

# NEWSLETTER

**SPRING (long awaited)**

Issue No. 60 – APRIL 2013

## EDITORIAL

We have three big events behind us, let alone the mid-term tests indicating that we are already halfway through the school year. Many of us watched TV with an avid interest to see what the new pope is like. Our expectations are high, and the essays of our students seem to confirm this. Many thanks to our contributors for a lot of insights!

Meanwhile, we celebrated St Patrick's Day. Małgosia Basak's article is an attempt at explaining the popularity of Ireland across the world pointing out to some amazing features of the Irish way of life. This time St Patrick's Day fell on Sunday, and all we could do was to come to school on the following Monday wearing something green.

Actually green is what we have been looking for since the beginning of this long winter. I asked many people and no one recalls dashing through the snow at Easter. Easter brings hope, joy and faith. And it is the faith of our students that keeps us going. Sometimes, this faith comes with a smile, as you will discover reading our teachers' memories. We have countless stories like this indicating a high level of creativity among our students. I, for one, recall criticising my young learners saying: "This essay on your god is the same as your brother's – word for word!" "But", said one of them, "it is the same dog." You will find more funny stories below. Enjoy your reading.

On behalf of all staff members,

*Aneta Jawinewska*

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A teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I am drawing God." The teacher said, "But no one know what God looks like". Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute." (**Sir KEN ROBINSON** – you can see the whole lecture on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msE-ktwSuR4>)

## ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS 1

Certain words always come in combination with certain other words. If you do not pick the right ones, this can cause some funny effect, as you will read below. A good dictionary should show you what word is used with another word. Take, for example, the Polish word "ZWRACAĆ".

zwracać książkę – to return a book

zwracać dług – to pay back a loan

zwracać koszty podróży – to reimburse travelling costs

zwracać (wymiotować) – to vomit

zwracać się do kogoś po imieniu – to address somebody by his/her first name

zwracać się do kogoś o pomoc – to turn to somebody for help

zwracać uwagę na coś – to draw attention to something

zwracać się z apelem – to make an appeal

When you learn English, do not learn simple words – learn them with other words with which they are combined.

This is the best way to avoid a breakdown in communication.



**EWA.** We were having a class devoted to typical mistakes students make. Naturally, one persistent one concerns DOUBLE NEGATION. It exists in Polish, but not in English. I remember writing on the whiteboard the following sentence: *I didn't have no fun last weekend.* I then turned to the class and asked my students. "What should I do to correct that?" One of my students replied immediately. "Maybe you should find a boyfriend."



**LINGUATON – YOUR AUTHORISED TEST CENTRE  
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 Linguaton in the memories of our teachers


**ADAS:** I was covering for Monika and it was a course for junior students. I was to hand them out the results of the test. Just before I entered the classroom, a little boy came up to me and said. "I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says that if I don't get a good

grade, somebody is going to get a spanking!"  
This was the funniest blackmail I had ever got!!!!

**ADAS:** A group of elementary students asked me to explain the basic principles of English pronunciation. I told them that it was a difficult subject and that they would discover them as we went on with the material. However, they insisted that I tell them at least one. "OK", I said "Here's one: when you see "R" at the end of a word, do not read it." One of the students looked at me and said: "So why the hell do we have to write it, then?"



**ANIA**

(intermediate level). We were doing a role play in the classroom about checking in/out books in the library (a librarian /reader situation). And then one of my students said this: "Good morning, I'd like to vomit two books." My jaw dropped, and I couldn't contain laughter.



**AGNIESZKA**

One of my students said in the classroom: "Agnieszka, I saw our TV debate." Actually, this debate had been recorded during our previous classes). Intrigued, I asked innocently: "And what do you think?"

He responded: "I look like Buddha"  
"So respectable?", I asked with a smile.  
"No", he said adding, "So fat."



**WITEK** Some ten years ago, I had a rather unexpected opportunity to test my educational mettle against the most fearsome and demanding group of students I would ever have the pleasure of teaching – a gang of too-smart-for-their-own-good, know-it-all 7 and 8-year-olds. And to think that at the time I was sure I had it in me to face such a crowd... Ehh, the arrogance of youth!

