

UNIVERZITA J. E. PURKYNĚ V ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM



# SOCIAL ISSUES HANDOUT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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evropský  
sociální  
fond v ČR



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MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
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INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# Social Issues Handout

## for English Language Learners

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for English Language Learners**

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# 1 STUDIES

## Lead in

**Education** is an essential component of human development. We are educated from childhood on. We learn to communicate with other people, to use and to do things, to **deal with** problems and issues and we choose subjects of education to reach our professional **goals**.

## Text

We go through various exams and tests in our lives and to be good at an exam needs preparation and often hard work. The **school leaving exam** (which means the same as Abitur or maturita and is also called the final exam) is often taken in the Czech Republic at the age of 19 and the number of successful candidates passing the exam has recently risen immensely. Passing a driving test (in American English it is a driver's test) is a non-academic achievement, but a very important one in the modern world. High school and university **graduates** end their studies by taking a **state** and/or final **exams** to reach their academic **degree**. You may take exams in IT or languages as the language certificates or state exams guarantee a certain level of your foreign language competence.

Do you remember your last exam? How did you feel? It is natural to feel nervous, some people can feel sick or have a bad headache, some students **sweat** or blush and most feel relieved when the exam is over. Feeling nervous is a natural reaction by a human to a stressful situation and feeling stressed makes a person eat too much or too little, sleep little or with difficulty but our stress also acts as a motivating factor for us to sit at our work and prepare properly.

The natural way to receive education starts in our homes: our parents give us love and show us how to behave, what to do and what not to do. Not always are the children happy to accept what they are told and react in natural **defiance**. Formally, our education can start at a **voluntary** level in play groups or in **nursery school** and later in **kindergarten**. All these belong to pre-school education and their role is to teach a child to become independent, to socialize with others, to understand fair play, to share things and ideas. Children also learn to do basic acts of self-service, learn to

use knife and fork and apply basic hygiene. In some institutions, extra language learning courses are offered and sports or drama clubs are organized.

At the age of 6, Czech children start school by **attending elementary school** (also called basic school). At the age of 16 they decide what they would like to do in their future profession and start their professional preparation. The choice is wide: **grammar schools** offer general education and prepare students for university studies, secondary schools specialize in individual branches such as nursing, pedagogy, music, industry, traffic and transport, management and business, catering, engineering, agriculture, tourism and art or drama.

If a student's choice is not to study, they go to an **apprenticeship** to be trained in manual skills to become builders, carpenters, shop girls, car mechanics, wiremen, plumbers etc..

The choice of schools is between private and state schools. Private schools demand fees while state school education is free of charge.

The **schooling system** is not the same in every country. The Brits start school at the age of 5 and finish **full-time compulsory education** at 16, often continuing to do their A level qualification. Britain still has its traditional independent and public schools. Historically, classes as well as schools were divided by pupils' sex into boys' and girls' schools. Many British pupils still wear uniforms and need to follow a school dress code.

Education in the United States is basically **provided** by the public sector, with administrative control and funding coming from three levels: federal, state, and local. Public education is universally **available**. School **curricula**, funding, teaching, employment, and other policies are implemented locally. The ages for compulsory education **vary** state from state. It begins at age five to eight and ends at fourteen to eighteen.

Compulsory education exists in the form of home education. In most public and private schools, education is divided into three levels: elementary school, middle school (sometimes called junior high school), and high school (sometimes referred to as secondary education). Post-secondary education, is known as "college" in the United States.

To become a high school, college or university student, it is necessary to pass an **entrance exam**. There are advantages to being a university student, but on the other



hand it has many disadvantages, too. Think of a student's dependence on his or her parents' money, little time during the exam period and the need to study hard if you want to be successful. Does it not ring a bell?

### **Vocabulary**

education	vzdělávání, vzdělání, výchova
to deal with	jednat s někým, zabývat se něčím
goal	cíl
school leaving exam	maturita
graduate	absolvent
state exam	státní zkouška
degree	titul (akademický)
to sweat	potit se
defiance	obrana
voluntary	dobrovolný
nursery school	jesle
kindergarten	mateřská školka
to attend	navštěvovat (instituci)
elementary school	základní škola
grammar school	gymnázium
apprenticeship	učení, učební obor
schooling system	školský systém
full-time	denní (stadium)
compulsory education	povinné vzdělání
to provide	poskytnout
available	dostupný
curricula	osnovy (školní)
to vary	lišit se

### **Study the vocabulary using a dictionary:**

sit for an exam, take an exam, pass an exam, fail an exam, prepare for an exam, cram for an exam;

to blush – to go red, to turn red, to be red in the face;

relieved – relaxed, at peace, at ease, carefree, often after a period of difficulties or fears;

share – to be able to divide and give to others as well as receive from others in mental issues, duties, likes and dislikes, help and things, property, money and devices;

Dress code is a set of internal rules for people in the institution to follow; with schools it often means no jeans, no make-up or extravagant clothes or jewellery.

funding – financing, giving financial support;

## Language note

*Note the difference between the verbs “to learn” and “to teach”.*

*to learn = to get new information and improve in skills; (učit se)*

*to teach = to give information to somebody, to offer knowledge, to present new material and information, to show how to do things, to explain things; (učit)*

*High school is a general expression used in British English to describe a attending either secondary or college level. In American English, it is applied to the secondary level of study, often connected with teenage study.*

## Follow-up: Ideas for discussion

What individual activities do children learn at kindergartens? (zavázat tkaničky, jíst přiborem...)

When do you think it is best to start learning a foreign language and why?

How important do you think a university degree is on the job market?

Name some of the advantages of being a student.

What special talents do you expect from secondary art students, students of nursing schools and tourism students?

Why is a teacher's job such a responsible one?

Give examples of secondary schools (branches available).

What major exams do we take in life?

Explain the differences between state and private schools.

What schools teach their students typing?

Name some elementary school subjects.

## Practice

### Multiple choice

1. Most children learn to tie their shoe laces at ...  
A. play groups                      B. kindergartens                      C. college
2. Managing your free time is a ... of being a student.  
A. pro                                      B. disadvantage                      C. positivity
3. Some people decide ... for higher education as they have academic goals.  
A. going                                      B. to go                                      C. go

4. Today, secondary school students do not need so many books as they did years ...
 

A. earlier	B. before	C. ago
------------	-----------	--------
5. You need a lot of ... to pass a university exam.
 

A. informations	B. knowledges	C. knowledge
-----------------	---------------	--------------
6. ... is more difficult if you do not find time to learn how to study most effectively.
 

A. Studying	B. Studies	C. Study
-------------	------------	----------
7. If you want to work abroad, it is best to have a language ...
 

A. document	B. ID	C. certificate
-------------	-------	----------------
8. Nursery schools mainly offer education to ... children.
 

