

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

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THE PRAGUE POST

The Prague Post, March 20, page A2

'Investigator says Masaryk was pushed'

Before reading:

Name some people who have influenced Czech history. What do you know about them?

Who was Jan Masaryk? What do you know about his life and role in Czech history? In groups find more information about him and prepare a presentation for your class.

Questions after reading:

1. Who was Jan Masaryk, according to the article?
2. What does the legend of the Černínský palác say?
3. What happened at the Černínský palác in March 1948?
4. Are the circumstances of Jan Masaryk's death clear?
5. What does Jiří Straus say about Jan Masaryk's death? What does Straus's study show?
6. What is the Office of Investigation of Communist Crimes (UDV)? What is its goal?
7. What did Jan Masaryk do in London?
8. What did Jan Masaryk do after World War II?
9. What happened in Czechoslovakia in 1948?
10. Why did Jan Masaryk stay in government after 1948?
11. Did Jan Masaryk agree with the communist takeover?
12. What did the communist state police say about Masaryk's death?
13. When was the case reopened?
14. Does Jan Srb believe that anyone will ever face prosecution?
15. Why does UDV feel a need to close the case?

Vocabulary:

to curse – *proklít*
forensic – *soudní*
autopsy – *pitva*
to appease – *utišit, uklidnit*
to curb – *brzdít, držet v mezích*
to confer – *udělit*
to sour – *zatrpknout, bít zklamán*
assassination – *vražda (úkladná)*
to topple – *zhrostit se*

The Prague Post, March 20, page B5

'Rok of ages'

Before reading:

What was the last film you saw? What was the last film you liked? Tell your classmates about it.

How do you decide which film you want to see at the cinema? What influences you when making a decision: advertising, magazines, your friends' recommendations, actors, critics, adaptations from a book? What else?

Are you planning to go to see the film 'Year of the Devil' (Rok ďábla)? Have you heard about it? What is it about? How did you learn about it? What do you think about this film?

What do you know about the Czech-Moravian group Čechomor? What do you know about Jaz Coleman? Share your knowledge (or even a piece of music) with your classmates.

Questions after reading:

Use information from the whole article to answer the questions below:

1. What have you learned about Čechomor? What have you learned about its transformation?
2. What have you learned about Jaz Coleman?
3. What is 'Year of the Devil' about? Who stars in it?
4. Who is Petr Zelenka?
5. How did Karel Holas (from Čechomor) and Jaz Coleman meet?
6. What does Coleman say about the Czech Republic?
7. What plans does Coleman have?
8. What is Coleman's approach to every new project?

Activity:

Prepare a timeline showing Coleman's endeavors and achievements.

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'The prompter of the opera'

Before reading:

What kind of job would you like to have? What is important for you when making a decision about your job? Is it money, career, location, area of business, value of the work? Anything else?

Think about some jobs that are important but undervalued.

Do you like opera? What feelings do you have when listening to it? Have you ever seen an opera in a theatre? What was it like?

Questions after reading:

1. Who is Kateřina Sováková? What is her job?
2. What did she study? Why could she not finish her studies?
3. How did she become a prompter?
4. What skills does she need to be a prompter?
5. How many opera scores does she know?
6. What does her work place look like?
7. Why is her work important?
8. How does she help the singers?

Activity:

Write your CV in English. In pairs prepare a role-playing game. One of you will be an employer and one of you will be looking for a job. Do a mock interview.

Vocabulary:

prompter – *nápověda*
to heed – *dávat pozor, dbát*
rim – *(o)kraj*
to cram – *nacpat, namačkat*
stellar – *hvězdný, vynikající*
treacherous – *zrádný, nebezpečný*
score – *partitura, notový zápis*
to croon – *tíše zpívat*
to do sb in = to kill sb
to loose up – *uvolnit*
to bar – *zakázat*
treason – *vlastizrada*
surveillance – *dozor, dohled*

WORKSHOP

Prague Post Endowment Fund would like to invite you to the workshop "How to Effectively Teach Controversial Issues".

- **When?** Saturday, May 4th, 2002
- **What time?** from 12 to 3.45 p.m.
- **Where?** ITC building, Kaprova 14, Praha 1

The workshop will be held in English. It is free of charge. Teachers traveling to the workshop from outside Prague can have their travel costs reimbursed.

To register, please contact the Prague Post Endowment Fund, Štěpánská 20, Praha 1
Tel: 02/9633 4465, Fax: 02/9633 4463
E-mail: foundation2@praguepost.cz

LESSON PLAN: Optimists and pessimists

Think about definitions of optimism and pessimism.