Mind you, the kids were amazing. Smart, eager to learn and very mature for their age. And one of the lot, named Witek (I kid you not), was a particularly smart cookie. He soon realised that mine was a soft head completely unprepared to face the mischievous intelligence of a

first-grader constantly bent on proving his undeniable superiority over an old fart like myself. And so, he did what kids do best – turned my life into a living hell of tricky questions and smarty-pants remarks. Trust me when I tell you, it was a really, really fun year...

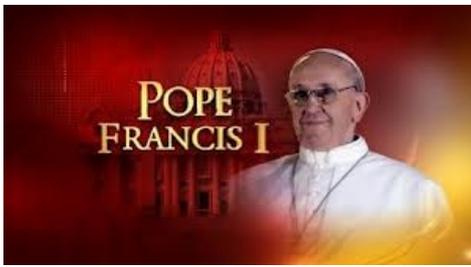
Anyway, on with the story. One of the first lessons I had with the little monsters was themed 'Animals'. And, as you'd expect, it was filled with gleeful musings about all the cats, dogs, and antelopes a typical first-grade course book has to offer. So, on we went with the names: the tiger, the hippo, the lion.... and the cheetah. Now, when it comes to cheetahs, there's one thing anyone with half an ear for music will immediately admit. It's a very pretty name. Myself, I am a fan of pretty words, some might even say I'm somewhat obsessed with them. I can't help it, I really have a soft spot right there. I love all the pneumonias, triskaidekaphobias, nauseas, and diarrhoeas (don't even get me started on that last one, honestly, has there ever been a more beautiful word? I swear, the fact that it means what it means is the cruellest twist of semantic fate I've ever encountered). So, I like pretty words. And I may have on that particular occasion gotten slightly carried away, as in I repeated 'cheetah' a few times, maybe a few dozen times. And I may have had that creepy semi-ecstatic smile contorting my face when I did. You know, the 'are you on drugs or just stupid' smile. Surely enough, the kids immediately picked up on that and proceeded, for the next 30 minutes, to roll on the floor, run around and do some truly unspeakable stuff while (very) loudly and smugly yelling 'CHEETAH!!' at me, each other, the world itself. A classic case of "crowd control failure".

Obviously, I could not stand for that, so I unleashed my entire assortment of uni-trained professional skills to get the class back to their books. Or at least their chairs. In the end, my efforts were rewarded – the kids got bored and I could continue with my ever-so-important lesson. So, back to the animals it was (a subject is a subject after all). An exercise soon followed and, as I observed with growing professional contentment, the children diligently got down to writing in their big calligraphy notebooks: CAT... DONKEY ... HIPPO ...LION...

Until Witek (not me, the other Witek) decided to step in, his hand waving in the air like a pirate flag approaching a defenceless cargo ship with the inescapable promise of merciless slaughter. My heart sank as I saw the kick-in-the-nut prank coming. But what could I do?

'Yes, Witek. What is it?,' I pleaded, hoping for a shred of decency left in his pubescent mind to get the better of him and twist the coming question to something even vaguely related to the topic at hand. Which in hindsight, it kind of was.

'Przepraszam bardzo,' said he, naturally ignoring my pitiful 'English only!' rule. '*Przepraszam bardzo, ale jak to się CHEETAH?*' Kids... got to love them. In my humiliation, I almost pissed myself laughing.



On 13 March 2013 a new Roman Catholic Pope was elected. 76 year old Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, an Argentinean Jesuit was chosen. Here are some facts about his life heretofore. – compiled by Wojtek Banaszek

