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The English school magazine

Business Academy, Topoľčany



SHAPING OUR FUTURE Erasmus+ Project of Students' Internships Abroad COMMON GOALS Erasmus+ Project of Teachers' courses

AN IDIOM FOR A DAY: Business Idioms A BOOK REVIEW: Bellman & Black

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Dear readers,

To start with, probably the best thing is to say that here we are again risen from the ashes of over two past years of ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, which apart from many other things in our lives had an extremely negative impact on the operational abilities of our editorial board, too. Nevertheless, he we are with the brand new double edition of our English school magazine and we do hope we will be ready to face another waves of anything that might strike on us in the upcoming months and years and we will be here to provide you with the proper coverage of the school's life as well as the space to practise your English reading or writing skills on the magazine contents.

So what have we prepared for you this time? First of all, we finally have the chance to give you a full coverage of the "SHAPING OUR FUTURE" mobility project of the students' internship from 2020 (the last year of the former Erasmus+ programme period), the project, which had been postponed by a year, got off the ground in August and November 2021 when we managed to send 25 students in two 4-week tours to Malta and Ireland. You will find both the teachers and students' point of view of the stays together with a considerable number of photographs.

In addition to the students' mobilities, we will be covering another Erasmus+ project, named "COMMON GOALS", which was focused on the structural courses of the teachers of Business academy, Topolcany in a few European countries from July to November 2021.

Furthemore, you will be able to read the Department of Foreign Languages news on the results of the English Olympics in the last school term; students in a few language competitions; check out our regular section "An Idiom for a Day" to practise or learn some Business English idioms, useful not only in your language studies, but also when you take part in our mobility projects or another one named "Students' Writings" to enjoy many creative written works by our students.

In the end, do not forget to inspire yourselves by "Bellman & Black", a novel by Diane Setterfield review or have some fun with the article on the origin of Father's Day (mostly celebrated on the third Sunday in June) and the Father's Day Word Scramble.

Do not hesitate to check out the website of Business Academy, Topol'čany - <u>www.oato.edupage.org</u> for an online full-colour version of this edition as well as all the old editions of our magazine.

Enjoy reading!

Mgr. Martin Huba

THE DEPARTMENT

OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWS

THE ENGLISH OLYMPICS



The pandemic situation caused by the COVID-19 virus has had a very negative impact on the educational process in our country since spring 2020. The students were forced to study online through MS-TEAMS for

way too long and after they were finally allowed to come back to school, the on-site studies were complicated by poor attendance in the classes due to repeated health problems of both the students and teachers. In addition, the school trips, excursions, cultural performances and all types of contests (sports, language or vocational), which are normally scheduled in the year's curriculum, were limited to the minimum. Nevertheless, the Department of Foreign Languages managed to organise an on-site school round of English Olympics in December 2021. Here are the best contestants in each category:

Category 2A

- 1. Martin Rubal, II.A
- 2. Tomáš Šatka, II.A
- 3. Nikola Hlaváčová, II.C

Category 2B

- 1. Martin Janček IV.C
- 2. Erik Prevuzňák, IV.C
- 3. Róbert Pastor, III.A a Lukáš Vlasák, IV.B



We are proud to say that the winners of both categories represented the school successfully in the follow-up rounds of the contest, which we held online. Martin Janček, IV.C came 2nd in the district round and Martin Rubal, II.A came 6th in the regional round. Conratulations, boys!

REFERENCES:

 $\frac{https://elt.mef.edu.tr/en/mef-english-language-olympics-high-school-students\#gsc.tab=o \\ https://misskhadija.wordpress.com/2011/03/06/we-love-english/$



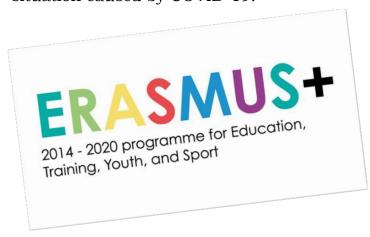
SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Students' Internships in Malta and Ireland (2021), Cyprus and Iceland (2022)

Two mobilities of the internship abroad for 30 students of our school in the frame of the "Shaping our future" project



had been planned in 2020, the last year of the former Erasmus+ programme period, but both of them had to postponed by a year due to the pandemic situation caused by COVID-19.



The project team, led by Júlia Hubová Gálová a Martin Huba, experienced very hard times trying to keep projects alive - finding enough brave capable, and enthusiastic students meeting all of the various travel restrictions changing everywhere on a daily basis and placing them in the

suitable companies and host families fulfilling all their requirements as well was quite a challenge – nevertheless, we finally managed to take 14 students

(including 2 fresh graduates) to the spectacular Mediterranean island of Malta at the turn of August and September 2021 (for the first time in the school's history of mobility projects) and 11 students to Dublin, Ireland in November 2021 for their 4-week internships.

A great thanks goes to our intermediary organisations Future Focus and ADC College for their help with finding the right companies and host families for all of them. The students' placements were done to match their very detailed personal profiles created using the sets of questionnaires and interviews and results of the selection process and follow-up activities.



The students were selected on the basis of their school results in key subjects (Economics, Accounting, Firm Management, Information Technology and

English) and on how well they had been doing in general and business English tests, a discursive essay on a chosen topic and a job interview with an emphasis on fluency and vocabulary range.

They also took an online Cambridge Placement test and attended intense language courses and lectures in three fields: Business English, Speaking and Culture Clash provided by their teachers English where they worked hard on a number of



Alžbeta Strempeková, a fresh graduate,

Baxter Trading company Ltd.

language tasks on the OLS (Online Linguistic Support) courses and did assessment tests provided bv Erasmus+ programme.

"There are normally about three applicants times more for the mobilities than we can actually take", explains Júlia Hubová Gálová, "but the pandemic of COVID-19 made it nearly impossible to carry out the mobilities as they had been originally planned. We were forced to

activities focused on communicational skills such as role-plays, language games, problem-solving tasks discussions and also vocabulary booster tasks.

Apart from the language practice, the students were provided with useful tips and recommendations regarding both living and working in both mobility destinations. Furthemore, thev had the opportunity on various types of



put off both mobilities by a year, replace the students a few times before

leaving for them, so in the end, we opted to do them with a bit fewer students

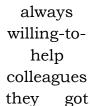


and luckily managed to bring them all back home safe and sound. Anyway, we all had a great time as usual and both mobilities outweighed all the difficulties we had experienced while preparing them."

