

IN ENGLISH Education

AT POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Dear Readers,

The latest issue of Education in English at PUT provides a very detailed and practical presentation of the Bulats test, which is offered to both students and PUT employees.

You can also read about PUT international students' experiences and impressions of the Wielkopolska region.

I am also pleased to inform you about CLC's cooperation with Afera Radio. Students can now learn English idioms while listening to the station.

As December is a very special month, you can also enjoy our Christmas Quiz with the chance to win a small present.

Enjoy!

Dorota Kudła, Teacher of English
Editor

POLISH WEEK

Traditionally, at the end of September, the Centre of Languages and Communication at PUT organizes a Polish Week for international students who come to Poznan to study at our university.

This year it was held between September 23 and September 27. Nearly 100 students (mostly Erasmus students) took part in Polish Week. They came to Poznan from various countries, such as Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Holland and even Tanzania.

Polish Week was filled with many different activities which helped students to discover interesting places and taste Polish food. They had the opportunity to see some of the most important historical buildings and monuments in Poznan. They visited the old Poznan fortifications and the Lech Brewery as well as the Engine and Locomotive Museum and Open Air Ethnographic Museum in Wolsztyn. They also had their first Polish lessons where they learnt some basic phrases.

At the end of the week students were asked to write down their first impres-

sions of Poland. This is what they wrote (students' original spelling):

'I really like Poznan so far, because if the nice people (although they should speak more English) and the tasty food. The bad side, the weather' (Gines, Spain)

'I like Poznan for its historical sightseeings, clean streets and a lot of students around. The negative impression was made





'Since I came to Poland, I used to eat Polish foods because they are so delicious. Poznan is amazing city I ever visited in Poland' (Jamali, Tanzania)

'It is not the first time I go in Poland, but last time it was 15 years ago so it is important for me to rediscover the country. Poznan is a very modern city (...)' (Thomas, France)

'A cold city but well organized and with so much going on every time. The cultural events, the green areas, the local commerce... it just makes you feel at home. And when the sun show up... it's just perfect!' (Andreia, Portugal)

'I live in the south of Spain, different temperature and weather. So I want to live for some month in other conditions

such as snow and cold' (Laura, Spain)

'The polish food is really nice, especially pierogi (...)' (Marie-Louise, Germany)

Hopefully, they will all enjoy the whole stay in Poland as much as they liked the first days in Poznan.

Małgorzata Konopko,
Lecturer of Polish for international students
Centre of Languages and Communication

by Polish trains. I had hard trip from the Przemyśl to Poznan. It was 14 hours of sitting in small room with 7 other people. But everything else is pretty good. Lots of kind and interesting people around' (Konstantin, Ukraine)

'When I came to Poland the first shock I had was the language. I just couldn't understand anything!' (Tiago, Portugal)
'The first impression I had of Poland was of a completely different weather and a completely different culture. But I thought it in a very positive way. People have been really nice especially if you try to use Polish language' (Silvia, Italy)

Christmas quiz

Christmas is a very special occasion, full of many wonderful and traditional events. It is also a time for relaxation and joy. I hope you will enjoy our Christmas Quiz which is a perfect opportunity to check your knowledge about this holiday and get a small present from Santa as well.

You are requested to send answers to konkurscjcpp@wp.pl. The person who first sends the correct answers will be rewarded with a book in English.

GOOD LUCK and MERRY CHRISTMAS

1. When was Christmas first celebrated?
 - a. The year after Jesus was crucified
 - b. Around 100 AD
 - c. 336 AD
 - d. 440 AD

2. When was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
 - a. in 1830
 - b. in 1843
 - c. in 1890
 - d. in 1900

3. Why was December 25th chosen as Christmas Day?

- a. That's when Jesus was born
- b. To compete with a pagan celebration
- c. That's when Christmas trees are in season
- d. That's when the Bible says it should be celebrated

4. When is the Queen's Christmas message broadcast?

- a. on 24th December
- b. on 25th December
- c. on 26th December
- d. on 31st December

