



**SKRIPTA S TEXTY A DOPROVODNÝMI
CVIČENÍMI**

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Kateřina Dvořáčková, Jeff Short

Zajímavosti anglicky

Anglické poslechy, texty a cvičení o zajímavých lidech, místech a věcech

Tento poslechový materiál nabízí poslechy na úrovni B1–B2 podle Společného evropského referenčního rámce pro jazyky, a je tak ideální pro žáky devátých tříd, středoškoláky i dospělé. Součástí je také PDF, které je zdarma ke stažení a obsahuje pestrá cvičení zaměřená na rozvoj čtenářské gramotnosti, rozšíření slovní zásoby, procvičení gramatiky a porozumění mluvenému slovu. Díky zajímavým tématům z různých oblastí, jako je historie, geografie či kultura, si nejen zlepšíte angličtinu, ale zároveň se dozvíte spoustu nových informací. Cvičení mohou sloužit jako podpůrný materiál při přípravě na mezinárodní jazykové zkoušky nebo maturitu z cizího jazyka. Správná řešení všech úkolů naleznete na konci publikace.

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CZECH INVENTIONS

Velorex – The Legendary Three-Wheeler

Velorex, also known as the "Hadrak," "Hadraplan," "Hadrolet," "Husí stehno," "Montgomerák," "Velouš," "Chroust," "Netopýr," or "Splašený stan," earned itself many funny nicknames. However, this iconic vehicle doesn't deserve [ridicule](#); for many, it served as a regular mode of transportation and remains a beloved collector's item. Its popularity was boosted by the three-wheeled Velorex's appearance in the film "Vrchní, prchni!" and a four-wheeled version in the children's comedy "Ať žijí duchové!" This unique three-wheeler was created by brothers František and Mojmír Stránský from Veselí nad Moravou.

The Stránský brothers began developing the vehicle before World War II, creating the first prototype called "Oskar." However, their plans were delayed due to the nationalization of industries. Production of Velorex vehicles [eventually](#) started in the 1950s in Hradec Králové and later moved to Solnice.

The brothers cleverly advertised Velorex as an ideal vehicle for people with disabilities, using the slogan "Tělesně vadní do šťastné budoucnosti!" (Physically impaired towards a happy future!). The production involved various components sourced from different places.

Tragically, František Stránský lost his life in 1954 when he crashed the Velorex prototype near Zacharovec, not far from Česká Třebová. Two days later, he passed away at the hospital in Ústí nad Orlicí. Mojmír continued to innovate and invented a [manual steering system](#) for cars known as the "Stránský system."

The legendary Velorex vehicles were [manufactured](#) for over twenty years and were even exported abroad. Demand exceeded production, with output ranging from 120 units in 1959 to around a thousand vehicles in 1963. Approximately fifteen thousand three-wheelers and nearly fifteen hundred four-wheeled models were produced in total. These "Hadraks" served many people as regular means of transportation and became a part of their lifestyle. They had several advantages; for instance, it was said that the leather body "didn't crash, but polished." The only part that could break was the front glass; the rest was made of Plexiglas. Velorex enthusiasts began organizing meetings, and hundreds of these vehicles still participate in gatherings, with the most famous being the Velorex Spring Meet in Boskovice.

Ridicule—výsměch

Eventually—nakonec

Disability—postižení

Manual steering system—manuální řídicí systém

Manufacture—vyrábět

Velorex – The Legendary Three-Wheeler

Exercise 1. Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Velorex, also known as the "Hadrak," "Hadraplan," "Hadrolet," "Husí stehno," "Montgomerák," "Velouš," "Chroust," "Netopýr," or "Splášený stan," earned itself many funny nicknames. 1. _____, this iconic vehicle doesn't deserve ridicule; for many, it served 2. _____ a regular mode of transportation and remains a beloved collector's item. Its popularity was boosted 3. _____ the three-wheeled Velorex's appearance in the film "Vrchní, prchni!" and a four-wheeled version in the children's comedy "Ať žijí duchové!" This unique three-wheeler was created by brothers František and Mojmír Stránský from Veselí nad Moravou.

The Stránský brothers began developing 4. _____ vehicle before World War II, creating the first prototype 5. _____ "Oskar." However, their plans were delayed 6. _____ the nationalization of industries. Production of Velorex vehicles eventually started in the 1950s in Hradec Králové and later moved 7. _____ Solnice.

The brothers cleverly advertised Velorex 8. _____ an ideal vehicle for people with disabilities, using the slogan "Tělesně vadní do šťastné budoucnosti!" (Physically impaired towards a happy future!). The production involved various components sourced from different places.

Tragically, František Stránský lost his life in 1954 when he crashed the Velorex prototype near Zacharovce, not far from Česká Třebová. Two days later, he passed 9. _____ at the hospital in Ústí nad Orlicí. Mojmír continued to innovate and invented a manual steering system for cars known as the "Stránský system."

The legendary Velorex vehicles were manufactured for over twenty years and were even exported abroad. Demand exceeded production, with output ranging from 120 units in 1959 to around a thousand vehicles in 1963. Approximately fifteen thousand three-wheelers and nearly fifteen hundred four-wheeled models were produced in total. These "Hadraks" served many people as regular means of transportation and became a part of their lifestyle. They had several advantages; 10. ____ instance, it was said that the leather body "didn't crash, but polished." The only part that could break was the front glass; the rest was made of Plexiglas. Velorex enthusiasts began organizing meetings, and hundreds of these vehicles still participate in gatherings, with the most famous being the Velorex Spring Meet in Boskovice.

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. a) although | b) however | c) even though |
| 2. a) if | b) like | c) as |
| 3. a) with | b) thank | c) by |
| 4. a) the | b) a | c) - |
| 5. a) name | b) called | c) known |
| 6. a) due to | b) thanks | c) due |
| 7. a) in | b) to the | c) to |
| 8. a) like | b) as | c) be |
| 9. a) away | b) out | c) off |
| 10. a) in | b) at | c) for |

Exercise 2. Listen again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|------|
| Velorex is only known by one nickname. | T/ F |
| The Velorex was mainly used for recreational purposes. | T/ F |
| The Stránský brothers' vehicle development was interrupted by World War II. | T/ F |
| Production of Velorex vehicles started in Solnice and later moved to Hradec Králové. | T/ F |
| The Velorex was advertised as suitable for people with disabilities. | T/ F |

František Stránský passed away in a crash involving a Velorex prototype.	T/ F
Mojmír Stránský continued innovating after his brother's death.	T/ F
Demand for Velorex vehicles never exceeded production.	T/ F
The Velorex vehicles were made entirely of leather.	T/ F
Velorex enthusiasts organize gatherings, with the most famous being the Velorex Summer Meet in Prague.	T/ F

Exercise 3. Match the words from the text with their meanings:

Prototype	a. To bring under state control or ownership
Nationalization	b. Parts or elements that make up a whole
Slogan	c. Original or model on which something is based or formed
Components	d. Sent out of the country for sale or use elsewhere
Tragically	e. People who are highly interested or passionate about something
Innovation	f. Distinctive phrase or motto of a group or product
Exported	g. Assemblies or meetings of people for a particular purpose or activity
Plexiglas	h. In a manner involving sorrow or disaster
Enthusiasts	i. A transparent plastic material
Gatherings	j. Introducing something new; the act of inventing or introducing something

Exercise 4. Complete the following sentences with the appropriate words or phrases from the text:

1. Velorex, also known by various funny nicknames, remains _____.
2. The Stránský brothers began developing the vehicle _____.

3. The production of Velorex vehicles eventually started in _____.
4. The brothers advertised Velorex as an ideal vehicle for _____.
5. František Stránský tragically lost his life in _____.
6. Mojmír Stránský continued to innovate and invented _____.
7. The legendary Velorex vehicles were manufactured for _____.
8. Demand for Velorex vehicles often _____.
9. Velorex enthusiasts began _____.
10. Hundreds of these vehicles still participate in gatherings, with the most famous being _____.

Exercise 5. Rewrite the following sentences from the text in the past tense:

The Stránský brothers cleverly advertise Velorex as an ideal vehicle for people with disabilities.

The production involves various components sourced from different places.

Velorex vehicles are manufactured for over twenty years.

Demand exceeds production, with output ranging from 120 units in 1959 to around a thousand vehicles in 1963.

Velorex enthusiasts begin organizing meetings.

Hundreds of these vehicles still participate in gatherings, with the most famous being the Velorex Spring Meet in Boskovice.

Exercise 6. Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense forms of the verbs in parentheses:

1. Velorex, also known as the "Hadrak," _____ (earn) itself many funny nicknames.
2. This iconic vehicle _____ (not deserve) ridicule; for many, it _____ (serve) as a regular mode of transportation and _____ (remain) a beloved collector's item.
3. Its popularity _____ (boost) by the three-wheeled Velorex's appearance in the film "Vrchní, prchni!" and a four-wheeled version _____ (appear) in the children's comedy "Ať žijí duchové!"
4. Tragically, František Stránský _____ (lose) his life in 1954 when he _____ (crash) the Velorex prototype near Zacharovec.

Alpa - A Versatile Solution

Alpa, also known as Francovka, is a unique product that was first [crafted](#) by Josef Veselý back in 1913. Veselý established his own factory in Brno – Královo Pole for the production of chemical and cosmetic preparations. On June 22, 1913, he registered the [trademark](#) Alpa. Remarkably, the recipe for Alpa has remained unchanged to this day. It is an alcoholic [solution](#) composed of essential oils, essences, [fragrances](#) from fourteen herbs, and natural menthol from mint. Its [formula](#) is as well-guarded as the recipe for the herbal liqueur Becherovka.

Alpa's history is [intriguing](#), surviving both world wars and relocating to Velké Meziříčí in 1948 due to nationalization. Today, it's a family-owned company employing seventy individuals, known for its pleasant fragrance. Besides Francovka, they produce various cosmetic products.

One century-old question remains: 'How did Alpa get its name?' Some suggest it's an acronym for Alois Paleček, but his identity is unknown. Alpa faced competition in its early days, but only Alpa [endures](#) today.

Alpa also made its way into the film "Ať žijí duchové" (Let the Spirits Live) and into the hands of actor Jiří Sovák, known as Rytíř Brtník z Brtníku (Knight Brtník of Brtník). Today, this would

be considered a highly paid product placement, but back then, it may have been a simple joke concocted during filming. One of the film's locations was Krakovec Castle, and Rytíř Brtník enjoyed Alpa while finding it rather absurd to use the exceptional product for joint lubrication.

Alpa has many versatile uses. It is often diluted in lukewarm water with a few drops of Alpa for gargling or as a sugar cube soaked in Alpa. This is considered a reliable remedy for sore throats and colds.

Craft—vyrobit

gargling—kloktání

Trademark—ochranná známka

remedy—lék

Solution—roztok

lukewarm—vlažný

Fragrance—vůně

diluted—zředěný

Formula—složení, vzorec

Intriguing—fascinující, úchvatný

Endure—přetrvat

Concoct—vymyslet si

Alpa - A Versatile Solution

Exercise 1. Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Alpa, also known as Francovka, is a unique product that was first crafted by Josef Veselý back in 1913. Veselý established his own factory in Brno – Královo Pole for the production of chemical and cosmetic preparations. On June 22, 1913, he registered the trademark Alpa. Remarkably, the recipe 1. _____ Alpa has remained unchanged to this day. It is an alcoholic solution composed 2. _____ essential oils, essences, fragrances from fourteen herbs, and natural menthol from mint. Its formula is as well-guarded as the recipe for the herbal liqueur Becherovka.

Alpa's history is intriguing, surviving both world wars and relocating to Velké Meziříčí in 1948 3. _____ nationalization. Today, it's a family-owned company employing seventy individuals, known for its pleasant fragrance. Besides Francovka, they produce various cosmetic products.

One century-old question remains: 'How did Alpa get its name?' Some suggest it's an acronym

4. _____ Alois Paleček, but his identity is unknown. Alpa faced competition in its early days, but only Alpa endures 5. _____ today.

Alpa also made its way into the film "Ať žijí duchové" (Let the Spirits Live) and into the hands 6. _____ actor Jiří Sovák, known 7. _____ Rytíř Brtník z Brtníku (Knight Brtník of Brtník). Today, this would be considered a highly paid product placement, but back then, it may have been a simple joke concocted during filming. One of the film's locations was Krakovec Castle, and Rytíř Brtník enjoyed Alpa 8. _____ finding it rather absurd 9. _____ use the exceptional product for joint lubrication.

Alpa has many versatile uses. It is often diluted 10. _____ lukewarm water with a few drops of Alpa for gargling or as a sugar cube soaked in Alpa. This is considered a reliable remedy for sore throats and colds.

- | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. a) of | b) for | c) to |
| 2. a) by | b) from | c) of |
| 3. a) for | b) thank | c) due to |
| 4. a) for | b) to | c) from |
| 5. a) for | b) - | c) to |
| 6. a) of | b) by | c) from |
| 7. a) like | b) as | c) - |
| 8. a) when | b) in | c) while |
| 9. a) for | b) to | c) - |
| 10. a) in | b) at | c) on |

Exercise 2. Listen again and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

Alpa was first crafted by Jan Veselý.

T/F

The recipe for Alpa has undergone several changes over the years.	T/F
Alpa relocated to Velké Meziříčí in 1948 due to nationalization.	T/F
Alpa is currently a government-owned company.	T/F
Alpa is primarily known for its alcoholic beverages.	T/F
The identity of Paleček, suggested as the possible origin of Alpa's name, is well-known.	T/F
Alpa faced competition in its early days and remains the only brand in its niche.	T/F
Alpa was featured in a film titled "Let the Spirits Live."	T/F
Actor Jiří Sovák enjoyed using Alpa in the film as a practical remedy.	T/F
Alpa is commonly used as a remedy for sore throats and colds.	T/F

Exercise 3. Match the words from the text with their meanings:

Versatile	a. A distinct and specialized segment of a market
Fragrances	b. Pleasant smells; perfumes
Nationalization	c. Making or preparing by combining various ingredients
Endures	d. Made weaker or less concentrated by adding water or another solvent
Acronym	e. A solution or treatment for a problem or illness
Concocted	f. Capable of being used in many different ways
Diluted	g. The process of bringing under state control or ownership
Niche	h. Continues to exist; persists
Remedy	i. An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words
Employing	j. Hiring or giving work to someone

Exercise 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb tense forms of the verbs in brackets:

1. Alpa, also known as Francovka, _____ (craft) by Josef Veselý back in 1913.
2. Veselý _____ (establish) his own factory in Brno – Královo Pole for the production of chemical and cosmetic preparations.
3. On June 22, 1913, he _____ (register) the trademark Alpa.
4. Remarkably, the recipe for Alpa _____ (remain) unchanged to this day.
5. It (survive) both world wars and _____ (relocate) to Velké Meziříčí in 1948 due to nationalization.
6. Today, it _____ (be) a family-owned company employing seventy individuals.
7. One century-old question _____ (remain): how _____ (Alpa, get) its name?
8. Some suggest it _____ (be) an acronym for Alois Paleček, but his identity _____ (remain) unknown.
9. Alpa _____ (face) competition in its early days, but only Alpa _____ (endure) today.
10. Alpa also _____ (make) its way into the film "Ať žijí duchové" and into the hands of actor Jiří Sovák.
11. Actor Jiří Sovák _____ (enjoy) Alpa while finding it rather absurd to use the exceptional product for joint lubrication.
12. Alpa _____ (have) many versatile uses, often _____ (dilute) in lukewarm water for gargling or as a sugar cube _____ (soak) in Alpa.

Exercise 5. Rewrite the following sentences from the text in the past tense:

Josef Veselý establishes his own factory in Brno – Královo Pole for the production of chemical and cosmetic preparations.

Alpa's history is intriguing, surviving both world wars.

Alpa relocates to Velké Meziříčí in 1948 due to nationalization.

Today, it is a family-owned company employing seventy individuals.

Alpa makes its way into the film "Ať žijí duchové" and into the hands of actor Jiří Sovák.

Alpa has many versatile uses, often diluted in lukewarm water for gargling.

Exercise 6 - Discussion: Discuss the following questions with a partner:

1. Have you ever used a versatile product like Alpa for various purposes? If so, please share your experience.
2. What do you think contributed to Alpa's longevity and success in the market?
3. If you had to create a versatile product, what would it be, and how would you market it?

How Were Tights Invented?

Pantyhose, nylons, stockings, and tights - these fashion items have gone through many changes, and it might surprise you that the Czechs played a role in their creation. Let's explore how it all started.

The history of tights can be traced back to ancient China, where early versions of today's pantyhose were a popular clothing choice. Even in ancient Egypt, Rome, and China, people wore [woven](#) socks, sometimes [reinforced](#) at the heels and toes. In Greece, woven socks were primarily worn as protective [gear](#) by workers.

Knitted stockings became part of women's [attire](#) in the sixteenth century. However, they were expensive and not readily available to all women. In 1616, William Lee introduced a [ground-breaking](#) idea. His weaving machine significantly sped up stocking production, making them more [affordable](#) and accessible.

For centuries, stockings were seen as a symbol of luxury and were mostly reserved for the nobility until the mid-twentieth century. In 1939, everything changed with the introduction of affordable nylon stockings. This was such a significant event that four million pairs of stockings were sold in the United Kingdom within just four days.

Otto Wichterle, a Czech inventor, developed a new method for producing stockings using synthetic fibres, particularly nylon. His invention was a major breakthrough, but it faced various challenges. The Bata company, responsible for his discovery, couldn't use it during the war. After many [struggles](#), production eventually started in Czechoslovakia and was intended for the Soviet bloc.

Woven—utkaný

reinforced—zpevněný

Gear—ohoz

Attire—oděv

Ground-breaking—průkopnický,
průlomový

Affordable—cenově dostupný

Struggle—úsilí, boj

How Were Tights Invented?

Exercise 1. Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Pantyhose, nylons, stockings, and tights - these fashion items have gone through many changes, and it might surprise you that the Czechs played a role 1. ____ their creation. Let's explore how it all started.

The history of tights can be traced back to ancient China, where early versions of today's pantyhose 2. _____ a popular clothing choice. Even in ancient Egypt, Rome, and China, people

wore woven socks, sometimes reinforced 3. _____ the heels and toes. In Greece, woven socks were primarily worn 4. _____ protective gear by workers.

Knitted stockings became part of women's attire in the sixteenth century. 5. _____, they were expensive and not readily available to all women. In 1616, William Lee introduced a ground-breaking idea. His weaving machine significantly sped 6. _____ stocking production, making them more affordable and accessible.

For centuries, stockings were seen 7. _____ a symbol of luxury and were mostly reserved 8. _____ the nobility until the mid-twentieth century. In 1939, everything changed with the introduction of affordable nylon stockings. This was such a significant event that four million pairs of stockings were sold in the United Kingdom 9. _____ just four days.

Otto Wichterle, a Czech inventor, developed a new method for producing stockings using synthetic fibres, particularly nylon. His invention was a major breakthrough, but 10. _____ faced various challenges. The Bata company, responsible for his discovery, couldn't use it during the war. After many struggles, production eventually started in Czechoslovakia and was intended for the Soviet bloc.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. a) in | b) at | c) on |
| 2. a) is | b) were | c) was |
| 3. a) on | b) at | c) in |
| 4. a) as | b) like | c) to |
| 5. a) although | b) whenever | c) however |
| 6. a) up | b) in | c) out |
| 7. a) like | b) as | c) be |
| 8. a) to | b) with | c) for |
| 9. a) within | b) between | c) at |
| 10. a) he | b) it | c) them |

Exercise 2. Listen again and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

Pantyhose, nylons, stockings, and tights have remained unchanged since their creation. T/F

The history of tights can be traced back to ancient Greece. T/F

Knitted stockings became part of women's attire in the seventeenth century. T/F

William Lee's weaving machine made stockings more affordable and accessible in the sixteenth century. T/F

Nylon stockings were introduced in 1939, revolutionizing the industry. T/F

Wichterle, a Czech inventor, played a role in developing stockings using synthetic fibres. T/F

The Bata company faced no challenges in utilizing Wichterle's invention during the war. T/F

Production of stockings in Czechoslovakia was initially intended for the Western bloc. T/F

Synthetic fibres, particularly nylon, were not used in the production of stockings until the mid-twentieth century. T/F

The invention of nylon stockings led to a decrease in sales of traditional woven socks. T/F

Exercise 3. Match the words from the text with their meanings:

Attire	a. Difficulties or challenges
Reinforced	b. c. Able to be bought at a reasonable price
Affordable	c. Group of countries with similar political or economic interests
Symbol	d. Made by artificial means; not natural
Nobility	e. Clothing or garments
Breakthrough	f. Process of manufacturing or creating something
Struggles	g. Representation of an idea, concept, or quality
Bloc	h. Strengthened or supported

Synthetic	i. Significant advance or discovery
Production	j. Aristocratic or royal class

Exercise 4. Complete the following sentences with the appropriate words or phrases from the text:

1. Pantyhose, nylons, stockings, and tights have gone through many changes, and it might surprise you that _____.
2. The history of tights can be traced back to ancient China, where early versions of today's pantyhose _____.
- 3 Knitted stockings became part of women's attire in the sixteenth century, but they _____.
4. In 1616, William Lee introduced a groundbreaking idea: his weaving machine significantly sped up stocking production, making them _____.
5. For centuries, stockings were seen as a symbol of luxury and were mostly reserved for the nobility until _____.
6. In 1939, everything changed with the introduction of affordable nylon stockings; this was such a significant event that _____.
7. Otto Wichterle, a Czech inventor, developed a new method for producing stockings using synthetic fibers, particularly nylon; his invention was _____.
8. The Bata company, responsible for Otto Wichterle's discovery, couldn't use it during the war; after many struggles, production eventually started in Czechoslovakia and was intended for _____.

Exercise 5. Fill in the Blanks with Correct Past Tense Forms

1. Pantyhose, nylons, stockings, and tights _____ (go) through many changes, and it might surprise you that the Czechs _____ (play) a role in their creation.

