

THE FORESTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMȚ
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J T A ★

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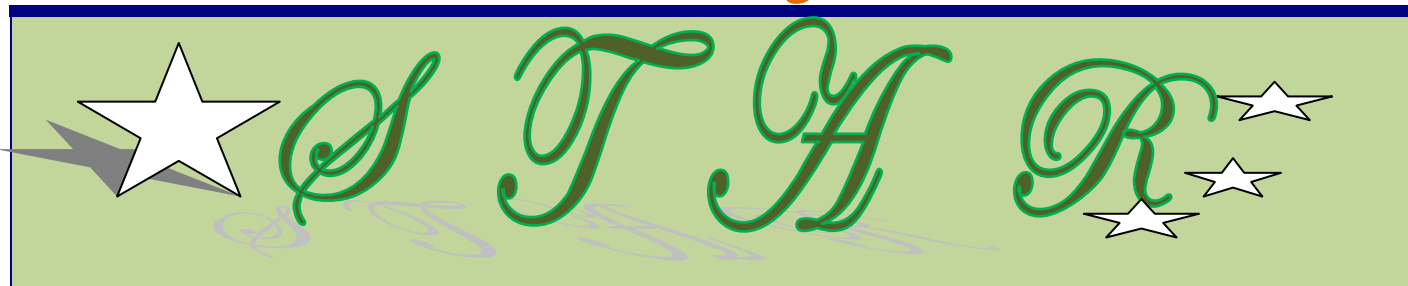
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The students in the 12th grade have decided to express their opinions in this new issue of our school magazine on various topics: music, holiday destinations, various other hobbies. And because their points of view were varied and interesting in the same time, we decided to select some of them and write them in the form of an interview. You will be able to read their responses in the section called: "Students' Corner".

Other topics of interest are focused on the Easter celebration alongside with various traditions and also the way people celebrate Easter time.

Because we want to help you improve your grammar skills, we added some exercises in which you can practise your English.

Irina Vremir

(Star's Editorial Team)



TIME FOR SPRING

Spring is the time of year that brings new promises, that gives us hope and the impulse to start new activities such as: learning something new (a foreign language or cooking), reading a motivational book, hanging out with some friends while going to the cinema or to a concert. Spring is also the time when we can start doing something to protect the environment by planting some trees or by simply recycling our waste papers or batteries. Spring is the time for celebration: Easter, Mother's Day, Arbour Day and many other festive days take place in spring.

Spring

I love the spring.
For every day
There's something new
That's come to stay.
Another bud
Another bird
Another blade
The sun has stirred.

Before spring was called spring, it was called Lent in Old English. Starting in the 14th century, that time of year was called “springing time”—a reference to plants “springing” from the ground. In the 15th century this got shortened to “spring-time”, and then further shortened in the 16th century to just “spring.”

The first spring flowers are typically dandelions, daffodils, lilacs, lilies, iris and tulips to name a few.

Holidays that occur in spring include Easter, Passover, April Fool's Day, Earth Day, Arbour Day, Mother's Day, and Holi (festival of colours in India).

The most important celebration of spring is Easter.



What is Easter?

In Christian countries Easter is celebrated as the religious holiday marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

From the History of Easter

Today Easter is one of the most beautiful religious holidays. People celebrate it according to their beliefs and their religious denominations. Christians commemorate Good Friday as the day when Jesus Christ died and Easter Sunday as the day when He was resurrected.

The celebration takes its name and many of its customs and symbols from a festival called Eostre. Eostre was the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring who got her name from the word “east”, where the sun rises. Every spring northern European peoples celebrated the festival of Eostre to greet the coming of new life in nature. Later Christians related the rising of the sun to the resurrection of Jesus and their own spiritual rebirth.

According to Bede, the English monastic historian, the English word Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon name for the month of April, which was known as "Eostremonath".



Easter Symbols

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus but it is also associated with popular symbols such as **eggs, candy, bunnies and food**. Every symbol of Easter has its own significance, if one symbolizes purity, the other represents new life.



