

Kedves Olvasó!

Az Új Szó és a British Council együttműködésében hat héten keresztül – a SME napilapban korábban sikeresen megjelentetett - angol nyelvtanfolyamot közlünk 12 leckében. Hetente kétszer – csütörtökön és szombaton – ezen az oldalon érdekes témákat talál, melyek segítségével nemcsak szókincsét bővítheti, hanem angol nyelvtani tudását is tökéletesítheti. Minden lecke egy kvíz kérdést is tartalmaz. Ha 2008. május 29-ig a quiz@britishcouncil.sk e-mail címre elküldi mind a 12 helyes választ, átruházható tanfolyamot illetve nyelvtankönyveket és szótárakat nyerhet. A játékot 2008. június 2-án értékeljük ki. A játékszabályokról és a díjakról a www.britishcouncil.sk címen talál további információkat.

Reading Article

Building bridges

Being old is when you know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.

Six months before she died, my grandmother moved into an old people's home and I visited her there when I was in Britain. She was sitting in the living room with about fifteen other residents, mostly women, half of them asleep. The room was clean and warm, with flowers and pictures, and the care assistants were kind and cheerful. "The Weakest Link" was on the television ("to keep their brains active" one of the assistants said), and the only other sound was snoring and embarrassing digestive noises. People only moved when they needed to be helped to the bathroom. It was depressing. Gran talked a lot about how much she missed seeing her grandchildren (my nieces aged 7 and 5), but I knew from my sister that they hated going to visit her there, and to be perfectly honest, I couldn't wait to get away myself.

So I was interested to read a newspaper article about a new concept in old people's homes in France. The idea is simple, but revolutionary - combining a residential home for the elderly with a creche/nursery school in the same building. The children and the re-sidents eat lunch together and share activities such as music, painting, gardening, and caring

for the pets which the residents are encouraged to keep. In the afternoons, the residents enjoy reading or telling stories to the children, and if a child is feeling sad or tired, there is always a kind lap to sit on and a cuddle. There are trips out and birthday parties too.

The advantages are enormous for everyone concerned. The children are happy because they get a lot more individual attention, and respond well because someone has time for them. They also learn that old people are not "different" or frightening in any way. And of course, they see illness and death and learn to accept them. The residents are happy because they feel useful and needed. They are more active and more interested in life when the children are around and they take more interest in their appearance too. And the staff are happy because they see an improvement in the physical and psychological health of the residents and have an army of assistants to help with the children.

Nowadays there is less and less contact between the old and the young. There are many reasons for this, including the breakdown of the extended family, working parents with no time to care for ageing relations, fami-

lies that have moved away, and smaller flats with no room for grandparents. But the result is the same - increasing numbers of children without grandparents and old people who have no contact with children. And more old people who are lonely and feel useless, along with more and more families with young children who desperately need more support. It's a major problem in many societies.

That's why intergenerational programmes, designed to bring the old and the young together, are growing in popularity all over the world, supported by UNESCO and other local and international organisations. There are examples of successful initiatives all over the world. Using young people to teach IT skills to older people is one obvious example. Using old people as volunteer assistants in schools is another, perhaps reading with children who need extra attention. There are schemes which involve older people visiting families who are having problems, maybe looking after the children for a while to give the tired mother a break. Or "adopt a grandparent" schemes in which children write letters or visit a lonely old person in their area. There are even holiday

companies that specialise in holidays for children and grandparents together. One successful scheme in London pairs young volunteers with old people who are losing their sight. The young people help with practical things such as writing letters, reading bank statements and helping with shopping, and the older people can pass on their knowledge and experience to their young visitors. For example, a retired judge may be paired with a teenager who wants to study law. Lasting friendships often develop.

But it isn't only the individuals concerned who gain from intergenerational activities. The advantages to society are enormous too. If older people can understand and accept the youth of today, and vice versa, there will be less conflict in a community. In a world where the number of old people is increasing, we need as much understanding and tolerance as possible. Modern Western society has isolated people into age groups and now we need to rediscover what "community" really means. And we can use the strengths of one generation to help another. Then perhaps getting old won't be such a depressing prospect after all.