2. The history of tights _____ (trace) back to ancient China, where early versions of today's pantyhose _____ (be) a popular clothing choice.

3. Knitted stockings _____ (become) part of women's attire in the sixteenth century, but they _____ (be) expensive and not readily available to all women.

4. In 1616, William Lee _____ (introduce) a groundbreaking idea: his weaving machine significantly _____ (speed) up stocking production, making them more affordable and accessible.

5. For centuries, stockings _____ (see) as a symbol of luxury and _____ mostly _____ (reserve) for the nobility until the mid-twentieth century.

6. In 1939, everything _____ (change) with the introduction of affordable nylon stockings; this _____ (be) such a significant event that four million pairs of stockings _____ (sell) in the United Kingdom within just four days.

7. Otto Wichterle, a Czech inventor, _____ (develop) a new method for producing stockings using synthetic fibers, particularly nylon; his invention _____ (be) a major breakthrough.

8. The Bata company, responsible for Otto Wichterle's discovery, _____ (cannot) use it during the war; after many struggles, production eventually _____ (start) in Czechoslovakia and _____ (intend) for the Soviet bloc.

Exercise 6. Discuss the impact of technological advancements on fashion throughout history. How have inventions like William Lee's weaving machine and Otto Wichterle's development of synthetic fibres changed the way people dress? What other technological innovations have influenced fashion?

CZECH INVENTORS and SCIENTISTS

Václav Prokop Diviš,

born in 1698 in Helvíkovice, Czech Republic, was a Catholic priest and an early inventor. He is most famous for creating a version of the [lightning rod](#) before Benjamin Franklin. His design, built around 1754, was more effective because it was [grounded](#).

Diviš grew up on a small farm and became a great student. He later joined a monastery and changed his name to Prokop. In 1753, after a scientist died from a lightning experiment, Diviš wrote about directing lightning to the ground. His ideas were unique but not widely recognized because they mixed science with religious views.

Diviš's main invention was a "meteorological machine." It wasn't just a lightning rod; it [aimed](#) to prevent lightning by balancing the earth's and sky's electrical tension. It had a big iron cross with metal [spikes](#), connected to the ground. This machine also helped to prove that a lightning is electrical.

Despite his contributions, Diviš's work was less known than Franklin's. However, his ideas were important in understanding electricity and lightning. Today, his inventions are remembered in museums and monuments in the Czech Republic.

Lightning rod (lightning conductor): bleskosvod

Grounded: uzemněný

Aim: snažit se

Spike: špice

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Václav Prokop Diviš,

Václav Prokop Diviš, born in 1698 in Helvíkovice, Czech Republic, was a Catholic priest and an early 1._____. He is most famous for creating a version of the lightning rod before Benjamin Franklin. His design, built around 1754, was more 2._____ because it was 3._____.

Diviš grew up on a small 4. _____ and became a great student. He later joined a 5. _____ and changed his name to Prokop. In 1753, after a scientist died from a lightning 6. _____, Diviš wrote about directing lightning to the ground. His ideas were unique but not widely 7. _____ because they mixed science with religious views.

Diviš's main invention was a "meteorological machine." It wasn't just a lightning rod; it aimed to prevent lightning by balancing the earth's and sky's electrical 8. _____. It had a big iron cross with metal spikes, 9. _____ to the ground. This machine also helped to prove that the lightning is electrical.

Despite his contributions, Diviš's work was less 10. _____ than Franklin's. However, his ideas were important in understanding electricity and lightning. Today, his inventions are remembered in museums and monuments in the Czech Republic.

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. a) inventor | b) musician | c) football player |
| 2. a) expensive | b) effective | c) complicated |
| 3. a) coloured | b) broken | c) grounded |
| 4. a) city | b) farm | c) school |
| 5. a) university | b) monastery | c) theatre |
| 6. a) experiment | b) game | c) meeting |
| 7. a) recognized | b) forbidden | c) painted |
| 8. a) heat | b) sound | c) tension |
| 9. a) connected | b) thrown | c) painted |
| 10. a) mentioned | b) hidden | c) known |

Exercise 2: Listen again and decide whether each statement is true (T) or false (F).

Václav Prokop Diviš was born in the 18th century. T / F

Diviš's design of the lightning rod was less effective than Benjamin 'Franklin's. T / F

Diviš grew up in a city environment. T / F

The main purpose of Diviš's "meteorological machine" was to balance the electrical tension between the earth and sky. T / F

Diviš's work was more recognized than Benjamin Franklin's during their time. T / F

Exercise 3: Complete sentences with words or phrases from the text.

Václav Prokop Diviš was a Czech _____ and an early inventor.

His famous invention was a version of the _____ before Benjamin Franklin.

Diviš's meteorological machine aimed to prevent lightning by balancing the _____.

His machine had a big iron cross with metal spikes, _____ to the ground.

Diviš's ideas were unique but not widely recognized because they _____.

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verbs:

Václav Prokop Diviš _____ (be) born in 1698 in Helvíkovice.

He _____ (grow) up on a small farm and _____ (become) a great student.

In 1753, after a scientist _____ (die) from a lightning experiment, Diviš _____ (write) about directing lightning to the ground.

Diviš's main invention _____ (be) a "meteorological machine" aimed to prevent lightning.

Despite his contributions, Diviš's work _____ (be) less known than Franklin's.

Today, his inventions _____ (remember) in museums and monuments in the CR.

Exercise 5: Match the term to its correct definition.

1. Lightning Rod

a) A device used to balance electrical tension.

b) A tool designed to protect structures from lightning strikes by directing it to the ground.

c) An early form of a musical instrument.

2. Meteorological Machine

a) A device designed to prevent lightning.

b) A machine used for measuring weather conditions.

c) A tool for agricultural work.

3. Grounded

a) Fixed in one spot.

b) Having a connection to the ground for electrical safety.

c) Mentally stable.

4. Monastery

a) A place where monks live and work.

b) A type of educational institution.

c) A building used for scientific experiments.

5. Electrical Tension

a) A type of physical stress.

b) The difference in electrical potential between two points.

c) An emotional state caused by electricity.

Jaroslav Heyrovský,

born on December 20, 1890, in Prague, was a Czech physical chemist. He is famous for discovering [polarography](#) and winning the 1959 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Heyrovský studied at Charles University in Prague and then at University College London, focusing on physical chemistry. His studies were interrupted by World War I, where he served as a medic. After the war, he became a professor at Charles University in 1926.

In 1922, he discovered polarography, a method using [electrical current measurements](#) through a mercury drop and a solution. This method is valuable in chemical analysis and basic physical-chemical research.

During World War II, Heyrovský continued his scientific work even when universities were closed. After the war, he co-founded the Polarographic Institute in 1951, leading it until 1963. He retired due to health reasons and passed away in 1967. Heyrovský was married to Maria and had two children, Jitka and Michael, who also pursued scientific careers.

Heyrovský's key discovery in 1922 was measuring the current passing through a [droplet electrode](#). He introduced a galvanometer between the droplet electrode and a potentiometer early in 1922. This method was discovered while studying electrolysis with a mercury droplet cathode. In 1924, with his Japanese collaborator, they created the polarograph, a device for automatically recording these current-voltage curves. Heyrovský was nominated 18 times for the Nobel Prize and won it in 1959 for developing the polarographic analytical method.

Polarography: polarografie

Focus: zaměřit se na

electrical current measurement: měření elektrického proudu

Mercury drop: kapka rtuti

Solution: roztok

pursue: věnovat se

droplet electrode: kapková elektroda

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check

Jaroslav Heyrovský,

born on December 20, 1890, in Prague, was a Czech physical chemist. He is famous 1. _____ discovering 2. _____ and winning the 1959 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Heyrovský studied at Charles University in Prague and then at University College London, focusing on physical chemistry. His studies were interrupted by 3. _____, where he served as a medic. After the war, he became a professor at Charles University in 1926.

In 1922, he discovered polarography, a method using 4. ____ current measurements through a mercury drop and a solution. This method is valuable in chemical analysis and basic physical-chemical research.

During World War II, Heyrovský continued his scientific work even 5. ____ universities were closed. After the war, he co-founded the Polarographic Institute in 1951, leading it until 1963. He retired due to health reasons and passed 6. ____ in 1967. Heyrovský was married 7. ____ Maria and had two children, Jitka and Michael, who also pursued scientific careers.

Heyrovský's key discovery in 1922 was measuring the current passing 8. ____ a droplet electrode. He introduced a galvanometer between 9. ____ droplet electrode and a potentiometer early in 1922. This method was discovered while studying electrolysis with a mercury droplet cathode. In 1924, with his Japanese collaborator, they created the polarograph, a device 10. ____ automatically recording these current-voltage curves. Heyrovský was nominated 18 times for the Nobel Prize and won it in 1959 for developing the polarographic analytical method.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. a) to | b) for | c) by |
| 2. a) polarography | b) heredity | c) blood groups |
| 3. a) World War II. | b) WW I. | c) Cold War |
| 4. a) electrical | b) water | c) wind |
| 5. a) if | b) then | c) when |
| 6. a) out | b) up | c) away |
| 7. a) with | b) to | c) by |
| 8. a) through | b) in | c) by |
| 9. a) a | b) the | c) some |
| 10. a) that | b) to | c) for |

Exercise 2: Listen to the text again and decide if each statement is true (T) or false (F)

- Jaroslav Heyrovský was a Czech biologist. T / F
- He won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1959 for his work in polarography. T / F
- Heyrovský's studies were not affected by World War I. T / F
- He invented a device called the polarograph with a Japanese collaborator in 1924. T / F
- Heyrovský was nominated for the Nobel Prize only once. T / F

Exercise 3: Complete the sentences with words or phrases from the text.

- Jaroslav Heyrovský is known for discovering _____.
- He won the Nobel Prize in _____ in 1959.
- His studies were interrupted by _____.
- The method he developed is important for _____ analysis.
- The polarograph was a device for automatically recording _____-voltage curves.

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses:

- A) Jaroslav Heyrovský, born on December 20, 1890, in Prague, _____ (be) a Czech physical chemist.
- B) He _____ (study) at Charles University in Prague and then at University College London, focusing on physical chemistry.
- C) His studies _____ (interrupt) by World War I, where he _____ (serve) as a medic.
- D) After the war, he _____ (become) a professor at Charles University in 1926.
- E) In 1922, he _____ (discover) polarography, a method using electrical current measurements through a mercury drop and a solution.

F) During World War II, Heyrovský _____ (continue) his scientific work even when universities _____ (close).

G) He _____ (co-found) the Polarographic Institute in 1951, leading it until 1963.

H) Heyrovský _____ (retire) due to health reasons and _____ (pass away) in 1967.

I) Heyrovský _____ (marry) to Maria and _____ (have) two children, Jitka and Michael, who also _____ (pursue) scientific careers.

J) His key discovery in 1922 _____ (be) measuring the current passing through a droplet electrode.

Exercise 5: Match the term to its correct definition based on the text.

1. Polarography

- a) A method in biology.
- b) A chemical analysis technique using electrical current measurements.
- c) A study of polar regions.

2. Nobel Prize

- a) An award for outstanding work in physics.
- b) An award for significant achievements in various scientific fields.
- c) A prize given only to chemists.

3. Medic

- a) A teacher.
- b) A soldier.
- c) Medical personnel in the military

4. Polarographic Institute

- a) A school for polar studies.

b) An institute for chemistry research.

c) A centre for astronomical research.

5. Galvanometer

a) A device for measuring current.

b) An instrument for measuring temperature.

c) A tool for calculating distances.

Josef Ludvík František Ressel,

born on June 29, 1793, in Chrudim and died on October 9, 1857, in Ljubljana, was a forest officer, writer, technician, and inventor of Czech-German origin. He is best known for inventing the [ship's propeller](#).

Ressel came from a Czech-German family. His father was Czech-German, and his mother was Czech. He studied in Chrudim and then went to a gymnasium in Linz, Austria. After studying [artillery](#) in České Budějovice, he switched to studying medicine in Vienna. However, due to financial issues, he had to leave medical school. He then got a scholarship to study [forestry](#) in Mariabrunn near Vienna. As a forest officer, he worked in what is now Croatia and Slovenia, where he mapped forests and helped reforest the Karst region.

In Trieste, where he worked from 1820 to 1838, Ressel tested his greatest invention, the ship's propeller. In 1839, he joined the navy to select wood for shipbuilding. In 1852, he became a naval forest [superintendent](#) in Venice.

Ressel's invention of the ship's propeller in 1827 was ahead of its time. The early steam engines were slow and heavy, so it took until the 1850s for successful [steamships](#) with propellers to be built. Before that, [paddle steamers](#) were more common.

Other inventors like John Ericsson and Francis Pettit Smith also worked on propeller-driven ships. In 1840, Ressel saw the British steamship "Archimedes," designed by Smith, which used a propeller. Although Smith played a key role in popularizing the propeller, he wasn't its inventor. In 1852, the British government offered a prize for the "real inventor of the ship's propeller," but Ressel's documents submitted to the Admiralty in London were [reportedly](#) lost,

and he never received recognition. Only in 1866 did the American Academy of Sciences officially acknowledge his invention.

Ship propeller—lodní šroub	superintendent—komisař	reportedly—údajně
Artillery—dělostřelectvo	steamship—parník	recognition—uznání
Forestry—lesnictví	paddle steamer—kolesový parník	

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Josef Ludvík František Ressel,

born on June 29, 1793, in Chrudim and died on October 9, 1857, in Ljubljana, was a forest officer, writer, technician, and inventor of Czech-German origin. He is best known 1. _____ inventing the ship's propeller.

Ressel came from a Czech-German family. His father was Czech-German, and his mother was Czech. He studied in Chrudim and then went to a gymnasium in Linz, Austria. After studying artillery in České Budějovice, he switched 2. _____ studying medicine in Vienna. 3. _____, due to financial issues, he had to leave medical school. He then got a scholarship to study forestry in Mariabrunn near Vienna. As a forest officer, he worked in what is now Croatia and Slovenia, where he mapped forests and helped reforest the Karst region.

In Trieste, where he worked from 1820 to 1838, Ressel tested his greatest invention, the ship's propeller. In 1839, he joined the navy to select wood 4. _____ shipbuilding. In 1852, he became a naval forest superintendent in _____ Venice.

Ressel's invention 5. _____ the ship's propeller in 1827 was ahead of its time. The early steam engines were slow and 6. _____, so it took until the 1850s 7. _____ successful steamships with propellers to be built. 8. _____ that, paddle steamers were more common.

Other inventors like John Ericsson and Francis Pettit Smith also worked _____ on propeller-driven ships. In 1840, Ressel saw the British steamship "Archimedes," designed by Smith, which used a propeller. 9. _____ Smith played a key role in popularizing the propeller, he wasn't its

inventor. In 1852, the British government offered a prize 10. _____ the "real inventor of the ship's propeller," but Ressel's documents submitted to the Admiralty in London were reportedly lost, and he never received recognition. Only in 1866 did the American Academy of Sciences officially acknowledge his invention.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. a) to | b) for | c) by |
| 2. A) to | b) on | c) at |
| 3. A) however | b) although | c) even though |
| 4. A) to | b) on | c) for |
| 5. A) - | b) of | c) to |
| 6. A) heavy | b) light | c) unstable |
| 7. A) to | b) by | c) for |
| 8. A) until | b) after | c) before |
| 9. A) however | b) although | c) nevertheless |
| 10. A) for | b) to | c) - |

Exercise 2: Listen again and decide if each statement is true (T) or false (F)

Josef Ludvík František Ressel was born in Chrudim, Czech Republic, on June 29, 1793. T/F

Ressel's mother was of Czech-German descent. T/F

Ressel studied medicine in Vienna before switching to forestry due to financial constraints. T/F

As a forest officer, Ressel primarily worked in what is now Croatia and Slovenia. T/F

Ressel invented the ship's propeller while working in Venice in 1827. T/F

The early steam engines were efficient enough to accommodate propellers immediately after Ressel's invention. T/F

Paddle steamers became less common after the introduction of propeller-driven ships. T/F

Francis Pettit Smith is recognized as the inventor of the ship's propeller. T/F

The British government offered a prize in 1852 to identify the inventor of the ship's propeller.

T/F

Ressel was officially recognized as the inventor of the ship's propeller during his lifetime. T/F

Exercise 3: Complete sentences with words or phrases from the text.

Josef Ressel is best known for inventing the ship's _____.

He had to leave _____ because of financial issues.

Ressel worked as a forest officer and helped reforest the _____ region.

In Trieste, Ressel tested his greatest invention, the ship's _____.

The early steam engines were slow and heavy, so _____ steamers were more common before the 1850s.

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses:

Josef Ludvík František Ressel _____ (be) born on June 29, 1793, in Chrudim.

He _____ (die) on October 9, 1857, in Ljubljana.

Ressel _____ (come) from a Czech-German family.

He _____ (study) in Chrudim and then _____ (go) to a gymnasium in Linz, Austria.

After studying artillery in České Budějovice, he _____ (switch) to studying medicine in Vienna.

In Trieste, where he _____ (work) from 1820 to 1838, Ressel _____ (test) his greatest invention, the ship's propeller.

In 1839, he _____ (join) the navy to select wood for shipbuilding.

He _____ (become) a naval forest superintendent in Venice in 1852.

Ressel's invention of the ship's propeller in 1827 _____ (be) ahead of its time.

The British government _____ (offer) a prize in 1852 for the "real inventor of the ship's propeller," but Ressel's documents _____ (submit) to the Admiralty in London were reportedly lost.

Exercise 5: Match the term to its correct definition based on the text.

1. Propeller

a) A device used for moving a ship forward.

b) A machine for creating steam.

c) A tool for navigating.

b) A place for physical exercise.

c) A secondary school in some European countries.

2. Forest Officer

a) A person responsible for managing forests.

b) A naval officer.

c) A schoolteacher.

4. Karst

a) A region famous for its forests.

b) A type of boat.

c) A scientific instrument.

3. Gymnasium

a) A type of university.

5. Steamship

a) A ship powered by sails.

b) A ship powered by steam engines.

c) A manually operated boat.

Otto Wichterle,

born on October 27, 1913, in Prostějov and died on August 18, 1998, in Stražisko, was a famous Czech scientist and inventor, known for his work in macromolecular organic chemistry. He is most famous for his discoveries and inventions that significantly improved and popularized soft [contact lenses](#) worldwide. These achievements were based on his original scientific work with hydrogels. Wichterle also discovered artificial [polyamide fiber](#) – silon.

Wichterle was born into a wealthy family of [entrepreneurs](#) in Prostějov. He faced health challenges as a child but overcame them to excel in school, particularly enjoying Latin and physics. He [eventually](#) invented gel contact lenses, with the idea originating from a conversation on a train in 1952. Wichterle realized that artificial plastic would be better for eye implants than [noble metals](#). He developed a theory about a three-dimensional hydrophilic polymer suitable for the eye. He chose a gel (poly-hydroxyethyl-methacrylate gel) that absorbed about 40% water, was transparent, and had good mechanical properties.

However, processing the gel was challenging. Initially, the gel was poured into moulds, but the lenses would tear and have irregular edges. In 1958, after leaving his job, Wichterle and his colleagues continued their research at another institute. They created a new method of casting the gel into glass moulds, resulting in lenses with precise optics. The first lenses were applied to patients in Prague, proving that soft lenses could provide perfect vision correction and were well-tolerated by patients.

Despite securing his inventions with patents, many American companies knowingly violated these patents, leading to numerous lawsuits in the 1970s. Wichterle had to testify in court in the USA to confirm the authenticity of his patents. In February 1982, the federal court confirmed the validity of Wichterle's patents, not only in the USA but also in other countries. This resulted in the company collecting millions of dollars, which the Czech economy missed out on due to government decisions.

Contact lenses—kontaktní čočky

noble metals—ušlechtilé kovy

Polyamide fiber—polyamidové vlákno

violate—porušit

Entrepreneur—podnikatel

Eventually—nakonec

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Otto Wichterle,

born on October 27, 1913, in Prostějov and died on August 18, 1998, in Stražisko, was a famous Czech scientist and inventor, known 1. ____ his work in macromolecular organic chemistry.

He is 2. ____ most famous for his discoveries and inventions that significantly improved and popularized soft contact lenses worldwide. These achievements were based 3. ____ his original scientific work with hydrogels. Wichterle also discovered artificial polyamide fiber – silon.

Wichterle was born 4. ____ a wealthy family of entrepreneurs in Prostějov. He faced health challenges as a child but overcame them to excel in school, particularly enjoying Latin and physics. He eventually invented gel contact lenses, with the idea originating 5. ____ a conversation on a train in 1952. Wichterle realized that artificial plastic would be better for eye implants than noble metals. He developed a theory about a three-dimensional hydrophilic polymer suitable 6. ____ the eye. He chose a gel (poly-hydroxyethyl-methacrylate gel) that absorbed about 40% water, was transparent, and had good mechanical properties.

7. ____, processing the gel was challenging. Initially, the gel was poured into moulds, but the lenses would tear and have irregular edges. In 1958, after leaving his job, Wichterle and his colleagues continued their research 8. ____ another institute. They created a new method 9. ____ casting the gel into glass moulds, resulting in lenses with precise optics. The first lenses were applied to patients in Prague, proving that soft lenses could provide perfect vision correction and were well-tolerated by patients.

10. ____ securing his inventions with patents, many American companies knowingly violated these patents, leading to numerous lawsuits in the 1970s. Wichterle had to testify in court in the USA to confirm the authenticity ____ of his patents. In February 1982, the federal court confirmed the validity of Wichterle's patents, not only in the USA but also in other countries. This resulted in the company collecting millions of dollars, which the Czech economy missed out on due to government decisions.

