

ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

BIOLOGY/MEDICAL BIOLOGY

Language Department

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Comenius University

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B2–C1 level

- The ESP course is intended for students with at least:

B2 Level of English (upper intermediate) *

Number of students per group is limited to **16**

Students may choose from three time slots in a week

Students are also recommended to take an online standardized test to find out what their level of English is.

In English, the EF SET (<https://www.efset.org/>) is the best choice because it is free and the first standardized test to be fully aligned to the CEFR. You will need to set aside 50 minutes to complete the test and find out your CEFR level.

**as based on CEFR (see the link: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>)*



Topics

Winter Semester

- Vitamins (pellagra, beriberi)
 - Extinction of the Giants
 - DNA & Cloning
 - Choose a Living World
- *The topics may be subject to change.*

Summer Semester

- FLU
- Spanish FLU
- Vitamin D & Skin Colour
- Chocolate – Sweet and Healthy
- Charles Darwin
- The Galapagos

Winter Semester

The topics may be subject to change.

Vitamins (pellagra, beriberi)

- *water soluble & fat soluble vitamins*
- *deficiency and excess symptoms*
- *defining and non-defining sentences*

Extinction of the Giants

- *hypothesis vs. theory*
- *extinction, de-extinction*
- *irregular and foreign plural forms (e.g. nucleus – nuclei, analysis – analyses)*

DNA & Cloning

- *DNA structure, Rosalind Franklin*
- *Cloning Dolly – the sheep, SCNT (Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer)*
- *passive voice in academic writing*
- *Present Perfect Simple vs. Present Perfect Continuous*

Choose a Living World

- *teeth & digestive system in humans*
- *healthy eating*
- *Blue Zones of Longevity*

Summer Semester

The topics may be subject to change.

FLU

- *symptoms & treatment, pandemic vs. epidemic*
- *antigenic drift & antigenic shift*

Spanish FLU

- *interesting facts (history, symptoms,...)*
- *analogy with the current pandemic*

Chocolate – Sweet and Healthy

- *ailments and remedies, health benefits of chocolate*
- *cocoa solids vs. cocoa butter, chemical compounds found in chocolate*

Vitamin D & Skin Colour

- *sources, deficiency and excess symptoms, D₃ & D₂, a link to the development of lightly pigmented skin types*

Charles Darwin

- *Darwin's life, voyage to the Galapagos, Theory of Evolution*
- *hedging in academic writing*

The Galapagos

- *endemic species*
- *threats to the wildlife (invasive species, overtourism,...)*
- *articles with geographic names*

Requirements

Winter Semester

- Test
- Listening Journal (*from a TEDtalk*)
- Oral presentation (*maximum 7 minutes*)

Summer Semester

- **Individual discussions** regarding the topics covered during the semester (*taken within the last two weeks of the semester*)

May be subject to change according to a mutual agreement.

Attendance (two absences allowed)



A SNEAK PEEK AT SOME LECTURES

*Materiál obsahuje príklady z prezentácií použitých výlučne ako názorné ukážky vo výučbe bez akéhokoľvek priameho alebo nepriameho majetkového prospechu pre autorov.
The material contains examples from presentations used exclusively as illustrative examples in teaching without any direct or indirect financial benefit to the authors.*

PELLAGRA – A CURSE OF CORN



SYMPTOMS

“disease of the four D’s”

- Diarrhoea
- Dermatitis (a scaly rash on skin)
- Dementia
- Death (4 – 5 years)

glossitis (ulcerations within the mouth), nausea, vomiting, seizures, balance disorder

CAUSES

deficiency of **niacin**(-e) (PN)

DIET: “the three M’s”

- MEAT
- MOLASSES
- MEAL (cornmeal/MAIZE)

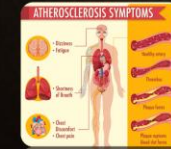


<https://pixabay.com>

How does chocolate help to prevent heart disease?

The polyphenols in chocolate:

- inhibit oxidation of LDL cholesterol (a waxy substance)
- inhibit the clotting of blood platelets, reducing further the risks of atherosclerosis
- thus reduce blood pressure



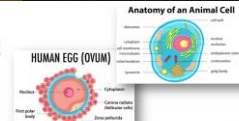
Chocolate vs Aspirin

- chocolate **thins** the blood and performs the same **anti-clotting** activity as aspirin
- How much chocolate would you have to eat to obtain these benefits?
- 15 g of dark chocolate

<https://pixabay.com>

FOREIGN PLURALS

- US → I
- IS → ES
- OO → EE
- *** → A
- IX → ICES
- *** → EN
- A → AE
- OUSE → ICE
- NO CHANGE



matrices	fungus
oxen	series
medium	thesis
mitochondria	lice
goose	vertebra

- the plural form of octopus should always be **octopuses** and never **octopl**.

- the word came into English from Greek, not Latin, and so the usual rules for Latin plurals don't apply.



<https://pixabay.com>

Blue zones of longevity

<https://www.bluezones.com/>



Barbagia region of Sardinia – Mountainous highlands of inner Sardinia with the world's highest concentration of male centenarians.

Ikaria, Greece – Aegean Island with one of the world's lowest rates of middle age mortality and the lowest rates of dementia.

Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica – World's lowest rates of middle age mortality, second highest concentration of male centenarians.

