

# "School"



## Dear Reader!

Welcome to the January-February issue of *SCHOOL*.

While Nature sleeps deeply under the snow and everything around us has been motionless for several dark winter months, spring is already round the corner and we decided to add some colour to our routine by exploring your *Leisure Time*.

"In our leisure we reveal what kind of people we are". This saying, which belongs to Ovid, is certainly true as our leisure time creates numerous opportunities to widen our vision of the world. One of these opportunities is to pursue a HOBBY.

Everybody seems to know what a hobby is because it is an activity that is regularly undertaken by pleasure, typically during one's leisure time. The problem is that it takes some people ages to find something that they are passionate about. On pages of this issue you will read about hobbies of some of our schoolmates and may be more students will want to pursue a hobby or promote the one they already have. Dale Carnegie once said "Today is life – the only life you are sure of. Make the most of today. Get interested in something. Shake yourself awake. Develop a hobby. Let the winds of enthusiasm sweep through you. Live today with gusto." Let this saying be a motto for all of us.

So if you are a beginner in a hobby or an expert in some hobbies or you still prefer spending your free time relaxing on a sofa or sleeping, do not miss an opportunity - open your hearts to the *Hobby issue* of our magazine.

P.S.

Production of high quality materials is our priority, but we do realize that typos happen. So if you spot a typo, highlight it and photo it or take a screenshot and send us a message. We will genuinely appreciate your help.

Yours,  
Yekaterina Kondakova,  
Teacher of English,  
Editor-in-Chief of "School"

## In this issue:

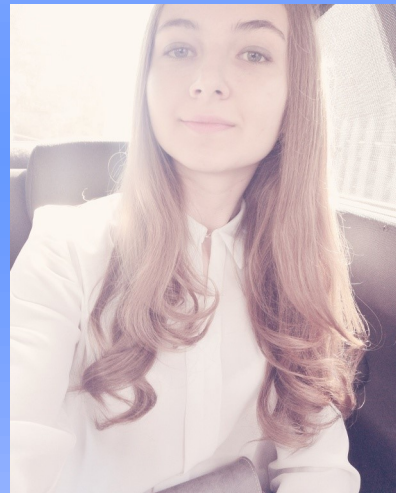
- Let's live with gusto
- What is hobby?
- Students write about their hobbies
- Essay
- A picture worth a thousand words
- Events
- Let's stretch our minds
- Mind maps in learning English

## The Editorial staff

**Editor in Chief** — Yekaterina Kondakova, an English Teacher



**Correspondents:** Yelizaveta Podelshchikova (Form 10) and Kamila Mustafina (Form 10)



## What is hobby?

Everybody seems to know what a hobby is because it is an activity that is regularly undertaken for pleasure.

By continually participating in a particular hobby, one can acquire substantial skill and knowledge in that area. The person who engages in an activity merely for fun is called an amateur, or hobbyist, as opposed to a professional who engages in an activity for pay. An amateur may be as skilled as a professional, but a professional typically receives monetary compensation, while an amateur does not.

The word hobby goes back to the term 'hobby horse'. Hobby-horses have been used in some traditional seasonal customs and processions in many countries around the world. The term 'hobbyhorse' was documented in 1557. The other name was a 'tourney horse'; it was made of a wooden or basketwork frame with a fake tail and head. In the 17th century, the term was used to show disapproval of the activity due to the childish origins of the term. By 1816 the derivative 'hobby', had been introduced into the vocabulary of English people. To engage in one's hobby was still considered a childish overindulgence that would bring no benefit.

Often, though, hobbies have led to significant developments. Amateur astronomers have made discoveries such as a celestial body or celestial event. In the field of computer programming, the invention of the Linux operating system began as a student's hobby. A lot of early scientific research successfully came from the hobby activities of those wealthy people who could afford them.

More often than not hobbies have started some important movements, for example, conservation movement. When a British conservationist was seen wearing field glasses at a London train station in the 1930s, he was asked if he was going to the horse races.

Activities which are dependent on the outdoors, are gardening, hill walking, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, climbing, caving, fishing, wildlife viewing and watersports and snowsport. Psychologists approve of such activities as they cause an adrenaline rush or just help people to escape from reality. For young people they can come as an effective medium in education and team building.

Some hobbies result in an end product. There are woodworking, photography, moviemaking, jewelry making, photoshopping, drawing, painting etc.



## My hobby is dolls



My hobby is collecting dolls in national costumes. I started my hobby five years ago when my parents gave me a Japanese doll as a birthday gift. Then they bought me a doll in Spanish costume. I liked the dolls and since then I've started collecting dolls. Now knowing my hobby my relatives and friends always give me national dolls as birthday or Christmas presents.



My collection is not big yet; I've got only 21 dolls. I have the dolls from Norway, India, France and other countries. I also have many dolls representing peoples of Russia. I like my hobby and my dolls.