A. very young	B. sick	C. handicapped
---------------	---------	----------------
9. Special schools are institutions for children with special ...
 

A. demands	B. needs	C. talents
------------	----------	------------
10. The school head and manager in one person is called ...
 

A. a chiefmaster	B. a director	C. a headmaster
------------------	---------------	-----------------
11. Most students were good ... history, but some of them had real trouble with math.
 

A. at	B. in	C. of
-------	-------	-------
12. Every help is welcome but it is always .... Nobody is forced.
 

A. voluntary	B. compulsory	C. unnecessary
--------------	---------------	----------------

**Find an appropriate word for the following descriptions:**

1. A ... in the Czech Republic is an educational institution for pre-school children from the age of 3.
2. If students do not pay money for their education, it is free of ...
3. To reach similar standards of education, there is school ...
4. Every school level is divided into grades and every grade has individual ...
5. At the end of a school year, pupils and students get a school ..., indicating their results.

**Translate:**

1. Ředitel školy mluvil o financování školy.
2. Vždy jsem byl špatný na jazyky.
3. V první třídě základní školy se děti učí číst a psát.

4. Předškolní výchova je v některých zemích nepovinná.
5. Absolventi vysokých škol snáze našli práci.
6. Pracuje jako lektor v kurzech němčiny.
7. Podpořili jsme nové plány a osnovy ve vzdělávání.
8. Jednotlivé třídy se zúčastnili konference.
9. Střední školy a gymnázia jsou velmi populární.
10. Je náročné rozhodnout se pro správnou školu.

## 2 UNIVERSITY LIFE

### Lead in

There are **pros and cons** surrounding being a Uni student... just think of such little money you live on, all the stressful written tests and **oral** exams, **deadlines** and busy schedule – but on the other hand... think of the free time you can organize yourselves, the friends you have made, the parties you have been to, the opportunities you have had. Well, all that is university life ... and you know it very well, don't you?

### Text

Try to think of all the reasons why you have decided to study at university. For some, it is a pleasure to get new information, **obtain** new knowledge and improve their **skills**. Some students prefer staying near their hometown, some travel away or abroad to **obtain the degree** of their dreams. Once a student knows what they want to specialize in (which branch, field or major) to choose, they apply for a course at a particular institution (Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, Medical Faculty, Pedagogical Faculty, Academy of Fine Arts, Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, Agriculture College, School of Economics). After passing a university **entrance exam**, you start your first **grade** (a school year is divided into winter and summer **terms**).

No matter whether you are a student of **Arts** or **Sciences**, you can live in a **hall of residence** (also called a dormitory), *unless you find a private place to rent*. You can also get meals at the school canteen, where they offer warm meals at reasonable prices, or you take advantage of a little kitchen in your dorm or buy fast food at the school buffet.

At the start of the term, you get a **weekly schedule**, go through **subject syllabuses** and start attending lectures and courses. Some of the subjects are **compulsory** or **obligatory** (it means you must get credits from them), some are **optional** (voluntary). With your major, you belong to a department, led by the head of department, mostly an experienced academic professional with managing skills.

Some students prefer their financial independence and find part-time work during their university years. Some prefer the status of a part-time student, to be able to

work and study. However, most students belong to a **full-time studies programme**, hoping to obtain a **master's** or **bachelor's** degree.

To **graduate** from university, students have to reach a certain amount of credits, write a **thesis** on a selected topic and pass final exams. When all this has been done, you go for a festive **graduation ceremony** where (with your family and friends in the audience) you get your **diploma**.

A university is an institution consisting of several faculties divided into departments and centres. But who are the people in the university structure? The rector is the head of the university and has cooperating vice-rectors. Every faculty has a **dean** and **vice-deans**, who look after the time schedule of all the faculty activities, offer new ideas, represent the faculty at the formal level, work on necessary administration, see to keeping high standards of faculty teaching and research, help with individual student's problems and cooperate with students.

### Vocabulary

pros and cons	pro a proti
oral	ústní
deadline	termín (odevzdání)
to obtain	získat
skills	schopnosti, (manuální) zručnost
obtain the degree	získat titul
entrance exam	přijímací zkouška
grade	ročník
term	semester
Arts	humanitní obory
Sciences	přírodovědné obory
hall of residence	studentská kolej
weekly schedule	rozvrh na týden
subject	předmět
syllabus	syllabus, osnova, plán
compulsory	povinný
obligatory	povinný
optional	volitelný
full-time student	student denního studia
master	magistr
bachelor	bakalář
to graduate	absolvovat školu, ukončit školu, promovat
thesis	diplomová práce
graduation ceremony	promoce
diploma	vysokoškolský diplom
dean	děkan
vice-dean	proděkan

## Language note

**unless** you find a private place to rent – **pokud si nepronajmete soukromý byt**;  
For more detail see Raymond Murphy: *English Grammar in Use*, Cambridge University Press 2004, p. 230

## Follow up: Ideas for discussion

What makes a school “prestigious”?

Why do some students choose a Uni near their home and why do some prefer living in a different town?

How important is the university history for its image and prestige?

Describe the decision-making process of choosing a college. What factors are the most important?

Describe your course of study in detail – what department(s) you belong to, what type of a student you are, what degree you plan to obtain, what your favourite subjects are in your course, what subjects you have difficulty with and why.

Why do you think a graduation ceremony is a festive occasion?

Who is present at the final graduation ceremony (from family and the university)?

On what conditions are students granted scholarships?

What are exchange study stays for?

How important is university equipment and how do you feel about the equipment which is available to you?

## Practice

### **Complete the sentences:**

1. If your prior activity is studying and you attend school on week-days, you are in a ...
2. To prove you have obtained a university degree you have a ...
3. A final festive event in your studies is called a ...
4. The head of a university is called a ...
5. The head of a faculty is called a ...
6. The ... of department is a person in charge of its personnel as well as activities.
7. Students who manage to go to work and attend school mostly at weekends are ... students.
8. If you decide to live in your college town, you either rent a flat or you stay in ...

9. If you need to borrow some course books and other printed material, you become a ... member.
10. To know what there is to learn in the scheduled subjects, departments offer subject ... .
11. The subject which is your main discipline is called your ...
12. If the university is not free, students have to pay ...
13. If you are an excellent student and your results are more than satisfactory, you may obtain a ... , which is bonus money for you.
14. A school year is divided into two ... .
15. Students of languages, literature and history are generally called students of ... .

***Explain the following terms:***

scholarship

compulsory subjects

lecturer

term

dean

trainee teacher

campus

exchange stay

department deputy

optional

***Fill in the text according to your own situation:***

Now I am in my ... year of university studies. I chose ... as my branch, which means in the future I could find a job ... I study at university at the ... faculty. I enjoy ... but ... was a disappointment to me.