Optimism:

1. expectations: the tendency to believe, expect, or hope that things will turn out well
2. confidence: the attitude of somebody who feels positive or confident
3. philosophy: doctrine that our world is best, first proposed by Leibnitz, that ours is the best of all possible worlds
4. philosophy: belief in the power of good, the belief that things are continually getting better and that good will ultimately triumph over evil

Pessimism:

1. expectations: a tendency to see only the negative or worst aspects of all things and to expect only bad or unpleasant things to happen
2. philosophy: doctrine about evil, a doctrine that all things become evil or that evil outweighs good in life

Source: Encarta World English Dictionary

Are you an optimist or a pessimist? Are you both? Can you be both?

What are you optimistic about? What are you pessimistic about?

Think about your opinions of the following topics:

- current state of the world
- the end of the world
- relationships among people
- love
- cultures
- diseases
- business
- education
- the nature of humanity
- good deeds
- acts of evil
- peace

Words of Wisdom

Do you agree or disagree with the following quotations? Discuss them in groups:

"The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible world; and the pessimist fears this is true." - Irving Ceasar

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia." - Charles M. Schulz

"The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men who can dream of things that never were." - John. F. Kennedy

"I am an optimist. It does not seem too much use being anything else." Winston Churchill

"How much easier it is to be critical than correct." - Benjamin Disraeli

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows." - Hellen Keller

"The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised." - George F. Will

"If you always look at the demons behind you, you will never see the angels ahead." - Ellen Jaffe Bitz

Attitudes

Can optimistic or pessimistic attitudes make a person's life easier or more difficult? Why? How?

How do you deal with unpleasant situations? What about stressful situations? Do you take things personally? Do you let things get to you? Do you have any coping techniques?

Do you think that a sense of humor can help you in life? Do you think you have a sense of humor?

What is humor?

Humor can be harmful or healing. Harmful humor ridicules, slanders, belittles and puts down people. Healing humor makes people work together better, frees people to be creative, helps people laugh at themselves, pulls people up and lightens burdens. **Think about examples of healing and harmful humor.**

Laughter

Why do we laugh?

This is one of the world's universal mysteries. There are three traditional theories that attempt to explain why we laugh and none of them are only about jokes. The theories are: superiority theory, incongruity theory and the relief theory. If you are interested in learning more about these theories, look at: www.library.thinkquest.org.

For hundreds of years, it has been said that "Laughter is the best medicine".

What do you understand by the saying written above? How is laughter the best medicine? Discuss this in groups.

A sense of humor can come in handy, whether it is for dealing with an illness, the pressures of daily living or stress. Humor can dramatically change the quality and outlook of one's life.

But laughter is not the same as humor. Laughter is simply the physiological response to humor. Laughing makes us feel good for a reason. The physiological effects on our body can be amazing:

- Laughter appears to reduce levels of certain stress hormones, and growth hormone. Stress hormones suppress the immune system, increase the number of platelets (which can cause obstructions in arteries), and raise blood pressure.

- Laughter boosts the Immune System. It also increases the concentration of salivary immunoglobulin A, which defends against the entry of infectious organisms through the respiratory tract. Laughter basically brings balance to all the compo-

nents of the immune system.

- Blood Pressure is lowered, and there is an increase in oxygenation of the blood which further assists healing.

- Laughter may lead to hiccapping and coughing, which can clear the respiratory tract.

- Laughter also gives your diaphragm and abdominal, respiratory and facial, leg and back muscles a workout.

There also has been some belief that laughter may help prevent some life-threatening diseases such as heart disease. Anger and fear, are two common emotions, which frequently contribute to the complications that cause heart attacks.

Vocabulary:

to hiccup – škytat
diaphragm – bránice
abdominal – břišní
muscle – sval

Did you know?

Laughter is an all over body workout. You can have fun, keep fit, and stay healthy in one easy step! Just Laugh!

Laughing 100 times is the equivalent to 10 minutes on the rowing machine or 15 minutes on an exercise bike!

*Sources: <http://library.thinkquest.org>
www.learnwell.org/laugh.htm*

LET'S share jokes!

Think about a joke you like or a funny story and share it with your classmates (in English!).

Below read what can happen when students change English words a bit in their science exam papers. **Correct their mistakes.**

Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the organ of the species.

There are three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.

The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.

The dodo is a bird that is almost decent by now. The Earth makes one resolution every 24 hours.

The cuckoo bird does not lay his own eggs.

English sparrows and starlings eat the farmers grain and soil his corpse.

A person should take a bath once in the summer, and not quite so often in the winter.

More jokes and stories can be found on: www.ahajokes.com



STORY TIME: The Smuggler (a tale from Middle East)

A clever smuggler led a donkey burdened with bundles of straw to the border between two lands. The inspector at the border eyed the donkey's bundles with suspicion.