5. What country did poinsettias originally come from?

- a. The U.S.
- b. Cuba
- c. Mexico
- d. Brazil

6. When was the song "Santa Claus is coming to town" performed for the first time?

- a. in 1934
- b. in 1952
- c. in 1960
- d. in 1971

7. Where was celebrating Christmas illegal at some point in the past (17th century)?

- a. in Holland
- b. in Indiana
- c. in Massachusetts
- d. in Japan

8. Where was St. Nicholas born?

- a. on The North Pole
- b. in Holland
- c. In Germany
- d. In Turkey

9. Which is NOT one of Santa's reindeers' names?

- a. Dancer
- b. Prancer
- c. Pixer
- d. Vixen

10. In which language does New Year's Eve mean HOGMANAY?

- a. Irish
- b. Scottish
- c. Welsh
- d. none

M. Konopko, D. Kudła,
Teachers of English at CLC

LEARN ENGLISH

WITH CLC AND AFERA RADIO

Idiomatic expressions can be a real pain in the neck since the meaning of particular words in a phrase does not indicate the meaning of the entire expression. Therefore, it is really important to first learn, and then to review idioms. Now, you are going to have a great opportunity to do so with CLC which, in cooperation with Afera Radio, has come up with a series of short radio programs broadcast from Monday to Friday during the morning sessions.



Join us in at 98,6 MHz
and unveil the mystery of English idioms.
Let's be on the same wavelength :)

BULATS

AT POZNAN

UNIVERSITY

OF TECHNOLOGY

BULATS (Business Language Testing Service) is an instrument designed to test participants' ability to use a foreign language in real-life situations. The BULATS test is representative of the language used in business situations. A wide range of topics and situations that are covered in the test are specified in "BULATS Test Specification: A guide for clients" (2010), among them:

- a) personal information, e.g. describing a job and responsibilities connected with it,
- b) the office, general business environment and routine, e.g. making and changing appointments,
- c) entertaining clients, leisure time, relationships with colleagues and clients,
- d) travel, e.g. making reservations, requests and complaints,
- e) health, e.g. health and safety in the workplace,
- f) buying and selling, e.g. discussing prices, offers and agreements,
- g) products and services, e.g. making comparisons, expressing opinions and preferences,
- h) results and achievements, e.g. describing and explaining company performance, trends and results.

The BULATS test is used by many of the world's leading professional and commercial organizations. This test offers a quick and reliable way of assessing the language ability of groups of students. It was introduced at Poznan University of Technology in January 2012. It has become very popular among Put students of for many reasons. One of them is that it is a computer-adaptive test, which means that the computer selects questions according to how well the candidate answered previous questions and generates results immediately when the test is finished. It is worth mentioning that the scoring procedure of BULATS tests is relatively error-proof because of the fact that the majority of the tests items use objective response formats (e.g. limited selection or matching). The time required for the test is maximum 75 minutes but it usually takes no longer than 60 minutes. Test components that are available at Poznan University of Technology are Listening, Reading and Language Knowledge. It is interesting to note that when a student passes the test at level B2 or higher in

terms of the six levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (A1-C2), he/she is exempted from taking the writing part of the final exam in English at CLC PUT and automatically gets an A grade.

There were four sessions of the BULATS test organized by the Centre of Languages and Communication of PUT in the academic year 2012/2013 and the overall number of students who participated in the sessions was 40, which is a better result than the previous year when the number of students participating in the exam was 34. We are very glad that there are more and more students who are interested in taking the Bulats examination, especially due to the fact that most of the students pass the test at level B2 and higher. It is also interesting to note that it is not only students who participate in the Bulats examination but also employees working at Poznan University of Technology. Participants in the Bulats examination commented on the test administration in the following way:

My impressions after Bulats test are very positive. The test is very clear and there are no doubts according to the instructions. The test mainly involves business and general language. The tasks' difficulty was diverse, from relatively easy to very complicated. No doubt, it was a very interesting experience for me.

Magdalena

The exam was well-organized, everything was prepared very well and the test started on time. Listening comprehension tasks were of good quality and instructions were clear. I must admit that at the very beginning I was surprised with the level of the test. However, all in all, my impressions are positive.

Agnieszka

We are planning to conduct BULATS tests in the academic year 2013/2014. All BULATS tests are available in English as well as in Spanish, German and French. Therefore, we encourage all students and PUT staff to participate in the exam, especially those who desire to assess their language skills and those who would like to present their language ability to potential employers.

Some useful information:

- enrolment: henryk.szymanski@put.poznan.pl,
room 305 of the Electrical Building of PUT
- detailed information: www.clc.put.poznan.pl
- coordinator: edyta.olejarczuk@put.poznan.pl

Edyta Olejarczuk
BULATS test coordinator

Bulats examination sessions this semester
17th January 2014
24th January 2014