***Complete the sentences according to your own ideas:***

1. I believe university education is ... nowadays.
2. With my degree, there are a lot of things I could do, for example ...
3. A teacher's job is difficult because ...
4. What I like about the idea of teaching is ...
5. What I don't like about the idea of teaching is ...



6. To be a headmaster one day is a ... idea to me now.
7. A good headmaster should always ...
8. Learning languages at university is ...
9. During my university studies, I chose some optional courses, for example ...
10. What I don't enjoy about university life is ...
11. If I imagined an ideal campus, ... would be included, too.
12. Library is a place where ...
13. I can't imagine my studying without ... support.
14. I can't imagine my studies without ...
15. The examination period is very ... for me.

***Translate:***

1. Several of my schoolmates are planning an exchange study stay in the summer term.
2. Jill failed a history exam, but then she spent a whole month looking up information and was pleased to pass the exam last Wednesday.
3. I don't think we have had so many students interested in studying chemistry and biology as we have this year.
4. We'd recommend attending a special course in post-war European politics.
5. How about learning some Latin?

***Translate the phrases:***

master's degree, part-time studies programme, a large change in the subject syllabus, study with merit, fail a final exam, write a thesis, hand in a seminar paper, obtain a scholarship, campus policy, dean's decision, credit book;

### 3 THE ENVIRONMENT

#### Lead in

Nowadays we hear about *the environment* all the time. And we know why this is so – we have not been particularly careful about the environment and nature and therefore now face an environmental crisis and vast changes in the climate, nature and the world in general. Protection of the environment is today a priority in political discussions, school education and our everyday lives.

All talks as well as activities connected to the environment now belong to the popular environmental issue.

#### Text

We now know how to help our environment and what to do not to go on **destroying** it. We know we should ride a bike or catch public transport *instead of using the car* and we know we should recycle glass, paper and plastics, also oil and paint could be recycled. It would help the situation to save water. An average Las Vegas **citizen** uses full 800 litres of water every day, which is sad news for the environment. We have forgotten to think about what we do and why. Sometimes better organization or management in our lives could make our behaviour more **environmentally friendly**. Well, it only takes a few seconds to **switch the lights off** whenever they are not needed, to take your own bag when you go shopping instead of getting a free plastic one with your shopping. We could use more rainwater if only we would plan to collect it soon enough. Psychologists say the problem often is not that people are **unwilling** to protect the environment, but they often even do not **realize** they should do so. Some governments try to make environment protection attractive to people – you will be **rewarded** with some cash if you recycle your **rubbish** in South Australia, for example.

#### What is recycling?

Recycling is **processing** used materials (waste) into new products to **avoid waste** of useful materials, **reduce** energy usage, reduce air **pollution** and water pollution by cutting down the need for "conventional" waste disposal, and **lower** greenhouse gas emissions.

### **What is global warming?**

Global warming is the continuing rise in the average temperature of Earth's atmosphere (the air around the Earth) and oceans. Global warming is caused by increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The gases result from human activities such as deforestation and the burning of **fossil fuels**.

### **What is greenhouse effect?**

The greenhouse effect occurs when certain gases in the atmosphere trap infrared radiation. This effect makes the planet warmer, and like a **greenhouse** it keeps its inside temperature warmer.

Along with fearing the **consequences** of the global warming there also is an anti version of the environmental issue. Some people, among whom we **note** scientists and politicians, claim there is no global warming issue. They believe global warming is a term **invented** to **threaten** people and make the environment good business for governments, salespeople and the media. The president of the Czech Republic, Václav Klaus, has become well known for his anti-global warming opinions. He has openly denied there is a realistic danger for the Earth in global warming and has said global warming is a dogma for people who find it comfortable to believe the media. Nevertheless, it is a known fact that the Earth and the life on the Earth are threatened by the potential ecology catastrophe caused by overpopulation, **famine** and global warming.

### **Some shocking facts**

An average use of a plastic bag is 7 minutes.

Over half of the world's tropical forests have been lost.

The energy we save when we recycle one glass bottle is enough to light a traditional **light bulb** for four hours.

An entire US **power plant** is needed for the extra water people boil in their **kettles** and never use.

3 000 animal species have become extinct over the past 50 years.

## Some anti-global warming arguments

In most cases recycling is worse for the environment, because it consumes more energy to recycle than it does to make new items.

Fuel used and pollution generated in collecting, **sorting**, transporting, and cleaning are larger than the benefits.

Geologic evidence indicates that about 15 million years ago the Earth was about 4.7°C warmer than it is today, and it was certainly not caused by industrial pollution.

The Earth is in its most stable climatic state ever. Changes in the climate were **far more drastic** in Earth's first 4 billion years.

## Vocabulary

issue = topic of interest, topic of discussion

to cut down = to reduce

item = product

evidence = proof

waste = rubbish, garbage, litter

to destroy	(z)ničit
citizen	obyvatel
environmentally friendly	přátelský k životnímu prostředí
to switch the lights off	zhasnout světla
unwilling	neochotný
to realize	uvědomit si
to reward	odměnit
rubbish	odpadky
to process	zpracovat
to avoid	vyhnout se
to waste	plytvat
waste	odpad; plýtvání
to reduce	snížit
pollution	znečištění
to lower	snížit
to result	vyústit
fossil fuels	fosilní paliva
greenhouse	skleník
consequence	důsledek
to note	všimnout si
to invent	vymyslet, vynalézt
to threaten	ohrožit, ohrožovat
famine	hladomor
light bulb	žárovka
power plant	elektrárna

kettle  
sorting  
far more drastic

varná konvice  
třídění  
daleko drastičtější

### Language note

**instead of** using cars (*místo užívání osobních vozů*) – instead of + gerund; for more detail see *Raymond Murphy: English Grammar in Use, Cambridge University Press 2004, p. 120.*

### Follow up: Ideas for discussion

Why are plastics so popular if they are not very environmentally friendly?

What are the major air and water pollutants?

If plastic bags now endanger the environment because they lie about in nature, why do we still get them free with our shopping?

What is called a *global warming dogma*?

Why do governments recommend people sorting domestic waste?

What sorts of rubbish do we produce?