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1. a) for | b) to | c) by |
| 2. A) the | b) - | c) a |
| 3. A) at | b) with | c) on |
| 4. A) at | b) on | c) into |

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 5. A) from | b) in | c) at |
| 6. A) to | b) for | c) - |
| 7. A) although | b) even though | c) however |
| 8. A) at | b) in | c) on |
| 9. A) of | b) by | c) with |
| 10. A) although | b) despite | c) however |

Exercise 2: Listen again and decide if each statement is true (T) or false (F)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Otto Wichterle was born in Stražisko. | T/F |
| Wichterle was primarily known for his work in inorganic chemistry. | T/F |
| He invented soft contact lenses based on his original scientific work with hydrogels. | T/F |
| Wichterle came from a family of entrepreneurs. | T/F |
| Gel contact lenses were initially invented by Wichterle in 1952. | T/F |
| Wichterle believed that noble metals would be better for eye implants than artificial plastic. | T/F |
| The gel used for the contact lenses absorbed about 60% water. | T/F |
| Initially, the gel was poured into glass moulds for lens production. | T/F |
| The first soft contact lenses were applied to patients in Prague, proving their effectiveness. | T/F |
| Wichterle's patents were easily respected by American companies, without any violations. | T/F |

Exercise 3: Complete sentences with words or phrases from the text.

Otto Wichterle is most famous for his discoveries and inventions that improved and popularized soft contact _____.

Wichterle's achievements were based on his work with _____.

In school, Wichterle particularly enjoyed Latin and _____.

The idea for contact _____ came to Wichterle during a train journey.

Wichterle realized that artificial _____ would be better for eye implants than noble metals.

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses:

Otto Wichterle _____ (be) born on October 27, 1913, in Prostějov.

He _____ (die) on August 18, 1998, in Stražisko.

Wichterle _____ (face) health challenges as a child but overcame them to excel in school.

He particularly _____ (enjoy) Latin and physics during his school years.

Wichterle eventually _____ (invent) gel contact lenses, with the idea _____ originating from a conversation on a train in 1952.

He _____ (realize) that artificial plastic would be better for eye implants than noble metals.

Wichterle _____ (develop) a theory about a three-dimensional hydrophilic _____ polymer suitable for the eye.

He _____ (choose) a gel that absorbed about 40% water, was transparent, and had good mechanical properties.

Processing the gel _____ (be) challenging initially.

In 1958, after leaving his job, Wichterle and his colleagues _____ (continue) their research at another institute.

Exercise 5: Match the term to its correct definition based on the text.

1. Hydrogel

c) A metal alloy.

a) A type of plastic.

2. Patent

b) A water-absorbing polymer.

a) A scientific theory.

b) A legal right for an invention.

c) Hard lenses made from glass.

c) A medical prescription.

4. Noble Metals:

3. Gel Contact Lenses

a) A type of plastic.

a) Eyeglasses made of gel.

b) A water-absorbing polymer.

b) soft lenses made from a hydrophilic polymer.

c) A metal alloy.

5. Macromolecular Organic Chemistry:

a) The study of small molecules containing carbon atoms, focusing on the structure, properties, and reactions of polymers and other complex organic compounds.

b) The study of large molecules containing carbon atoms, focusing on the structure, properties, and reactions of polymers and other complex organic compounds.

c) The study of large molecules containing carbon atoms, focusing on the structure, properties, and reactions of polymers and other complex inorganic compounds.

Johann Gregor Mendel

born on July 20, 1822, in Hynčice, Silesia, to Anton Mendel and Rosina Schwirtlich, was a [world-renowned](#) Czech scientist and the founder of modern genetics. He grew up in a family of German-speaking small-scale farmers. Although German was his first language, he also became fluent in Czech and considered himself a "Moravian of German speech."

Mendel is most famous for his work with pea plants, where he observed the [offspring](#) of [crossbreeding](#). From his experiments, he formulated three [laws of inheritance](#), known as Mendel's laws of genetics, which have been [extensively](#) tested and proven. He was also a monk and abbot of the Augustinian monastery in Old Brno.

In 1856, Mendel began his plant [breeding](#) experiments with peas and started meteorological observations for the Meteorological Institute in Vienna in 1862. He [conducted](#) these observations with great precision almost until the end of his life, using biostatistical methods in his work.

In 1869, he was elected vice-president of the Natural Science Society in Brno and presented his second work on plant hybridization that year. He also joined the Brno Beekeeping Society. Today, many institutions, including a museum, a university, and a square in Brno, as well as the first Czech scientific station in Antarctica, are named after him.

Mendel's laws of inheritance were formulated in 1866 based on his genetic crossbreeding analysis of cultivated pea strains. These laws explain [heredity](#) in both plants and animals. Despite their significance, Mendel's theories were [initially](#) ignored by his contemporaries, partly because they involved probability theory, which was unfamiliar to most biologists at the time. His work was rediscovered in 1900, leading to a greater understanding of heredity.

Mendel conducted daily meteorological observations for the Meteorological Institute in Vienna from 1862 until his illness. Of his thirteen publications, nine were on meteorology.

world-renowned—světově proslulý

breeding—pěstování

offspring—výsledek, product

conduct—provádět, uskutečnit

cross-breeding—křížení

heredity—dědičnost, dědičné vlastnosti

law of inheritance—zákon dědičnosti

initially—původně, na začátku

extensively—důkladně

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Johann Gregor Mendel

born on July 20, 1822, in Hynčice, Silesia, to Anton Mendel and Rosina Schwirtlich, was a world-renowned Czech scientist and the founder of modern genetics. He grew 1. _____ in a family of German-speaking small-scale farmers. 2. _____ German was his first language, he also became fluent 3. _____ Czech and considered himself a "Moravian of German speech."

Mendel is most famous for his work with pea plants, where he observed the offspring of crossbreeding. From his experiments, he formulated three laws of inheritance, known as

Mendel's laws of genetics, which have been extensively tested and proven. He was also a monk and abbot of the Augustinian monastery in Old Brno.

In 1856, Mendel began his plant breeding experiments with peas and started meteorological observations for the Meteorological Institute in Vienna in 1862. He conducted these observations with great precision almost 5. _____ the end of his life, 6. _____ biostatistical methods in his work.

In 1869, he was elected vice-president of the Natural Science Society in Brno and presented his second work 7. _____ plant hybridization that year. He also joined the Brno Beekeeping Society. Today, many institutions, 8. _____ a museum, a university, and a square in Brno, as well as the first Czech scientific station in Antarctica, are named after him.

Mendel's laws of inheritance were formulated in 1866 based 9. _____ his genetic crossbreeding analysis of cultivated pea strains. These laws explain heredity in both plants and animals. 10. _____ their significance, Mendel's theories were initially ignored by his contemporaries, partly because they involved probability theory, which was unfamiliar to most biologists at the time. His work was rediscovered in 1900, leading to a greater understanding of heredity.

Mendel conducted daily meteorological observations for the Meteorological Institute in Vienna from 1862 until his illness. Of his thirteen publications, nine were on meteorology.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. a) up | b) at | c) in |
| 2. a) nevertheless | b) however | c) although |
| 3. a) at | b) in | c) - |
| 4. a) to | b) for | c) from |
| 5. a) at | b) until | c) to |
| 6. a) using | b) uses | c) used |
| 7. a) in | b) at | c) on |
| 8. a) including | b) included | c) include |

9. a) in b) on c) at
10. a) despite b) in spite c) but

Exercise 2: Listen again and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

Johann Gregor Mendel was born in Hynčice, Silesia. T/F

Mendel considered himself solely a Moravian and did not speak German. T/F

Mendel's most famous work involved observations of the offspring of crossbreeding in pea plants. T/F

Mendel's laws of genetics have not been extensively tested and proven. T/F

Mendel was a monk and abbot at the Augustinian monastery in Old Brno. T/F

In 1862, Mendel began his plant breeding experiments with peas and started meteorological observations for the Meteorological Institute in Vienna. T/F

Mendel was elected president of the Natural Science Society in Brno in 1869. T/F

Mendel's laws of inheritance were formulated in 1866 based on his analysis of pea strains. T/F

Mendel's theories were immediately embraced and widely accepted by his contemporaries. T/F

Mendel's work was rediscovered in 1900, leading to a greater understanding of heredity. T/F

Exercise 3: Complete sentences with words or phrases from the text.

Johann Gregor Mendel is the founder of modern _____.

He grew up in a family of German-speaking small-scale farmers and was fluent _____ in Czech and considered himself a "Moravian of German _____."

Mendel's work with pea _____ led to the formulation of three laws of inheritance.

Mendel was also a _____ and abbot of the Augustinian monastery in Old Brno.

Mendel started meteorological observations for the Meteorological Institute in Vienna using _____ methods.

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

Johann Gregor Mendel _____ (be) born on July 20, 1822, in Hynčice, Silesia.

Although German _____ (be) his first language, he also _____ (become) fluent in Czech.

Mendel _____ (grow) up in a family of German-speaking small-scale farmers.

He _____ (consider) himself a "Moravian of German speech."

Mendel's most famous work _____ (involve) observations of the offspring of crossbreeding in pea plants.

From his experiments, he _____ (formulate) three laws of inheritance, known as Mendel's laws of genetics.

He _____ (begin) his plant breeding experiments with peas in 1856.

Mendel _____ (conduct) meteorological observations for the Meteorological Institute in Vienna starting in 1862.

In 1869, he _____ (be) elected vice-president of the Natural Science Society in Brno.

Mendel's laws of inheritance _____ (formulate) in 1866 based on his analysis of pea strains.

Exercise 5: Match the term to its correct definition based on the text.

1. Genetics

- a) The study of animals.
- b) The science of heredity and variation in living organisms.
- c) The study of plants.

2. Pea Plants

- a) A type of tree.
- b) Plants used by Mendel for his genetic experiments.
- c) A kind of flower.

3. Heredity

- a) The process of aging in organisms.
- b) The transmission of traits from parents to offspring.
- c) The growth of plants.

4. Biostatistical Methods

- a) Techniques used in biology to measure time.
- b) Statistical methods used in biological research.
- c) Methods to study the behaviour of animals.

5. Meteorological Observations

- a) Studies of the stars and planets.
- b) Observations related to the weather and climate.
- c) Observations of plant growth.

Exercise 6: Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. Johann Gregor Mendel was born in:

- a) Prague b) Hynčice, Silesia c) Prostějov

2. Mendel's most famous work involved observations of the offspring of crossbreeding in:

- a) Apples b) Pea plants c) Roses

3. Mendel formulated three laws of inheritance, known as:

- a) Darwin's laws b) Mendel's laws of genetics c) Newton's laws

4. In which year did Mendel begin his plant breeding experiments with peas?

a) 1856 b) 1862 c) 1869

5. Mendel was elected vice-president of the Natural Science Society in:

a) Prague b) Brno c) Vienna

THE CZECH NATIONAL DAY: OCTOBER 28TH

Every year, on October 28th, people in the Czech Republic celebrate their National Day. This special day is called "Independence Day" or "Czechoslovak Independence Day."

Why is October 28th Important?

On October 28th, 1918, Czechoslovakia became an independent country. Before that, the Czech lands were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The people wanted their own country, where they could speak their own language and make their own rules. Finally, on October 28th, 1918, Czechoslovakia was born.

The First President of Czechoslovakia

When Czechoslovakia became independent, the country needed a leader. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was chosen as the first President of Czechoslovakia. He became the president on November 14th. He is an important figure in Czech history because he helped to create the new country. Masaryk was supported by the American president Woodrow Wilson. Masaryk worked hard to make Czechoslovakia a strong and democratic nation.

What Happens on October 28th?

On this day, many people in the Czech Republic remember the history of their country. There are often events and ceremonies to honour this day. Important places like Prague Castle have special celebrations. The President of the Czech Republic usually gives a speech, and some people receive **awards** for their good work.

How Do People Celebrate?

Some people visit important historical sites, like the National Museum or the Vítkov Memorial. Others may attend parades, watch fireworks, or spend time with their families. It is a day of pride for the Czech people.

The Meaning of October 28th

October 28th is a day to remember the freedom and independence of the Czech Republic. It is a time to be proud of the country's history and to think about the future.

Other Important Facts

Prague became the capital of Czechoslovakia and is still the capital of the Czech Republic today.

Czechoslovakia was made up of the Czech lands and Slovakia. In 1993, the country peacefully split into two separate countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The National Museum in Prague is a popular place to visit on October 28th because it has many exhibits about Czech history.

Exercise 1. Listen to the story and fill in the missing words.

Every year, on October 28th, people in the Czech Republic celebrate their National Day. This special day is called "Independence Day" or "Czechoslovak Independence Day."

Why is October 28th Important?

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Czechoslovakia was 10. the Czech lands and Slovakia. In 1993, the country peacefully 11. two separate countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The National Museum in Prague is a popular place to visit on October 28th because it has many 12. about Czech history.

Exercise 2: Listen to the story again and decide whether the statements below are "True" or "False".

Czechoslovakia became independent on October 28th, 1918. T / F

The first President of Czechoslovakia was Václav Havel. T / F

The capital of the Czech Republic is Prague. T / F

Czechoslovakia split into two countries in 1990. T / F

October 28th is a day to remember the freedom and independence of the Czech Republic. T / F

Exercise 3: Listen again and fill in the blanks with the correct words from the text.

On October 28th, 1918, Czechoslovakia became an _____ country.

Tomáš Garrigue _____ was the first President of Czechoslovakia.

Masaryk was supported _____ the American president Woodrow Wilson.

People often visit the _____ Museum on October 28th.

The President of the Czech Republic usually _____ a speech

The Czech Republic and _____ were once part of Czechoslovakia.

October 28th is also called _____ Day.

It is a time to be proud _____ the country's history

Exercise 4: Answer the following questions using the past simple tense. Then listen and check.

When did Czechoslovakia become independent?

Who was the first President of Czechoslovakia?

What empire did the Czech lands belong to before 1918?

When did Czechoslovakia split into two countries?

What did people want before October 28th, 1918?

Exercise 5: Match the words on the left with their correct meanings on the right.

Independence a. A type of government where people vote

Capital b. A large group of countries or regions ruled by one leader

Empire c. The main city of a country

Ceremony d. The state of being free from control by another country

Democratic e. A formal event to celebrate something

Exercise 6: Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Use the present simple or past simple tense.

The Czech Republic _____ (celebrate) its National Day on October 28th every year.

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk _____ (become) the first President of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Many people _____ (visit) historical sites on October 28th.

On this day, many people in the Czech Republic _____ (remember) the history of their country.

Prague _____ (become) the capital of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia _____ (split) into two countries in 1993.

The President of the Czech Republic _____ (give) a speech on National Day.

Exercise 7: Create the past tense of these verbs.

To be—

Become—

Give—

Help—

Speak—

visit—

Work—

Spend—

Watch—

Make—

Can—

Have—

Exercise 8: Put the words in the correct order to make meaningful sentences.

became / independent / Czechoslovakia / 1918 / in.

.....

first / The / Masaryk / President / Tomáš Garrigue / was / of / Czechoslovakia.

.....

capital / Prague / of / Republic / the / Czech / is / the.

.....

celebrates / on / Czech Republic / October 28th / the / its / Day / National.

.....

countries / Czechoslovakia / into / split / in / two / 1993.

.....

Exercise 9

What are other important public holidays in the Czech Republic?"

17TH NOVEMBER: THE COURAGEOUS STUDENTS AND THEIR QUEST FOR FREEDOM

In the heart of Europe there lies a country named the Czech Republic, known for its beautiful cities and rich history. However, there 1. a time when its people longed for something very precious: freedom.

During World War II, a powerful group called the Nazis from Germany 2. Czechoslovakia. They imposed strict rules and silenced anyone who 3. with them. On November 17, 1939, a brave group of students in Prague, the capital city, decided to stand up against these oppressors. They 4. a protest demanding the right to education and freedom. Sadly, the Nazis responded harshly. They 5. Czech universities and imprisoned many students, marking a dark day in the nation's history.

Years 6., and the Nazis 7. defeated, but freedom 8. still a distant dream. The Communist Party 9. control and, like the Nazis, they ruled with an iron fist. People yearned for the freedom to 10. their own government and live without fear.

On November 17, 1989, history 11. ... once again to the students of Prague. Inspired by the past, they initiated a peaceful protest. This 12. the beginning of a remarkable movement called the Velvet Revolution. The term 'Velvet' 13. ... chosen to symbolize a peaceful, yet firm, push for change. Thousands of people, young and old, joined the students. They 14. the streets with peaceful marches, songs of freedom, and a united call for democracy.

The Communist government 15. taken aback by the sheer scale and peaceful nature of the protests. Realizing that the people's will 16. too strong to ignore, they agreed to relinquish power. This 17. to the end of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia and the birth of a new era of democracy.

November 17th 18. now celebrated as the "Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day" in the Czech Republic. It's a day when the country 19. ... the courage and resilience of those students who, through peaceful protest, 20. ... the course of their nation's history. It reminds everyone that the desire for freedom and democracy is a powerful force that can bring about monumental change.

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word then listen and check.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. a) was | b) were | c) is |
| 2. a) occupy | b) occupied | c) occupied |
| 3. a) disagree | b) disagreed | c) disagreed |
| 4. a) organised | b) organise | c) organised |
| 5. a) close | b) closed | c) closed |
| 6. a) passes | b) pass | c) passed |
| 7. a) is | b) was | c) were |
| 8. a) is | b) was | c) were |
| 9. a) took | b) took | c) take |
| 10. a) choose | b) chose | c) chose |
| 11. a) whisper | b) whispers | c) whispered |
| 12. a) is | b) was | c) were |
| 13. a) is | b) was | c) were |
| 14. a) filled | b) fill | c) fills |
| 15. a) is | b) was | c) are |
| 16. a) was | b) were | c) is |
| 17. a) lead | b) leaded | c) led |
| 18. a) is | b) was | c) are |
| 19. a) honour | b) honours | c) honoured |
| 20. a) change | b) changes | c) changed |

Exercise 2: Listen again and decide if the sentences are true or false.

1. The Velvet Revolution took place during World War II. T/F
2. The Velvet Revolution was marked by violent protests. T/F
3. The term "Velvet" was chosen to represent a peaceful push for change. T/F
4. The Communist government willingly stepped down after the protests. T/F
5. November 17th is celebrated as Independence Day in the Czech Republic. T/F
6. The students of Prague organized a protest demanding the right to vote. T/F

Exercise 3: Match the following vocabulary words with their definitions:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Oppressors | a) To give up or surrender |
| Resilience | b) Those who impose harsh authority or control |
| Relinquish | c) Capacity to recover quickly from difficulties |
| Monumental | d) To start or begin |
| Initiated | e) Extremely significant or important |

Exercise 4: Provide brief answers to the following questions:

1. What inspired the students of Prague to initiate a peaceful protest on November 17, 1989?
2. How did the Communist government respond to the protests?
3. Why is November 17th celebrated in the Czech Republic?
4. Name one other country where a significant peaceful protest led to political change.
5. What does the term "Velvet Revolution" symbolize?

Exercise 5: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words from the text:

1. The Velvet Revolution was a peaceful _____ for change initiated by the students of Prague.
2. November 17th is celebrated as the "Struggle for Freedom and Democracy _____" in the Czech Republic.
3. The Communist government was surprised by the scale and _____ nature of the protests.
4. The term 'Velvet' symbolizes a peaceful, yet firm, push for _____.
5. The students _____ a protest demanding the right to education and freedom.

Exercise 6: Engage in a discussion based on the following questions:

1. What parallels can be drawn between the struggles faced by Czech citizens during the Nazi occupation and the Communist regime?
2. How do peaceful protests differ from violent ones and which approach do you think is more effective in bringing about change?
3. Can you think of any other historical events where peaceful protests have led to significant societal changes?
4. How do you think the events of the Velvet Revolution impacted the perception of democracy in the Czech Republic?
5. Discuss the importance of commemorating historical events such as the Velvet Revolution in shaping national identity.

Quiz: Understanding the Struggle for Freedom in the Czech Republic

1. What were the two major periods of oppression mentioned in the story?
 - A) The rule of the Nazis and the rule of the Communist Party.
 - B) The rule of the French and the British.

- C) The rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire.
2. What significant event happened on November 17, 1939, in Prague?
- A) The Nazis opened new universities.
 - B) Prague became the capital of Czechoslovakia.
 - C) Students protested against the Nazis, leading to university closures and arrests.
3. What did the students in 1989 demand in their protest?
- A) More economic support.
 - B) The right to travel freely.
 - C) The end of Communist rule and the establishment of democracy.
4. Why was the term 'Velvet' used to describe the 1989 Revolution?
- A) Because it was a peaceful and non-violent movement.
 - B) Because the main colour of the banners used was velvet.
 - C) Because it was sponsored by a group named 'Velvet.'
5. What was the result of the Velvet Revolution?
- A) The Communist Party remained in power.
 - B) It led to a civil war.
 - C) It ended Communist rule and led to democratic reforms.
6. What is the significance of November 17th in the Czech Republic today?
- A) It is a day of mourning.
 - B) It is celebrated as the "Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day."
 - C) It is a day to celebrate the founding of Prague.
7. True or False: The protests in 1989 were characterized by violence and aggression.
8. What do the events of November 17th teach us about the power of peaceful protest?

"UNDERSTANDING ADVENT: A JOURNEY OF HOPE, FAITH, JOY, AND PEACE"

As December approaches, you've probably started seeing Christmas decorations popping up everywhere. But there's a special period before Christmas called Advent that has a lot more to it than just counting down days. Let's dive into what Advent is all about and why it's so meaningful.

Origins and Meaning: Advent has been observed since the 4th century. Originally, it was a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians preparing for baptism, but it evolved into the season of preparation for the Coming of Christ and later, the celebration of the Nativity.

Liturgical Colour: The primary colour associated with Advent is purple or violet, signifying penance, preparation, and sacrifice. However, on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday), rose or pink can be used, symbolizing joy and rejoicing.

What is Advent? Advent is a four-week period leading up to Christmas. It's not just about waiting for Christmas Day; it's a time of preparation, reflection, and anticipation. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "adventus," which means "coming." This is the time when Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and also think about his promise to return.

The Four Sundays of Advent: Each of the four Sundays in Advent has a special theme: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

Let's take a closer look:

First Sunday – Hope:

This is the beginning for the Advent season.