The students interned at various of companies types and institutions, such as travel, real estate and financial consulting agencies; insurance brokers and

soliticors; internet marketing agency; promotional items provider, trading company with medical devices; transport company; schools: health language and fitness association; lift services; hotels or charity shops.

At all workplaces the students were under the supervision of experienced mentors and were assigned to do tasks in the field of business, administration and correspondence, which helped them to develop their professional competences. Working with kind, friendly and





Tomáš Mako, III.B, City Break Apartments

got familiar with the business sectors. working conditions and procedures in both countries and compared them to the Slovak one. They could improve their communication, social and language skills on every day basis in a foreignlanguage environment.

> In addition, they got to know different cultures and way of life – staying at host families (where they were provided with



board and every-day home care), at their workplaces, on the streets or

elsewhere. The participation in the mobility project of this kind helped them not only in their professional, also personal development self-reliance, leading them to professionalism and teamwork; courtesy and respect in communication: tolerance otherness, diversity and other cultures; fight against rasism and xenophobia.

"The students were accompanied by supervising teachers in case of



crystal clear sea within an hour-long journey by bus and try hard to visit as many of them as possible every single day. We got to know the history, culture and unique atmosphere of this extra-ordinary island on individual strolls or common trips to the nearby islands of Gozo and Comino or an ancient "silent" city of Mdina; we swam in a famous Blue Lagoon or Paradise and Ramla Bays, saw magnificient Dingli Cliffs and visited Ta´Pini Basilica, the Citadella, St. George's Tax-Mixta Basilica. Cave, Popeye



Future Focus Ltd.

emergency throughout the whole stay", says Martin Huba, "who did monitoring visits at their workplaces, helped them with solving any problem situations and arranging their time off so that they were able to explore these two amazing locations to the full, individually or with their teachers. In Malta we enjoyed the warm and dry climate a lot. All of the participants appreciated the endless

number of beautiful beaches with



Denis Kopček, III.C a Kristián Peška, IV.C, Newark School

Village, Malta National Aquarium and many other attractions there," adds Martin Huba.

"Similarly in Dublin and its surroundings, students visited a lot of awesome



Nina Morávková a Tamara Jančovičová, fresh graduates, Shipcon

places of interest like Trinity College, Dublin and Malahide Castles. Guinness Storehouse, The Teeling and Jameson Whiskey Distilleries, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Zoo, Kilmainham Gaol Museum National Wax Museum", adds Katarina Quintas who together with Veronika Múčková accompanied students in Ireland,"we explored Dublin's coastline including Howth, Killiney, Bray or Greystones and took a trip to the world-famous Cliffs of

Moher, too."

In conclusion, after they had come back home, all the participants were involved in plenty of project's dissemination activities including writing articles, giving presentations and interviews on the mobilities for the school,

regional magazines, newspapers and radio; sharing their experience during the Business Academy's Open Day, on the Internet via social networks or posting the mobility video-clips Facebook, YouTube, etc.

"We are extremely happy that we are just about to conclude this students' project in these difficult times successfully", sums up Júlia Hubová Gálová, "at last, we even fullfilled the planned 30 mobilities by sending 5 fresh graduates on their internship to Cyprus and



Jakub Zeliska, Kamil Kasala a Samuel Dostál, fresh graduates on their way to Iceland

Iceland at the turn of June and July 2022. While finishing with the dissemination activities and final reports, we can also be looking forward to our new adventures as our school got accredited by the National Agency to do projects in the new 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme period. With the obvious great benefits of the project activities, our school will surely take the advantage and the project team will be working hard on providing our students with the opportunity to do their internship abroad in the next 7 years. In fact, we are going to start with the first group of 15 students in Cyprus in August and September 2022. Let us wish ourselves good luck."

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https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/logosbeneficaireserasmusleft_en.jpg http://soskch.sk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Erasmus_plus_logo.png

By Mgr. Martin Huba



INTERVIEW(S) WITH The Maltese knights and Dubliners

On previous pages you could read the coverage of SHAPING OUR FUTURE project from the teachers' point of view. Now you will have the chance to check out the most interesting answers from our interviews with the student participants of the mobilities in Malta and Dublin in 2021. They shared their feelings about various aspects of their experience and we do believe that many of you will find it useful and helpful, especially if you are thinking of taking part in one of our future projects or just visiting any of these destinations.

Enjoy the interviews, first with 14 "Maltese knights" interning in Malta and then with 11 "Dubliners" interning in Dublin (see pages 25-30).

We also promise to publish the 5 fresh graduates' opinions on their mobility adventures in Cyprus and Iceland, which they are to finish in the middle of July, in our next edition of Zinger magazine.

Part 1: Internship in Malta

Were you scared of going abroad? If yes, how did you cope with you fears?

- I was kinda scared because I was not confident with my English skills. After a few days I realised I had no problems to communicate and I found it amazing experience. (Matúš M., II.C)
- I was scared of going abroad because I did not know where I would stay or work. I realized that I wanted to explore new places. I was also excited to go somewhere and be responsible for myself. (Tamara J., IV.B)

What did you expect from your work experience? Did it come true?

- I was happy when I found out that my work would be in a language school. I wanted to learn to communicate with people. It helped me a little bit and now I am not that scared to ask about and for things. (Kristián P., IV.C)
- I expected that I would learn something new and change some of my bad habits.
 Finally, it came true and I found out that I gained more than I had expected.
 (Denis K., III. C)

What is the best thing the mobility experience taught you or what lesson you learnt from it?

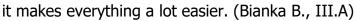
 The best thing the mobility experience taught me is that being patient with and



Tamara Jančovičová, IV.B, Matúš Mészáros, II.C, a Mário Skala, IV.B, Future Focus Ltd.



having understanding for people not only can solve problems, but what is more,



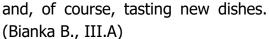
- I got to experience how it is to live on my own, which includes managing finances and my free time, orienting in an unknown place and learning to solve problems by myself without panicking. (Lavinia H., III.A)
- It taught me how to be more independent and showed me that it is not that hard to live on your own without any major help. (Lukáš V., IV.B)

What were the main benefits of the internship abroad for your professional and personal development?