Try to explain what the following phrases mean and what their risk for the environment is: noise pollution, mercury in fish, ocean acidification, oil spills, water crisis, acid rain, light pollution and ocean dumping;

### Practice

**Make the following verbs into nouns:**

verb	noun
produce	product, production
recycle	
destroy	
deforest	
reduce	
govern	
waste	
use	
pollute	
invent	
reward	
benefit	

**Find synonyms for the following expressions:**

rubbish

reduce

drastic

produce

large

**Find the right explanation for the following words:**

rubbish

- a) extra material
- b) left over material
- c) bonus material

invention

- a) a new instrument, device or machine
- b) a progressive method
- c) a logical reasoning

to reduce

- a) to limit
- b) to lower
- c) to subtract

catastrophe

- a) a tragic event
- b) a serious mistake
- c) a drastic consequence

greenhouse

- a) an artificial flower or vegetable bed with mineralized soil
- b) a construction keeping the air warm in order to create ideal environment for plant growing
- c) a glass or plastic construction keeping the soil moist in order to keep vegetables boosting

### **Multiple choice**

1. Greenhouse effect ... global warming.  
A. is caused by                      B. causes                      C. results in
2. Air ... is a serious problem of modern times.  
A. rubbish                      B. waste                      C. pollution
3. Sun ... reach the Earth and are reflected back to the atmosphere.  
A. radiance                      B. rays                      C. shines
4. The Earth ... half of its tropical forests due to human activities.  
A. had lost                      B. has lost                      C. have lost
5. When leaving the room, please, switch the lights ... .  
A. off                      B. out                      C. down
6. If ... toxic waste, you must be extremely careful.  
A. leaving over                      B. disposing                      C. throwing
7. To ... energy in your household, it is recommended not to leave your TV set on if nobody is watching it.  
A. safe                      B. save                      C. protect
8. ... domestic waste helps the environment.  
A. Sorting                      B. Assorting                      C. Sort
9. 20% of the world's population uses 80% of the world's ...  
A. pollution                      B. resources                      C. stuff
10. To save time, water and energy, popular fast food businesses use ... dishes.  
A. environmentally friendly    B. user's friendly    C. disposable
11. Overpopulation is a real ... to the Earth ecology of the future.  
A. dangerous                      B. threaten                      C. threat
12. To avoid unwanted bugs or other animals in our crops we use ... in agriculture.  
A. pesticides                      B. herbicides                      C. illegal drugs
13. ... allows all living creatures to live.  
A. Carbon dioxide                      B. Mercury                      C. Oxygen
14. Herbicides are used to kill unwanted ...  
A. organisms                      B. creatures                      C. plants
15. To protect the environment, people should ... as many products as possible.  
A. unuse                      B. overuse                      C. reuse

16. Recyclable materials include many kinds of glass, paper, plastic, textiles, electronics and ...

A. bottles                      B. metal                      C. sources

17. Ozone holes are holes in the ozone ...

A. sphere                      B. layer                      C. surface

18. Too much direct UV radiation causes skin ...

A. cancer                      B. stroke                      C. attack



## 4 SOCIAL ISSUES

### Lead-in

Social issues are matters somehow affecting a person (or more members) in a society and are generally considered to be problems or/and controversies in moral **values**. We will only manage to look at some hot social issues, but there would be hundreds of others. If you decide to do your own research, you will find such topics as Jurassic period, justice, body image, family values, pornography, war, suicide, education, quantum theory, horse racing, corruption as well as **income tax** belong to the general group of social issues.

### Text

Simply said, social issues are problems often discussed in the media, problems often referred to and matters on which people disagree with each other and the humankind has not found a final way of solving the problem or deciding on its moral value (its correctness or incorrectness). For purposes of our text we have decided to divide the problem of social issues into the following categories – *Homelessness, The Environment and Health*.

### Homelessness

Homelessness seems to be one of the modern issues in society. It is a situation in which people live with no **shelter**, in many cases even though the economic status of a country is high.

Speaking of homelessness, we must realize there are situations when people become homeless out of the blue. Natural catastrophes make hundreds and thousands of people homeless nearly overnight. In some poor countries people without homes are an everyday sight connected to the economic situation of the country. In **wealthier** lands, homeless people are the **spot** on their beauty, they are an unwanted aspect of a country's culture and the homeless are often driven out of city centres so as not to bother tourists and other **citizens**.

Homelessness can be a result of leading a financially risky life as well as a question of choice. Some people happen to be homeless due to their financial situation and the way they try to solve it – people take **loans** which they sooner or later cannot pay

back. Some people live with various addictions and need large **amounts** of money to be able to finance them. Whatever their addiction may be (gambling, drug addiction or others), such behaviour often leads to a vast **consumption** of money and therefore borrowing money, falling into **debt** or ruining the family life of an individual. Generally speaking, homelessness is an **unaesthetic** feature of towns, cities and capitals because it often goes with **begging**, alcoholism, **untidiness**, **health risk** and crime.

A homeless person can be seen as a **burden** on society – they do not bring any quality work, they pay neither taxes nor health or social **insurance**. On the other hand, there are institutions and organizations trying to help the homeless. Various charities (the Red Cross, the Salvation Army) offer help, food, clothes, medical care or shelter to the homeless, often on special days in the year (Christmastime or severely cold nights).

### **The Environment**

Environmental issues are very popular nowadays. Humankind worries about the future of the Earth because we have made it a dirty, noisy and in a lot of areas an unpleasant place to live. On the one hand we overuse water and other natural sources, produce fumes and carbon dioxide into the air, hunt animals or **deprive** them of their space and food, pollute soil and water, produce tons of litter and think little about future generations, on the other hand, we try to stop the destruction of forests, save many animal species, recycle a lot of materials as well as re-use products, use environmentally friendly chemicals and **detergents**, reduce the progress of global warming and avoid doing more damage to the world.

The number 1 **threat** among future environmental catastrophes is overpopulation. The Earth will soon not have enough space, clean air, water and food for its people. Governments in the modern world are aware of the problems and since the 1980s most countries have joined the policy of green world.

To name but a couple of the serious environmental issues, these would be **global warming** and the **greenhouse effect**. If we do not wish our children and grandchildren to have to swim in our rubbish, we have to do something about it now. There are voices against the global warming theory, but the majority of authorities accept the fact that the Earth is in real danger.

## Health

The standards of medical care are very high in the developed countries, but at the same time the situation in poorer parts of the world is alarming. There are still diseases such as cholera and malaria together with famine threatening some nations. The HIV is a big problem in Africa because many children are born with the virus and many people die of AIDS every day.

Today, we may see lack of food in many countries on the one side, millions of people suffering from **overweight** on the other. Even in areas where there is no problem with food, some people – especially young girls and sometimes teenage boys – develop **eating disorders**. Eating disorders are very dangerous as they start a process in the body which cannot eventually be **cured**.

**Birth control** is another topic of the day, some people accept it as a natural part of their sexual life, in many places it is a controversial issue and often it is not legal to use birth-control. It leads to unwanted **pregnancies** and **abortions**, often under poor medical conditions.

Handicapped and **disabled** (physically challenged) people are sometimes socially excluded. Even though civilized populations work on integrating these people into society, ideally at very early stages of their lives, there are still examples of their discrimination and abuse.