- He likes travelling by bus.
- He has lived for more than 50 years with one functioning lung. He had the other one removed as a young man because of infection.
- He is the son of an Italian railway worker and a housewife.
- He trained as a chemist.
- He is the first non-European pope in the modern era.
- He claims that adoption by homosexuals is a form of discrimination against children, but believes that condoms "can be permissible" to prevent infection.
- In 2001 he washed and kissed the feet of AIDS patients in a hospice.
- He speaks fluent Italian as well as Spanish and German.
- Until now he has been living in a small flat, eschewing the formal bishop's residence.
- He told Argentineans not to travel to Rome to celebrate if he was appointed but to give their money to the poor instead.
- He is believed to have been the runner-up in the previous papal conclave in 2005.
- He has co-written a book in Spanish entitled *Sobre el Cielo y la Tierra* (On Heaven and Earth).
- Though conservative on the doctrine of the Church, he has criticised priests who refuse to baptise babies born to single mothers.
- The intention of taking the name Francis was taken from his heart, as he said, as an inspiration immediately after the election. St. Francis of Assisi, the man of the poor, the man of peace, the man who gives us this spirit of peace, the poor man who wanted a poor church.
- He is critical of those who covered up the paedophile scandal that has done so much damage to the Church he now leads. "The idea that celibacy produces paedophiles can be forgotten," he says. "If a priest is a paedophile, he is so before he becomes a priest. But when this happens, you must never look away. You cannot be in a position of power and use it to destroy the life of another person."
- He also recognises that the Church must move with the times and be in constant transformation. "If, throughout history, the Church has changed so much, I don't see why we shouldn't adapt it to the culture of our time," he says.
- He sticks to the Catholic dogma on key issues, writing off gay marriages as "an anthropological reverse".
- He says that abortion is a scientific problem that is separate "from any religious concept".
- "Preventing the development of a being that already has the genetic code of a human being is not ethical," he says.
- He warns against a globalisation that does not respect cultures. "The kind of globalisation that makes things uniform is essentially imperialist," he says, adding that cultural diversity must be conserved. "At the end it becomes a way of enslaving people."
- He refuses to separate charity from religion – and even warns the Church against becoming a simple NGO.
- And the man who now leads 1.2 billion across the world has a clear idea of leadership. "A religious leader can be strong, and very firm, but without being aggressive," he says. "Whoever leads should be like those who serve. When he stops serving he becomes a mere manager."



## Konrad Florkowski

Although cardinal Angelo Scola from Milan was expected to be elected as a new Pope after Benedict XVI unprecedented resignation, [stepping down is a process – in this case it ended, right?] The Conclave on the second day of sitting, and in its fifth voting, chose a cardinal from Buenos Aires - Jorge Mario Bergoglio, to become Bishop of Rome. That surprised some Vatican

observers; however, many of them claims unofficially that the cardinal from Argentina was a runner-up in the previous election in 2005.

Cardinal Bergoglio, who took the name Francis, is the first Latin American and the first Jesuit who will exercise the Petrine ministry. So what will his pontificate look like? The new Pope takes the helm at a difficult time for the Catholic Church, and he will have to face challenges which are gay marriages, paedophile scandals in the Church, the role of women, and inter-denominational tensions. Will he be able to handle those controversial topics? At this stage, it is too early to make any judgments although some symptoms indicate that his pontificate will be far different from his predecessor's.

Pope Francis is described to be conservative specially when it comes to gay marriages. The mass media spotlighted a dispute between the Pope and the President of Argentina about this controversial issue. However, his attitude to contraception is less conservative than that of Benedict XVI. On the other hand, taking name Francis is very symbolic gesture, showing his attachment to asceticism, poverty and being a champion of the poor, as well as return to the roots of Christianity.



## Agnieszka Żmuda

Times are changing and because of that the Roman Catholic Church should face new human problems/issues, for example, new solutions in medicine such as in-vitro fertilisation, breeding human parts of body (ears or skin). These are the things that can change the quality of our life. I think that in our times the Church is too much out of context. It's an institution that exists away from real human lives.

In my opinion, the Church must handle paedophile cases promptly and unambiguously. The Church should decry that kind of conduct and take action against such people, especially in countries like Poland where this problem is depreciated and swept under the carpet. Another thing that should be done is to give more space to nuns for their activity. Women shouldn't be treated like worse human beings. They should have an opportunity to discuss church problems on the same level as priests do. I think that the new pope – Francis – is heading in the right direction. He wants the Church to be for the poor and the needy. He is aware that Europe is going through a crisis of faith, People are departing from the Church because it doesn't meet to their expectations. Time will tell if Jorge deserves his new name.

## Michał Woźniak

On 13 March 2013 a new pope was elected. He took the name of Francis. On the one hand, the media say he is a follower of conservative ideas of the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand, he proclaims that the Church must move with the times and be in constant transformation. Today's Church must be up to date. It must be adapted to the culture of our time. It should face its internal problems with paedophiles, a posh way of living of some priests, archaic communication with the young generation, the case of abortion, homosexuality, genetic research, etc.