• Improving my English, getting closer to how a foreign company operates, working in a team, getting to know Maltese culture and the country itself, meeting

people new and making friends new





- Besides improving my communication skills a lot, I had the opportunity to with administration work and correspondence, which got me a slight image of what I could possibly do in the future. (Lavinia H., III.A)
 - Meeting new people and working in a team. I was really afraid of that, but after I got to know everybody better, it was not



Denis Kopček, III.C a Kristián Peška, IV.C, **Newark School**



Nina Morávková, IV.B, Allegro Hotel

so hard. I became more open to others. And I definitely improved my English, so it was a great experience to participate in of the Erasmus+ projects. (Veronika Č., III.C)

- Improving my communication and language skills and gaining new experience in my field of study and potential work. (Kristián P., IV.C)
- To see how people work in that company, I learned things from them, it brought me some new knowledge about

how business works. Staying complete strangers for a month helped out of my comfort zone.(Tamara J., IV.B)

I could improve my English, I got more experience with working with people and learned new stuff in terms of accounting and economics. I got to know the country, I met new people, I tried new foods and a new way of life. (Diana P., II.C)

What did you enjoy most about the stay in Malta?

I really enjoyed the sea and freedom. Almost every day after I finished work I was at the beach. It was really nice to have something that you are looking

> forward to after working all day. (Veronika Č., III.C)

Sára Jendrálová, a fresh graduate,

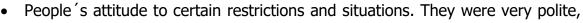
Baxter Trading Company

Almost every day after work we went to the beach to relax and unwind. I loved it. It gave me a wonderful time to think about everything in my life or just enjoy the moment. (Tamara J., IV.B)

What are the biggest differences you felt between Malta and Slovakia?

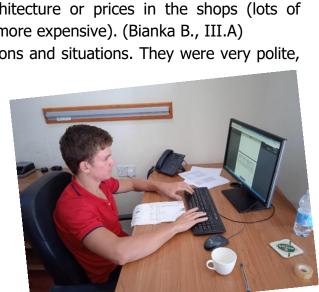
Obviously, there are huge differences in the culture, food, work time management, architecture or prices in the shops (lots of

things are more expensive). (Bianka B., III.A)



friendly and always ready to help, which I appreciated a lot. (Lavinia H., III.A)

The most noticeable difference was that the cars were driving on the left side of the road. It took me a few days to adjust to it. The other difference was that Malta has very scarce supplies of drinking water, so we had to buy it in the shop. (Kristián P., IV.C)



Samuel Dostál, IV.B, Peppin Garage Ltd



Lukáš Vlasák, IV.B, Lift Services



• The Maltese are definitely more tolerant and open-minded than people in Slovakia. (Alžbeta S., a fresh graduate)



Mário Skala, IV.B, Future Focus Ltd.

- In my opinion, the biggest difference was in people's behaviour as they are a lot friendlier. And Malta is more expensive than Slovakia. (Matúš M., II.C)
- The biggest differences are in their culture and lifestyle. They take things too easy they take a lot of time to complete their work duties, solve problems or prepare food, etc. (Nina M., IV.B)

Would you like to come back to Malta for any particular reasons?

 I strongly believe, I would like to come back – either on holiday or on business - it has a lovely environment with interesting culture and history and the island itself is worth visiting. (Lavinia H., III.A)

- Yes, definitely. I fell in love with that place and I also met a lot of good people who I miss very much. (Denis K., III. C)
- Well, I love food. I know that I have not tried everything Malta has to offer. So, I would like to come back there to try some new specialities. (Kristián P., IV.C)
- I am 100% sure about my come back to Malta because there are many places left which I want to see. The second reason is that there are many wonderful beaches which I want to show my friends and family. (Nina M., IV.B)
- Yes, especially to enjoy the amazing atmosphere of the island and be surrounded by nice people who



Diana Pavlová, II.C, Print Options



Lavínia Husárová,III.A a Bianka Bartošeková, III.A, Future Focus Ltd.

like to take another look at the various interesting places I visited as well as discover new places I did

live there. I would also

not manage to during my internship. (Alžbeta S., a fresh graduate)

Can you imagine living in Malta in the future? Explain why yes/no.

• Even though I really enjoyed my stay there, I cannot imagine living there because it is a small island and I love

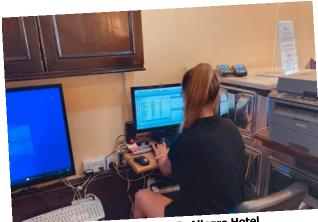
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travelling to other states by car, which would be impossible then. (Bianka B., III.A)

- No, there are only sandstone buildings and temperatures are very high. I also missed grass, green, nature in general. (Mário S., IV.B)
- There is not that much living space there in which I would feel comfortable in for longer periods

of time and I felt like there is not that much

opportunity and resources for the career that I am planning to have. (Lukáš V.,



Nina Morávková, IV.B, Allegro Hotel



IV.B)

• I can imagine living in Malta because it is a beautiful island. It is definitely a safe place to live. I think that foreigners also have a big opportunity to get a job in this country. (Alžbeta S., a fresh graduate)

What surprised you most about the **Erasmus+ experience?**

Erasmus+ funded the whole mobility, it was nearly completely SO experience in terms of accommodation,

board, transport, we were even given some money to enjoy it. (Mário S., IV.B) How would you describe the Erasmus+ experience in 3 words?

- Astonishing, exciting, wonderful. (Kristián P., IV.C)
- Incredible, experiences, independence (Matúš M., II.C)
- Knowledge, exploring, fun. (Tamara J., IV.B)
- Just do it. (Samuel D., IV.B)

Was there anything that you particularly disappointed with?

 I would not say exactly disappointed, but I could not get used to their lifestyle mainly when it comes to work. They did not take many things seriously and worked slowly without any rush. So it sometimes happened I had done my task





too quickly and got a bit bored until I got another one. (Lavinia H., III.A) How do you think the mobility experience will help you in the future?



Alžbeta Strempeková a Sára Jendrálová, fresh graduates, Baxter Trading Company

- I hope that it will help me to get a job or some extra points when I will be applying to college. (Veronika Č., III.C)
- Doing the internships at high school has prepared me for participating in mobilities abroad in the future. It helped me gain language skills and taught me to be responsible. It also gave me a glimpse into what it is like working in companies abroad. (Sára J., a fresh graduate)

Who would you recommend the mobility experience to and why?

- I would definitely recommend it to the students who are not afraid to travel, meet new people and want to improve their English. (Alžbeta S., fresh graduate)
- I would recommend it to students who would

their English skills and try what it is like to work in a company abroad and be responsible for themselves. (Sára J., a fresh graduate)

If you could choose a destination for the internships in the future, where would it be and why?