Population aging is a worry for the future generations. Modern medical care saves as well as prolongs human lives and we are very proud of the medical achievements and research; on the other hand the society will have a large number of **retired** people. Sociology research shows we must start getting ready now because the need for aged-friendly products will be excessive. We must think of the social and economic impact this feature will have and be prepared for it.

Drug abuse as well as drug addiction are strong social issues, tightly linked to crime, unemployment, homelessness, prostitution, weapons trade and health care. Police officers worldwide try to arrest people involved in the drug business, but the money which can be **earned** on drug dealing is still very attractive. Individual countries try to prevent their citizens from drug abuse by massive anti-drug campaigns and harsh legal punishments for those involved in drug dealing.

## Vocabulary

value	hodnota
income tax	daň z příjmu
shelter	přístřeší
spot	vada, kaz
citizen	občan, obyvatel
loan	půjčka (finanční)
amount	množství
consumption	spotřeba
debt	dluh
be in debt	mít dluh, být zadlužený
unaesthetic	neestetický
to beg	žebrať
untidiness	neupravenost
health risk	zdravotní riziko
burden	břímě (zátěž)
insurance	pojištění
to deprive sb of st	připravit někoho o něco
detergent	čistící prostředek
threat	hrozba
global warming	globální oteplování
greenhouse effect	skleníkový efekt
overweight	nadváha
eating disorder	porucha příjmu potravy
to cure	vyléčit, uzdravit
birth control	reglace porodnosti, antikoncepce
pregnancy	těhotenství
abortion	potrat (umělé přerušování těhotenství)
disabled	postižený
to be retired	být v důchod
to earn	vydělat (peníze)

wealthy – rich

out of the blue – suddenly, without preparation or warning;

an everyday sight – something we can see every day or very often

risky – dangerous

vast – very big, huge

famine – a situation caused by lack of food and often resulting in people's deaths

eventually – in the end

aging – getting old(er)

impact – influence, effect

feature - aspect

to trigger – to start off, to come up with, to reason, to be the reason;

### **Follow up: Ideas for discussion**

What are the common causes resulting in situation of being homeless, being addicted to drugs and socially excluded?

Who helps the homeless and those discriminated against?

Do you give money to charities supporting the aged, homeless, socially excluded or poor people? Do you trust organizations helping people in need?

Do you think society does enough to help its drug addicts, disabled persons, the homeless and the poor?

What do you think triggers eating disorders (anorexia, bulimia nervosa) in teenage girls and young men? Why do you think it is mainly a girls' problem and why it does involve some boys, too?

Why are the homeless generally unwanted in city centres?

Explain what the greenhouse effect and global warming are.

What aspects of human health are a social issue and why?

How will the aging of the population affect the future society?

Why will mankind face the problem of aging population?

What threats do we face today?

### **Practice**

**Fill in the correct prefix (*předpona*) to make the word negative.**

- |                 |                   |                 |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. ____moral    | 2. ____direct     | 3. ____correct  | 4. ____real  |
| 5. ____regular  | 6. ____secure     | 7. ____tolerant | 8. ____legal |
| 9. ____possible | 10. ____alcoholic |                 |              |

**Explain the following terms in full English sentences:**

ageism, bullying, discrimination, corporal punishment, immigration, overpopulation, poverty, gay rights, feminism, corruption, environmentalism, eating disorders, global warming, social exclusion;

**Find opposites to the phrases below:**

1. drunk
2. soft drugs
3. an alcoholic drink
4. to win

5. noise
6. rich
7. necessary
8. important
9. minority
10. full
11. faithful
12. look after a child, take care of a child
13. comfort
14. interesting
15. tell the truth

## 5 EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### Lead in

Most people need to have work to feed their family, pay their rent and to enjoy life. Some jobs are better-paid, others are not, but for the majority of people going to work is a necessity. It is good luck if you have the job of your dreams and a well –paid one, too. But let us be realistic and see what the situation on the job market really is.

### Text

Your work depends on a number of factors. An **employee** has to be **qualified, skilled, trained, experienced** and often have the right age as well as have a good appearance.

The **employer** can **employ** a person **full-time** or **part-time**. Part-time is popular with students, women on **maternity leave** and the **retired**.

Workers have the option of working from **nine-to-five**, which is common with office people, or **flexi-time**, which enables employees to organize their time according to their own needs. Nurses, medical doctors, drivers, manual workers, pilots, firemen and many other professionals work **shifts** and in many jobs you can be asked to work **overtime**. For the work people do, they get paid with a **salary** (with office jobs) or **wages** (with manual workers). General words for the money we **earn** are **earnings, income** and **pay**. In legal jobs, you pay **tax** from your income.

Some jobs offer company bonuses, promising careers, special training or schooling, other companies help pay employee´s **costs (expenditures)** for housing, commuting and travelling. Company cars, cell phones, various **vouchers** and **season tickets** are the most common bonuses.

Despite the number of job advertisements one sees in papers all the time, the **unemployment rate** seems high. The jobless rate has risen **due to** the financial crisis, which led to cutting down costs and this **made** many employees **redundant** (we also say dismissed, fired or sacked).

Unemployment is a problem in a lot of countries and it **varies** according to the locality. It is possible to re-qualify for a job position if your original education is not adequate. Officially, there should be equal opportunities for everyone, in reality, we

hear people complain they were not accepted for a job because of their age, family situation, social status, skin colour or unusual appearance.

If you happen to be unemployed, you have a right to claim **unemployment benefits** and if your situation is really difficult, you may have other social benefits to get financial support for your children, your children's education, housing and medical care.

People who have experienced being unemployed know that looking for a job is a full-time job in itself.

### **Applying for a job and going for a job interview**

If you find an **advertisement** (also ad or advert) offering work you are interested in, you write your CV (curriculum vitae) and an **application letter** (cover letter) and send it to the potential employer, often **enclosing** a photograph or copies of certificates or diplomas. If you seem to be a promising candidate, the company or institution answers your letter or gives you a phone call saying they would be glad if you would be able to come for a meeting and/or for a job interview.

A job **interview** is a formal meeting with the employer and often some of your future colleagues. The topics discussed mostly **cover** your professional past, your professional interests, your particular interest in the job you have applied for, your ideas for the job, sometimes the candidate is asked about the money and working hours they expect to have.

If the firm's needs are what the new employee can offer, he or she is accepted.

An interview is an important part of applying for a job; therefore it is necessary to give the interview enough time to be impressive and interesting. You must always pay attention to your clothes, make sure they are formal, clean, neat and adequate for the situation or job position. Your language should be formal, your voice neutral and your emotions calm. Remember, the first impression is the most important, if you fail to impress at the start, you may not be given another chance with the company!