A candle (usually purple) is lit on the Advent wreath. This candle is called the "Prophet's Candle," reminding us of the prophets who predicted the coming of Jesus.

It's all about the hope and anticipation of something wonderful that's about to happen.

Other candles are lit counterclockwise.

Second Sunday – Faith:

Another purple candle, known as the "Bethlehem Candle," is lit.

This Sunday focuses on the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, symbolizing the faith they had in God's plan.

It's a reminder to have faith in our own lives, even when things are uncertain. It is a time to honour the relationships of the present, but also of the past and the future.

On this Sunday we start baking Christmas cookies. According to tradition, there should be one for each month of the year.

Third Sunday – Joy (Gaudete Sunday):

This is a special one! The candle lit on this Sunday is pink or rose, known as the "Shepherd's Candle."

"Gaudete" means "rejoice" in Latin, so this Sunday is all about joy and happiness.

The pink candle brightens the mood, reminding us of the joy that comes from the good news of Jesus' birth.

Fourth Sunday – Peace:

The last Advent candle, another purple one called the "Angel's Candle," is lit.

It represents peace, like the peace the angels declared at Jesus' birth.

It's a time to think about bringing peace into our lives and the lives of others.

Practices and Traditions

Advent Wreath: The Advent wreath, usually made of evergreens, symbolizes eternal life. The circular shape represents God's infinite love.

Advent Calendar: Another popular tradition, especially for children, is the Advent calendar, which counts down the days from December 1st until Christmas Eve.

Special Services: Some churches hold special services, such as "Lessons and Carols," which blend scripture readings with Christmas carols.

Reflection and Preparation: Beyond the physical observance, Advent is a time for spiritual reflection and preparation of one's heart for the coming of Christ.

By focusing on these themes of Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace, Advent provides a structured way for Christians to prepare their hearts and minds for the true meaning of Christmas, beyond the commercial aspects that often dominate the season.

Why is Advent Important?

Advent isn't just an old tradition; it's a chance for us to slow down during the holiday rush and think about the important things – like hope, faith, joy, and peace. It helps us remember the true meaning of Christmas beyond the gifts and parties.

Conclusion: So, as you enjoy the holiday season, take a moment to think about these four powerful themes of Advent. They can help make your Christmas more meaningful and maybe even inspire you to spread hope, faith, joy, and peace in your own unique way.

Happy Advent, everyone!

Exercise 1. Vocabulary matching

Some words are underlined in the text. Seek them out. Do you know their meaning? Try to connect the word with its description.

FASTING	PRAYER	BAPTISM	PROPHET	PENANCE
SACRIFICE	HOPE	FAITH	JOY	PEACE
CHRISTMAS CAROL				

_____ A Christian ceremony where someone is covered in water to join the Christian faith.

_____ Giving up something important or valuable to show respect to God.

_____ Not eating or drinking for a specific time for religious reasons.

_____ Saying sorry for your sins, often by praying or giving up something you enjoy.

_____ Talking to God or a higher power, often to say thanks or ask for help.

_____ Wanting and expecting something good to happen in the future.

_____ Not having any fighting or conflict; feeling calm inside.

_____ A person chosen by God to give important messages or teachings.

_____ A song about Christmas, usually happy and about Jesus's birth, sung during Christmas time.

_____ Believing strongly in something, especially in God, without needing proof.

_____ A strong feeling of happiness.

"Understanding Advent: A Journey of Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace"

Exercise 2. Fill in the words in the correct form into the text, then listen and check.

As December approaches, you've started seeing Christmas decorations everywhere. But there's a special period before Christmas called Advent that has a lot more to it than just counting down days. Let's dive into what Advent is all about and why it's so

probable

pop up

mean

<p>Origins and Meaning: Advent has been observed since the 4th century. , it was a time of fasting and for new Christians preparing for baptism, but it into the season of for the Coming of Christ and later, the celebration of the Nativity.</p> <p>Liturgical Colour: The primary colour with Advent is purple or violet, penance, preparation, and sacrifice. However, on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday), rose or pink can be used, joy and rejoicing.</p> <p>What is Advent? Advent is a four-week period leading up to Christmas. It's not just about waiting for Christmas Day; it's a time of preparation,, and anticipation. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "adventus," which means "coming." This is the time when Christians prepare for the celebration of the of Jesus Christ and also think about his promise to return.</p>	<p>origin</p> <p>pray</p> <p>evolution, prepare</p> <p>.</p> <p>Association</p> <p>sign</p> <p>.</p> <p>symbol</p> <p>.</p> <p>reflect</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p>born</p>
--	--

Exercise 3. Listen to another part and fill in the missing words.

The Four Sundays of Advent: Each of the four Sundays in Advent has a special : Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

Let's take a closer look:

First Sunday – :

This is the for the Advent season.

A candle (usually) is lit on the Advent wreath. This candle is called the "Prophet's Candle," reminding us of the prophets who predicted the coming of Jesus.

It's all about the hope and of something wonderful that's about to happen.

Other candles are lit

Second Sunday – :

Another purple candle, known as the "Bethlehem Candle," is lit.

This Sunday on the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, symbolizing the faith they had in God's plan.

It's a to have faith in our own lives, even when things are uncertain. It is a time to honour the relationships of the present, but also of the past and the future.

On this Sunday we start baking Christmas cookies. According to tradition, there should be one for each month of the year.

Third Sunday – (Gaudete Sunday):

This is a special one! The candle lit on this Sunday is or rose, known as the "..... Candle."

"Gaudete" means "rejoice" in Latin, so this Sunday is all about joy and happiness.

The pink candle the mood, reminding us of the joy that comes from the good news of Jesus' birth.

Fourth Sunday – :

The last Advent candle, another purple one called the "..... Candle," is lit.

It represents peace, like the peace the angels at Jesus' birth.

It's a time to think about peace into our lives and the lives of others.

Exercise 4. Now listen to the third part and answer the question.

1. What are some traditional symbols associated with Advent?

2. How does the Advent calendar contribute to the anticipation of Christmas, especially for children?

3. Can you describe the significance of special church services like "Lessons and Carols" during the Advent season?

4. Beyond the physical observances, what is the primary focus of Advent in terms of spiritual reflection and preparation?

5. In what ways does Advent provide a structured approach for Christians to prepare for Christmas, and how does it differ from the commercial aspects of the holiday season?

Exercise 5. Now listen to the story again and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Advent originated in the 12th century as a time of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity. T/F

2. The primary liturgical colour associated with Advent is green, symbolizing growth and renewal. T/F

3. Each of the four Sundays in Advent has a specific theme, including Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace. T/F

4. On the second Sunday of Advent, the "Bethlehem Candle" is lit, symbolizing Mary and Joseph's journey to Nazareth. T/F

5. Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is symbolized by a purple candle on the Advent wreath. T/F

6. The Advent wreath is typically made of pinecones and holly leaves. T/F

7. Advent calendars are primarily used by adults to count down the days until Christmas. T/F

8. Some churches hold special services during Advent, such as "Lessons and Carols," which combine scripture readings with Christmas carols. T/F

9. Advent emphasizes physical observances rather than spiritual reflection and preparation. T/F

10. Advent is considered an outdated tradition with little relevance in modern times. T/F

Understanding Advent: Review Questions

Basic Comprehension:

What does the word "Advent" mean, and what language does it come from?

How many Sundays are there in Advent, and what is the general theme of this period?

Thematic Exploration:

What is the theme of the first Sunday of Advent, and what does the corresponding candle symbolize?

Describe the significance of the "Bethlehem Candle" lit on the Second Sunday of Advent.

What makes the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, different from the other Sundays?

What does the fourth candle, lit on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, represent?

Symbolism and Traditions:

Why is the Advent wreath an important symbol during this period?

Explain the purpose of an Advent calendar. How is it typically used during this season?

What change in candle colour occurs on the Third Sunday of Advent, and what is the reason behind this change?

Reflective and Personal Response:

In your own words, why do you think the themes of hope, faith, joy, and peace are important during Advent?

Can you think of ways to incorporate the themes of Advent into daily life during the holiday season and the whole year?

Application in Today's Context:

How can the message of peace, emphasized on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, be relevant in today's world?

In what ways can the joy and hope of Advent be shared with those who may not be familiar with these traditions?

Advent Quiz

1. What is the name of the special wreath that?

- A) Christmas wreath
- B) Advent wreath
- C) Holiday wreath
- D) Celebration wreath

3. What does the first candle on the Advent wreath represent?

- A) Joy
- B) Faith
- C) Hope
- D) Peace

2. How many Sundays are there in Advent?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four
- D) Five

4. What colour is the third candle that is lit during Advent?

- A) Red
- B) Blue
- C) Pink

D) Green

5. What does the second candle stand for?

A) Hope

B) Faith

C) Joy

D) Peace

6. What is special about the third Sunday in Advent?

A) It's the last Sunday.

B) It's a happy Sunday.

C) Only adults celebrate it.

D) It's the first Sunday.

7. What does it say the last candle is for?

A) Hope

B) Faith

C) Joy

D) Peace

8. What is an Advent calendar?

A) A calendar that shows only Sundays.

B) A calendar with doors and surprises.

C) A calendar with pictures of candles.

D) A calendar made by Grandma.

9. Why do we celebrate Advent for?

A) For fun.

B) To remember what Christmas is really about.

C) To get presents.

D) Because it is winter.

10. How do we call the last candle?

A) Prophet's candle

B) Shepherd's candle

C) Angel's candle

D) Betlehem candle

THE STORY AND CELEBRATIONS OF MIKULÁŠ AROUND THE WORLD

Mikuláš: The Real Person Behind the Legend

Saint Nicholas, known as Mikuláš in some countries, was a real person who lived during the 4th century in Myra, Asia Minor, now part of modern-day Turkey. He was a bishop, **renowned** for his **kindness** and **generosity**. He is believed to have died on December 6th, around the year 343, making this date the traditional celebration of Mikuláš Day.

Czech Republic

The celebration of Mikuláš in the Czech Republic can be **traced back** to the 17th century. On the evening of December 5th, figures of Mikuláš, an angel, and a devil visit children. Good children receive sweets or small gifts, while those who have **misbehaved** might get a piece of coal or a potato.

Poland

In Poland, where Mikuláš is known as Święty Mikołaj, the tradition **dates back** to at least the 19th century. Children polish their boots and leave them by the door on the night of December 5th. By morning, if they've been good throughout the year, they find their boots filled with small gifts and treats.

Austria

Austrian traditions **involving** 'Nikolo' and Krampus date back to the 17th century. Nikolo brings small gifts to children on December 6th, while the Krampus, a more **daunting** figure, accompanies him, focusing on those who have been **naughty**.

Germany

In Germany, Saint Nicholas Day, celebrated on December 6th, has roots **going back** to the Middle Ages. Children place a boot outside their door on the night of December 5th. The next morning, they find it filled with sweets and small presents, **provided** they've been good throughout the year.

Russia

In Russia, the main winter holiday figure is Ded Moroz, who brings gifts on New Year's Eve. Saint Nicholas is still **honoured**, particularly within the Russian Orthodox Church, celebrating his feast day on December 19th (Julian calendar), which corresponds to December 6th in the Gregorian calendar.

United States

Mikuláš Day isn't widely celebrated in the USA. The figure of Santa Claus, inspired by Saint Nicholas, **dominates** the winter holiday season, with Santa **delivering** gifts on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Countries Without Mikuláš Celebrations

Many countries, such as the UK, France, and Japan, do not celebrate Mikuláš Day. They have their **unique** traditions and holidays during the winter season.

Conclusion

Mikuláš Day, **steeped** in history and **diverse** traditions, reminds us of the universal values of kindness and generosity. While the character may have different names and customs in various countries, the spirit of giving and joy is a common **thread** that binds these celebrations together.

Renowned—proslulý, slavný

Kindness—laskavost, dobrosrdečnost

Generosity—velkorysost, štědrost

Trace back—zjistit, vysledovat (zpětně—původ)

Misbehave—chovat se špatně

Date back—pocházet z doby, vzniknout

Involve—zahrdnovat

Daunting-zastrašující, obavu vzbuzující

Naughty—zlobivý, neposlušný

go back—sahat (do minulosti), vrátit se

Provided—(that) pod podmínkou, pokud

Honoured—vážený, uznávaný

Dominate—vládnout, vévodit

Deliver—doručit, roznášet

Unique—jedinečný, příznačný (pro)

Steeped—prosycený, ponořený

Diverse—různorodý, rozmanitý

Thread—nit, vlákno

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

Mikuláš: The Real Person Behind the Legend

Saint Nicholas, known 1. Mikuláš 2. some countries, was a real person 3. lived during the 4th century 4. Myra, Asia Minor, now part of modern-day Turkey. He was a bishop, renowned 5. his kindness and generosity. He is believed to have died 6. December 6th, around the year 343, making this date the traditional celebration of Mikuláš Day.

Czech Republic

The celebration of Mikuláš 7. the Czech Republic can be traced back to the 17th century. On the evening of December 5th, figures of Mikuláš, an angel, and a devil visit children. Good children receive sweets or small gifts, 8. those who have misbehaved might get a piece of coal or a potato.

Poland

In Poland, where Mikuláš is known 9. Święty Mikołaj, the tradition dates back to 10. least the 19th century. Children polish their boots and leave them by the door on the night of

December 5th. By morning, if they've been good throughout the year, they find their boots filled with small gifts and treats.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|
| 1. a) like | b) for | c) as |
| 2. a) in | b) on | c) at |
| 3. a) which | b) who | c) - |
| 4. a) in | b) on | c) at |
| 5. a) to | b) by | c) for |
| 6. a) in | b) on | c) at |
| 7. a) at | b) in | c) on |
| 8. a) when | b) that | c) while |
| 9. a) as | b) like | c) - |
| 10. a) in | b) at | c) on |

Exercise 2: Listen to the text and fill in the missing words.

Austria

Austrian traditions involving 'Nikolo' and Krampus date 1. to the 2. th century. Nikolo brings small gifts to children on December 3. th, while the Krampus, a more daunting figure, accompanies him, focusing on those who have been naughty.

Germany

In Germany, Saint Nicholas Day, celebrated on December 4. th, has roots 5. back to the Middle Ages. Children place a boot outside their door on the night of December 6. th. The next morning, they find it filled with sweets and small presents, provided they've been good 7. the year.

Russia

In Russia, the main winter holiday figure is Ded Moroz, who brings gifts on New Year's Eve. Saint Nicholas is still honoured, particularly 8. the Russian Orthodox Church, celebrating his feast day on December 9. th (Julian calendar), which corresponds to December 10. th in the Gregorian calendar.

Exercise 3: Fill in the words in the correct form into the text. Then listen and check.

United States

Mikuláš Day isn't 1. celebrated in the USA. The figure of Santa Claus, inspired by Saint Nicholas, dominates the winter holiday season, with Santa 2. gifts on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Countries Without Mikuláš 3.

Many countries, such as the UK, France, and Japan, do not celebrate Mikuláš Day. They have their unique traditions and holidays during the winter season.

Conclusion

Mikuláš Day, steeped in history and 4. traditions, reminds us of the universal values of 5. and 6. While the character may have 7. names and customs in 9. countries, the spirit of 10. and joy is a common thread that binds these celebrations together.

wide

deliver

.

celebrate

.

.

.

diversity

kind, generous

differ, vary

give

Exercise 4: Listen to the text again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Mikuláš is the name for Saint Nicholas in some countries. T/F
2. Saint Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, which is now part of modern-day Greece. T/F
3. Mikuláš Day is traditionally celebrated on December 5th. T/F
4. The celebration of Mikuláš in the Czech Republic dates back to the 19th century. T/F
5. In Poland, children receive gifts in their polished boots if they have been good throughout the year. T/F
6. In Austria, Krampus accompanies Nikolo and brings gifts to well-behaved children. T/F
7. Saint Nicholas Day in Germany involves placing a boot outside the door on the night of December 6th. T/F
8. Ded Moroz is the main winter holiday figure in Russia, bringing gifts on New Year's Eve. T/F
9. Mikuláš Day is widely celebrated in the United States. T/F
10. France is one of the countries that does not celebrate Mikuláš Day. T/F

Exercise 5: Match the following words from the text with their correct definitions:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Renowned | A. Different from each other |
| Misbehaved | B. Respected and admired |
| Daunting | C. Behaved badly |
| Honoured | D. A large meal, typically one in celebration of something |
| Feast | E. Recognized with great respect |
| Diverse | F. Customs or beliefs passed down through generations |
| Universal | G. Activities or events held to mark a special occasion |
| Values | H. Frightening or intimidating |

Traditions	I. Principles or standards of behaviour
Celebrations	J. Common to all people or things

Exercise 6: Answer the questions.

Mikuláš: The Story and Celebrations of Mikuláš Around the World

Who was Mikuláš and where did he live?

When is Mikuláš Day traditionally celebrated?

Czech Republic

When do the figures of Mikuláš, the angel, and the devil visit children in the Czech Republic?

What might children who have misbehaved receive during the Mikuláš celebration in the Czech Republic?

Poland

What do children in Poland do with their boots on the night of December 5th?

What are children in Poland likely to find in their boots if they have been good throughout the year?

Austria

Who accompanies Nikolo during the Austrian Mikuláš celebrations?

What kind of gifts does Nikolo bring to Austrian children?

Germany

What tradition do German children follow on the night before Saint Nicholas Day?

What do German children find in their boots on the morning of December 6th?

Russia

Who is the main winter holiday figure in Russia, and when does he bring gifts?

On which date does the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Saint Nicholas's feast day?

United States

Is Mikuláš Day widely celebrated in the USA?

Who is the dominant figure during the winter holiday season in the USA, and when does he deliver gifts?

Countries Without Mikuláš Celebrations

Name one country that does not celebrate Mikuláš Day.

During the winter season, what do countries like the UK, France, and Japan have instead of Mikuláš Day?

THANKSGIVING: A TIME FOR TRADITION AND GRATITUDE

Every year on the fourth Thursday of November, families across the United States celebrate Thanksgiving. This holiday has a rich history that dates back to 1621 when the Pilgrims, some of the first English settlers, shared a feast with the Wampanoag Indians to celebrate a successful harvest. The Pilgrims were a group of English Protestants who sought religious freedom and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on the Mayflower. Landing at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, they established one of the first European settlements in North America.

The Pilgrims faced numerous challenges upon their arrival, including harsh weather conditions and unfamiliar terrain. This led to a difficult first year, with many settlers suffering from starvation and illness. The Wampanoag Indians, native to the region, provided invaluable assistance to the Pilgrims, teaching them how to cultivate the land and live off the resources available. The feast shared between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag was a celebration of this cooperation and their first successful harvest, marking the beginning of what we now know as Thanksgiving.

Over the centuries, Thanksgiving has evolved. It became an official holiday in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise" during the Civil War. Since then, it has grown into a day centred around family, friends, and, of course, food. The star of the Thanksgiving meal is the turkey, roasted until golden and served with a variety of side dishes like stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. Sweet treats like pumpkin and apple pies add a delicious finish to the meal.

Beyond the dinner table, Thanksgiving is also about reflecting on what we are thankful for. People express gratitude for their loved ones, health, and all the positive things in their lives. Volunteering and helping those in need is another way many choose to celebrate, as it reflects the spirit of giving and appreciation that is at the heart of the holiday.

One of the most iconic Thanksgiving traditions is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, which began in 1924. The parade is renowned for its massive balloons, intricate floats, and live performances, and it attracts millions of spectators both in person and via television. It signifies the start of the holiday season, culminating in the arrival of Santa Claus at the parade's finale.

Thanksgiving also has a storied connection with American football. The first college football game played on Thanksgiving was between Yale and Princeton in 1876, just a few years after the sport was invented. This began a tradition of watching football on Thanksgiving Day, a custom that has expanded to include professional NFL games, making it a staple of the holiday for many families.

As Thanksgiving approaches, schools often teach students about the holiday's origins and traditions. It is a time to remember the past, enjoy the present, and look forward to the future. Above all, Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful for the wonderful things we have in our lives.

Typical meals served on Thanksgiving include:

Roasted Turkey: The centerpiece of the meal, often stuffed with herbs and bread (stuffing).

Stuffing: Bread cubes mixed with celery, onions, and herbs, cooked inside the turkey or separately.

Mashed Potatoes: Potatoes that are boiled, mashed, and mixed with butter and milk.

Gravy: A sauce made from the turkey drippings, flour, and broth.

Cranberry Sauce: A sweet and tart sauce made from cranberries.

Sweet Potatoes: Often served as a casserole with marshmallows or brown sugar.

Green Bean Casserole: A dish made with green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and fried onions.

Cornbread: A type of bread made from cornmeal, often baked or fried.

Pumpkin Pie: A sweet dessert pie with a spiced pumpkin-based custard filling.

Apple Pie: Another classic dessert made with apples and spices.

These dishes can vary by region and family tradition but are commonly found on Thanksgiving tables across the United States.

Settler—osadník	Declare—vyhlásit
Harvest—sklizen, úroda	Stuffing—nádivka
Sought—min.c. od seek—hledat	Beyond—mimo, krome
Religious—náboženský	Reflecting—odrážet, premítat
Establish—založit	Gratitude—vdecnost
Harsh—drsný	Renowned—proslulý
Starvation—vyhladovení, smrt hladem	Intricate—spletitý, složitý
Provide—poskytnout	Float—alegorický vuz
Invaluable—neocenitelný	Spectator—divák
Cultivate—obdelávat	Staple (of)—hlavní (z)
Life off—vyžít z	Approach—přístup, postoj
Evolve—vyvinout se	Look forward to—tešit se, očekávat

Exercise 1: Fill in the words in the correct form or verb tense. Then listen and check.