- I would choose England, primarily because of a language. (Mário S., IV.B)
- France or Netherlands as they are beautiful countries. I hope there might be enough good opportunities for the internship. (Tamara J., IV.B)
- Italy because of a different people's mindset and also a beautiful landscape. It would be something completely new again. (Diana P., II.C)



Are you planning to use the Erasmus+ programme during your university studies?

like to improve

- Absolutely, I would love to use it in any way possible. (Lavinia H., III.A)
- Of course. I enjoyed being abroad a lot to improve my competences, learn about new cultures, ways of life and food and would like to go on with that. (Kristián P., IV.C)

By Mgr. Martin Huba; Lavínia Husarová, III.B and The Maltese knights

COMMON GOALS

In the second half of 2021 many of the members of our pedagogical team took part in various structured



educational courses abroad in the frame of the school's project named "Common goals", which was funded by Erasmus+.

From July to November 2021 nine mobilities in total were carried out all over Europe – in Italy, for example, Finland, Malta or Cyprus where the teachers developed their competences and language skills in order to to improve the quality of educational process, management and work on mobility projects at our school.

In July Mgr. Terézia Škorcová a Mgr. Veronika Múčková attended "Problem solving and decision making" course in Palermo, Sicily, aimed at solving problem situations, building up portfolios and making decisions in every day life.

All the methodological procedures and strategies they acquired during the course will be used in the lessons of Civics/Social studies and History.







At the same place in Aug 2021 Mgr. Martin Huba took "Teaching languages in digital era" course, in which he developed his competences in using ICT, web applications and platforms in foreign language teaching.

During the project dissemination he shared his experience with other language teachers at school so as they would be able to make primarily English and German language lessons, together with any other subjects, as appealing as possible.









Ing. Mária Malinková a Mgr. Michal Kováč improved their English language skills on intensive language courses in Floriana, Malta in August, resp. September 2021. The courses were focused on grammar, vocabulary, comprehension and conversation.

2 15 X





Both teachers will use their knowledge and skills in communication with the school's foreign partners, working on mobility projects as well as teaching vocational subjects and Mathematics with a CLIL method.





Mgr. Katarína Quintas a Ing. Jozefína Šándorová flew to Helsinki, the capital of Finland in October to attend "Benchmarking the Finnish education system" course, covering the usage of this method of strategic management and positive experience within the Finnish education system.





In November Ing. Jozefína Šándorová a Mgr. Júlia Hubová Gálová got some new ideas for future projects and their effective management on "Effective and efficient management of EU funded projects" course in Limassol, Cyprus.









Throughout the whole school term 2021/2022 the participants of the courses shared their experience with their colleagues.

They informed them about the contents of their education and showed them how the knowledge, competences and skills they acquired on the courses could be used in the teaching process.

They gave presentations, provided teaching materials and resources, taught open lessons to do so and to motivate their co-workers to work hard on and improve their teaching competences.





\$ 17 \$ W Also they encouraged them to take part in the mobilities abroad in the future. All the information about the project courses, their outputs, useful materials and resources are posted and available through school's OneDrive.

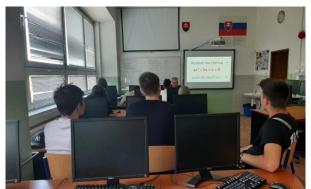




The teachers have been working hard on implementing everything in the teaching process and it has been used in subjects such as Civics, History, Mathematics, Written and electronic correspondence, ICT, English and German language, etc.

The school management keep supporting the teachers' education in any possible way in Slovakia and abroad and help them use the most modern and innovative teaching methods, strategies in order to make the lessons effective and appealing to the students at the same time.

Moreover, participating in courses abroad allows us to build up our contacts which we afterwards use when we plan and carry out our future mobilities.









Open and CLIL lessons of Written and electronic correspondence, Mathematics and Civics

By Mgr. Martin Huba and Mgr. Júlia Hubová Gálová

By 18

My internship in Dublin



Last year in November 2021, I took part in the Erasmus+ mobility project ""Shaping our future" and interned at James Watters & Co Solicitors in Ireland's capital, Dublin. For me, it was awesome work experience, I also met lots of new people, made friends with most of them and visited many interesting places in my time off. Thus, I would like to show you what my typical day was like in this wonderful city.

I usually woke up at 6:50 A.M., got myself breakfast together with my classmate staying at the same host family and around 7:20 I left home for work. My bus ride usually took around an hour as I have been living more

than 10 kilometres away from the city centre. There was always a morning rush hour traffic jam, you know how it goes in any bigger city.

My work started at 9 A.M. It was a rather busy job as I interned at a solicitors' office which dealt with immigration and injury law. I was assigned to do typical administration tasks such as managing received mail, updating the clients' database and filing documents. Besides, I also wrote e-mails and additionally checked the grammar, even after my colleagues, who usually worked in a hurry so it was normal that there were grammar errors. I sometimes answered the phone, communicated with and took messages from the clients. During the lunchtime, I and my colleagues usually went somewhere out to eat and had a small talk.

I can say I had a great time at my workplace as I worked with good, friendly and extremely helpful colleagues including my boss and mentor. I put my previous knowledge, professional and language skills into practice and also acquired new

competences. I learnt a lot about how the office works, which will surely help in my future career.

My work finished at around 4 P.M., so I usually did not have much free time left. Despite that, I also went out with my classmates who were on the internship in Dublin with me. Sometimes we opted to go back ""home" to have our dinner and just relaxed after a busy day.

During the weekends, I had the opportunity to explore the area of Dublin and even visit other places in Ireland. Overall, I can say that I would love to repeat this sort of the internship as it was the best time and experience in my life.



By Ľuboš Patrik Šaray, II. A

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SHAPING OUR FUTURE ERASMUS+ PROJECT 2020-1-SK01-KA102-077913



INTERNSHIPS IN MALTA AND DUBLIN 2021 TIME OFF PHOTO GALLERY



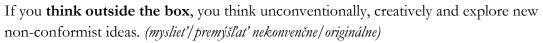
AN IDIOM FOR A DAY

In this section of our magazine we regularly provide you with a bunch of idiomatic expressions and phrases referring to one topic. This time we have decided to broaden your vocabulary with the 20 Business English idioms – which we believe the students of Business academy will surely use in their studies or while participating in the mobility projects of the internship abroad.

As usual, after a little theory to begin with, you will find a multiple-choice exercise to check your comprehension. The KEY is on page 38.