If a candidate fails to find a job on their own, they may ask a **recruitment** company for help. This is a firm cooperating with people who offer work as well as people who are looking for it. The **staff** there may be able to find you as a perfectly suitable person for their client.



## Vocabulary

employee	zaměstnanec
qualified	kvalifikovaný
skilled	zručný
trained	vyškolený
experienced	zkušený, s praxí
employer	zaměstnavatel
to employ	zaměstnat
full-time	na plný úvazek
part-time	na částečný úvazek
to be on maternity leave	být na mateřské
to be retired	být v důchodu
the retired	důchodci
nine-to-five	od devíti do pěti (pevná pracovní doba v administrativě)
flexi-time	volná pracovní doba
shifts	směny
overtime	přesčas
salary	plat
wage	mzda
to earn	vydělávat, vydělat
earnings	výdělek
income	příjem
pay	platba, plat, výplata
tax	daň
costs	náklady
expenditures	výdaje
vouchers	kupóny (na slevu), stravenky
season tickets	permanentky
unemployment rate	míra nezaměstnanosti
due to	kvůli
to make sb redundant	propustit
to vary	lišit se
unemployment benefits	podpora v nezaměstnanosti
advertisement	reklama, inzerát
to enclose	přiložit
interview	pohovor
to cover	zahrnout, zahrnovat
staff	zaměstnanci

Study the words: to employ, an employer, an employee, to be employed, to be unemployed, employment, unemployment (joblessness);

## Language note

**To fire, to sack, to dismiss** are synonyms of **to make redundant**.

The young, the handicapped, the elderly, the poor - (the + adjective) – mladí, postižení, staří, chudí; *For more detail see Raymond Murphy: English Grammar in Use, Cambridge University Press 2004, p. 152.*

### **Follow up: Ideas for discussion**

What makes it most difficult to find work.

Where does one look for work?

How has the financial crisis (recession) influenced the job market?

Give examples of what not to do or say at a job interview.

Give examples of tax evasion.

What makes an employee happy?

Describe an ideal boss.

What is company loyalty?

Why is a pleasant workplace important?

What does “equal opportunities” mean?

What are the advantages of working flexi-time?

Who are the “working class”?

Why do school leavers and university graduates have difficulty finding work?

Give examples of reasons for losing one’s job.

What is redundancy payment? Explain in English.

What does “to be on sick leave” mean?

What does the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs take care of?

### **People in need**

Social systems in civilized countries have developed a structure for looking after their citizens in need. The range of possible social and medical problems we may face is large. There is the **Social Security Administration** organizing financial support. If your financial situation is difficult or if you look after children and stay at home, you may be granted a child allowance, parental allowance, funeral grant, social allowance and a housing allowance. In case you are disabled, other motor vehicle grants and pensions are available, all paid by the **state budget**. Mothers are given birth grants after having given birth, which are money helping to buy equipment needed for the new-born. Other institutions and charities as well as state organizations offer social services such as social counselling, personal assistance, day care centres, early

intervention services, the emergency assistance, or manages to put a client in a half-way house or finds shelter services for them.

If a person, man or woman, becomes a **victim of domestic violence**, they may seek legal and medical help with various social centres and houses.

The state decides on a living minimum and allows some of their citizens long-term or one-off benefits.

Even if you have no financial, social or medical problems, it is smart to be **insured**.

We all pay our health and social insurances, but some may choose from many insurance companies to insure their travels, extra health needs, pension, cars, homes or even life insurance.

In case of full or partial disability, you may claim different working conditions with your employer and the employer helps the state by employing a person with a slight disability and makes them feel useful and wanted.

After many years of active work, we retire. Old-age retirement is a hot topic now as people fear the insecurity of their future. Hopefully, we all think of our pensions earlier than when we actually retire.

Not everyone is lucky enough to keep healthy up to their old age. If the **elderly** cannot look after themselves and there is no close family to take care of them, there are old people's homes (seniors homes), nursing homes and/or social workers who help on a daily basis.

### **Vocabulary:**

Social Security Administration  
state budget  
victim  
domestic violence  
to insure  
the elderly

Správa sociálního zabezpečení  
státní rozpočet  
oběť  
domácí násilí  
pojistit  
staří lidé

### **Practice**

#### **Multiple choice**

1. If you are unemployed, you claim ...

A. finance

B. the dole

C. funds

2. If you are on sick leave and work for a friend's company and get money, it is

...

A. tax evasion

B. black market

C. illegal trade

3. We all ... pay social and health insurances.
- A. needn't                                      B. must                                      C. mustn't
4. The country's social system offers ... to its people.
- A. social insurance                          B. social work                          C. social security
5. To get a job, a candidate sends the firm a CV and an ...
- A. apply letter                                  B. applicant letter                          C. application letter
6. Women are granted money after their babies are born. It is called ...
- A. maternity leave                          B. birth grant                                  C. birthday grant
7. State social support mostly covers pensions, funeral grants, parental allowance and ...
- A. car insurance                                  B. savings accounts                          C. foster care benefits
8. The ... has risen due to the financial crisis and more are now looking for work.
- A. unemployment rate                          B. employment                                  C. crime rate

## 6 CRIME

### Lead-in

Think of the problem of lying. How bad is lying? Do you think there are situations in which lying is understandable and logical? What is a “white lie”? How do you feel when people lie to you and you find out? Think of lying, why we do it, why we feel it is necessary and when people use lying as a strategy to **reach their targets**.

### Text

*newspaper article*

#### **Woman changed identity**

#### **Derby, September 1 2011**

*Helen Dimsway has been living in Britain for the last 25 years. She has a family of two sons, Jim and Jack, and a husband in Castle Donington, Derbyshire, where the family shares a family home. On August 25, Helen Dimsway was **arrested** as the police were **suspicious** she had had a different past. Police officer of Derby, Malcom Dudley, said the police believed Mrs Dimsway had been living under a **false** name and adopted a different biography of Helen Dimsway, whose identity she was using. Supposedly, Helen Dimsway stole the name from a medical card of a Mrs Helen Dimsway and never used her **previous** name Alice Szwackovski again. Malcom Dudley said nobody knew why Szwackovski changed her name. According to her, she was born in Dublin, Ireland, lost her family in a car crash 25 years ago and wanted to forget all about it. Mrs Dimsway’s husband as well as both sons are shocked as they had no idea of the false identity Helen was using. The neighbours said there has never been a problem with Mrs Dimsway, she went to work and when times were hard she lived on the British **dole**. The police do not **dare guess** the real reason behind the identity change, but Malcom Dudley says it is surprising it took so long for the **case** to **come up**, but sooner or later there was no other chance for Helen Dimsway.*

#### **Follow-up: Ideas for discussion (text reading)**

What do you think Helen Dimsway’s past as Alice Szwackovski was that made her change her identity and move to another place?