My dolls are very beautiful and unusual. Their costumes are gorgeous. Everything from small details of a dress to beautiful bracelets and necklaces and other accessories is splendid.

Many of my dolls have magazines come with the reader with information about this or that doll.



My dolls help me learn more about the countries they are from, about the history of costumes. I can follow the changes that took place in the development of national costumes in different countries. Now I try to read more about the history of national costumes.

## My dad's hobby

Every day when people get home after school or work they have some free time. Everybody likes to spend their free time doing an activity which is interesting for them. These activities are called hobbies.

I'd like to tell you about my father's hobbies. His hobby is artistic metal forgery. My dad makes beautiful metal products such as canopy, a garden house, pattern rail fencing, etc. Heating metal with the help of tools he gives iron the desired form. This is a very difficult and harmful hobby. Apart from physical strength, he needs imagination and creativity, because a blacksmith's works give uniqueness to your home. The fact I admire most is that he combines his hobby and his job. My father has his own studio where he makes his crafts. He has had his studio for 8 years however he never feels bored with his work. If he receives a new order he is trying to invent a new sketch. His every work is different because he invests in them labor and soul.

I think my father is fortunate because he does what he likes, what he knows and what he cannot live without.



## My mom's hobby

My mom is crazy about making flowers from corrugated paper with her own hands. At first, she makes a flower's stem from plastic pipes, then makes petals and a bud. All this from corrugated paper. When the Bud becomes large, my mom goes on to the leaves. As a result, a gorgeous flower appears.

My mom's flowers are almost indistinguishable from the real ones. I think that a bright bouquet of corrugated paper is an excellent interior decoration



## My passion is classical music



I love classical music. Maybe, it's because of seven years attending a musical school; but I've found this music the closest to my soul.

Most people of my age would think I'm a bit mad to love Strauss, Mozart, Bach in place of psychedelic rock and angry, loud punk bands. My friend often says: 'It's much easier and fun to be with the crowd.' I would agree with her... But why must I be like somebody else and not somebody else be like me?

I find classical music relaxing. As many psychologists say: Bach helps you to cope with nervousness, while Vivaldi is excellent to make people feel calm and satisfied. Why do many people find it to be dull? Why dull? To talk about classical music as a whole there're many modern remakes of classics. For example, I like the way Vanessa Mae plays.

It's not true that I hate all modern music. I have a few pop or rock songs that I like; but I think most of this music can't be called great.



## My hobby is hockey



I have been playing hockey since I was four years old. My first coach was Vyacheslav Eduardovich.

It was really hard for me at first I skated from wall to wall on the hockey board. The first hockey competition I took part in was I was seven. At that time we won the game town of and my team got the medal. I go to hockey practice every day except Monday. Our training takes place in the gym or on sportsground. We have competitions every week. I have visited many cities with my hockey team. My parents are proud of me.



Sport helps you to taste a sweet feeling of victory and teaches you to lose with dignity.





## My hobby is painting

My hobby is painting. I've been taking painting classes for 3 years already. Painting appeals to me. I feel great when I paint. My Painting teacher is Marina Fyodorovna. She is very talented. She teaches us how to draw and paint. We use watercolor, oil, color, colored pencils and pastels. We paint nature, animals, still life and people. I like painting very much!



## Some people say that having a hobby is important for everyone

Nowadays, people have many options for spending their free time. There are those who prefer doing some kind of an activity for pleasure or relaxation in their free time. Others, however, tend to admit that hobby is not significant for people.

In my view, having a hobby is essential for many reasons. I would like to explore a few primary ones. Firstly, hobbies help people relax and reduce stress. Indeed, yoga, gardening or knitting help calm down and escape from everyday life problems. Secondly, having a hobby leads to acquiring skills, knowledge and experience. Thus, having a hobby enriches people's experience and expands their cultural and educational horizons.

However, there are those who believe that hobby is not crucial. My opponents insist that in modern competitive world employers would like to have staff members who are highly-qualified, conscientious and hardworking. Whether an employer plays a guitar or is good, for example, at drawing, is of minor importance to him. So, having a hobby is an activity no one values much.

Despite the fact that I respect opposite opinions, I cannot find the above given argument very convincing because most employers value employees who have hobbies because such people are more talented, motivated and can generate ideas, which helps them to contribute to success of the company they work for.

All in all opinions may be different, but from what have been discussed above I can draw a conclusion that people who have a hobby can benefit in many spheres.



## A picture worth a thousand words

Last winter I visited my granny to spend my winter holidays there. She lives in the village and the Nature is really wonderful there.

One day I went on a walk. The weather was gorgeous that day and I decided to wander through the countryside. There were so many amazing things to look at, so I took lots of photos and now I'd like to show you one of them.