Every year on the 1. Thursday of November, families across the United States celebrate Thanksgiving. This holiday 2. a rich history that 3. back to 1621 when the Pilgrims, some of the first English 4., shared a feast with the Wampanoag Indians to celebrate a 5. harvest. The Pilgrims were a group of English Protestants who 6. religious 7. and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on the Mayflower. 8. at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, they established one of the first European settlements in North America.

four
·
have
date
settle
success
·
seek free
land

The Pilgrims faced numerous challenges upon their arrival, including harsh weather conditions and 9. terrain. This 10... to a difficult first year, with many settlers suffering from 11. and 12. The Wampanoag Indians, native to the region, provided invaluable 13. to the Pilgrims, teaching them how to cultivate the land and live off the resources available. The feast 14. between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag was a 15. of this cooperation and their first successful harvest, marking the beginning of what we now know as Thanksgiving.

familiar
lead
starve
ill
assist
share
celebrate

Exercise 2. Listen to the text and fill in the missing words.

Over the centuries, Thanksgiving 1. evolved. It became an official holiday in 2. when President Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise" during the Civil 3. Since then, it has grown into a day centred around family, friends, and, of course, food. The star of the Thanksgiving meal is the 4., roasted until golden and served with a variety of side 5. like stuffing, mashed potatoes, and 6. sauce. Sweet treats like pumpkin and apple pies add a delicious finish to the meal.

7. the dinner table, Thanksgiving is also about reflecting on what we are thankful for. People express 8. for their loved ones, health, and all the positive things in their lives. Volunteering and helping those in 9. Is another way many choose to celebrate, as it reflects the spirit of giving and 10. that is at the heart of the holiday.

Exercise 3. Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

One of the most iconic Thanksgiving traditions is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, which 1. in 1924. The parade is renowned for its massive balloons, intricate floats, and live performances, and it attracts millions of spectators both

2. person and via television. It 3. the start of the holiday season, culminating in the arrival of Santa Claus at the parade's finale.

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As Thanksgiving approaches, schools often 9. students about the holiday's origins and traditions. It is a time to remember the past, enjoy the present, and look forward 8. the future. Above all, Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful 10. the wonderful things we have in our lives.

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. a) begin | b) began | c) begun |
| 2. a) in | b) on | c) of |
| 3. a) signify | b) signifyes | c) signifies |
| 4. a) have | b) has | c) had |
| 5. a) in | b) on | c) at |
| 6. a) in | b) on | c) at |
| 7. a) expand | b) expanding | c) expanded |
| 8. a) at | b) for | c) to |
| 9. a) teach | b) teaching | c) teaches |
| 10. a) at | b) for | c) into |

Exercise 4. Listen to the text and fill in the names of typical meals from the box.

Typical meals served on Thanksgiving include:

Roasted Turkey	Mashed Potatoes	Green Bean Casserole	Cranberry Sauce
Pumpkin Pie	Sweet Potatoes	Stuffing	Cornbread
Gravy	Apple Pies		

.....: The centrepiece of the meal, often stuffed with herbs and bread (stuffing).

.....: Bread cubes mixed with celery, onions, and herbs, cooked inside the turkey or separately.

.....: Potatoes that are boiled, mashed, and mixed with butter and milk.

.....: A sauce made from the turkey drippings, flour, and broth.

.....: A sweet and tart sauce made from cranberries.

.....: Often served as a casserole with marshmallows or brown sugar.

.....: A dish made with green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and fried onions.

.....: A type of bread made from cornmeal, often baked or fried.

.....: A sweet dessert pie with a spiced pumpkin-based custard filling.

.....: Another classic dessert made with apples and spices.

Exercise 5. Listen to the text and decide if the sentences are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

1. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Friday of November. T/F
2. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians. T/F
3. Thanksgiving was declared an official holiday by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. T/F
4. The traditional main dish served on Thanksgiving is chicken. T/F
5. Side dishes commonly served on Thanksgiving include stuffing and cranberry sauce. T/F

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 6. Pumpkin and apple pies are typical desserts enjoyed on Thanksgiving. | T/F |
| 7. Thanksgiving is only about enjoying a big meal with family and friends. | T/F |
| 8. Many people volunteer and help others as a way to celebrate Thanksgiving. | T/F |
| 9. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a small event that few people watch. | T/F |
| 10. Football is a sport that many Americans watch on Thanksgiving. | T/F |
| 11. The Pilgrims sailed to America on a ship named The Mayflower? | T/F |

Exercise 6. Match the vocabulary words on the left with their correct definitions on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Thanksgiving | A. A large meal typically held to celebrate something. |
| Pilgrims | B. An annual holiday celebrated in the US on the fourth 4th of November. |
| Mayflower | C. The process of gathering ripe crops from the fields. |
| Plymouth Rock | D. A large bird traditionally eaten at Thanksgiving. |
| Harvest | E. The ship that carried the Pilgrims from England to North America in 1620. |
| Wampanoag | F. Extreme hunger leading to severe lack of food. |
| Abraham Lincoln | G. Native American tribe that helped the Pilgrims survive their first year. |
| Turkey | H. A rock at the site where the Pilgrims landed, now in Massachusetts. |
| Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade | I. To prepare and use land for growing crops. |
| NFL | J. 16th President of the United States who declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. |
| Starvation | K. A public procession celebrating a special day or event. |
| Cultivate | L. The quality of being thankful and showing appreciation. |
| Feast | M. A group of English Protestants who settled in North America seeking religious freedom. |

Parade N. The National Football League, which organizes professional American football games.

Gratitude O. An annual event featuring large balloons, floats, and performances, held in New York City.

Exercise 7. Discussion Exercise

Historical Perspective

What are the historical origins of Thanksgiving?

How did the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians contribute to the first Thanksgiving?

Why do you think it was important for the Pilgrims to have the support of the Wampanoag?

Cultural Evolution

How has the celebration of Thanksgiving evolved since the 1600s?

In what ways has President Abraham Lincoln's declaration of Thanksgiving as a national holiday impacted American culture?

Discuss the significance of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and its role in modern Thanksgiving celebrations.

Family Traditions

What are some common family traditions associated with Thanksgiving today?

Compare Thanksgiving traditions to those of your family or cultures you know.

Why do you think the turkey has become the central symbol of the Thanksgiving meal?

Gratitude and Giving Back

Why is expressing gratitude important, and how can it positively affect our lives?

Discuss the various ways people can give back to their communities during Thanksgiving. Why is this aspect of the holiday significant?

How can you express gratitude during the whole year, not only during the holiday?

Sports and Entertainment

How did American football become associated with Thanksgiving?

Do you think sports events enhance or detract from the holiday spirit? Why?

How do the Macy's Parade and football games contribute to the holiday season's overall atmosphere?

Exercise 8: Use the recipe to make a traditional pumpkin pie. But first, put the steps in the right order!

Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients:

6 cups thinly sliced, peeled apples (about 6 medium apples)

3/4 cup granulated sugar

2 tbsp all-purpose flour

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1/4 tsp salt

1/4 tsp ground nutmeg

1 tbsp lemon juice

2 pie crusts (for bottom and top crust)

Instructions:

Place one pie crust in the bottom of a 9-inch pie plate. Fill with the apple mixture.

You may brush the top crust with a beaten egg and sprinkle with a little sugar for a golden finish.

If the edges brown too fast, cover them with foil.

Remove from oven and let cool for at least 2 hours before serving.

Cover with the second pie crust, seal the edges, and cut slits in the top to allow steam to escape.

Bake for 40-45 minutes or until the crust is golden brown and the filling is bubbling.

Preheat your oven to 425°F (220°C).

In a large bowl, mix the sliced apples with sugar, flour, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, and lemon juice. Stir until apples are well coated.

ST. VALENTINE

When people inquire about the life of St. Valentine, they usually receive a story about a priest who, in the third century BC, clashed with the Romans due to the decree of the then-emperor Claudius II. Claudius believed that men were not enthusiastically joining the army simply because they had ties to their families and wives, so he outright banned all weddings and engagements in Rome. However, Valentine secretly continued to marry couples in love. When the Romans discovered this, they beat him and then beheaded him. This event is said to have taken place on February 14th, around the year 270 BC. This well-known romantic drama, however, has one problem: it is likely entirely fabricated. In reality, we know very little about St. Valentine.

Furthermore, there were several saints with the same name venerated in different places during the Middle Ages. According to what is written in the Catholic encyclopaedia, even the oldest religious texts mention three Valentines, all of them martyrs, and all supposedly died on February 14th. One was a priest in Rome, another was a bishop in the location now occupied by the Italian city of Terni, and the third Valentine with the same name came from the Roman province in Africa. Which of them is the "original" is unknown.

We don't know anything else about him – who he was, why he became a martyr, when he was born, or even when he died. The date associated with his holiday was determined by Pope Gelasius in 496, and he likely chose February 14th quite intentionally. One of the successes of the Christian religion lies mainly in successfully "adopting" well-known pagan holidays. People didn't have to give up all their established traditions and were more willing to convert. The chosen date probably wasn't random and was based on real historical events.

In mid-February, the Romans celebrated a holiday called the Lupercalia, which, with a stretch of the imagination, could be considered a pagan festival of love. Sensual and Bloody Lupercalia the Romans worshiped their fertility god Lupercus during this holiday. First, they ritually sacrificed several goats and a dog, then anointed their foreheads with the blood, but later washed it off with milk-soaked cloth. Men had to laugh aloud during this ritual. A rich feast followed, and then the priests again approached the sacrificed animals. They cut pieces of their skin, made straps out of them, and then whipped any women they could reach with them. In addition, during the Lupercalia, men selected names of women from a container

with whom they would spend time during the festival. Quite often, a couple would stay together until the next Lupercalia or even forever. Over time, however, the festival became more and more modest; nudity, for example, was the first thing to disappear. Eventually, it vanished altogether.

It seems that no special celebrations were held on St. Valentine's Day until the famous Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poetic work, "The Parliament of Fowls," in which he mentioned it as a day when birds come together to find their mate. Chaucer wrote it on the occasion of the marriage of English King Richard II to Anne of Bohemia (Luxembourg). The composition became so popular that it laid the foundation for the holiday of lovers as we know it today.

Valentine's Remains in Our Possession Despite the fact that nobody actually knows which of the many St. Valentines was the important one, or why he became a martyr, the Catholic Church holds several of his relics, including a skull adorned with flowers displayed in the Roman basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, a heart in Dublin, and skeletal remains in Madrid or Glasgow. You can even view a tiny piece of St. Valentine's bone in the Czech Republic, in the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Vyšehrad in Prague. And if you're not in love, you can ask St. Valentine for relief from epilepsy, fainting spells, protection from the plague, or even assistance with bees. It turns out he is the patron of all these things.

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

When people inquire about the life of St. Valentine, they usually receive a story about a priest 1., in the third century BC, clashed with the Romans due 2. the decree of the then-emperor Claudius II. Claudius believed that men were not enthusiastically joining the army simply because they had ties to their families and wives, so he outright banned all weddings and engagements in Rome. However, Valentine secretly continued 3. marry couples in love. When the Romans discovered this, they beat him and then beheaded him. This event is said to have taken place on February 14th, around the year 270 BC. This well-known romantic drama, however, has one problem: it is likely entirely fabricated. In reality, we know very little about St. Valentine.

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- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. | a) which | b) that | c) who |
| 2. | a) the | b) to | c) with |
| 3. | A) in | b) to | c) at |
| 4. | A) furthermore | b) nevertheless | c) however |
| 5. | A) in | b) at | c) the |
| 6. | a) with | b) by | c) to |
| 7. | a) from | b) to | c) about |
| 8. | a) about | b) of | c) to |
| 9. | a) to | b) about | c) with |
| 10. | a) from | b) for | c) of |
| 11. | a) in | b) on | c) at |
| 12. | a) of | b) about | c) for |
| 13. | a) of | b) for | c) from |
| 14. | a) that | b) to | c) which |
| 15. | a) to | b) for | c) that |
| 16. | a) for | b) a | c) the |
| 17. | a) to | b) with | c) by |
| 18. | a) like | b) for | c) from |

Exercise 2: Listen again and decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. St. Valentine was a priest who clashed with the Romans in the third century BC. T / F
2. Emperor Claudius II banned all weddings and engagements in Rome due to men's reluctance to join the army. T / F
3. St. Valentine continued to secretly marry couples in love despite the ban on weddings. T / F
4. St. Valentine was beaten and then crucified by the Romans. T / F
5. The romantic story of St. Valentine is widely accepted as historically accurate. T / F
6. There was only one St. Valentine mentioned in religious texts during the Middle Ages. T / F
7. Pope Gelasius determined the date associated with St. Valentine's holiday in 496 AD. T / F
8. Lupercalia was a modest festival celebrated by the Romans. T / F
9. St. Valentine's Day became widely celebrated after Geoffrey Chaucer's poetic work. T / F
10. The Catholic Church holds relics of St. Valentine, including a skull adorned with flowers in Dublin. T / F

Exercise 3: Listen again and choose the correct answer to complete the following sentences

1. According to the text, why did Emperor Claudius II ban weddings and engagements in Rome?
 - a) To encourage men to join the army.
 - b) To reduce the population.
 - c) To promote family values.
 - d) To appease the gods.
2. Which holiday did the Romans celebrate in mid-February, mentioned in the text?
 - a) Christmas
 - b) Easter
 - c) Lupercalia
 - d) Halloween
3. What did the Romans anoint their foreheads with during the Lupercalia ritual?
 - a) Water
 - b) Blood
 - c) Milk
 - d) Wine

4. Why did Geoffrey Chaucer mention St. Valentine's Day in his poem "The Parliament of Fowls"?

- a) To describe the Lupercalia festival.
- b) To commemorate a specific historical event.
- c) To connect it with the mating of birds.
- d) To criticize the Catholic Church.

5. Where can you find a tiny piece of St. Valentine's bone?

- a) In Dublin
- b) In Rome
- c) In Prague
- d) In Madrid

Exercise 4: Vocabulary Matching Match the following words from the text to their meanings:

Legends	People who endure suffering or death for their beliefs, often religious.
Complicated	Engaged in a conflict or disagreement.
Martyrs	An official order or proclamation.
Clashed	Created or made up, often false.
Decree	Someone who supports or is associated with a particular cause, person, or entity.
Ban	Stories passed down through generations, often with exaggerated or mythical elements.
Fabricated	Involving many details or intricacies, not simple.
Patron	To officially forbid or prohibit something.

Exercise 5: Fill in the Blanks Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the text:

St. Valentine's life is surrounded by many _____.

The Romans celebrated a holiday called _____ in mid-February.

During the Lupercalia, men selected names of women from a container with whom they would spend time during the _____.

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poetic work called "The Parliament of _____."

The Catholic Church holds several of St. Valentine's _____, including a skull and a heart.

Exercise 5: Discussion Questions Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups:

Why do you think the story of St. Valentine became associated with love and romance?

What do you think about the practice of using relics for various purposes, as mentioned in the text?

How important do you think it is to know the true historical origins of holidays and traditions?

Have you ever celebrated Valentine's Day, and if so, how did you celebrate it?

Do you think it's important to have holidays that celebrate love and relationships? Why or why not?

Can you think of any other holidays that are associated with love and kindness?

What do people usually do on St. Valentine's Day?

10 BEST PLACES IN EUROPE

Europe is full of beautiful, interesting and historical places. Let's take a look at some of them together.

LOUVRE GALLERY

The Louvre Gallery used to be a castle in the 12th century, and later it became a royal palace. Eventually, it became an art museum. At first, the Louvre was a castle, but it changed over time into a palace and then a museum. Inside the Louvre, there are many artworks, including famous ones like the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. The museum's building is big and old with different styles like Renaissance and Baroque. The Louvre has many old things like sculptures, paintings, and objects from Egypt. Among the famous things in the Louvre are the Venus de Milo and the Winged Victory. The museum is in a palace that was once home to French kings. It is open to the public, and many people visit it every year. The Louvre also has a famous glass pyramid built in 1989. It became a symbol of the museum. The Louvre Gallery is important for art and history from around the world.

- What was the original purpose of the Louvre Gallery, and how did it change over time?
- What famous artwork is housed in the Louvre Gallery by Leonardo da Vinci?
- What are some examples of artworks and artifacts found in the Louvre Gallery?
- What modern architectural feature has become a symbol of the Louvre Gallery?

SAGRADA FAMILIA

The Sagrada Familia started to be built in 1882 in Barcelona, Spain. It's a big church, but it's still not finished. Gaudí was the main architect, and he worked on it for a long time. The Sagrada Familia has many towers, and it will have 18 when it's done. The church is famous for its beautiful outside and inside. There are sculptures and colourful windows. Gaudí used many natural things in the design, like tree-shaped columns. Gaudí couldn't finish the church, but other people continued his work. People pay to visit the church, and many tourists come to see it every year. They hope it will be finished in 2026.

- When did the construction of the Sagrada Familia begin, and who was the main architect?

- How many towers will the Sagrada Familia have when it is finished?
- What are some features that make the Sagrada Familia famous?
- Why couldn't Gaudí finish the Sagrada Familia, and who continued his work?

LEANING TOWER OF PISA

The Leaning Tower of Pisa was started in 1173 and finished in 1372. It's in Italy and is famous because it's not straight. The tower is made of marble and has seven floors. It has big bells, and people visit it a lot. In 1990, the tower was closed because it was leaning too much. But engineers fixed it, and now it's open again. The tower is a part of a big list of important places in the world. It's a symbol of Italy and is very popular with tourists.

- When was the construction of the Leaning Tower of Pisa started and finished?
- Where is the Leaning Tower of Pisa located?
- What material is the Leaning Tower of Pisa made of, and how many floors does it have?
- Why was the Leaning Tower of Pisa closed in 1990, and what happened afterward?

MANNEKEN PIS

The Manneken Pis statue is in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. It's a famous thing to see there. The Manneken Pis is a small statue of a boy peeing into a fountain. We're not sure where it came from, but people have known about it since a long time ago, maybe since the 15th century. They first made it in 1619, but it got broken, so they made another one a few times. The statue is only 61 cm tall, so it's one of the smallest things to see. People like to dress up the Manneken Pis in different clothes, especially for special days like holidays or when important people visit. The Manneken Pis is a symbol of Brussels' funny side and bravery. It also shows how Brussels is free and independent. Many tourists come to see it and take pictures. Sometimes, bad people try to damage it, but they always fix it. There are lots of stories about the Manneken Pis, like one that says the boy saved Brussels by peeing on a fire. In 1987, they added the Manneken Pis to a special list of important places called the UNESCO World Heritage List.

- Where is the Manneken Pis statue located?
- When was the Manneken Pis statue first made, and how tall is it?
- What is one way people like to interact with the Manneken Pis statue?
- What does the Manneken Pis statue symbolize, and why is it significant?

BRANDENBURG GATE

The Brandenburg Gate is a very old gate in Berlin, Germany. It's very important and famous. It was built long ago, between 1788 and 1791, by a king named Frederick William II. The gate is made in an old style called neoclassical, which means it looks like buildings from ancient Rome. It has five big openings and is decorated with tall columns and statues. During a big war, the gate was hurt a lot. But later, people fixed it, and it became a sign of hope for Germany. The gate was near where Berlin used to be split into two parts, East and West Berlin. It was closed, showing that the city was divided. In 1989, when the wall fell, the gate became a happy place. It showed that Germany was becoming one country again. Now, the Brandenburg Gate is a place many tourists visit. Sometimes, important events and concerts happen there. On the top of the gate, there is a statue of a goddess called Victoria riding a chariot with four horses. In 2002, the gate got new lights, so it looks beautiful at night. The Brandenburg Gate is a symbol of peace, freedom, and coming together. It's a favourite spot for people visiting Berlin.

- Where is the Brandenburg Gate located?
- When was the Brandenburg Gate built?
- What style is the Brandenburg Gate built-in, and what does it resemble?
- What does the Brandenburg Gate represent today?

ARC DE TRIOMPHE

The Arc de Triomphe is in Paris, France. It's a famous monument and a symbol of bravery. It was built by Napoleon Bonaparte. The arch is over 50 meters high and over 45 meters wide, made of stone, and has pictures and statues on it. You can go up to the top and see Paris. It remembers soldiers who fought in wars. Every year, on November 11th, there's a ceremony there for peace. The Arc de Triomphe is part of a line of famous places in Paris. There's

a museum of the Arc de Triomphe underneath it. Many tourists visit it and take photos. It's also a busy place for traffic.

- Where is the Arc de Triomphe located?
- Who built the Arc de Triomphe?
- What can you see from the top of the Arc de Triomphe?
- What is the Arc de Triomphe a symbol of?

BIG BEN AND ELIZABETH TOWER

Big Ben is a famous clock bell in London, UK. It's part of a tower called the Elizabeth Tower. The tower used to be called the Clock Tower but was renamed in 2012 for Queen Elizabeth II. It's at the Palace of Westminster. Big Ben is a big bell named after Sir Benjamin Hall. It weighs 13.5 tons and is over 2.7 meters wide. It tells the time with a loud sound. Big Ben is made of iron and has clocks on it. It's a symbol of London and the British Parliament. People like to see it, but they can't go inside.

- What is Big Ben, and where is it located?
- What is the Elizabeth Tower, and why was it renamed in 2012?
- Who is Big Ben named after, and how much does it weigh?
- What is Big Ben made of, and what purpose does it serve?

EIFFEL TOWER

The Eiffel Tower is in Paris, France. It is very famous and important. It was built for a big fair in Paris in 1889. It was the gate to the fair. A French engineer named Gustave Eiffel designed it, so it's named after him. They started building it in 1887 and finished in 1889, taking about 2 years. The tower is very tall, 324 meters. It was the tallest in the world then. It's made of steel and is very heavy, about 10,100 tons. At first, they planned to take it down after the fair, but they kept it because it was useful. People can go up to three different floors to see Paris from high up. Lots of tourists go there every year. It's one of France's most popular places to visit. The Eiffel Tower is a symbol of Paris and shows how good people are at building big things. It's famous all over the world.

- Who designed the Eiffel Tower?
- When was the Eiffel Tower built, and for what purpose?
- How tall is the Eiffel Tower, and what material is it made of?
- Initially, what was the plan for the Eiffel Tower after the fair, and why was it ultimately kept?