What reasons do people often have for changing their identity?

Think about the following reasons in detail and explain the possible connection between them and the identity change in the article: **stealing, being in debt, murder, killing, fraud, illegal business, kidnapping, forgery;**

Explain the difference between **killing** and **murder**.

Think of possible ways to get access to somebody else's medical card (a file of documents at a hospital).

Name documents (papers) proving who you are – your name or names, your date of birth and address.

What do you think are the most common types of illegal behaviour which often **occur**?

### **Vocabulary**

reach a target	dosáhnout cíle
to arrest	zatknout
suspicious	podezřívavý
to be suspicious	podezřívát
false	falešný, nepravý
previous	předchozí, minulý
dole	podpora v nezaměstnanosti
dare	dovolit si, troufnout si
guess	hádat, dohadovat se
case	případ
come up	vyjít najevo, objevit se
steal, stole, stolen	(u)krást
be in debt	mít dluhy
murder	vražda
killing	zabití
fraud	podvod
kidnapping	únos
forgery	padělání
occur	stát se

white lie – it is a lie which you tell somebody because you do not want to upset them, make them sad or worried

### **Types of crime**

- **violent crime:** assault, sexual assault, rape, domestic violence, poisoning, killing, murder, vehicular homicide, manslaughter;

- **property crime:** arson, blackmail, burglary, robbery, theft, fraud, smuggling, pickpocketing, shoplifting;
- **public order crime:** mayhem, riot, vandalism, public intoxication, reckless driving, trespassing;

If an illegal act is not of the severity of a crime, it is called an offence (přečin, přestupek).

Jail (or gaol) is a synonym for prison.

### **Follow-up: Ideas for discussion (vocabulary)**

Think of types of illegal acts which often go together with another type of illegal activity (crime) (e.g. drug abuse and stealing etc.)

What is cybercrime?

Who is an eye-witness?

What offences do people pay fines for?

What makes prostitution illegal?

What are the greatest worries in today's world (crime-wise)?

Where do you expect a lower (higher) crime rate and why?

Who are young offenders?

What do you think the safest place to live is? Where is it most dangerous and why?

Why are crime stories so popular with readers and cinema-goers?

Mention some of the latest news in the crime area.

What do the high unemployment rate and crime have in common?

What is corruption?

### ***Name the described crimes (or illegal behaviour) or find adequate words to describe the phrase:***

1. Somebody steals your cell phone from your handbag on the train.
2. Somebody sets fire to somebody else's house or property.
3. Somebody kills an unwanted person on purpose and gets paid for it.
4. Someone drives a new Ford at 70 mph in town.
5. A person offers addictive substances to school children in the school park.
6. A group of people break into a newsagent's and take cigarettes and cash.
7. Police officers find a criminal and take him or her to the police station in handcuffs.

8. You use your dead great aunt's credit card.
9. A group of terrorists capture a plane and order the pilot to fly where they tell him.
10. A drunkard hurts a passer by in the street and is being vulgar.
11. A driver hits a person waiting for a bus at night. Unfortunately, the hit man dies on the way to hospital.
12. You offer your friends stolen goods and keep all the money for yourself.
13. You bring some exotic parrots and tortoises, several lovely Dead Sea stones and a pair of crocodile sandals as souvenirs from your holiday.
14. Someone steals a bar of chocolate and a Pepsi at the supermarket.
15. You work for your friend's company and you are on the dole at the same time.

**Fill in appropriate words of your choice:**

1. The o.... of the house phoned the police to complain about a strange noise in the area.
2. The c.... p.... is not a common practice in the modern world but some states and countries still use it in their legal system.
3. A d.... s.... is a final decision on how to punish a criminal by putting them to death.
4. For stealing large amounts of money Mr Sham was sentenced to two years in p.... .
5. Mr Swann used a f.... passport and credit card to change his true identity.
6. Physical attack, beating a victim and rape are examples of v.... crime.
7. People pay a lot of money to their l.... if they want to win a case and know what to do and say in court.
8. People go to court to fight for j.... in their case.
9. The final decision in court is made by the j.... .
10. An arrested person often has his/her wrists in h.... .
11. A r.... is a crime in which somebody breaks into somebody else's property, steals things and often threatens or hurts others.



## 7 ADDICTIONS

### Lead in

We all know the feeling of wanting something very much. From childhood on we are taught to control our needs and respect our health and the health and safety of others. Let us see what happens if an individual fails to do so.

### Text

In its definition, an **addiction** is a complex medical condition that **occurs** when a person must continually use a substance or *behaviour* in order to prevent unpleasant physical or mental **withdrawal symptoms**. Casual use can create **dependence** as a user becomes **obsessed** with **obtaining** and consuming their substance of choice. Users become addicts when a tolerance for the substance is created and the addict must consume more and more of it to get the same effect. An addiction is not the result of a person's **inherent** character **weakness**, it is a serious disease with many different physical and psychological components.

There are several substances as well as activities to which people develop their addiction. Among the most **common** there are alcohol, tobacco, heroin and other drugs addictions together with being obsessed by a variety of activities, to which workaholism and shopaholism belong. Modern psychology professionals now find that addictions can apply to other abnormal dependencies on various activities – gambling, eating, depending on pornography, computers, the internet or physical exercise, idolizing, watching TV or some types of non-pornographic videos, having strong spiritual **obsession** as well as **being involved in self-injury**.

It is important to understand the background of the problem. What happens in the body of one addicted to drugs?

**Psychoactive substances** cross the blood-brain barrier once **ingested** and **temporarily alert** the chemical **milieu** of the brain. This leads to the much wanted feeling of happiness and a carefree state. People then want to feel happy again and **eventually** lose control over their bodies and lives. Where there originally enjoyment and pleasure were **sought**, over a period of time the need for drug grows into making an individual feel normal.

Drug addiction includes alcohol, sedative, hypnotic, barbiturate, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine, hallucinogen, inhalant, nicotine and other dependencies.

The danger of drug abuse is a complex of aspects. Drugs are sooner or later **destructive** to the physical as well as mental being of the human body and lead to a **relapse** and the person's specific social isolation due to the addict's criminal behaviour often connected with the issue. The addict's loss of interest in most things because of seeking and taking drugs also destroys functional relationships and friendships as well as it **unsettles** the situation in a family. Criminal behaviour is supported by the constant need for money to buy drugs on the one hand, on the other hand the addict often loses a job because of becoming an irresponsible and unreliable employee.

An addiction is a serious state of mind when permanent changes in the brain have occurred. We may well know the example of alcoholics who dare not touch alcohol even after successful **treatment**. This is because a relapse would be ever so easy as the brain never gets back to its pre-addiction condition. To **get rid of** an addiction the patient must undergo professional treatment in a **rehab**.