BUSINESS IDIOMS

- If you **learn the ropes**, you learn the basics of a profession, a specific task or activity. (naučiť sa ako to chodí/čo a ako/základy)
- If something is said in a nutshell, it is summarized into as a few words as possible. (v skratke/v krátkosti)
- If you **go back to square one**, you go back to the beginning or start over again. (vrátiť sa na začiatok/ začať znovu)
- If you call it a day, you stop work or an activity. (skončiť s niečím/ nechať niečo tak)
- If you cut corners, you do something in the easiest and cheapest way, usually badly. (ul'ahčovat'/zjednodušovat'/urýchľovat' veci)





- If you get something (a project or a new business) off the ground, you get it started. (rozbehnúť niečo)
- If something (prices or sales, f. i.) **goes through the roof**, it increases rapidly. *(vyletiet' hore/ zvyšit' sa prudko)*
- If you think something **is not rocket science**, you do not consider it very complicated. (nič na tom nie je)
- If you **do something by the book**, you do it strictly by the rules. *(podľa predpisov/ pravidiel)*
- If something is **groundbreaking**, it is ness and innovative. (*prevratný*, *priekopnícky*)
- If something is a long shot, it has a small chance of succeding. (nepravdepodobný, neistý)



• If something (a decision, f. i.) is **a no brainer**, it is obvious or easy to make. (bez rozmýšľania, jednoduché rozhodnutie)

 If you raise the bar, you increase standards or expectations. (zvýšiť latku/úroveň)

• If you go back to the drawing board, you start something again from the beginning because it's not working as you would have liked or expected. (začať znovu od nuly)



• If you **touch base** with someone, you make contact with them. (hodit' reč s/porozprávat' sa s niekým)

• If you hear about something (a product or service) through word of mouth, it is through



informal conversation with friends or colleagues. (ústne)

- If you **opt out of something**, you choose not to do it or take part in it. (vycúvať, vystúpiť/upustiť)
- If something **changes hands**, it passes from one owner to another. (*zmenit' majitel'a*)
- If you make a go of something, you make it successful. (uspiet')

Now it is time to see how you comprehend the meanings of the above-mentioned idioms. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1. The surveys done last year say 30% of our customers hear about our company through word of mouth / the roof.
- 2. We have spent 4 months using the same sales strategy, but the results are not improving. I think we should *go off the ground / go back to the drawing board* and rethink our approach.
- 3. Next week we intend to *change hands / touch base* with our top 3 clients to make sure everything's running smoothly.
- 4. Even though we increased the turnover by 15% last year, the managers want to *call it* a *day / raise the bar* for this year and set the target at 20%.
- 5. I know it is *a long shot / groundbreaking* because he is definitely extremely busy for the time being, but maybe I can convince him to help us with this project.
- 6. Accepting the job in London was *a no brainer / going back to square one*. They offered me a salary increase of 50%, and will also pay for my accommodation.
- 7. It's not that difficult to do business today, but to *touch base / make a go of it* appears to be much harder, especially with a war next door.
- 8. In my opinion, the programmable computer was a *groundbreaking / no brainer*, post World War 11 invention.

9. I think we've done enough since morning – Let's *call it a day / make a go of it*, shall

we?



10. My goal is to *get my business off the ground / think outside the box* by the end of the month as soon as I've raised enough funds to do so.

11. The real estate market in Slovakia is really heating up. Since last year, house and flat prices have *gone through the roof / cut corners*.

12. You can't solve this kind of problem without *thinking outside the box / opting out of it.*

13. He's a type of manager who expects everything to be done *in a nutshell / by the book*, so following the rules is really essential here.

- 14. Jack has left the project recently, which made us *opt out of it / raise the bar* as well before it is too late.
- 15. I really had no idea that the local brewery *had changed hands / had learned the ropes* until I read the interview with the new owners.
- 16. I've managed to finish the test in 10 mins, it was not exactly **word of mouth / rocket** science.
- 17. First, you need to *call it a day / learn the ropes*, then you'll get more difficult assignments.
- 18. Sometimes it seem to be better to *do it by the book / go back to square one* then keep wasting time on something that has reached a dead end.
- 19. Too many businessmen *go through the roof* / *cut corners* instead of hard work these days.
- 20. Despite the hard times, *in a nutshell / a long shot*, I can say we've made the highest profit since we came to this country.



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By Mgr. Martin Huba



INTERVIEW(S) WITH The Maltese knights and Dubliners

As promised, here start the interviews with all the students interning in the capital city of Ireland: Dublin. Enjoy their views of the mobility experience.

Part 2: Internship in Dublin

Were you scared of going abroad? If yes, how did you cope with you fears?

• Of course, it was the first time I had travelled so far and for so long. The first

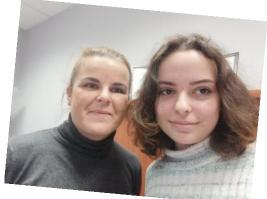
week was quite difficult to get used to the new lifestyle. I had a huge cultural shock and nothing reminded me of home. I told myself I was behaving like a little child and should look at Ireland from a different perspective. I threw away all my fears and doubts and discovered the true beauty of Ireland. In the second week of my internship, I already knew that I had made a great



Natália Bóriková, III.B, One Foot Abroad

decision to come here and have never doubted it since. (Natália B., III.B)

• I had never flown by plane before but since I was not travelling alone, I decided to give it a try. First week was hard because I had to travel to work a long distance on my own, but as soon as I got to know the route it was not a problem anymore. (Michaela T., III.B)



Michaela Tomanová, III.B, Dynamic Consulting

• I was a bit worried about public transport there because it's a large city. I was not 100% sure my English was good enough to be able to communicate with people there. Then I just told myself that I had always wanted to travel abroad and that I could do it and our teachers would help us if there would be any problems. (Sára D., III.B)

What did you expect from your work experience? Did it come true?

• I expected to get new experience, learn something new and get better in English, which all came true. (Petra C., III.A)

What is the best thing the mobility experience taught you or what lesson you learnt from it?

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• I proved myself I was more independent that I had thought. I was far away

from home, from the people I can normally count on, but I managed to make it without them. (Sára D., III.B)

What were the main benefits of the internship abroad for your professional and personal development?

