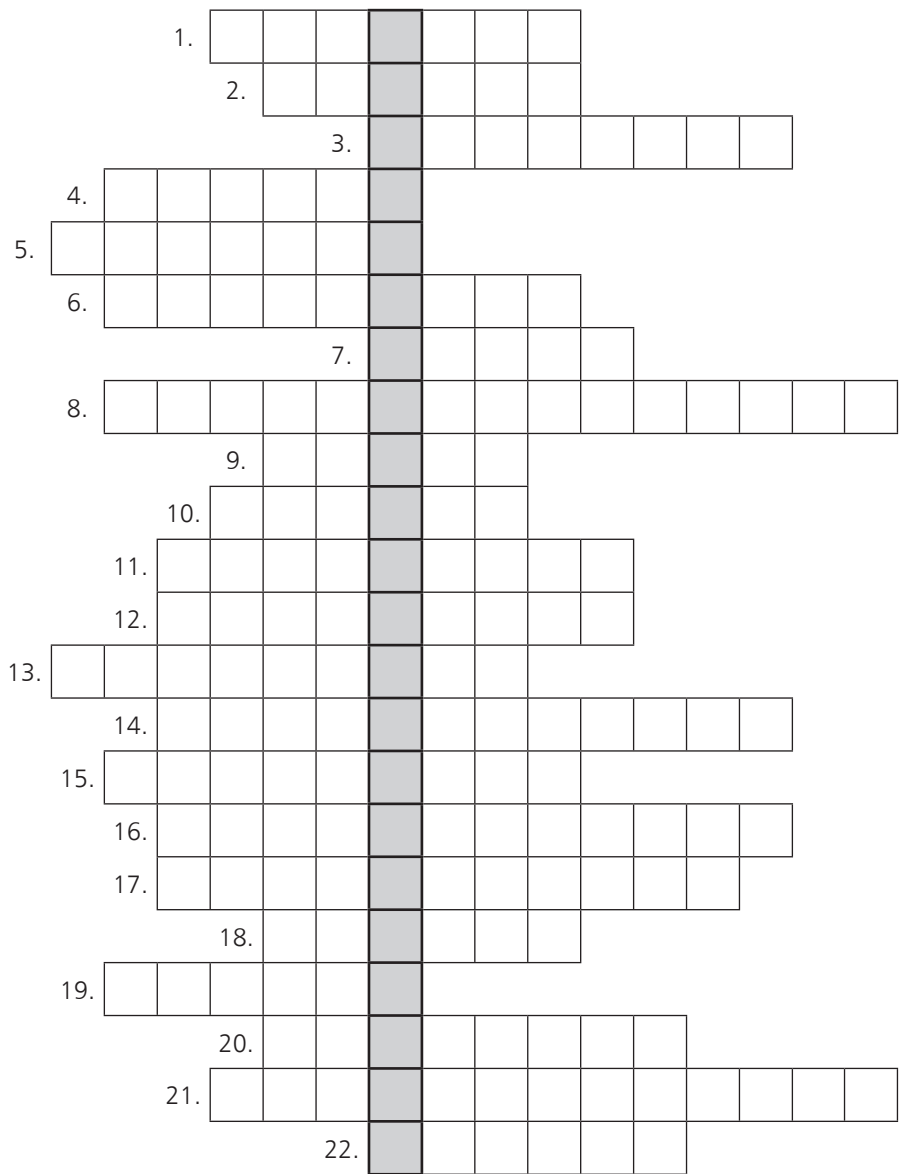
- Avoid slang, colloquial language and idiomatic expressions
- Avoid local issues understood only by residents
- Avoid unnecessary digressions and muffled delivery
- Avoid stereotyping
- Try not to foster the student's fear of errors
- Avoid forcing them to speak in front of the class too soon
- Avoid giving them too long materials to read or prepare.

FINAL TIP - ENJOY!

Beata Olszewska, M.A
Teacher of English at CLC

CHRISTMAS

Fill in the crossword with vocabulary related to Christmas traditions. Use the hints below to help you. Letters in the bold column will give you the hidden word.



1. Part of the construction of a house, giving Santa entry into the house
2. Santa's mode of transport, used to transport presents
3. An animal providing propulsion for Santa's sleigh
4. A box for hay in a stable, where according to tradition Jesus was placed
5. This group of children is highly unlikely to receive gifts
6. A sweet moist cake made with honey or molasses, spices and dried fruit
7. An evergreen shrub, with serrated green leaves and red fruit
8. Another name for Santa Claus
9. The colour of Christmas that many singers are dreaming of
10. Long and narrow strands of shimmering materials imitating snow or ice, placed on a Christmas tree
11. According to a popular song, they are roasting in an open fire
12. Decorative elements use to place on a Christmas tree and give your home a holiday look
13. A traditional treat made of spun sugar, in the shape of a striped red-and-white stick
14. The name for the 25th December
15. A green parasitic plant, tradition requires people standing underneath it to share a kiss
16. Usually performed at Christmas, presents the story of Christ's birth
17. A type of cookie made with honey, cinnamon and other spices
18. Traditional songs performed at Christmas
19. Poultry traditionally eaten for dinner in the UK
20. A piece of clothing traditionally hung over the fireplace in expectation of gifts
21. An aromatic resin, one of the gifts brought by the wise men
22. A traditional alcoholic or non-alcoholic holiday drink made with milk or cream, whipped eggs and spices

This semester PUT employees and PhD students will be able to take advantage of individual consultations offered by the Written English Team at CLC. The consultations are aimed at employees who wish to improve the quality of their published works or proofread their articles. Feel warmly invited.

For additional information please contact:
henryk.szymanski@put.poznan.pl

1. CHIMNEY, 2. SLEIGH, 3. REINDEER, 4. MANGER, 5. NAUGHTY, 6. FRUITCAKE, 7. HOLLY, 8. FATHER CHRISTMAS, 9. WHITE, 10. TINSSEL, 11. CHESTNUTS, 12. ORNAMENTS, 13. CANDY CANE, 14. CHRISTMAS DAY, 15. MISTLETOE, 16. NATIVITY PLAY, 17. GINGERBREAD, 18. CAROLS, 19. TURKEY, 20. STOCKING, 21. FRANKINCENSE, 22. EGNOG.