Easter eggs & baby chicks-

Eggs and chicks symbolize new life. Eggs have been a symbol of spring since ancient times. The custom of giving and receiving eggs at Easter is very common as the egg is a symbol of new life and Easter is the time of the resurrection of life.

Easter bunny - The rabbit, or hare, was a symbol of abundant new life in ancient times, and reminds us of spring and new life.



The Lamb - The symbol of the lamb is strongly rooted in Christian belief. One of the most important symbols of Easter, the lamb signifies the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Easter Lilies- The white blossoms symbolize the purity of Jesus. Lilies, emerging from the earth in the spring, also symbolize new life and the resurrection of Christ.

Easter Colours

All the colours of Easter have their own unique significance.

RED: this colour is associated with the blood that Jesus Christ had shed for mankind. Thus the colour red is a symbol of love and sacrifice for humanity.

WHITE: this Easter colour signifies purity and grace.

GREEN: the colour green brings ray of hope. Green is the colour of grass.

PURPLE: Easter colour purple is indicative of royalty. It is said that the colour purple brings wealth.

YELLOW: it is the colour that is related to the brightness of sun. It's a colour that brings joy and happiness.

ORANGE: it is the colour that represents hope. It is associated with the dawn of day.

Facts About Easter

- * The first Easter baskets were made to look like bird's nests.
- * The custom of giving eggs at Easter time has been traced back to Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans, to whom the egg was a symbol of life.
- * The traditional act of painting eggs is called Pysanka (origins from the Ukranian word *pysaty*, "to write")
- * The first chocolate eggs were made in Europe in the early 1800s and still are one of the most popular treats associated with Easter.
- * The most famous decorated Easter eggs were those made by the well-known

goldsmith, Peter Carl Faberge. In 1883 the Russian Czar, Alexander, commissioned Faberge to make a special Easter gift for his wife, the Empress Marie. The first Faberge egg was an egg within an egg. In later years Nicholas II, Alexander's son, continued the custom. Fifty-seven eggs were made in all.

- * The original date of Easter was first fixed in 325AD.

Easter in Romania

Easter in Romania is celebrated according to the rituals of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Friday before the Easter is called the Great Friday or the Friday of sufferings, as it is the day when Jesus was crucified. On Saturday, people go to church for the midnight mass, taking with them a bowl of Pasca, eggs and steak, to be blessed by the clergy. On returning home from the mass, people first eat some of the blessed Pasca and only then they rest.



Easter traditions in the UK



There are lots of Easter traditions in the UK. Morris Dancing is one of the more unusual traditions which involves people dressing up in bonnet hats, clogs, bells and ribbons; holding sticks whilst they perform their folk dance ritual.

Egg hunts are often organised for children. Brightly painted eggs are hidden around a park for example, and children have to find them and fill up their basket. They are told that the “Easter Bunny” has visited and hidden the eggs for them to find. A little bit like the Tooth Fairy, or Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny is the symbol of this particular season.



And now let's play a little
with grammar

Match the words on the left with
their antonyms on the right.

NOUNS

1 giant	A female
2 beauty	B host
3 worker	C hero
4 leader	D employee
5 optimist	E clever man
6 friend	F ugliness
7 guest	G dwarf
8 coward	H idler
9 fool	I follower
10 employer	J enemy
11 male	K pessimist

A **synonym** is a word which means the same as
another word: **large** and **big** are **synonyms**.

An **antonym** is a word which means the
opposite of another word.

Match the adjectives (1-11) with their synonyms

1 angry	A rational
2 calm	B shy
3 vain	C obstinate
4 intelligent	D conceited
5 timid	E clever
6 selfish	F furious
7 impolite	G egotistical
8 irritable	H amiable
9 sensible	I grumpy

(A-K).

And now let us not forget what
we have learned

DIRECT SPEECH

PRESENT SIMPLE

"I LIKE MUSIC" SHE SAID

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

"HE IS PLAYING TENNIS" SHE SAID

PRESENT PERFECT

"HE HAS BOUGHT A NEW CAR" SHE SAID

PAST SIMPLE

"HE LEFT TWO DAYS AGO" SHE SAID

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

"HE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR US" SHE
SAID

REPORTED SPEECH

SIMPLE PAST

SHE SAID SHE LIKED MUSIC.