 Getting new skills related to my education which I can use in my future job and improving my English. From a personal point of view, I have become more independent, brave, responsible

and I have improved my communication skills. (Klaudia M., III.A)



Klaudia Minarovičová, III.A, NCBI

- This mobility experience brought me a lot. My English improved, I got braver, and more experienced in my field of studies. It taught me independence and self-determination. I discovered a piece of our world that I will never forget. (Natália B., III.B)
- I surely became more independent and confident. My English improved. I learned what it is like to work in a team and to make sure you complete assigned tasks. (Michaela T., III.B)
- I think that the main benefits were living and working on my own. It brought me a completely new point of view towards life and I hope to use the experience

Dávid Chudoba, III.B, NCBI I gained there to my advantage in the future. Moreover, having to deal with a higher amount of responsibility was very beneficial, in my opinion, especially for my professional life. (Ľuboš Patrik Š., II.A)

- After the internship I can say, I can communicate with citizens of other countries almost without any problems. I fully understand and I am able to respond how I want to. Before I was not sure about a lot of things and I did not want to communicate in English. (Tomáš M., III.B)
- I overcame my fear of travelling. I improved my language and communiction skills and learned

how to take responsibility for my duties. (Andrea K., III.A)

• I now know what it feels like to work with colleagues at work and what it feels like to go to work like adults. I realized a lots of things

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- while I was there and it helped a a lot personally. Overall, it was a great experience I am really thankful for. (Sára D., III.B)
- As for my professional development I learned how to communicate decently with strangers, how to work with customers, how to work with money and personally Ι became more independent, Ι learned solve problems on my own, take responsibility and I can say it also prepared me for the life of an adult a bit. (Diana K., III.B)



Diana Katráková, III.B a Anfrea Kukučová, III.A, NCBI

• I got be better in English, got to know how to work abroad, got prepared for the future, met knew people and learned something new. (Petra C.,III.A)

What did you enjoy most about the stay in Dublin?

- I enjoyed visiting various places like the Zoo or Dublin castle and going to the beaches and on trips, especially to the Cliffs of Moher, but also the time I spent with my friends, mostly shopping or exploring the city center. (Klaudia M., III.A)
- I enjoyed the weekends when we explored the city and visited lots of sights, natural beauties and beaches. There was always something to do, which I found amazing. The bus rides were great too because there was always something to look at and the buses went very frequently. (Michaela T., III.B)
- I really enjoy travelling. When I went to work in Dublin, I had to travel by bus and then by train. I really enjoyed looking out of the window and watching the city. (Petra C., III.A)
- I enjoyed the weekends most because we had a lot of free time to do anything

Petra Cabadajová, III.A, NCBI

we like. We went out with our friends and/or teachers to all kinds of attractions, places of interest, natural beauties, etc. (Natália B., III.B)

What are the biggest differences you felt between Ireland and Slovakia?

• Everything there seemed to be better than in Slovakia – the people there were not as judgemental than here. Everybody just minds their business. Although it was really a busy city, I felt safe and peaceful there. (Sára D., III.B)

 In Ireland everyone was nice and helpful, nobody minded to help me. However, in Slovakia it is worse because people are rude and reluctant to help. (Petra C., III.A)

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• I think the made the biggest difference in Ireland for me as they were much

nicer and it was a bigger pleasure to work with them. (Ľuboš Patrik Š., II.A)

Would you like to come back to Dublin for any particular reasons?

- Yes, because Dublin is a beautiful city. I would like to meet my former colleagues again and gain new experiences. (Klaudia M., III.A)
- I would like to come back to Dublin for so many reasons, but especially because of the very friendly people who live there, willing to help each other every single minute. (Dávid Ch., III.B)
- Absolutely, Dublin is such a beautiful city, there is so much to see and even though I saw a lot of places during my stay, I know there is so much



Patrik Vaňo, II.A, NCBI

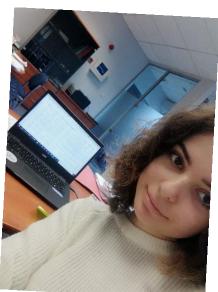
more to see. I would even love to visit the places I have already visited. (Sára D., III.B)

Can you imagine living in Dublin in the future? Explain why yes/no.

- It is a beautiful country with everything you can ask for, very lively and full challenges. I would definitely get used to living there in a few days. (Natália B.,III.B)
- Not permanently, but I would definitely want to live in Ireland for a few years. It is a beautiful country with gorgeous nature and friendly people. (Michaela T., III.B)
- Yes! I loved the country, and based on the fact that Ireland has one of the best
 - work conditions, I think I will consider moving there in future. (Ľuboš Patrik Š., II.A)
 - Yes, because if you are a businessman like me, you can be very successful there. Of course, it is not easy to make it happen, but I think I can handle it. (Patrik V., II.A)
 - This mobility experience made me think about moving to Ireland when I am older. I cannot describe or explain it much but I felt like I was at the second home there. (Sára D., III.B)

What surprised you most about the Erasmus+ experience?

 What surprised me most was that we, the students, did not have to deal with anything at all, so we did not have any worries, as everything had



Michaela Tomanová, III.B, Dynamic Consulting

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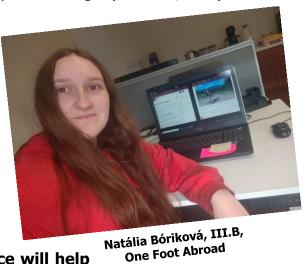
already been arranged by our teachers: we had accommodation, workplace and also bus tickets, air tickets and other important things. (Diana K., III.B)

How would you describe the Erasmus+ experience in 3 words?

- Excellent amazing experience (Dávid Ch., III.B)
- Difference, language, experience (Petra C., III.A)

Was there anything that you were particularly disappointed with?

 I was not very satisfied with the weather. It rained way too often for me. (Tomáš M., III.B)



How do you think the mobility experience will help you in the future?

- I think this experience will help me to search for several job opportunities as I acquired certain job skills that I will be able to use in my future job. (Klaudia M., III.A)
- It will definitely help me to find a better job in Slovakia or even to find a job abroad. I think employers will be more interested in having an employee who has this type of experience. (Natália B., III.B)
- When I decide to go abroad again, I will have some experience with communication in English and it will not be that difficult as it was for the first time. I will be more open to new challenges. I acquired work experience and I have an idea what it is like to work with people. I learned new skills that are going to be useful for my future career. (Michaela T., III.B)
- I improved my English, learned how to manage my time at work, got some new experience, which altogether will surely help in the future. (Dávid Ch., III.B)
- I will find a better job more easily because I have great work experience from abroad. (Petra C.,III.A)



Ľuboš Patrik Šaray, II.A, James Watters & Co. Soliticors

Who would you recommend the mobility experience to and why?