Seventh Day Adventists – Highest concentration is around Loma Linda, California. They live 10 years longer than their North American counterparts.

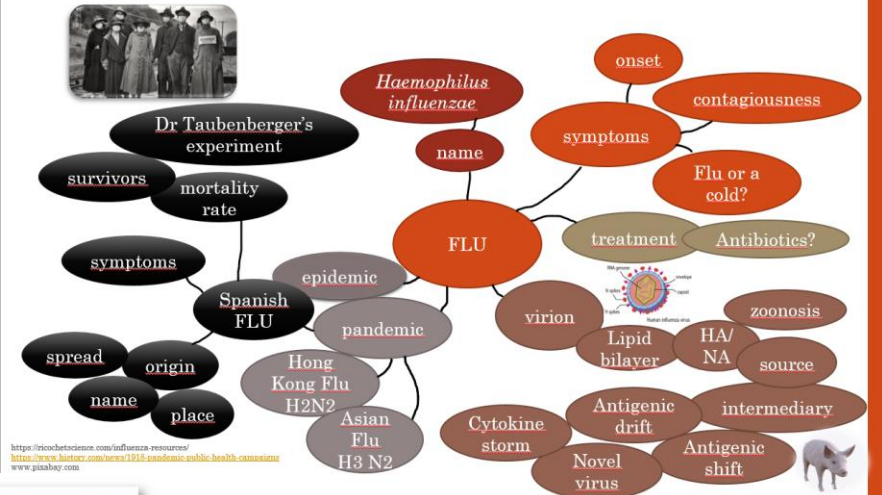
Okinawa, Japan – Females over 70 are the longest-lived population in the world.

Source of pictures:
<https://www.bluezones.com/2015/12/power-of-the-blue-zones>
<https://idemicapill.wine.com/mystel/post/w-hat-are-the-blue-zones>

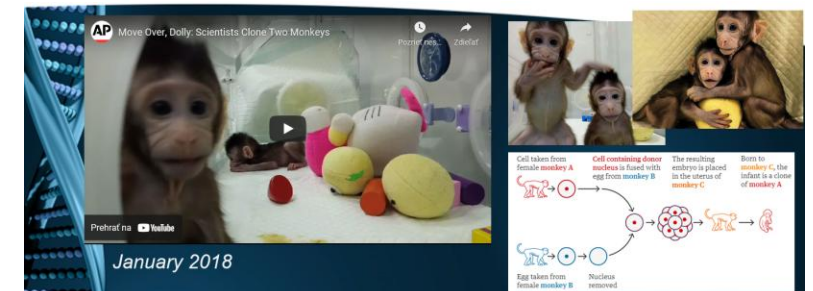
Galápagos Endemic Species



<https://pixabay.com>



<https://ricochetacion.com/influenza-resources/>
<https://www.history.com/news/2018-pandemic-public-health-consumers>
www.ginkbay.com



January 2018

monkey twins → the first primate clones made by the method that developed Dolly - **somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT)**

- just two healthy baby macaques born from more than 60 surrogate mothers
- the researchers were only able to reprogram cells from **fetal monkey tissue**, not adult cells.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/jan/24/zhong-zhong-and-hua-hua-first-primates-born-using-dolly-the-sheep-cloning-method>
Guardian graphic. Source: CellPress
[https://www.cell.com/fulltext/S0092-8674\(18\)30057-6](https://www.cell.com/fulltext/S0092-8674(18)30057-6)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poEXieYs58MY>
2.20

Students' feedback

Podľa mňa boli hodiny angličtiny veľmi zaujímavé, dozvedeli sme sa a naučili sme sa naozaj veľa nových a hlavne zaujímavých poznatkov, hodiny boli dynamické a vždy ubehli ani sme sa nenazdali ako :) Jeden z predmetov, na ktorý sme sa vždy tešili.

Hodiny angličtiny boli super a chodil som na ne rád, ... bolo by super mať viac hodín angličtiny do týždňa ako jednu.

Veľmi som bola spokojná, mali sme zo všetkého trošku - aj gramatiku, aj slovíčka aj diskusie. Na hodiny som sa tešila, boli veľmi oddychové, bez stresu z úloh alebo skúšky. Páčili sa mi diskusie a prezentácie ohľadom tém s prezentáciami aj videami.

Hodiny odbornej angličtiny môžu byť pre študentov prírodných vied určite prínosné, žiaci sa na hodinách stretávajú so slovnou zásobou k rôznym biologickým/prírodným témam a to veľmi pomáha, keď niekedy dôjde do styku s danými témami/slovami.

Pre mňa jeden z najlepších premetov, musela som vystúpiť zo svojej komfortnej zóny a komunikovať po anglicky a naučila som sa množstvo nových a skvelých informácií

Hodiny angličtiny mi veľmi vyhovovali. Témy boli zaujímavé a obohatené o rôzne aktivity, čím sa aj jednoduchšie zapamätali. Určite mi pomohli obohatiť si slovnú zásobu a vylepšiť si gramatiku ako takú.

Of course, I would recommend it to sophomores. I was always looking forward to ESP course.

Konečne angličtina, ktorá ma bavila ...

... skvelé poznatky, odbornosť, znalosť jazyka, aj biológie ...