In the foreground of the picture you can see a spruce, which is covered with snow. Slightly to the right you can notice two pines and they, in turn, are covered with snow too. The pines and the spruce are located on a hill. In the background you can see a forest. I suppose it is a pine forest. The sky is pale yellow. There are no clouds on the horizon. The picture shows a sunset.

I keep this photo in my album for many reasons. For a start, it brings me back to that day and I can relive that pleasant experience. Besides, this photo makes me blissful because I realize how wonderful our country is.

I decided to show this photo to you, because as far as I know you're crazy about collecting stamps, postcards and picturesque photos. I believe that my photo will become a part of your collection.



Winter is a great time. I've taken a lot of photos this winter and now I would like to show you one of them.

Well, this photo was taken while I was coming back home from school. At that moment I was admiring the beauty of the winter landscape.

In the picture you see that everything is white. It is obvious, that winter has fully captured the nature and completely took power in its snowy hands. The snow was falling during the night and now it is shimmering in the rays of the cold sun and blinding the eyes of people. Snow lies everywhere :on the roofs of buildings, roads and paths. The snow seems to mute the usual sounds that go hand in hand with the bustle of everyday life. As people are hurrying from place to place, their movements are causing a quiet crunching and squeaking as the snow is being tamped down beneath their feet.

On the right you can see trees standing proudly in snow-white outfits. The snow has gathered on their branches, their 'clothes' look like ivory jewels. Bushes have turned into lumps of sugar. The scene is really breathtaking, so can easily understand why I have taken the photo.

I keep this picture in my album because it is the best photo of that day. Besides, every time I look at it, I feel that every moment of life is priceless.

I decided to show this picture to you because I wanted to show you how beautiful winter is in my area. I think, you will enjoy the picture. It is worth a thousand words.



## A contest of staged fairy tales



performed worthily. I hope that similar



A contest of staged fairy tales was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November within the frameworks of foreign language week. 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade students took an active part in this competition.

The plays performed included: "Wizzard of OZ" (Form 5A), "The Rose and the Hen" (Form 5B), "Neighbours in Space" (Form 6A), "Glutton the Cat and mice" (Form 6B), "Wedding Party" (Form 8), "The Princess and the Pea" (Form 10A), "The turnip" (Form 1 B)

All students were looking forward to this event. They were preparing carefully: fancy costumes were to be made and roles were to be learnt by heart; one also had to learn how to stand on the stage.

Besides, special attention was paid to pronunciation and intonation. Everyone was sure – it is key things to a successful performance.

It is worth mentioning that parents played a big role in the preparation. They help their children in many ways, like preparing fancy costumes and providing them with every bit of support and encouragement.

I took part in this contest too. I'd like to emphasize that it was an exciting experience for me. Frankly speaking, I was worried because I had never participated in the similar competitions before. But in spite of my fear, my class and I contests will be held more often in the future.



## Let' s streeeech our minds

We offered our schoolmates an interesting picture and asked to think of a caption for it. Here are Top 10 Captions



- «Classmates» - S. Shangarayeva
- «Birds, birds, birds everywhere» - O. Kutyshkin
- «I'll be back» - 10 «a» (collectively)
- «Asta la Vista, baby» - O. Kutyshkin
- «The Bachelor in Paradise» - A. Chucklyckaeva
- «Safety in numbers» - O. Shindin
- «Be above all» - E. Sadovnikova
- «Teaching Staff Meeting» - E.D. Kondakova
- «The balloon will come back» - D. Shanin
- «Don't be afraid to show off» - S. Dushina



The winner is *Alina Chucklyckaeva* with her caption «*The Bachelor in Paradise*» !

## Mind maps

The modern world is a continuous flow of information. And very often it is difficult to cope with this, but there is a solution. This is a Mind Map.

Mind Maps have lots of advantages for learning English, and not only English, of course. To begin with, it is a convenient way of structuring information. When, for example, vocabulary is grouped, it is much easier to remember. Besides, there is no unnecessary information. That helps to remember and highlight everything you need. Apart from this, you can record all associations and thoughts.



At our English lessons we use mostly *Vocabulary Mind Maps* which help to remember the vocabulary and chunks better and *Grammar Mind Maps* – they are very efficient in understanding tricky English Grammar.

But as we have been told many times there is a 'back side' in every coin. What is the 'back side' of a mind map?

Firstly, of all, not all people are creative. But to create a Mind Map one requires creativity.

Secondly, you need to be able to 'roll up' and 'roll out' information which turns out to be rather challenging even for smart people. Last but not least, Mind Maps can be very time and efforts consuming.

But as the English proverb runs: "Practice makes perfect". So the more you try the better at mind mapping you are and less time it takes you to make it.

To sum up, I'd like to emphasize that Mental Maps are a very useful tool for learning Languages.