• To everyone who likes adventure and also to anyone who thinks they would not make it because that was exactly how I felt when I went there. I came back home more confident, determined and enthusiastic. Some people think their English is not good enough to go, but it does not matter as people will adapt to your level of English and they will help you to improve it as much as

possible. (Natália B., III.A)

- I can highly recommend this working experience, as it'll learn students to work
 - and live on their own, which is very useful in their future. Also, seeing a completely different part of Europe is perfect, as it shows you different cultures and ways of living. (Ľuboš Patrik Š., II.A)
- I would recommend the mobility abroad to any students who want to work abroad after school and would like to try what it is like or to see how things work in another country, which is really great to compare. (Diana K., III.B)



If you had a chance to undergo the internship as a Business academy graduate, would you do that?

• I would definitely do that. I want to use every opportunity I will have. (Sára D., III.B)

If you could choose a destination for the internships in the future, where would it be and why?



Sára Dvorščáková, III.B, Franchise Direct

• I would like to go to Cyprus for a future internship. I think I will have a better opportunity to improve my skills and use my education in real life. Cyprus is a country that I have wanted to visit for a long time because of its culture and environment. (Klaudia M., III.A)

Are you planning to use the Erasmus+ programme during your university studies?

• If I happened to have such an opportunity, I would certainly like to try the Erasmus+ programme during my university studies. It would be great to try some different destinations and see what it is like to intern in different countries. (Michaela T., III.B)

By Mgr. Martin Huba; Ľuboš Patrik Šaray, II.A and The Dubliners

STUDENTS' WRITINGS

In every edition of our magazine we try to pick up the most interesting written works of the students of our school in the past year and share them with you. Although we are sort of short of space owing to the extensive coverage of the Erasmus+ project, here are the 5 of them – three descriptions of a person they admire, an argumentative essay and a story. Enjoy reading.

<u>Vírgíl Abloh</u>



Today, I will be writing about Virgil Abloh. He was the creative director of Louis Vuitton and the founder of Off-White. I did not know him personally, but the way he had impacted my life made it feel like I knew him well.

He was born in Rockford, Illinois. He would be 41 by now, but unfortunately, he passed away not so long ago, leaving his wife and two beautiful children behind.

Being born into an African-American family meant his life was not always easy. Fortunately, he managed to overcome all these obstacles and social stigmas and became the first black artistic director in the history of Louis Vuitton.

I do not know if I have ever seen more ambitious person than

Virgil. Every single person who had worked with him throughout the years said that he worked as hard as anyone. He was probably one of the most gifted individuals in terms of creativity. I mean, the way he could articulate his thoughts and ideas through art and fashion was something we have not really seen since the days of Alexander McQueen or Martin Margiela.

He was obviously interested in fashion, but his love for architecture was undeniable. In fact, he never actually studied fashion design, he studied architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology. One of his other big interests was music. He would make music and a DJ in his free time.

I am not sure if I can talk about the way he changed throughout the years since I only knew Virgil for a couple of years. But I can imagine that he changed over the years as pretty much every human being does.

I would say, Virgil was one of the most inspiring people in my life. He is a large reason why I love fashion so much. It was always my dream to meet him in person and talk to him, but that is unfortunately never gonna happen unless we meet in heaven. R.I.P. Virgil.

By Martín Janček, IV. C

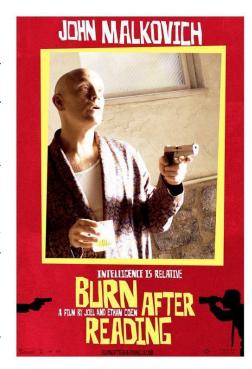


A person I admire

A person I admire the most is my mother's cousin. He works as a train engineer for Slovak railways. I have been admiring him since I met him as a child.

He looks just like any ordinary man on the outside – a beer belly, short brown hair and average height. Where he stands out is his personality and attitude towards life. That man is one of the most intelligent people I have ever met, but nothing shines brighter than his weirdness. He believes Brazilian spies are about to get him any second, so he always has to be prepared. His intelect has earned him a lot of wealth and he uses every single penny on protection against foreign agents, for example his car is equipped with state-of-the-art bomb protection.

He lives deep in the woods of northern Slovakia to avoid any unwanted attention. As expected, he does not reside in just an ordinary cabin. Bulletproof glass, armored doors and motion detectors are just a fraction of his defences.



Not only he sometimes drives a train with special contents like military trucks, he also fancies developing encryption algorithms for South African navy.

I really enjoy spending some time with him, because every time he comes to visit us, it is with some cool gifts. His life story is a really big inspiration for me and I hope that my future heads in a similar direction.

ByJán Gajdoš, IV. A

<u>A person I admire</u>

The person I admire perhaps most out of everyone I know is my grandma. She is 73 years old and lives in a big, but cozy house with my aunt in a small village near Topol'čany. Her name is Anna.

My grandma is fairly small – she is at least three heads shorter than me. Her hair is short and gray. She used to dye it blond, but she has decided to let it grow naturally now. Her face is round, which makes her look naturally friendly. Her skin is fair and decorated with a lot of wrinkles, but her thin lips are always pulled into a cheerful smile.

Considering her age, she lives her life rather calmly. She is really kind to everyone and has a lot of friends she spends her time with. She took care of me a lot when I was little, so I see her as a very selfless and giving person. She has an amazing sense of humor and a very contagious laugh.



Despite her age, she is still very active. Her biggest hobbies are gardening and looking after her dog. In winter evenings, she likes to read and watch TV.

I do not think her personality has changed over the years. She is still the strong and cheerful woman that helped to raise me. She only has more wrinkles and gray hair now.

I admire my grandma for how strong she has been ovet the years. After having lost her husband,

she managed to put herself back together and even startes to help everyone around her too. I hope that one day, I can be the same source of comfort to my children and grandchildren.

By Barbora Fíalová, IV. C

Studying abroad

Nowadays, being educated is really important and getting a diploma from prestigious schools or universities may be useful in future. Therefore more and more people tend to study abroad just to get one.

One well-known advantage is getting better learning opportunities. In fact, studying aboard makes it easier for you to receive the right sources for educating yourself.

Another big advantage is learning a new language. If you cannot speak the given language, the only solution is to learn it or if you have a little acquaintance with the language you can improve your fluency.