As we all know, one person is not able to improve the situation in the Church. The pope needs to manage the subordinates. He will have to behave like a leader with a strong determination and rich heritage behind him. He is obliged to delegate the duties among the bishops. He should act as a reasonable manager not to make profits but to serve all the followers. He should base his activity on the doctrine of the Church and on his own life experience. The matter that he is the first non-European pope elected in the modern era should allow him to look at the Catholic community in a wider perspective. The fact that he is Argentinean could allow him to concentrate on solving the problems of poverty, corruption, and brutality of public life around the globe.

In my opinion, he will get by because he is an open-minded and quiet person. He has got great power and responsibility. He leads 1.2 billion across the world and has a clear idea of leadership. I keep my fingers crossed for him.



## Karolina Fabianowicz

Pope Francis will probably not conduct so long awaited reforms in the Church, but the way he behaves and what he attaches importance to may even be the beginning of a new positive fashion in the Church and beyond it. Fashion is rather an improper word, probably a new style or new aesthetics would be better descriptions of this phenomenon.

This new style is about living according to Protestant rather than Catholic rules, moderation in the manifestation of ownership, restraint in showing the insignia of wealth, and rejection of a popular ideology "no logo no fun."

The new Pope gives us a good example. His behaviour is not a cheap PR gimmick in order to gain fame. He is very modest in his natural way, without any manifestation. He thinks that it is the right way, and he feels it deep in his heart.

I would like to be well understood. I think that making money is good, paying taxes is good, creating new job places is also good. Only manifestation of how much you have is bad. It's just in bad taste, in bad style. Restraint is in good taste. Compare Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. None of them showed how much they owned. None of them needs to emphasize their material status with suits and limousines. And what's more, having billions they could spend their money to help the poor. Among the wealthiest people in Poland there are some who are doing likewise. But they still belong to a vast minority. Most of them need to show what they have.

I don't mean that millionaires and billionaires should look like tramps. In my opinion, they should practice what Americans call "giving back". If luck or fate has given you more, it is OK, but you should consider giving some of it back in the form of jobs, money, and your own activity offered to your community.

In the coming days Pope Francis will present more than once his Franciscan - Protestant attitude, demonstrate that the true measure of a man is not the size of the account balance or the length of the boat, but what is inside his/her heart. And although he will also say things that many Catholics and non-Catholics cannot accept because of the conservatism of this message, this Puritanical tone is worth noticing and following.





## My Ireland – by Małgosia Basak



Like many of my friends and colleagues in Poland, I've spent a fair share of time abroad, taking benefits of being a citizen of the EU after May 2004 and exercising freedom of movement and residence within EU member states. This is the story of my stay in Ireland – the promised land.

It all started in the middle of December 2004, a few months after Poland's accession to the EU. Ireland seemed an attractive destination in terms of its heritage, historical and cultural connection with Britain, and a nice country to live. During my studies I travelled to the UK a couple of times for short periods in summer time, but it had always been my dream to visit Ireland and New Zealand. In my case, the economical aspect outweighed as Ireland was far more reachable a destination for a fledgling graduate.

Initially, we were searching for opportunities to undertake employment in Ireland through Polish recruitment agencies, but they hardly had any vacancies at that time, so we decided to approach Irish employment agencies, which advertised jobs in Ireland. To my surprise, we had received a phone call from one of them almost immediately after submission of our applications and were offered employment. At the beginning, we had a short phone interview with a lady from the recruitment agency who outlined the details of the position, main responsibilities, terms and conditions of employment etc. The day after we signed an employment contract for 6 months, booked flights, packed our stuff and a week later we landed on the green island.

The previous decade saw a rapid emigration flow to EU member states, in particular to the United Kingdom and Ireland. At the time, a large number of youth, who completed their education, ended up leaving the country to work abroad and improve their outlook for the future. I simply followed the trend and straight after graduation went to Ireland with my friend.

Enniscorthy, my first destination, is a small town in the county of Wexford. At the time, there was hardly no Polish community in the town, at least as far as I knew. A few years later, Enniscorthy became a home for a growing number of Poles, like many other villages, towns and cities in Ireland, and majority of them were young people.