Vocabulary

5 words/phrases from the text

- snoring:** breathing noisily while sleeping
- cuddle:** put your arms around someone to comfort or show love
- lap:** the top part of your legs when you are sitting
- breakdown:** when a relationship or a system stops working
- scheme:** plan for organizing something

Vocabulary

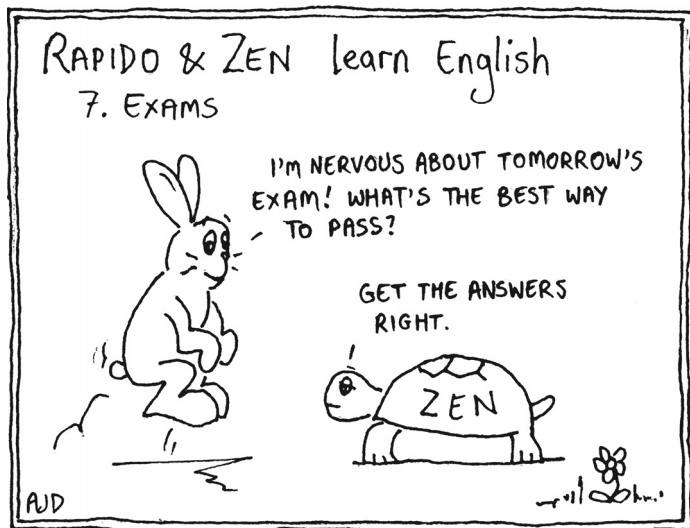
Vocabulary gap fill. Now use the 5 words/phrases to fill the gaps in the sentences below:

- The cat sat on my while I watched TV.
- There has been a in marriage in Western Europe over the last thirty years.
- She had to sleep on another room because he couldn't stop
- She likes to her teddy bear before going to sleep.
- There is a special to help people who have been unemployed for a long time.

Reading Comprehension

Multiple choice. For each question choose the best answers.

- What was wrong with the home that the writer's grandmother was in?
 - The old people weren't looked after properly.
 - Children weren't allowed to visit.
 - The residents had no stimulation.
- What was the new concept that the writer read about in the newspaper?
 - Old people being allowed to keep pets.
 - A nursery school inside an old people's home.
 - Children visiting old people for lunch and birthdays.
- Who benefits from this new type of old people's home?
 - The staff.
 - The staff and the old people.
 - The staff, the old people.



Grammar

Predicting the Future

We can say how sure we feel about the future by using modal verbs. There are also other phrases we can use to express our certainty or uncertainty about future events.

Modal verbs

We can combine modal verbs with adverbs to show a greater or lesser degree of certainty.

People **will definitely** work longer hours in the future.
 People **definitely won't** work longer hours in the future.
 Both of these sentences show that the speaker is sure.

You'll **probably** enjoy this film.
 You **probably won't** enjoy this film.
 The speaker is thinks (s)he's right but isn't 100% sure.

She **might** pass the exam or she **might not** pass. I don't know.
 The speaker isn't sure at all. You could also use **could** or **may** instead of **might**.

Other expressions

Here are some other ways to talk about how certain we are about something in the future.

1 I'm sure

Jan is **bound to pass** the exam. He's worked really hard.
 Jan is **certain** to pass.

2 I think so but I'm not 100% sure

Katka is **likely** to pass the exam.
 Katka **may well** pass the exam.
There's a good chance that Katka will pass the exam.

3 I don't think so

Juraj is **unlikely** to pass the exam.
There's not much chance Juraj will pass.
I doubt if Juraj will pass.
There's no chance of Juraj passing the exam.

Exercise

Rearrange the words to make sentences

- [chance / much / there's / not / of / winning / us] the match. The other team are much better than us.
- Smith [bound / is / win / to] the gold medal.
- I think [a / chance / good / people / that / there's / will] live on the moon in the future.
- I [come / probably / won't] to the party. I've got too much work.
- I [doubt / ever / find / if / the police / will] your car.

Quiz Question 7

Who was the lead singer of the UK group Queen?

Vocabulary 1. lap, 2. breakdown, 3. snoring, 4. cuddle, 5. scheme
 Comprehension 1. c, 2. b, 3. c, Grammar 1. There's not much chance of us winning, 2. is bound to win, 3. there's a good chance that people will, 4. probably won't come, 5. doubt if the police will ever find.

Building bridges – Key

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A nyelvtanulás akkor a leghatékonyabb, ha olvassa és hallgatója is a szöveget.

Szeretne megtanulni angolul vagy javítani nyelvtudásán?

Pozsonyi központunkban tanfolyamok széles skáláját kínáljuk felnőttek, gyerekek és fiatalok részére. Válasszon nemzetközi nyelvvizsga- és nyelvi érettségi előkészítő tanfolyamaink, üzleti, pénzügyi és jogi kurzusaink közül.

Bővebb információk a tanfolyamokról, határidőkről a www.britishcouncil.sk honlapon.

British Council, Panská 17, Pozsony, info@britishcouncil.sk