Last but not least, it gets you out of your comfort zone. It is clear that studying abroad makes you more independent, which is, in my point of view, one of the most valuable abilities you can learn.



Moreover, there are many other advantages such as gaining new skills in other fields, making new friends or the fact it looks interesting on your curriculum vitae.

However, ever coin has two sides, exactly like studying abroad has its own pros, there are lots of cons. Firstly, you feel homesick. Not only you are missing your family or vice versa, but you can feel lonely, because of new surroundings and unknown people.

Secondly, the costs may be too high for many students and if you do not get a scholarship, you sadly have to search for another university.

Finally, there are many differences in culture also known as a culture shock. Even though the citizens of the given country do not mind if foreign are not familiar with their habits or lifestyles. Other disadvantages include not speaking the language, experiencing racism or xenophobia, etc.

In conclusion, studying aboard is interesting and exciting experience, but we have to know some disadvantages before we take this big step. Personally speaking, we should not waste this



opportunity. In the beginning, we can struggle a lot, but after some time we get used to it and in the end our hard work will pay off.

By Lavínía Husarová, III.A

A vampire in Cottage valley



It was a beautiful Monday morning in Cottage Valley. The birds were chirping and people were going to work. I woke up from a peaceful sleep at 6 AM expecting another mundane week of school – rude teachers, students trying to get good grades desperately and the most annoying girls polishing their nails in the hallway while blocking everyone trying to get through.

However, this week was different – the teachers strolling around open hallways happily and all of the students in their classes. I thought the teachers were so fed up with the students blocking the hallways, they

enforced new rules. But it couldn't have been further from the truth. The moment I came to my class I heard all of my classmates gossiping about a new student. I wanted to know what the new student was like, so I joined the conversation. Surprisingly, my classmates weren't talking about how "handsome he was" or "how they were so jealous of him". They were absolutely terrified.

"He is the vampire from Black Hollow. He is responsible for the murders of Abbie Parker and Christopher Owen!" my classmate shouted angrily. He said "I have to tell the principal about this!" while sprinting to his office. I followed him through the hallways until we ended up near the office. He rushed in shouting: "The new student is the vampire from Black Hollow!" The principal stood up and said: "You're hilarious, you don't actually believe those fairy tales, do you?" The student rushed out of the office. Frustrated, he said to the principal: "If you don't stop him, then I will!"

I ran home and told my mom about the rumours. She just laughed and told me to do my homework. So, I just did my homework and went to bed. In the morning I didn't think much of it until I saw a student body lying on the ground with a bite mark on his neck.

By Martín Rubal, II.A

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FATHER'S DAY

FATHER'S DAY, a holiday of honouring fatherhood and paternal bonds, as well as the influence of fathers in society is observed in over 110 countries all over the world. In some especially Roman Catholic European countries, it has been celebrated on 19 March as Saint Joseph's Day since the Middle Ages. In most of the countries it is celebrated on the third Sunday in June following its origin given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth.

DAD

Anyone can be a Father, but it takes someone very special to be a DAD.



She is said to have had the idea while listening to a sermon on Mother's Day which at the time was becoming established as a holiday. Local religious leaders supported the idea, and the 1st Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, the month of the birthday of Dodd's father.

In 1966 President Johnson issued a proclamation that recognized the day and it became a national holiday in 1972, when President Nixon signed legislation designating the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Although originally largely a religious holiday, Father's Day has been commercialized with the sending of greeting cards and the giving of gifts. Some wear a red rose to indicate that one's father is living or a white rose to indicate that he is deceased. Other males in a family like grandfathers or uncles who have assumed parenting roles are often also honoured on the day.

FATHER'S DAY WORD SCRAMBLE

On the next page you will find a simple Father's Day Word Scramble. How to do it? Unscramble the letters to form 10 adjectives to describe Dad.

Then put the numbered letters in the order to answer the riddle below. It is a common idiom related to fathers. The KEY is on Page 38.



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What do you call a monkey who is just like his father?

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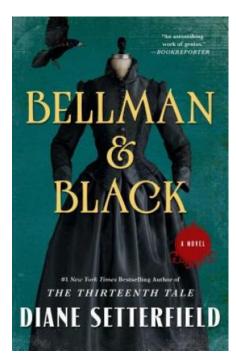
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BELLMAN & BLACK

Bellman & Black is a mysterious ghost novel about the past that does not want to leave and often has unforseen consequences. It was written by Diane Setterfield, who is also the author of a best-seller "the Thirteen Tale", and published in 2013.

The story is set in an English village in the middle of 19th century. Here, we learn about the main character of this story, William Bellman. His life is not easy because his father left him and his mother. His own grandfather does not consider him as his grandchild because he was against the wedding of his mother and father.



Even though it is not exactly easy for William, his life is quite normal till one specific night.

That night on the cemetery he meets a mysterious man named Mr. Black. This man makes a special agreement with William. A grown-up Bellman builds a company Bellman & Black. Mr. Black does not show himself for many years later after they make an agreement. Despite that William becomes a successful and respected man. The village he lives in does not cross the path with death for a long time, but all of a sudden, many people are dying from an unknown illness mysteriously. Bellman starts to worry about his family and gets mad at Mr. Black. He keeps looking for and does not want to stop until he finds him.

The story is really interesting and the plot is extensive. There are many unexpected plot twists, which force the reader to keep reading. I really enjoy reading the book and could not put it down, although at times there is unnecessarily too much description. Apart from that, it is a great book I would definitely recommend it to anyone who likes mysteries or ghost stories.

By Lavínia Husarová, III.A

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KEYS AND SOLUTIONS

BUSINESS IDIOMS EXERCISE p. 23-24

- 1. word of mouth
- 2. go back to the drawing board
- 3. touch base
- 4. raise the bar
- 5. a long shot
- 6. a no brainer
- 7. make a go of it
- 8. groundbreaking
- 9. call it a day
- 10. get my business off the ground

- 11. gone through the roof
- 12. thinking outside the box
- 13. by the book
- 14. opt out of it
- 15. had changed hands
- 16. rocket science
- 17. learn the rope
- 18. go back to square one
- 19. cut corners
- 20. in a nutshell

FATHER'S DAY WORD SCRAMBLE p. 36

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The full-colour version of the latest edition of ZINGER magazine as well as all the old ones can be found on the website of Business Academy, Topol'čany:

www.oato.edu.sk

Do not forget to check it/them out.

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