On the arrival day, and much to our consternation, we discovered that we would be sharing a house with our boss and his girlfriend. It was something unusual for Polish standards to live with the employer under the same roof. The couple picked us up from the bus station and helped us to settle down in a new place.

Our boss would regularly take us to and from work, and bring us to their parents' houses for dinner. During the first weekend spent in Ireland we went to watch horse racing and I won betting on a horse owned by our landlord's father. She came second, which meant that placing EUR 10 I won EUR 100 (1:10).

Anyhow, it was my first experience with gambling, but not the last. Whilst a horse racing seemed quite acceptable, dog racing was something I couldn't bear. Greyhound racing is a popular gambling industry in Ireland, where dogs are trained to race around the track. The dogs chase a bait, which means an artificial hare on a track, until the greyhounds cross the finished line. Despite popularity of this entertainment, this concerns a debate over the well-being of the dogs.

After a few months' stay in Ireland, I joined the local rowing club and discovered that I enjoy the sport. The club was small but friendly, linking the local community from children to adults, who gathered down by the river in summer evenings to learn the technique and train for regattas. Shortly after I became a full member of the club, assisting in organising regattas in the county of Wexford.

I will never forget long winter windy evenings, when we were sitting with our landlords at the kitchen table and discovering life over a cup of tea, listening as each of us talked about their experiences. The vision of Ireland I had prior to leaving Poland, i.e. extraordinary politeness of people, matched the reality I found living there.

It's actually amazing how much one can recall after a few years time. There are some funny stories connected with some kind of celebrations, which happened during my stay on the green Island, which I would like to recall now.



The first New Year's Eve in Ireland brought me and my friend to the pub where we sang carols and traditional Irish songs. This was a very enjoyable night with the locals which went on into the small hours. It came to me as something of a shock to see an Irish celebrating the New Year's Eve sitting comfortably in a sofa wearing his house slippers. He looked so relaxed with his legs crossed and watching a soccer match.

The other story happened during Easter time. Following the requests of the Polish community with a strong religious background, who wanted to maintain their Catholic tradition and have food blessed after the mass on Easter Sunday. A parish administrator welcomed this initiative with great enthusiasm. However, being unfamiliar with the Polish traditions, the priest ended up smoking the eggs using an incense instead of blessing.

Two years after my arrival in Ireland, I left my job and moved to Dublin, which was a completely new city for me, to start from scratch. I was a difficult decision to leave my friends, but this was only to improve my career prospects before I returned home for good.

Over the recent years the Polish community in Ireland has captured attention of the media, who attempted to adapt to the changing society, e.g. through publishing Polish language inserts to the Wednesday's edition of a popular tabloid *The Evening Herald*. The scale of the Polish events over the years reflects the presence of a large Polish population and their integration with the Irish society.

Without a doubt, I had a great time working and travelling around the country and, in truth, I never saw a difference between emigrating and travelling until it dawned on me that I had to make a decision: settle down there or get back to the place of my origin. Poland was like a long way away, but, on the other hand, I always thought I would be back in Poland in a few years' time and I would regret not giving it a try (the sooner the better). The Irish people never let me feel alone, but welcomed me as part of their community. The phone and Skype are all well and good, but not the same as the family close by.

Ireland might not be the first country that springs to mind when one considers going on holidays. Though it is unlikely to rival with the bustling sun-dried tourist destinations, it has its unique character provided by a combination of Celtic culture and traditions that spin many centuries. Once in Ireland, be prepared to be welcomed warmly by the people who are proud to share their heritage with others.

All in all, I have had fantastic experience in Ireland. I tried adventurous things like rowing, I attended dance classes, experienced horse and dog races, traditional folk music, arts festivals, attended professional courses provided by adult education centres and, in general, took advantage of what was on offer when I lived there.

However, I am happy to be back home. It will be interesting to see what the future brings to my friends who settled down for good and who will eventually decide to get back to their homeland in a few years' time. Will they be able to return? They need to be aware of the fact that a time will come when they will want to settle down, move out from the rented room in a shared house.

In my case, emigration was a lifestyle choice, but I still miss the extraordinary kindness and politeness of the people, their easy-going attitude to life, as I somehow feel associated with their culture. My stay in Ireland has definitely broadened my horizons and taught me how to live life to the full. Let's take a look at some of the most popular quotes about the Irish.