"You must allow me to search your bundles!" the inspector said. "I think that you have hidden a valuable treasure that you wish to sell at the market. If so, you must pay me a border fee!"

"Search as you wish," said the man. "If you find something other than straw, I will pay whatever fee you ask."

The inspector pulled apart the straw bundles until there was straw in the air, straw on the ground, straw, straw, straw all around. Yet not a valuable thing in the straw was found.

"You are a clever smuggler!" said the inspector. "I am certain that you are hiding something. Yet so carefully have you covered it, I have not discovered it. Go!" The man crosses the border with his donkey. The suspicious inspector looked on with a scowl.

The next day the man came back to the



border with a donkey burdened with a straw. Once again the inspector pulled apart the bundles. There was straw in the air, straw on the ground, straw, straw, straw all around.

"Not one valuable thing have I found!" the exasperated inspector said. "Go!" The man and the donkey went across the border. "Bah!" cried the inspector once again, scowling.

The next day and the next day, for ten years, the man came to the border with a donkey burdened with straw. Each day the inspector carefully searched his bundles, but found nothing.

Finally, the inspector retired. Even as an old man, he could not stop thinking about the clever smuggler. One day as he walked through the marketplace, still trying to solve the mystery at the border, he muttered to himself, "I am certain that man was smuggling something. Perhaps I should have looked more carefully in the donkey's mouth. He could have hidden something between the hairs on the donkey's tail!"

As he mumbled to himself, he noticed a familiar face in the crowd. "You!" he exclaimed. "I know you! You were the man who came to the border every day with a donkey burdened with straw. Come and speak with me!"

When the man walked toward him, the old inspector said, "Admit it! You were smuggling something across the border, weren't you?"

The man nodded and grinned.

"Aha!" said the old inspector. "Just as I suspected. You were sneaking something to market! Tell me what it was! What were you smuggling? Tell me, if you can."

"Donkeys," said the man.

(from 'Wisdom Tales from Around the World' by Heather Forest)

Vocabulary:

bundle – svazek, otep

straw – sláma

smuggler – pašerák

scowl – v.mračit se, n.chmurn v raz

to mutter – mumlat

to nod – přik vnout hlavou

to grin – smát se (na celé kolo), křenit se

to sneak – pašovat, pronášet

Czenglish? NO!

What homonyms, homophones and homographs are?

Homonym – a word spelt and pronounced like another word but with a different meaning

Homophone – a word pronounced like another word but with a different meaning or spelling

Homograph – a word spelt like another word but with a different meaning or pronunciation

Think about several examples of homonyms, homophones and homographs.

Here are some homophones – read them aloud and if you do not know their meaning, find it out in a dictionary.

ad,add	its, it's, its'
aloud,allowed	knight,night
ate,eight	marry,Mary,merry
bare,bear	mete,meat,meet
by,buy,bye	peace,piece
sea,see	pistol,pistil
cellar,seller	rain,reign,rein
dear,deer	read,reed
die,dye	right,rite,wright,write
dissent,descent	ring, wring
flea,flee	sail, sale
flower,flour	son,sun
for,fore,four	tale,tail
hair,hare	there, their, they're
hear,here	waive,wave
in,inn	weak,week

Exercise: Fill the right words into the following sentences:

1. A ___ is an animal.

- a. bare
- b. bear

2. When it ___, it pours.

- a. rains
- b. reigns
- c. reins

3. It is dishonest to ___.

- a. steal
- b. steel

4. ___ is a type of tree.

- a. beach
- b. beech

5. What a ___ of good milk!

- a. waist
- b. waste

6. My ___ is naturally curly.

- a. hair
- b. hare

7. The window ___ was cracked.

- a. pain
- b. pane

8. A ___ child is called a son.

- a. mail
- b. male

9. A carrot is a ___ vegetable.

- a. root
- b. route

10. To ___ means to plant seeds.

- a. sew
- b. so
- c. sow

11. Iron is used to produce ___.

- a. steal

b. steel

12. I am very honored to ___ you.

- a. meat
- b. meet

13. My mother went to the bank to get a ___.

- a. loan
- b. lone

14. His voice is ___ because of his bad cold.

- a. horse
- b. hoarse

15. The building had a long ___.

- a. haul
- b. hall

16. I went ___ hunting in October.

- a. dear
- b. deer

17. You ___ tired today.

- a. seam
- b. seem

18. We ___ in his new car yesterday.

- a. rode
- b. road

19. I hope that someday there will be world ___.

- a. piece
- b. peace

20. What are you going to ___ to the party?

- a. wear
- b. where

You can find more homophones on: <http://www.peak.org/~jeremy/diction-ary/homophones.html>

More tests can be found on: <http://iteslj.org/quizzes/>

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

A spelling poem

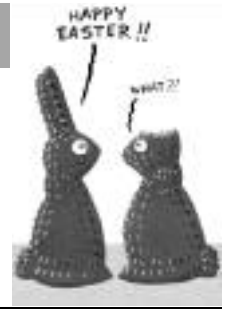
Spelling could be a real problem for some English learners. **Re-write the following poem into correct English.** (Reading it aloud first will help you.)