PAST CONTINUOUS

SHE SAID HE WAS PLAYING TENNIS

PAST PERFECT

SHE SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A
NEW CAR.

PAST PERFECT

SHE SAID HE HAD LEFT TWO
DAYS BEFORE.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

SHE SAID HE HAD BEEN WAITING
FOR US.



The Bunny

1. Fill the gaps with the verbs in past simple:

A man was blissfully driving along, when he (see) a bunny hopping across the middle of the road. He (swerve) to avoid hitting the bunny, but unfortunately the rabbit (jump) in front of his car and was hit. The basket of eggs (go) flying all over the place. The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, stopped the car and (get) out to see what (happen) to the bunny.

The driver (feel) guilty and (begin) to cry. A woman driving down the same road (see) the man crying and stopped the car. She (step) out of her car and (ask) the man what (be) wrong.

"I feel terrible", he (explain). "I accidentally (hit) the bunny and (kill) it. What should I do?"

The woman (tell) the man not to worry. She (know) exactly what to do. She (go) to her car trunk and took out a spray can. She (walk) over to the bunny and (spray) the entire can onto the little furry animal.

To the man's surprise, the bunny (jump) up, (wave) its paw at the two humans and (hop) on happily down the road. Ten meters away the bunny (stop), (turn) around, (wave) and (hop) on down the road another 10 meters, then (turn), (wave), (hop) another 10 meters and (wave) again!!

The man was astonished. He (say) to the woman, "What (be) that product that you (spray) on the bunny?"

The woman (turn) the can around and the man (can) read the label.

It (say): Hair Spray - Restores life to hair. Adds permanent wave...

Students' Corner

1. Who is your favourite artist?

My favourite artist is Andra Măruță.

She is 34 years old, she is a television star and a Romanian pop music singer. She started her career very early at the age of seven. Now she is married to a famous TV presenter with whom she has two children.

2. What do you prefer watching a movie or listening to music?

I prefer listening to music because it calms me down and because every song I listen to sends a message.

3. What place in Romania would you recommend a foreign tourist to visit?

I think that Braşov deserves priority regarding a vacation plan because it has a lot of sights, the city is like an open air museum. All the buildings in the centre have a fascinating story, mysteries and secrets that are just waiting to be

discovered by the eye and the soul of the tourists. From the monuments in Piața Sfatului to the buildings that house hotels or guesthouses, they all have a fabulous history.

Iustina Păduraru- XII C

1. Who is your favourite artist?

My favourite artist is Angelina Jolie. She has played in many movies and her acting received many awards including an Academy Award.

2. What do you prefer watching a movie or listening to music?

I would choose listening to music because it relaxes me a lot but it also invigorates me and gives me energy.

3. What place in Romania would you recommend a foreign tourist to visit?

I would recommend to a foreign tourist to visit the castles in Romania, especially Bran Castle. It is located in a very beautiful region and it has an impressive architecture. Its walls are filled with mediaeval stories and legends and they have many secrets to

share with the tourists. This place and all the castles in Romania are by far one of the most visited tourist attraction of our country.

Maria Chiariu - XII C

1. Why did you choose to study at our school?

I chose to study at this high school because I love nature and I want to protect it this is why I want to become a forestry engineer.

2. Do you have any piece of advice for the students in the 9th grade?

I would like to tell them to take care of animals, especially the endangered species but not only. For example I am a volunteer at a dog centre and I go there two times a week to take care of the dogs. I consider that volunteer work is very important.

3. What is your favourite place in Romania?

My favourite place in Romania is Ceahlău Mountain. I like this place because it is impressive.

Ana-Mădălina Nistor- XII C



A: Did you hear that a baby was fed on elephant's milk and gained twenty pounds in a week.
B: That's impossible. Whose baby?
A: An elephant's.



Q: What's the longest word in the English language?

A: Smiles. (Because there's a mile between the first and the last letter.)

Q: What are two things people never eat before breakfast?

A: Lunch and supper.



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