PARTHENON

The Parthenon is an ancient building in Greece. It is very famous. It is in Athens, the capital city of Greece. The Parthenon is very old. People built it many years ago, around 2,500 years ago. It is a temple. It was built for the goddess Athena, who was very important to the people of Athens. The Parthenon is big and beautiful. It has many columns. They are very tall and strong. The roof of the Parthenon is a triangle. It is called a "pediment." Many people visit the Parthenon every year. They come from all over the world to see it. They take pictures of it and learn about its history. Today, the Parthenon is a symbol of Greece. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. That means it is very important and special to the whole world.

- Where is the Parthenon located?
- Who was the Parthenon built for?
- What is the shape of the roof of the Parthenon called?
- Why do many people visit the Parthenon?

COLOSSEUM

The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheater, is a very old building in Rome, Italy. It's really big and was built a long time ago, around 2,000 years ago! It was used for fights between gladiators, battles with animals, and other shows. Lots and lots of people could fit inside, like maybe 50,000 or even 80,000! It's made of different kinds of stone and bricks. Originally, it had four floors, but some parts are gone now. There were many entrances, but the most famous ones were the northern and southern gates. The Colosseum has big arches and windows that let people move around easily. Inside, there was a special area for the fights,

surrounded by a fence to keep everyone safe. Over the years, the Colosseum got damaged by earthquakes and people, but it's still very important. It's even on a special list called UNESCO World Heritage List! Nowadays, lots of tourists come to see it. It's a symbol of ancient Rome and a really famous place to visit!

- What is another name for the Colosseum?
- How old is the Colosseum?
- What types of events were held in the Colosseum?
- How many people could fit inside the Colosseum?

10 best places in Europe – listening exercises

Europe is full of beautiful, interesting and historical places. Let's take a look at some of them together.

Listening exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

LOUVRE GALLERY

The Louvre Gallery 1. to be a castle in the 12th century, and later it 2. a royal palace. Eventually, it became an art museum. At first, the Louvre 3. a castle, but it changed over time into a palace and then a museum. Inside the Louvre, there are many artworks, 4. famous ones like the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. The museum's building is big and old with different styles like Renaissance and Baroque. The Louvre 5. many old things like sculptures, paintings, and objects from Egypt. Among the famous things in the Louvre are the Venus de Milo and the Winged Victory. The museum is in a palace that 6. once home to French kings. It is open to the public, and many people visit it every year. The Louvre also 7. a famous glass pyramid built in 1989. It became a symbol of the museum

SAGRADA FAMILIA

The Sagrada Familia 8. to be built in 1882 in Barcelona, Spain. It's a big church, but it's still not finished. Gaudí was the main architect, and he 9. on it for a long time.

The Sagrada Familia has many towers, and it will have 18 when it's done. The church 10. famous for its beautiful outside and inside. There are sculptures and colourful windows. Gaudí used many natural things in the design, like tree-shaped columns. Gaudí couldn't finish the church, but other people continued his work. People pay to visit the church, and many tourists come to see it every year. They hope it will be finished in 2026.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. a) used b) use c) using | 8. a) start b) starting c) started |
| 2. A) become b) became c) becoming | 9. a) work b) working c) worked |
| 3. A) is b) was c) were | 10. a) is b) are c) was |
| 4. A) include b) included c) including | |
| 5. A) have b) has c) had | |
| 6. A) is b) was c) were | |
| 7. A) has b) have c) had | |

Listening Exercise 2. Listen to the audio and fill in the gaps.

LEANING TOWER OF PISA

The Leaning Tower of Pisa was started in 1. and finished in 2. It's in Italy and is famous because it's not straight. The tower is made of marble and has 3. floors. It has big bells, and people visit it a lot. In 4., the tower was closed because it was leaning too much. But engineers fixed it, and now it's open again. The tower is a part of a big list of important places in the world. It's a symbol of Italy and is very popular with tourists.

MANNEKEN PIS

The Manneken Pis statue is in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. It's a famous thing to see there. The Manneken Pis is a small 5. of a boy peeing into a fountain. We're not 6. where it came from, but people have known about it since a long time ago, maybe since the 7. century. They first made it in 1619, but it got broken, so they made another one a few times. The statue is only 8. cm tall, so it's one of the smallest things to see. People like to dress up the Manneken Pis in different clothes, especially for special days

like holidays or when important people visit. The Manneken Pis is a symbol of Brussels' funny side and 9. It also shows how Brussels is free and independent. Many tourists come to see it and take pictures. Sometimes, bad people try to damage it, but they always fix it. There are lots of stories about the Manneken Pis, like one that says the boy saved Brussels by peeing on a fire. In 10., they added the Manneken Pis to a special list of important places called the UNESCO World Heritage List.

BRANDENBURG GATE

The Brandenburg Gate is a very old gate in 11., Germany. It's very important and famous. It was built long ago, between 12. and 13., by a king named Frederick William II. The gate is made in an old style called neoclassical, which means it looks like buildings from ancient Rome. It has five big openings and is decorated with tall columns and statues. During a big war, the gate was hurt a lot. But later, people fixed it, and it became a sign of 14. for Germany. The gate was near where Berlin used to be split into two parts, East and West Berlin. It was closed, showing that the city was divided. In 15., when the wall fell, the gate became a happy place. It showed that Germany was becoming one country again. Now, the Brandenburg Gate is a place many tourists visit. Sometimes, important events and concerts happen there. On the top of the gate, there is a statue of a goddess called Victoria riding a chariot with 16. horses. In 2002, the gate got new lights, so it looks beautiful at night. The Brandenburg Gate is a symbol of peace, freedom, and coming together. It's a favourite spot for people visiting Berlin.

Comprehension check 1: complete the exercises, then listen and check

Exercise 3: fill in the blanks with the missing words.

1. The Louvre Gallery used to be a _____ in the 12th century.
2. The Sagrada Familia started to be built in _____ in Barcelona, Spain.
3. The Leaning Tower of Pisa is made of _____ and has seven floors.
4. The Manneken Pis statue is only _____ cm tall.
5. The Brandenburg Gate was built between _____ and 1791.

Exercise 4: decide if the statements are true or false.

1. The Louvre became an art museum after being a royal palace. T/F
2. Gaudí finished the construction of the Sagrada Familia before his death. T/F
3. The Leaning Tower of Pisa was closed in 1990 because it was leaning too much. T/F
4. The Manneken Pis is famous because it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1989. T/F
5. The Brandenburg Gate was built in a style that resembles buildings from ancient Greece. T/F

Exercise 5: choose the correct answer from the options provided.

1. What was the Louvre Gallery originally?

A) A museum B) A castle
C) A church D) A tower

2. How many towers will the Sagrada Familia have when it is finished?

A) 7 B) 12 C) 18 D) 21

3. When was the Leaning Tower of Pisa completed?

A) 1372 B) 1272
C) 1173 C) 1972

4. What is unique about the Manneken Pis?

A) It is a tall statue of a soldier.
B) It is a small statue of a boy peeing into a fountain.

C) It was built to celebrate an important war victory.

D) It was a gift from another country.

5. What symbol does the Brandenburg Gate represent today?

A) Peace and freedom

B) Wealth and prosperity

C) Power and control

D) Art and culture

Exercise 6: Match the landmark with the correct fact by listening to the description.

A. Louvre Gallery 1. The architect Gaudí designed this church.

B. Sagrada Familia 2. It has a statue of a goddess called Victoria riding a chariot.

C. Leaning Tower 3. It is famous for leaning and made of marble.

D. Manneken Pis 4. It is a small statue of a boy and a symbol of Brussels.

E. Brandenburg Gate 5. It is an art museum that was once a royal palace.

A: _____ B: _____ C: _____ D: _____ E: _____

Exercise 7: answer the following questions in a few words.

What are two famous artworks found in the Louvre?

What natural shapes did Gaudí use in the design of the Sagrada Familia?

How many bells are in the Leaning Tower of Pisa?

What event does the Manneken Pis statue sometimes represent by wearing different clothes?

Who built the Brandenburg Gate and in what style?

Listening Exercise 8: Fill in the gaps then listen and check.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE

The Arc de Triomphe is 1. Paris, France. It's a famous monument and a symbol 2. bravery. It was built by Napoleon Bonaparte. The arch is over 50 meters high and over 45 meters wide, made 3. stone and has pictures and statues on it. You can go up to the top and see Paris. It remembers soldiers who fought in wars. Every year, on November 11th, there's a ceremony there for peace. The Arc de Triomphe is part of a line 4. famous places in Paris. There's a museum of the Arc de Triomphe underneath it. Many tourists visit it and take photos. It's also a busy place 5. traffic.

BIG BEN AND ELIZABETH TOWER

Big Ben is a famous clock bell in London, UK. It's part of a tower called the Elizabeth Tower. The tower 6. to be called the Clock Tower but was renamed in 2012 for Queen Elizabeth II. It's at the Palace of Westminster. Big Ben is a big bell named 7. Sir Benjamin Hall. It 8. 13.5 tons and is over 2.7 meters wide. It 9. the time with a loud sound. Big Ben is 10. of iron and has clocks on it. It's a symbol of London and the British Parliament. People like to see it, but they can't go inside.

EIFFEL TOWER

The Eiffel Tower is in Paris, France. It is very famous and important. It was built for 11. big fair in Paris in 1889. It was the gate to 12. fair. 13. French engineer named Gustave Eiffel designed it, so it's named after him. They started building it in 1887 and finished in 1889, taking about 2 years. The tower is very tall, 324 meters. It was 14. tallest in the world then. It's made of steel and is very heavy, about 10,100 tons. At first, they planned to take it down after the fair, but they kept it because it was useful. People can go up to three different floors to see Paris from high up. Lots of tourists go there every year. It's one of France's most popular places to visit. The Eiffel Tower is 15. symbol of Paris and shows how good people are at building big things. It's famous all over the world.

Listening Exercise 9: Fill in the gaps with the correct word from the box, then listen and check.

roof	building	columns	site	built	take
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PARTHENON

The Parthenon is an ancient 1. in Greece. It is very famous. It is in Athens, the capital city of Greece. The Parthenon is very old. People 2. it many years ago, around 2,500 years ago. It is a temple. It was built for the goddess Athena, who was very important to the people of Athens. The Parthenon is big and beautiful. It has many 3. They are very tall and strong. The 4. of the Parthenon is a triangle. It is called a "pediment." Many people visit the Parthenon every year. They come from all over the world to see it. They 5. pictures of it and learn about its history. Today, the Parthenon is a symbol of Greece. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage 6. That means it is very important and special to the whole world.

Listening Exercise 10: Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the word. Then listen and

COLOSSEUM

The Colosseum, also 1. as the Flavian Amphitheatre, is a very old building in Rome, Italy. It's 2. big and was built a long time ago, around 2,000 years ago! It was used for fights between gladiators, battles with animals, and other shows. Lots and lots of people could fit inside, like maybe 50,000 or even 80,000! It's made of 3. kinds of stone and bricks. 4., it had four floors, but some parts are gone now. There were many 5., but the most 6. ones were the 7. and 8. gates. The Colosseum has big arches and windows that let people move around easily. Inside, there was a special area for the fights, 9. by a fence to keep everyone safe. Over the years, the Colosseum got damaged by earthquakes and people, but it's still very important. It's even on a special list called UNESCO World Heritage List! Nowadays, lots of tourists come to see it. It's a symbol of ancient Rome and a really famous place to visit!

know

real

different origin

.

enter fame

north south

.

round

Comprehension check 2: complete the exercises, then listen and check

Exercise 11: fill in the blanks with the missing words.

1. The Eiffel Tower was built for a big fair in _____ and was designed by _____ Eiffel.
2. The Parthenon is a temple built for the goddess _____ around _____ years ago.
3. The Colosseum, also called the _____ Amphitheater, is in Rome, Italy, and could hold around _____ people.
4. The Arc de Triomphe was built by _____.
5. Big Ben is part of the _____ Tower, which was renamed in _____ for Queen Elizabeth II.

Exercise 12. decide if the statements are true or false.

1. The Eiffel Tower was originally planned to be taken down after the fair. T/F
2. The Parthenon was built as a palace for the kings of Athens. T/F
3. The Colosseum was used for fights between gladiators and animals. T/F
4. The Arc de Triomphe is made of iron and is over 60 meters high. T/F
5. People can go inside the Elizabeth Tower and visit Big Ben. T/F

Exercise 13: choose the correct answer from the options provided.

1. How tall is the Eiffel Tower?
A) 300 meters B) 324 meters C) 350 meters D) 280 meters
2. Who was the Parthenon built for?
A) Zeus B) Apollo C) Athena D) Hera
3. How many entrances did the Colosseum originally have?
A) Four B) Two C) Many D) One
4. When is the ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe held?

A) July 14th

B) November 11th

C) August 15th

D) May 1st

5. How wide is Big Ben?

A) 2.5 meters

B) 3 meters

C) 2.7 meters

D) 3.5 meters

Exercise 14: Match the landmark with the correct fact by listening to the description.

A. Eiffel Tower

1. Built for the 1889 World's Fair in Paris.

B. Parthenon

2. Temple dedicated to the goddess Athena.

C. Colosseum

3. Held gladiator fights and battles.

D. Arc de Triomphe

4. A monument remembering soldiers who fought in wars.

E. Big Ben

5. Famous clock bell at the Palace of Westminster.

A: _____

B: _____

C: _____

D: _____

E: _____

Exercise 15: answer the following questions in a few words.

1. How long did it take to build the Eiffel Tower?

2. What shape is the roof of the Parthenon called?

3. What kind of shows took place in the Colosseum?

4. What can you find underneath the Arc de Triomphe?

5. Who is Big Ben named after?

THE IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITIES

The Ivy League universities are a group of eight prestigious private institutions in the United States known for their academic excellence, rich histories, and competitive admissions.

The Ivy League universities are:

1. **Harvard University** – Harvard University is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is one of the oldest and most renowned universities in the world.
2. **Yale University** – Situated in New Haven, Connecticut. It is known for its strong programs in the humanities and social sciences.
3. **Princeton University** – Located in Princeton, New Jersey. It is famous for its rigorous academic programs and historic campus.
4. **Columbia University** – Based in New York City, and offers a wide range of programs in various fields.
5. **University of Pennsylvania** (UPenn) - Located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, UPenn emphasizes research and interdisciplinary studies.
6. **Brown University** – Situated in Providence, Rhode Island, Brown is known for its open curriculum and focus on undergraduate education.
7. **Dartmouth College** – Nestled in Hanover, New Hampshire, it is known for its strong liberal arts programs.
8. **Cornell University** - Located in Ithaca, New York, Cornell offers comprehensive academic programs and has multiple colleges and schools.

These universities are often considered some of the top institutions of higher education globally and are known for their academic rigor, research contributions, and influential alumni networks.

ivy—břečťan

admission—přijetí

renowned—proslulý

rigorous—přísný

interdisciplinary—	undergraduate—	comprehensive—
mezioborový	vysokoškolák (bez titulu)	všeobecný
curriculum—studijní plán	nestle—umístěný	alumnus—absolvent

Harvard University:

Harvard University, founded in 1636 and situated in Cambridge, Massachusetts, stands as the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. It boasts a rich history and an unmatched reputation for academic excellence. Harvard offers a vast array of undergraduate and graduate programs across various fields, including arts and sciences, engineering, business, law, medicine, and more. With a large and diverse student body, Harvard maintains a highly selective admissions process, admitting only a small percentage of applicants. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$51,000, though financial aid opportunities are available. Notable alumni include former U.S. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama, tech moguls Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, and acclaimed actress Natalie Portman.

Yale University:

Yale University was founded in 1701 and located in New Haven, Connecticut, Yale University ranks among the oldest and most prestigious institutions in the United States. Yale's extensive academic offerings encompass a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs across the humanities, social sciences, sciences, arts, and professional schools. It has a relatively small student body compared to some Ivy League peers. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$57,000. Yale has produced numerous notable alumni, including five U.S. Presidents, author Sinclair Lewis and actors Jodie Foster, Meryl Streep and Paul Newman.

Princeton University:

Princeton University, founded in 1746 and nestled in Princeton, New Jersey, is renowned for its historic campus and academic excellence. Princeton offers undergraduate and graduate

programs across various fields, including the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering. With a relatively small undergraduate student body, Princeton's admissions process is also highly competitive. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$53,000. Distinguished alumni include U.S. Presidents James Madison and Woodrow Wilson and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

Columbia University:

Established in 1754 and situated in New York City, Columbia University has a storied history of academic achievement. Columbia offers a broad spectrum of undergraduate and graduate programs, spanning business, law, engineering, arts and sciences, and more. Boasting a diverse and sizable student population, Columbia maintains a highly competitive admissions process. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year varied by program but was approximately \$61,000 for undergraduates. Notable alumni include former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

University of Pennsylvania (UPenn):

Founded in 1740 and situated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the University of Pennsylvania emphasizes research and interdisciplinary studies. UPenn offers numerous undergraduate and graduate programs, including the renowned Wharton School of Business, School of Medicine, School of Law, and more. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year varied by program but was approximately \$55,000 for undergraduates. Notable alumni include former U.S. President Donald Trump, former Vice President Joe Biden, and business magnate Warren Buffett.

Brown University:

Established in 1764 and located in Providence, Rhode Island, Brown University stands out for its open curriculum and dedication to undergraduate education. Brown offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as

professional schools. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$60,000. Notable alumni include former U.S. Secretary of State John Hay, actress Emma Watson, and journalist Meredith Vieira.

Dartmouth College:

Founded in 1769 and nestled in Hanover, New Hampshire, Dartmouth College is distinguished for its strong liberal arts programs. Dartmouth offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields with a focus on undergraduate teaching. The institution has a smaller undergraduate student body compared to some peers. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$59,000. Notable alumni are former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner and Nobel laureate Dr. Seamus Heaney.

Cornell University:

Established in 1865 and located in Ithaca, New York, Cornell University is known for its comprehensive academic offerings. Cornell provides a wide array of undergraduate and graduate programs across various disciplines, including agriculture, engineering, arts and sciences, and more. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year varied by program but was approximately \$59,000 for undergraduates. Distinguished alumni include former Vice President Al Gore, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and journalist Ann Coulter.

All eight universities in the Ivy League have beautiful historical campuses. Many believe that the term Ivy League was coined in 1937 when sportswriter Caswell Adams was writing about the football game between the Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. He referred to them as the old ivy-covered universities which led to them being referred to as the Ivy League.

boast—chlubit se acclaimed—uznávaný

unmatched—bezkonkurenční encompas—
zahrnovat

vast—rozsáhlý distinguished—uznávaný
 array—množství
 span—zahrnovat
 tuition—školné
 former—bývalý, předchozí
 dedication—věnování (se)
 liberal—svobodomyslný, velký, štědrý
 peer—vrstevník, rovný (k někomu), kolega
 notable—významná osobnost, prominent

supreme court justice—soudce nejvyššího soudu
 campus—areál univerzity, akademická půda (It refers to the grounds and buildings of a university, college, school, or other educational institution, including the surrounding area where students, faculty, and staff live and work.)
 coin—vytvořit, poprvé použít
 refer to — mluvit o

The Ivy League universities

Exercise 1. Listen to the text and fill in the places to the universities.

New Haven, Connecticut

New York City

Providence, Rhode Island

Ithaca, New York

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Hanover, New Hampshire

Princeton, New Jersey

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Ivy League universities are a group of eight prestigious private institutions in the United States known for their academic excellence, rich histories, and competitive admissions.

The Ivy League universities are:

1. **Harvard University** – Harvard University is located in, and is one of the oldest and most renowned universities in the world.

2. **Yale University** – Situated in It is known for its strong programs in the humanities and social sciences.

3. **Princeton University** – Located in It is famous for its rigorous academic programs and historic campus.

4. **Columbia University** – Based in, and offers a wide range of programs in various fields.

5. **University of Pennsylvania** (UPenn) - Located in, UPenn emphasizes research and interdisciplinary studies.

6. **Brown University** – Situated in, Brown is known for its open curriculum and focus on undergraduate education.

7. **Dartmouth College** – Nestled in, it is known for its strong liberal arts programs.

8. **Cornell University** - Located in, Cornell offers comprehensive academic programs and has multiple colleges and schools.

These universities are often considered some of the top institutions of higher education globally and are known for their academic rigor, research contributions, and influential alumni networks.

Exercise 2. Choose the correct word. Then listen and check.

Harvard University, founded in 1636 and situated in Cambridge, Massachusetts, stands 1. _____ the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. It boasts 2. _____ rich history and an unmatched reputation 3. _____ academic excellence. Harvard offers a vast array of undergraduate and graduate programs across various fields, including arts and sciences, engineering, business, law, medicine, and more. With a large and diverse student body, Harvard maintains a highly selective admissions process, admitting only a small percentage of applicants. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$51,000, though financial aid opportunities are available. Notable alumni include former U.S. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama, tech moguls Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, and acclaimed actress Natalie Portman.

Yale University was founded in 1701 and located in New Haven, Connecticut, Yale University ranks 4. ____ the oldest and most prestigious institutions in the United States. Yale's extensive academic offerings encompass a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs across the humanities, social sciences, sciences, arts, and professional schools. It has a relatively small student body compared 5. ____ some Ivy League peers. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$57,000. Yale has produced numerous notable alumni, including five U.S. Presidents, author Sinclair Lewis and actors Jodie Foster, Meryl Streep and Paul Newman.

Princeton University, founded in 1746 and nestled in Princeton, New Jersey, is renowned 6. ____ its historic campus and academic excellence. Princeton offers undergraduate and graduate programs across various fields, including the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering. With a relatively small undergraduate student body, Princeton's admissions process is 7. ____ highly competitive. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$53,000. Distinguished alumni include U.S. Presidents James Madison and Woodrow Wilson and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------|
| 1. a) like | b) to | c) as |
| 2. a) the | b) a | c) with |
| 3. a) in | b) for | c) by |
| 4. a) among | b) between | c) in |
| 5. a) with | b) by | c) to |
| 6. a) for | b) with | c) by |
| 7. a) too | b) as well | c) also |

Exercise 3. Fill in the words in the correct form, then listen and check.