Eye Halve a Spelling Chequer

Eye halve a spelling chequer

It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid

It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rarely ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect in it's weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.



Social Democracy

Social Democracy. The name suggests socialism being voted in democratically, with central state planning and a powerful central government. In fact, it is generally considered a third option between capitalism and communism mixing social programs with individual liberties and a market economy.

If you remember from the previous lessons, communists, following Marx's ideology, feel that human nature is created by the system of value of production. They believe that greed and the **exploitation** of humanity are only social constructs and would be changed if the nature of the society changed.

Social democrats disagree with communists, believing that human nature is created by social structures, not from the system of value of production. Humans may be good deep down, according to social democrats, but they are also self-interested, **egotistical** and **myopic**. They believe that you cannot fit humanity into a theory, as Marx attempted, but instead must create a political system that accepts humanity as it is. That is, according to it's true nature.

This system of state controlled democracy is borne out of a view of humanity that suggests that people want to do good things, but are easily corrupted by power and control. The state is there to insure that this power does not go unchecked and that those without power do not suffer needlessly. Social Democrats believe that there is nothing inherent in a Market economy to prevent powerful individuals from using whatever advantage they can to succeed.

If capitalists had their way, there would be no state, only a common market to trade on. The primary argument of social democrats against capitalism is their problem with the individualist **ontology** that dominates capitalist thought. They believe that capitalists cannot ignore the existence of social structures. Structures are social relationships wherein the power of people is **constrained** or defined by the nature of the relationship. Simply put, structure reflects where you are in a social arrangement. Are you a man, a woman, a visible minority, handicapped, a child? Where do you fit into the social structure? Society can be seen as made up of a series of structured relationships, which **empower** individuals as well as **constrain** them. Structures tend to be produced because people think them to be natural or the way the world works. For example, people thought slavery was

totally natural until someone challenged that structure. It takes individuals to reform these structures and force change.

Communists often ignore the individual to focus on the structure whereas capitalists focus on the individual and ignore the structure. Social democracy tries to focus on both.

Social democratic policy focuses upon guaranteed health care, job training, unemployment compensation and most importantly education, paid for by the people through taxation and then distributed by the state. The ideology behind this is to argue not for equality of outcomes, but for equality of opportunity. In a way, attempting to ensure that the social structure does not create a situation where people are placed at a disadvantage, simply because of their placement within the structure.

The principles of freedom are also very important in democracy. Freedom means freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and the right to privacy. People should be able to live as they choose provided they do not **violate** the freedoms of others. However, freedom is meaningless if you do not have the means to use it. Social Democrats feel that people should have a minimum of the basics of shelter, food health care and resources to act, thereby giving their freedom value.

The problem, capitalists note, is that you have to **violate** the freedom of the wealthy in order to tax in a manner, which provides for the economic freedom of the poor. Social democrats counter this argument by saying that the benefits of taxing the wealthy **significantly** benefit the collective greater good (the prosperity of all people in the society). As capitalists benefit from the healthy and prosperous society that the taxation creates, in a sense they are getting a return on an investment. The problem for the capitalist then lies in the fact that he or she was deprived of the choice of whether or not to invest.

The goal of social democracy is a society where individuals recognize that everyone is part of society and choose to cooperate and build a better system, solve problems together and overcome shared difficulties. Forced solidarity through taxation and government regulations is not real solidarity. Ideally, the wealthy would not have to be taxed in order to support social programs for the poor, but instead by **donation**, understanding the benefits they would receive from it. However, in

these times, human nature is not in a state where governments could be assured, that without their intervention, their citizens would have the equal opportunities they want for them. Until such assurances could be made, social democracies must rely upon taxation.

Glossary:

to exploit - vykořisťovat
egotistical - egoistick
myopic - krátkozrak
ontology - ontologie
to constrain - přinutit / nutit
to empower - zplnomocnit
to violate - porušit
significantly - v znamně
donation - darování

Activities:

1. How many countries can you think of that are Social Democracies? What are the qualities of these countries? Do they have a high literacy rate, high birth rate or unemployment rate? Look at the United Nations website. Each year they produce a list of the countries that have the highest quality of living in the world. How many of these are social democracies? Would you want to live in any of these countries?
2. Look at the Czech Government. What things does the government pay for? What things to people have to pay for? It is a social democracy? If so, why? Which political party represents the principles of social democracy?

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