<p>Columbia University, established in 1754 and situated in New York City, Columbia University has a storied history of academic _____. Columbia offers a broad spectrum of undergraduate and graduate programs, spanning business, law, engineering, arts and sciences, and more. Boasting a _____ and _____ student population, Columbia maintains a highly _____ admissions process. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year varied by program but was approximately \$61,000 for undergraduates. Notable alumni include former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.</p>	<p>achieve . diversity size compete</p>
<p>University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), founded in 1740 and situated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the University of Pennsylvania emphasizes research and interdisciplinary studies. UPenn offers _____ undergraduate and graduate programs, including the _____ Wharton School of Business, School of Medicine, School of Law, and more. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year varied by program but was approximately \$55,000 for undergraduates. _____ alumni include former U.S. President Donald Trump, former Vice President Joe Biden, and business magnate Warren Buffett.</p>	<p>numeral renown . note</p>

Exercise 4. Listen and fill in the gaps.

Brown University, established in _____ and located in Providence, Rhode Island, Brown University stands out for its open curriculum and dedication to undergraduate education. Brown offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as professional schools. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$ _____. Notable alumni include former U.S.

_____ John Hay, actress Emma Watson, and _____
Meredith Vieira.

Dartmouth College, founded in _____ and nestled in Hanover, New Hampshire, Dartmouth College is distinguished for its strong liberal arts programs. Dartmouth offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, with a focus on undergraduate teaching. The institution has a smaller undergraduate student body compared to some peers. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year was approximately \$ _____. Notable alumni are former U.S. _____ Timothy Geithner and _____ Dr. Seamus Heaney.

Exercise 5. Fill in the words from the bracket in correct forms, then listen and check.

establish	locate	provide	include	vary
coin	to be	refer	lead	

Cornell University, _____ in 1865 and _____ in Ithaca, New York, Cornell University is known for its comprehensive academic offerings. Cornell _____ a wide array of undergraduate and graduate programs across various disciplines, _____ agriculture, engineering, arts and sciences, and more. Tuition for _____ the 2021-2022 academic year _____ by program but was approximately \$59,000 for undergraduates. Distinguished alumni include former Vice President Al Gore, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and journalist Ann Coulter.

All eight universities in the Ivy League have beautiful historical campuses. Many believe that the term Ivy League was _____ in 1937 when sports writer Caswell Adams _____ writing about the football game between the Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. He _____ to them as the old ivy covered universities which _____ to them being referred to as the Ivy League.

Exercise 6. Now listen to the text again and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. The Ivy League universities are known for their academic excellence, rich histories, and competitive admissions. T/F
2. Harvard University is located in New Haven, Connecticut. T/F
3. Yale University is one of the oldest and most prestigious institutions in the United States. T/F
4. Princeton University is famous for its rigorous academic programs and historic campus. T/F
5. Columbia Uni. offers programs primarily in the fields of humanities and social sciences. T/F
6. Columbia University is located in Princeton, New Jersey. T/F
7. The University of Pennsylvania emphasizes research and interdisciplinary studies. T/F
8. Brown University is known for its strict curriculum and focus on graduate education. T/F
9. Dartmouth College is located in Providence, Rhode Island. T/F
10. Cornell University is situated in Hanover, New Hampshire. T/F

THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE US

The educational system in the United States is diverse and complex, with a range of options available to students at various levels of education. Here's an overview of the U.S. educational system:

1. Early Childhood Education:

- **Preschool:** Some children attend preschool from ages 3 to 5 to prepare for kindergarten.

Kindergarten: Kindergarten is typically the first year of formal education, usually for 5-year-olds.

2. Primary and Secondary Education:

- **Elementary School:** Elementary education usually covers grades K-5 (ages 6 to 11).

- **Middle School or Junior High School:** Middle school or junior high school typically covers grades 6-8 (ages 11 to 14).

High School: High school encompasses grades 9-12 (ages 14 to 18).

3. K-12 Curriculum:

- The K-12 curriculum typically includes a wide range of subjects, including math, science, English, social studies, and physical education.

- Students may also have elective courses in areas like art, music, and foreign languages.

High school students often have the opportunity to take advanced courses, such as Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

4. Graduation and Diplomas:

- Students graduate from high school upon completing their required coursework.

They receive a high school diploma, which is a prerequisite for most higher education and employment opportunities.

5. Higher Education:

- **Undergraduate Education:** After high school, students have the option to attend colleges or universities for undergraduate programs.

- **Bachelor's Degree:** Most undergraduate programs lead to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, typically taking four years to complete.

- **Community Colleges:** Community colleges offer two-year programs and often serve as affordable entry points to higher education. Students can earn an Associate's degree.

Technical and Vocational Schools: These institutions provide specialized training in fields like healthcare, technology, and skilled trades.

6. Graduate and Professional Education:

- After completing a bachelor's degree, students can pursue graduate or professional education.

- **Master's Degree:** Typically takes 1-2 years to complete.

- **Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.):** Involves in-depth research and can take several years.

Professional Degrees: Include programs like medical school (M.D.), law school (J.D.), and business school (M.B.A.).

7. School Funding:

- Education funding in the U.S. varies by state and locality, with a significant portion coming from property taxes.

Public schools are funded by state and local governments, while private schools rely on tuition and donations.

8. Standardized Testing:

- Standardized tests like the SAT and ACT are often required for college admissions.

Statewide standardized tests assess students' academic progress and are used for accountability purposes.

9. School Choice:

Parents have choices in their children's education, including public, private, charter, and homeschooling options.

10. Higher Education Institutions:

- The U.S. has a wide variety of colleges and universities, ranging from small liberal arts colleges to large research universities.

Ivy League schools and other prestigious institutions are highly sought after for their academic reputation.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Ivy League, and what distinguishes these universities from others?
2. How many Ivy League universities are there, and can you name them all?
3. Which is the oldest Ivy League university, and where is it located?
4. Which Ivy League university is known for its strong programs in the humanities and social sciences?
5. In which Ivy League university can you find the renowned Wharton School of Business?
6. What is the concept of the "open curriculum," and which Ivy League university is known for it?
7. Where is Dartmouth College located, and what is it known for in terms of academics?
8. Which is the cheapest and the most expensive Ivy League University?
9. Can you name Ivy League universities located in the state of New York?
10. What is the significance of the Ivy League in terms of admissions competitiveness and academic prestige?
11. Where did they get their names?

DISCUSSION:

Would you like to study abroad, in which city or country?

Which of the Ivy League universities would you like to study at and why specifically at this one?

Do you think Ivy League universities provide better education than our universities?

If you could choose, which notable alumnus mentioned in the text would you like to study with? Why?

Do you know any significant universities in Europe?

Do you think it's okay to pay tuition fees at university and can it help improve the quality of education provided?

What factors would you consider most important when choosing a university to attend?

How do you think studying abroad can benefit your personal and academic growth?

ŘEŠENÍ

CZECH INVENTIONS

ANSWERS VELOREX

Exercise 1. Choose the correct word

1. b) however
2. C) as
3. C) by
4. A) the
5. B) called
6. A) due to
7. C) to
8. B) as
9. A) away
10. C) for

Exercise 2. true / false sentences

- False
- False
- True
- False
- True
- True
- True
- False
- False
- False

Exercise 3. Match the words

Prototype - c

Nationalization - a

Slogan—f

Components—b

Tragically—h

Innovation—j

Exported—d

Plexiglas—i

Enthusiasts—e

Gatherings—g

Exercise 4. Sentence Completion Exercise

a beloved collector's item.

before World War II.

Hradec Králové.

people with disabilities.

1954 when he crashed the Velorex prototype.

a manual steering system.

over twenty years.

exceeded production.

organizing meetings.

the Velorex Spring Meet in Boskovice.

Exercise 5. Past tense correction

The Stránský brothers cleverly advertised Velorex as an ideal vehicle for people with disabilities.

The production involved various components sourced from different places.

Velorex vehicles were manufactured for over

twenty years.

Demand exceeded production, with output ranging from 120 units in 1959 to around a thousand vehicles in 1963.

Velorex enthusiasts began organizing meetings.

Hundreds of these vehicles still participated in gatherings, with the most famous being the Velorex Spring Meet in Boskovice.

Exercise 6. Past tense— earned, didn't deserve, served, remained, was boosted, appeared, lost, crashed

ANSWERS: ALPA

Exercise 1. Choose the correct word

1. b) for
2. c) of
3. c) due to
4. a) for
5. b) -
6. a) of
7. b) as
8. c) while
9. b) to
10. a) in

Exercise 2. True / false sentences

False.
False
True
False

False

False

False

True

False

True

Exercise 3. Vocabulary matching

Versatile—f
Fragrances—b
Nationalization—g
Endures—h
Acronym—i
Concocted—c
Diluted—d
Niche—a
Remedy—e
Employing—j

Exercise 4. Correct verb tense

1. was crafted
2. established
3. registered
4. has remained
5. Survived, relocated .
6. is .
7. Remains, did Alpa get
8. Was, remains .
9. Faced, endures .
10. made

11. enjoyed .

12. has, diluted, soaked

Exercise 5. Correcting verb tense

Josef Veselý established his own factory in Brno – Královo Pole for the production of chemical and cosmetic preparations.

Alpa's history was intriguing, surviving both world wars.

Alpa relocated to Velké Meziříčí in 1948 due to nationalization.

Today, it was a family-owned company employing seventy individuals.

Alpa made its way into the film "Ať žijí duchové" and into the hands of actor Jiří Sovák.

Alpa had many versatile uses, often diluted in lukewarm water for gargling.

ANSWERS: TIGHTS

Exercise 1. Correct word

1. a) in

2. B) were

3. B) at

4. A) as

5. C) however

6. A) up

7. B) as

8. C) for

9. A) within

10. B) it

Exercise 2. True / false sentences

False

False

False

False

True

True

False

True

False

True

Exercise 3. Vocabulary matching

Attire—e

Reinforced—h

c. Affordable—b

Symbol—g

Nobility—j

Breakthrough—i

Struggles—a

Bloc—c

Synthetic—d

Production—f

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences

1. the Czechs played a role in their creation.

2. were a popular clothing choice

3. were expensive and not readily available to all women.

4. more affordable and accessible.

5. the mid-twentieth century.
6. four million pairs of stockings were sold in the United Kingdom within just four days.
7. a major breakthrough.
8. the Soviet bloc.

Exercise 5. Verb tense

1. have gone, played
2. can be traced, were
3. Became, were
4. Introduced, sped
5. were seen, were mostly reserved
6. Changed, was, were sold
7. Developed, was
8. couldn't, started, was intended

Czech inventors and scientists

ANSWERS VÁCLAV PROKOP DIVIŠ

Exercise 1: Multiple Choice Quiz Answers:

1. a) inventor
2. b) effective
3. c) grounded
4. b) farm
5. b) monastery
6. a) experiment
7. a) recognized
8. c) tension

9. a) connected
10. c) known

Exercise 2: True or False

False

False

False

True

False

Exercise 3: correct verb tense

was born

grew, became

died, wrote

was

was

are remembered

Exercise 4: Fill in the Blanks

1. inventor

2. effective

3. grounded

4. farm

5. Monastery

Exercise 5: Matching Definitions

b) A tool designed to protect structures from lightning strikes by directing it to the ground.

a) A method in biology.

b) Having a connection to the ground for electrical safety.

a) A place where monks live and work.

b) The difference in electrical potential between two points.

ANSWERS: JAROSLAV HEYROVSKÝ

Exercise 1: Multiple Choice Quiz Answers:

1. b) for
2. A) polarography
3. B) WW I.
4. A) electrical
5. C) when
6. C) away
7. B) to
8. A) through
9. B) the
10. C) for

Exercise 2: True or False Statements

False - He was a physical chemist

True

False - His studies were interrupted by the war.

True

False - He was nominated 18 times.

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blanks Answers:

polarography

chemistry

World War I

chemical

current-voltage

Exercise 4: correct verb tense

A) was

B) studied

C) were interrupted, served

D) became

E) discovered

F) continued, were closed

G) co-founded

H) retired, passed away

I) was married, had, pursued

J) was

9. b) although

10. a) for

Exercise 2: True or false sentences

True

False

Exercise 5: Matching Definitions

1. b) A chemical analysis technique using electrical current measurements.

True

True

2. b) An award for significant achievements in various scientific fields.

False

False

3. c) A medical personnel in the military.

True

4 b) An institute for chemistry research.

False

5. a) A device for measuring current

True

False

ANSWERS: J. L. F. RESSEL

Exercise 1: Multiple choice

1. b) for

2. a) to

3. a) however

4. c) for

5. b) of

6. a) heavy

7. c) for

8. c) before

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blanks

propeller

medical school

Karst

propeller

Paddle

Exercise 4: Correct verb tense

was

died

came

studied, went

switched

worked, tested

joined

became

was

offered, submitted

3. c) on

4. c) into

5. a) from

6. b) for

7. c) however

8. a) at

9. a) of

10. b) despite

Exercise 5: Matching Definitions

a) A device used for moving a ship forward.

a) A person responsible for managing forests.

c) A secondary school in some European countries.

a) A region famous for its forests.

b) A ship powered by steam engines.

Exercise 2: True/false sentences

false

false

true

true

true

false

false

false

true

false

ANSWERS: OTTO WICHTERLE

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word

1. a) for

2. b) -

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blanks

lenses

hydrogels

physics

lenses

plastic

Exercise 4: Correct verb form

was

died

faced

enjoyed

invented

realized

developed

chose

was

continued

Exercise 5: Matching Definitions Answers:

b) A water-absorbing polymer.

b) A legal right for an invention.

b) Soft lenses made from a hydrophilic polymer.

c) A metal alloy

b) The study of **large** molecules containing carbon atoms, focusing on the structure, properties, and reactions of polymers and other complex **organic** compounds.

ANSWERS: J. G. MENDEL

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word

1. a) up

2. c) although

3. b) in

4. b) for

5. b) until

6. a) using

7. c) on

8. a) including

9. b) on

10. a) despite

Exercise 2: True/false sentences

true

false

true

false

true

true

false

true

false

true

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blanks Answers:

genetics

speech

plants

monk

biostatistical

Exercise 4: Correct verb form

was

was, became

grew

considered

involved

formulated

began

conducted

was

were

Exercise 5: Matching Definitions

b) The science of heredity and variation in living organisms.

b) Plants used by Mendel for his genetic experiments.

b) The transmission of traits from parents to offspring.

b) Statistical methods used in biological research.

b) Observations related to the weather and climate.

Exercise 6: Multiple Choice

1. b) Hynčice, Silesia

2. b) Pea plants

3. b) Mendel's laws of genetics

4. a) 1856

5. b) Brno

October 28th - ANSWERS

Exercise 1: Fill in the missing words

1. Became

2. Wanted

3. Needed

4. 14th

5. Worked

6. Remember

7. Events

8. Awards

9. Attend

- 10. Made up
- 11. Split into
- 12. Exhibits

Exercise 2: True or False

True - Czechoslovakia became independent on October 28th, 1918.

False - The first President of Czechoslovakia was Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, not Václav Havel.

True - The capital of the Czech Republic is Prague.

False - Czechoslovakia split into two countries in 1993, not 1990.

True - October 28th is a day to remember the freedom and independence of the Czech Republic.

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blanks

On October 28th, 1918, Czechoslovakia became an independent country.

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was the first President of Czechoslovakia.

Masaryk was supported by the American president Woodrow Wilson.

People often visit the National Museum on October 28th.

The President of the Czech Republic usually gives a speech.

The Czech Republic and Slovakia were once part of Czechoslovakia.

October 28th is also called Independence Day.

It is a time to be proud of the country's history

Exercise 4: Past Simple Questions

Czechoslovakia became independent on October 28th, 1918.

The first President of Czechoslovakia was Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk.

The Czech lands belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Empire before 1918.

Czechoslovakia split into two countries in 1993.

Before October 28th, 1918, people wanted their own country.

Exercise 5: Vocabulary Match

Independence - d. The state of being free from control by another country

Capital - c. The main city of a country

Empire - b. A large group of countries or regions ruled by one leader

Ceremony - e. A formal event to celebrate something

Democratic - a. A type of government where people vote

Exercise 6: Present Simple or Past Simple?

The Czech Republic celebrates (celebrate) its National Day on October 28th every year.

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk became (become) the first President of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Many people visit (visit) historical sites on October 28th.

On this day, many people in the Czech Republic remember (remember) the history of their country.

Prague became (become) the capital of Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia split (split) into two countries in 1993.

The President of the Czech Republic gives (give) a speech on National Day.

Exercise 7: Past tense of verbs.

To be—was, were
became

Help—helped
spoke

Work—worked
spent

Make—made

Become—
Give—gave

Speak—
visit—visited

Spend—
Watch—watched

Can—could
Have—had

Exercise 8: sentence reordering

Czechoslovakia became independent in 1918.

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was the first President of Czechoslovakia.

Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic.

The Czech Republic celebrates its National Day on October 28th.

Czechoslovakia split into two countries in 1993.

Exercise 9: brainstorming—possible answers

January 1st - New Year's Day (Nový rok): Also known as Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State (Den obnovy samostatného českého státu), commemorating the split of Czechoslovakia

into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993.

Good Friday (Velký pátek): The date varies as it is part of the Easter celebrations.

Easter Monday (Velikonoční pondělí): The date varies based on the Christian calendar.

May 1st - Labour Day (Svátek práce): Celebrating workers and labor movements.

May 8th - Victory in Europe Day (Den vítězství): Marks the end of World War II in Europe in 1945.

July 5th - Saints Cyril and Methodius Day (Den slovanských věrozvěstů Cyrila a Metoděje): Celebrates the arrival of Christian missionaries Cyril and Methodius in Great Moravia in 863.

July 6th - Jan Hus Day (Den upálení mistra Jana Husa): Commemorates the martyrdom of Jan Hus, a key figure in Czech history and a religious reformer, in 1415.

September 28th - Saint Wenceslas Day (Den české státnosti): Also known as Czech Statehood Day, in honor of Saint Wenceslas, the patron saint of the Czech Republic.

October 28th - Czechoslovak Independence Day (Den vzniku samostatného československého státu): Marks the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

November 17th - Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day (Den boje za svobodu a demokracii): Commemorates the student demonstrations against Nazi occupation in 1939 and the start of the Velvet Revolution in 1989.

December 24th - Christmas Eve (Štědrý den)

December 25th - Christmas Day (1. svátek vánoční)

December 26th - St. Stephen's Day (2. svátek vánoční)

17th NOVEMBER: ANSWERS

Exercise 1

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. a | 6. c | 11. c |
| | 16. a | |
| 2. c | 7. c | 12. b |
| | 17. c | |
| 3. b | 8. b | 13. b |
| | 18. a | |
| 4. a | 9. b | 14. a |
| | 19. b | |
| 5. b | 10. a | 15. b |
| | 20. c | |

Exercise 2

1. False. The Velvet Revolution took place after World War II.
2. False. The Velvet Revolution was marked by peaceful protests.
3. True. The term "Velvet" was chosen to represent a peaceful push for change.
4. True. The Communist government eventually agreed to relinquish power.
5. False. November 17th is celebrated as the "Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day" in the Czech Republic.
6. False. The students of Prague organized a protest demanding the right to education and freedom.

Exercise 3

Oppressors: b) Those who impose harsh authority or control

Resilience: c) Capacity to recover quickly from difficulties

Relinquish: a) To give up or surrender

Monumental: e) Extremely significant or important

Initiated: d) To start or begin

Exercise 4

1. The students of Prague were inspired by the events of November 17, 1939, when a brave group of students protested against Nazi occupation.
2. The Communist government responded to the protests by initially being taken aback but eventually agreeing to relinquish power in the face of overwhelming public sentiment.
3. November 17th is celebrated in the Czech Republic as the "Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day" to honor the courage and resilience of those who participated in the Velvet Revolution.
4. One other country where a significant peaceful protest led to political change is India, where Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent resistance played a crucial role in gaining independence from British colonial rule.
5. The term "Velvet Revolution" symbolizes a peaceful, yet firm, push for change, reminiscent of the soft texture of velvet but with a strong impact

Exercise 5

1. The Velvet Revolution was a peaceful initiative for change initiated by the students of Prague.

2. November 17th is celebrated as the "Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day" in the Czech Republic.

3. The Communist government was surprised by the scale and peaceful nature of the protests.

4. The term 'Velvet' symbolizes a peaceful, yet firm, push for change.

5. The students organized a protest demanding the right to education and freedom.

Exercise 6

1. There are parallels between the struggles faced by Czech citizens during the Nazi occupation and the Communist regime in terms of oppressive rule and the desire for freedom and self-determination.

2. Peaceful protests differ from violent ones in that they typically involve nonviolent demonstrations and civil disobedience, whereas violent protests may result in destruction and harm. Peaceful protests are often seen as more effective in bringing about long-term societal change.

3. Historical events where peaceful protests have led to significant societal changes include the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, the Indian

Independence Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, and the overthrow of apartheid in South Africa.

4. The events of the Velvet Revolution likely positively impacted the perception of democracy in the Czech Republic by demonstrating the power of peaceful resistance and leading to the establishment of democratic governance.

5. Commemorating historical events such as the Velvet Revolution is important for shaping national identity by acknowledging and honoring the sacrifices and achievements of past generations in the struggle for freedom and democracy.

QUIZ

1. a

2. c

3. c

4. a

5. c

6. b

7. False

8. That it can lead to significant political change.

ANSWERS: ADVENT

Exercise 1. Vocabulary matching

Fasting: Not eating or drinking for a specific time for religious reasons.

Prayer: Talking to God or a higher power, often to say thanks or ask for help.

Baptism: A Christian ceremony where someone is covered in water to join the Christian faith.

Prophet: A person chosen by God to give important messages or teachings.

Penance: Saying sorry for your sins, often by praying or giving up something you enjoy.

Sacrifice: Giving up something important or valuable to show respect to God.

Hope: Wanting and expecting something good to happen in the future.

Faith: Believing strongly in something, especially in God, without needing proof.

Joy: A strong feeling of happiness.

Peace: Not having any fighting or conflict; feeling calm inside.

Christmas Carol: A song about Christmas, usually happy and about Jesus's birth, sung during Christmas time.

Exercise 2, 3—kontrola podle úvodního celistvého textu

Exercise 4: Question—možné odpovědi

1. What are some traditional symbols associated with Advent, and what do they represent?

Some traditional symbols associated with Advent include the Advent wreath, typically made of evergreens symbolizing eternal life, and the circular shape representing God's infinite love. Another symbol is the Advent calendar, which counts down the days from December 1st until Christmas Eve.

2. How does the Advent calendar contribute to the anticipation of Christmas, especially for children?

The Advent calendar contributes to the anticipation of Christmas by providing a visual countdown from December 1st until Christmas Eve. It is especially exciting for children as they open each day's compartment, building excitement and marking the passage of time until Christmas.

3. Can you describe the significance of special church services like "Lessons and Carols" during the Advent season?

Special church services like "Lessons and Carols" blend scripture readings with Christmas carols, offering a unique opportunity for reflection and worship during the Advent season. These services help participants to connect with the spiritual significance of Christmas through scripture and music.

4. Beyond the physical observances, what is the primary focus of Advent in terms of spiritual reflection and preparation?

Beyond the physical observances, the primary focus of Advent is spiritual reflection and preparation. It is a time for individuals to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ by focusing on themes such as Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

5. In what ways does Advent provide a structured approach for Christians to prepare for Christmas, and how does it differ from the commercial aspects of the holiday season?

Advent provides a structured approach for Christians to prepare for Christmas by emphasizing spiritual reflection and preparation. Unlike the commercial aspects of the holiday season, which often focus on materialism and consumerism, Advent encourages believers to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and to

spread hope, faith, joy, and peace in their own unique way.

Exercise 5. True / false sentences

1. Advent originated in the 12th century as a time of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity. False (It originated in the 4th.)
2. The primary liturgical colour associated with Advent is green, symbolizing growth and renewal. False (It is purple or violet, signifying penance, preparation, and sacrifice)
3. Each of the four Sundays in Advent has a specific theme, including Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace. True
4. On the second Sunday of Advent, the "Bethlehem Candle" is lit, symbolizing Mary and Joseph's journey to Nazareth. False (It symbolizes their journey to Bethlehem)
5. Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is symbolized by a purple candle on the Advent wreath. False (It is symbolized by a pink or rose candle)
6. The Advent wreath is typically made of pine cones and holly leaves. False (It is usually made of evergreens)
7. Advent calendars are primarily used by adults to count down the days until

Christmas. False (They are especially popular among children)

8. Some churches hold special services during Advent, such as "Lessons and Carols," which combine scripture readings with Christmas carols. True

9. Advent emphasizes physical observances rather than spiritual reflection and preparation. False (It emphasizes spiritual reflection and preparation)

10. Advent is considered an outdated tradition with little relevance in modern times. False (It is seen as a chance to slow down during the holiday rush and reflect on important themes)

POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS:

Basic Comprehension:

What does the word "Advent" mean, and what language does it come from?

Answer: "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival" and comes from the Latin word "adventus."

How many Sundays are there in Advent, and what is the general theme of this period?

Answer: There are four Sundays in Advent. The general theme is preparing for and anticipating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Thematic Exploration:

What is the theme of the first Sunday of Advent, and what does the corresponding candle symbolize?

Answer: The theme of the first Sunday of Advent is hope or expectation, symbolized by the first candle, often called the "Prophet's Candle."

Describe the significance of the "Bethlehem Candle" lit on the Second Sunday of Advent.

Answer: The "Bethlehem Candle," lit on the Second Sunday, symbolizes faith and the journey to Bethlehem, preparing for the birth of Jesus.

What makes the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, different from the other Sundays?

Answer: The Third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, is marked by a pink candle and represents joy, offering a break from the penitential aspect of Advent.

What does the fourth candle, lit on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, represent?

Answer: The fourth candle, lit on the Fourth Sunday, represents peace and the angels' message of the coming birth of Christ.

Symbolism and Traditions:

Why is the Advent wreath an important symbol during this period?

Answer: The Advent wreath is important as it symbolizes the eternal nature of God (circular shape) and the light of Christ (candles) coming into the world.

Explain the purpose of an Advent calendar. How is it typically used during this season?

Answer: An Advent calendar is used to count down the days until Christmas. Each day, a new door or window is opened, often revealing a picture or treat.

What change in candle colour occurs on the Third Sunday of Advent, and what is the reason behind this change?

Answer: The candle colour changes to pink on the Third Sunday to represent joy and a pause in the penitential nature of Advent.

Reflective and Personal Response:

In your own words, why do you think the themes of hope, faith, joy, and peace are important during Advent?

Answer: These themes remind us to prepare our hearts for Christmas, encouraging a spirit of anticipation, trust in God, happiness, and harmony, which are essential aspects of the Christmas spirit.

How might observing Advent change someone's experience of the Christmas season?

Answer: Observing Advent can deepen the spiritual meaning of Christmas, moving beyond commercial aspects to a thoughtful preparation and celebration of Jesus' birth.

Can you think of ways to incorporate the themes of Advent into daily life during the holiday season?

Answer: One could incorporate these themes by doing acts of kindness (hope), attending religious services (faith), sharing time with loved ones (joy), and promoting peace through reconciliation and understanding.

Application in Today's Context:

How can the message of peace, emphasized on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, be relevant in today's world?

Answer: The message of peace is crucial in today's world filled with conflict and strife, reminding us to seek harmony and

understanding in our communities and global interactions.

In what ways can the joy and hope of Advent be shared with those who may not be familiar with these traditions?

Answer: The joy and hope of Advent can be shared through inclusive community events, charitable acts, and by simply sharing the stories and meanings behind the Advent season with others in a respectful and engaging way.

TEST

1-B, 2-C, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B, 6-B, 7-D, 8-B, 9-B, 10—C

ANSWERS: Mikuláš

Exercise 1. Choose the correct word

1. c) as
2. A) in
3. B) who
4. A) in
5. C) for
6. B) on
7. B) in

8. C) while

9. A) as

10. B) at

Exercise 2. Listen and fill in the words.

1. back
2. 17
3. 6
4. 6
5. Going
6. 5
7. Throughout
8. Within
9. 19
10. 6

Exercise 3. Correct word form

1. widely
2. Delivering
3. Celebration
4. Diverse
5. Kindness
6. Generosity

7. Different

8. Various

9. Giving

Exercise 4. True/false statements

1. Mikuláš is the name for Saint Nicholas in some countries. True

2. Saint Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, which is now part of modern-day Greece. False (It is part of modern-day Turkey.)

3. Mikuláš Day is traditionally celebrated on December 5th. False (It is celebrated on December 6th, but the festivities often start on the evening of December 5th.)

4. The celebration of Mikuláš in the Czech Republic dates back to the 19th century. False (It dates back to the 17th century.)

5. In Poland, children receive gifts in their polished boots if they have been good throughout the year. True

6. In Austria, Krampus accompanies Nikolo and brings gifts to well-behaved children. False (Krampus focuses on those who have been naughty.)

7. Saint Nicholas Day in Germany involves placing a boot outside the

door on the night of December 6th.

False (It involves placing a boot outside the door on the night of December 5th.)

8. Ded Moroz is the main winter holiday figure in Russia, bringing gifts on New Year's Eve. True

9. Mikuláš Day is widely celebrated in the United States. False

10. France is one of the countries that does not celebrate Mikuláš Day. True

Exercise 5. Vocabulary matching

Renowned - B. Respected and admired

Misbehaved - C. Behaved badly

Daunting - H. Frightening or intimidating

Honoured - E. Recognized with great respect

Feast - D. A large meal, typically one in celebration of something

Diverse - A. Different from each other

Universal - J. Common to all people or things

Values - I. Principles or standards of behaviour

Traditions - F. Customs or beliefs passed down through generations

Celebrations - G. Activities or events held to mark a special occasion

Exercise 6: Answers to the questions.

Mikuláš: The Real Person Behind the Legend

Mikuláš was a bishop who lived in the 4th century in Myra, a town in what is now Turkey.

Mikuláš Day is traditionally celebrated on December 6th.

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, children are visited by Mikuláš, an angel, and a devil on the evening of December 5th.

Children who have misbehaved may receive a piece of coal or a potato from the devil.

Poland

In Poland, children polish their boots and leave them out on the night of December 5th.

Good children might find small gifts, sweets, or fruits in their boots.

Austria

In Austria, Nikolo is often accompanied by Krampus during the celebrations.

Nikolo brings sweets, fruits, and small toys to the children.

Germany

German children place a boot or a shoe outside their door on the night before Saint Nicholas Day.

They typically find sweets, nuts, oranges, and small gifts in their boots on the morning of December 6th.

Russia

The main winter holiday figure in Russia is Ded Moroz, and he brings gifts on New Year's Eve.

The Russian Orthodox Church celebrates Saint Nicholas's feast day on December 19th.

United States

Mikuláš Day is not widely celebrated in the USA.

In the USA, the dominant figure is Santa Claus, who delivers gifts on the night of December 24th.

Countries Without Mikuláš Celebrations

Countries like the UK, France, and Japan do not celebrate Mikuláš Day.

These countries have their own winter holiday traditions, such as Christmas in the UK and France, and various New Year celebrations in Japan.

Thanksgiving - ANSWERS

Exercise 1. Word form

1. fourth
2. Has
3. Dates
4. Settlers
5. Successful
6. Sought
7. Freedom
8. Landing
9. Unfamiliar
10. Led
11. Starvation
12. Illness
13. Assistance
14. Shared
15. Celebration

Exercise 2. Missing words

1. has
2. 1863
3. War
4. Turkey
5. Dishes
6. Cranberry
7. Beyond
8. Gratitude
9. Need
10. Appreciation

Exercise 3. Correct word

1. b) began
2. A) in
3. C) signifies
4. B) has
5. B) on
6. A) in
7. C) expanded
8. C) to
9. A) teach
10. B) for

Exercise 4. Typical meals

Roasted Turkey: The centrepiece of the meal, often stuffed with herbs and bread (stuffing).

Stuffing: Bread cubes mixed with celery, onions, and herbs, cooked inside the turkey or separately.

Mashed Potatoes: Potatoes that are boiled, mashed, and mixed with butter and milk.

Gravy: A sauce made from the turkey drippings, flour, and broth.

Cranberry Sauce: A sweet and tart sauce made from cranberries.

Sweet Potatoes: Often served as a casserole with marshmallows or brown sugar.

Green Bean Casserole: A dish made with green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and fried onions.

Cornbread: A type of bread made from cornmeal, often baked or fried.

Pumpkin Pie: A sweet dessert pie with a spiced pumpkin-based custard filling.

Apple Pie: Another classic dessert made with apples and spices.

Exercise 5. True/false sentences

1. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Friday of November. (False—on the fourth Thursday of November)
2. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians. (True)
3. Thanksgiving was declared an official holiday by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. (True)
4. The traditional main dish served on Thanksgiving is chicken. (False—turkey)
5. Side dishes commonly served on Thanksgiving include stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. (True)
6. Pumpkin and apple pies are typical desserts enjoyed on Thanksgiving. (True)
7. Thanksgiving is only about enjoying a big meal with family and friends. (False—about gratitude and giving back, reflecting on what we are thankful for)
8. Many people volunteer and help others as a way to celebrate Thanksgiving. (True)
9. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a small event that few people watch. (False—huge event, that many people watch)
10. Football is a sport that many Americans watch on Thanksgiving. (True)

11. The Pilgrims sailed to America on a ship named The Mayflower? (True)

Exercise 6. Vocabulary matching

Thanksgiving - B

Pilgrims - M

Mayflower - C

Plymouth Rock - H

Harvest - C

Wampanoag - G

Abraham Lincoln - J

Turkey - D

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade - O

NFL - N

Starvation - F

Cultivate - I

Feast - A

Parade - K

Gratitude - L

Exercise 8: Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 425°F (220°C).

In a large bowl, mix the sliced apples with sugar, flour, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, and lemon juice. Stir until apples are well coated.

Place one pie crust in the bottom of a 9-inch pie plate. Fill with the apple mixture.

Cover with the second pie crust, seal the edges, and cut slits in the top to allow steam to escape.

You may brush the top crust with a beaten egg and sprinkle with a little sugar for a golden finish.

Bake for 40-45 minutes or until the crust is golden brown and the filling is bubbling.

If the edges brown too fast, cover them with foil.

Remove from oven and let cool for at least 2 hours before serving.

St. Valentines - Answers:

Exercise 1: Choose the correct word, then listen and check.

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 7. a |
| 13. a | |
| 2. b | 8. a |
| 14. a | |
| 3. b | 9. c |
| 15. a | |
| 4. a | 10. c |
| 16. c | |
| 5. c | 11. b |
| 17. b | |
| 6. b | 12. a |
| 18. c | |

Exercise 2: True or False Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F) :

1. False. St. Valentine was a priest who lived in the third century AD.
2. True.
3. True.

4. False. St. Valentine was beaten and then beheaded, not crucified.

5. False. The romantic story of St. Valentine is likely entirely fabricated.

6. False. There were multiple St. Valentines mentioned in religious texts during the Middle Ages.

7. True.

8. False. Lupercalia was initially a sensual and bloody festival.

9. True.

10. False. The skull adorned with flowers is displayed in the Roman basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin,

Exercise 3: Multiple Choice

1. According to the text, why did Emperor Claudius II ban weddings and engagements in Rome? Answer: a) To encourage men to join the army.

2. Which holiday did the Romans celebrate in mid-February, mentioned in the text? Answer: c) Lupercalia

3. What did the Romans anoint their foreheads with during the Lupercalia ritual? Answer: b) Blood

4. Why did Geoffrey Chaucer mention St. Valentine's Day in his poem "The Parliament of Fowls"? Answer: c) To connect it with the mating of birds.

5. Where can you find a tiny piece of St. Valentine's bone? Answer: c) In Prague

Exercise 4: Vocabulary Matching Match the following words from the text to their meanings:

Legends - Stories passed down through generations, often with exaggerated or mythical elements.

Complicated - Involving many details or intricacies, not simple.

Martyrs - People who endure suffering or death for their beliefs, often religious.

Clashed - Engaged in a conflict or disagreement.

Decree - An official order or proclamation.

Ban - To officially forbid or prohibit something.

Fabricated - Created or made up, often false.

Patron - Someone who supports or is associated with a particular cause, person, or entity.

Exercise 5: Fill in the Blanks Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the text:

St. Valentine's life is surrounded by many legends.

The Romans celebrated a holiday called Lupercalia in mid-February.

During the Lupercalia, men selected names of women from a container with whom they would spend time during the festival.

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poetic work called "The Parliament of Fowls."

The Catholic Church holds several of St. Valentine's relics, including a skull and a heart.

Exercise 6: Discussion Questions Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups:

10 best places in Europe

LISTENING EXERCISES—ANSWERS

Exercise 1: choose the correct word

1. A) used

2. B) became

3. B) was

4. C) including

5. B) has

6. B) was

7. A) has

8. C) started

9. C) worked

10. A) is

Exercise 2: fill in the gaps

1. 1173

2. 1372

3. Seven

4. 1990

5. Statue

6. Sure

7. 15th

8. 61

9. Bravery

10. 1987

11. Berlin

12. 1788

13. 1791

14. Hope

15. 1989

16. Four

Exercise 3. Gap-Fill

1. The Louvre Gallery used to be a **castle** in the 12th century.

2. The Sagrada Familia started to be built in **1882** in Barcelona, Spain.

3. The Leaning Tower of **Pisa** is made of marble and has seven floors.

4. The Manneken Pis statue is only **61** cm tall.

5. The Brandenburg Gate was built between **1788** and 1791.

Exercise 4: True or False

1. True

2. False (It is expected to be completed in 2026)

3. True

4. False (It was added in 1987.)

5. False (It was built in a style resembling ancient Rome, called neoclassical.)

Exercise 5: Multiple Choice Questions

1. b. A castle

2. c. 18
3. a. 1372
4. b. It is a small statue of a boy peeing into a fountain.
5. a. Peace and freedom

4. The Manneken Pis statue sometimes represents events like holidays or important visits by wearing different clothes.
5. The Brandenburg Gate was built by Frederick William II in the neoclassical style.

Exercise 6. Landmark Fact

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| A. Louvre Gallery | 5. It is an art museum that was once a royal palace. |
| B. Sagrada Familia | 1. The architect Gaudí designed this church. |
| C. Leaning Tower | 3. It is famous for leaning and made of marble. |
| D. Manneken Pis | 4. It is a small statue of a boy and a symbol of Brussels. |
| E. Brandenburg Gate | 2. It has a statue of a goddess called Victoria riding a chariot. |

Exercise 8: Fill in the gaps

1. in
2. Of
3. Of
4. Of
5. For
6. Used
7. After
8. Weights
9. Tells
10. Made
11. A
12. The
13. A
14. The
15. A

7. Listening for Detail

1. Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo are two famous artworks found in the Louvre.
2. Gaudí used tree-shaped columns in the design of the Sagrada Familia.
3. The Leaning Tower of Pisa has seven bells.

Listening Exercise 9: Fill in the gaps with the correct word from the box, then listen and check.

1. building
2. Built
3. Columns
4. Roof
5. Take
6. Site

Listening Exercise 10: Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the word. Then listen and check,

1. known
2. Real
3. Different
4. Originally
5. Entrance
6. Famous
7. Northern
8. Southern
9. Surrounded

Exercise 11: Gap-Fill Exercise

1. The Eiffel Tower was built for a big fair in **1889** and was designed by **Gustave Eiffel**.
2. The Parthenon is a temple built for the goddess **Athena** around **2,500** years ago.
3. The Colosseum, also called the Flavian Amphitheater, is in Rome, Italy, and could hold around **50,000** people.
4. The Arc de Triomphe was built by **Napoleon Bonaparte** from 1806 to 1836.
5. Big Ben is part of the **Elizabeth** Tower, which was renamed in **2012** for Queen Elizabeth II.

Exercise 12. True or False Exercise

1. True
2. False (It was built as a temple for Athena.)
3. True
4. False (It is made of stone and is over 50 meters high.)
5. False (People cannot go inside Big Ben.)

Exercise 13.. Multiple Choice Questions

1. b. 324 meters
2. c. Athena
3. c. Many

4. b. November 11th

5. c. 2.7 meters

Exercise 14. Landmark Fact

A. Eiffel Tower 1. Built for the 1889 World's Fair in Paris.

B. Parthenon 2. Temple dedicated to the goddess Athena.

C. Colosseum 3. Held gladiator fights and battles.

D. Arc de Triomphe 4. A monument remembering soldiers who fought in wars.

E. Big Ben 5. Famous clock bell at the Palace of Westminster.

Exercise 15. Listening for Detail

1. How long did it take to build the Eiffel Tower? 2 years

2. What shape is the roof of the Parthenon called? Pediment

3. What kind of shows took place in the Colosseum? Gladiator fights and battles with animals

4. What can you find underneath the Arc de Triomphe? A museum

5. Who is Big Ben named after? Sir Benjamin Hall

ANSWERS: THE IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITIES

Exercise 1. Listen to the text and fill in the places to the universities.

Harvard - Cambridge, Massachusetts

Yale - New Haven, Connecticut,

Princeton - Princeton, New Jersey

Columbia - New York City

U Penn - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Brown - Providence, Rhode Island

Dartmouth College - Hanover, New Hampshire

Cornell – Ithaca, New York

Exercise 2. Choose the correct word.

1. c) as

2. b) a

3. b) for

4. a) among

5. c) to

6. a) for

7. c) also

Exercise 3. Fill in the words in the correct form

1. Achieve – achievement
2. Diversity – diverse
3. Size – sizable
4. Compete – competitive
5. Numeral – numerous
6. Renown – renowned
7. Note - notable

Exercise 4. Listen and fill in the gaps.

1. 1764
2. \$60,000
3. Secretary of State
4. Journalist
5. 1769
6. \$59,000
7. Secretary of the Treasury
8. Nobel laureate Dr.

Exercise 5. Fill in the words from the bracket in correct forms, then listen and check.

1. Establish – established
2. Locate – located
3. Provide – provides
4. Include – including
5. Vary – varied
6. Coin – coined
7. To be – was
8. Refer – referred
9. Lead - led

Exercise 6. True / false sentences

1. true
2. false
3. true
4. true
5. false
6. false
7. true
8. false
9. false
10. false

Questions: ANSWERS:

1. The Ivy League is a group of eight prestigious private universities in the United States known for their academic excellence, rich histories, and competitive admissions. What distinguishes them is their reputation for high-quality education, rigorous academic programs, and influential alumni networks.
2. There are eight Ivy League universities: Harvard University, Yale University, Princeton University, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), Brown University, Dartmouth College, and Cornell University.

3. Harvard University is the oldest Ivy League university, founded in 1636. It is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

4. Yale University, located in New Haven, Connecticut, is known for its strong programs in the humanities and social sciences.

5. The renowned Wharton School of Business is part of the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), which is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

6. Brown University is known for its "open curriculum," which allows students to have more flexibility in designing their course of study and choosing their classes.

7. Dartmouth College is located in Hanover, New Hampshire, and it is known for its strong liberal arts programs.

8. Columbia University is situated in New York City, which provides students with access to a vibrant urban environment, diverse cultural opportunities, and internships.

9. Two Ivy League universities are located in the state of New York: Columbia University in New York City and Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

10. The Ivy League universities are known for their highly competitive admissions processes, with low acceptance rates. They are also renowned for their academic prestige, influential alumni networks, and contributions to research and scholarship.

11. The term "Ivy League" originated when sportswriter Caswell Adams referred to Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania as the "old ivy-covered universities" in 1937, during a football game coverage. This led to them being collectively referred to as the Ivy League.