With behavioral addictions, the person happens to repeat a certain activity and such behaviour is called **recurring compulsion**. The person affected **engages** in such activities even though they happen to have harmful consequences and endanger a person's health, mental state or their social life.

Though there is nothing wrong with enjoying your profession, workaholism is a well-known example of **excessive** engagement in an activity. People who go to bed feeling they have not completed all their diary entries and get up without breakfast to be able to manage everything in time, may have developed workaholism. Although a keen worker is a **blessing** for a boss, this person will possibly work themselves to medical problems. A workaholic loses the concept of rational time proportions, **neglects** the family as well as family ties, never spending time with them, often feels that he/she should be adored and admired as he/she works so much. The person affected may suffer from medical symptoms of overwork, such as having high blood pressure, severe headaches, stomach ache, toothache along with backache and their body lacks nutrients as a workaholic's diet is often **insufficient** or inadequate. Strictly speaking, addictions belong to a branch of medicine, but often we hear others say "I need chocolate to live" or "My children are TV addicts". Well, sometimes we use the phrase to show somebody is engaged in an activity more than is usual or

more than we like. How about you? What are your legal addictions? Sports? Your strong coffee to keep you awake or just reading the sport page of a morning paper? These are called soft addictions and often involve everyday and necessary activities such as eating, sleeping or reading. They are harmless as long as they do not intrude into your duties and damage your health. Do chatting with strangers in chatrooms, getting lost in cyberspace, gossiping, biting your nails, procrastinating, checking your e-mail box or grabbing a bag of crisps after a tough day at work remind you of something?

### **Vocabulary**

*an addict – závislý (podstatné jméno)*

*addiction – závislost*

*be addicted to – být závislý na*

*addicted to – závislý na*

*addictive – návykový*

*depend on – záviset na*

*dependent on – závislý na*

*dependence – závislost*

to occur	objevit se
withdrawal symptoms	abstinenční příznaky
obsessed	posedlý
to obtain	získat
inherent	dědičný
weakness	slabost
common	běžný
obsession	posedlost
to be involved	mít vztah
self-injury	sebeпоškození
psychoactive substances	psychotropní látky
to ingest	požít
temporarily	dočasně
to alert	zbystřit, navodit bdělost, navodit čilost
milieu	prostředí
eventually	nakonec
sought; seek st – sought – sought	hledat něco, pátrat po něčem
destructive	ničivý, destruktivní
to unsettle	zneklidnit, vyvést z míry
treatment	léčba, ošetření
relapse	relaps, recidiva
to get rid of st	zbavit se něčeho

rehab	protialkoholní / protidrogové léčení
to recur	opakovat se, vracet se, znovu se vyskytnout
to engage	zaangažovat, zaměstnat
compulsion	nutkání
excessive	nadměrný
blessing	požehnání
to neglect	zanedbávat
insufficient	nedostatečný
to trigger	spustit, začít, odstartovat

### Language note

*The difference between addiction and dependence is that addiction is a state and a serious problem. It is only natural that babies are dependant on their mothers and that most people depend on the money they earn, but if you depend on a substance which is needed more than is usual and your brain asks for it so that your life focuses only on getting it, an addiction has been developed.*

*behaviour – this spelling refers to the British English standard, in American English this would be spelt behavior. There are some differences between British and American English, some are grammatical (AmE: I was just there. BrE: I have just been there.), some are lexical (AmE: elevator BrE: lift) and some are differences in spelling (AmE: center, thru, traveling BrE: centre, through, travelling );  
For more detail see Raymond Murphy: English Grammar in Use, Cambridge University Press 2004, pp. 300 – 301.*

### Follow up: Ideas for discussion

What do you know about what psychology says about inherited alcoholism?

What are triggers for alcohol and drug addictions?

Why is workaholism dangerous to the person affected and their family?

What bodily symptoms do drug addicts develop?

What social issues are addictions connected to?

Why is drug abuse connected to crime?

What is done on a political level to fight addictions?

Do you consider smoking a dangerous addiction? Why or why not?

Name several addictive substances not considered illegal.

Explain what withdrawal symptoms are and give examples of some.

Why do some people use drugs or alcohol to escape the problems of reality?

What often **triggers** a drug addiction?



7. Young people are advised to ... places where drugs are offered.

8. Drug dealing should be ... much harder than it is now.

***Give definitions of the following expressions:***

withdrawal symptoms; obsession; insufficient; temporarily; inherent; to neglect; self-injury; chatroom;

***Give synonyms for the following expressions:***

flaw

obtain

seek

due to

common

occur

***Which of the following movies have you seen, what are their Czech titles and which of them deal with addiction issues?***

Requiem for a Dream, Pulp Fiction, The Butterfly Effect, Forrest Gump, Trainspotting, The Hours, Grease, The Limitless, Casablanca, Insomnia;

## 8 DISCRIMINATION

### Lead-in

No matter how civilized a country is, all parts of the world face the problem of discrimination. We now understand discrimination as treating individuals differently because they belong to a group or category the discriminator believes is **inferior**. The modern world proves how deep this belief can be and how violent, cruel and hateful discrimination is in practice.

### Text

Originally, the term “discrimination” covered racial and ethnic aspects and people of some races were excluded from opportunities available to others.

Today, discrimination is a term dealing with hatred or dislike of people who

- are of a different sex (gender);
- are of different sexual orientation;
- hold different political views;
- have a different **religion**;
- speak a different language;

What we now call discrimination in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was once not “discrimination”, but something common, natural and perfectly normal. **Slavery** was historically and politically a non-issue, with the development of ethical values of societies people started to feel more humane about each other. Human history has shown hundreds of examples of brutality against a different race. The 20<sup>th</sup> century genocide of the **Jews** across Europe is just one of many. Today we hear, if we want to and if we pay enough attention, about racial genocide as well as on-going wars in the world.

Terrorism is an aspect of believing one nation or race is more **valuable** than another. Nowadays, we have an international understanding of basic human rights and slavery cannot be accepted, we know it is brutal and unfair. Also feeling superior to somebody because of their skin colour, origin, education, social status, disability or handicap, looks (appearance), property or age is inhuman. Even though mankind has agreed on a bill of rights, not all of us are able to accept it. Discrimination is against the law.

Some discrimination is very **subtle**, sometimes called indirect, but in its roots, it **treats** individuals unequally, and it is much harder to stop. On the other hand, direct discrimination is being vulgar or **violent** to others, treating them as inferior, threatening them, abusing them physically or psychologically.

### **Employment discrimination**

Even though the opportunities are equal for all, we have heard from job applicants who were refused by an employer because of their age, education, marital status, number of children, skin colour or looks. It is illegal to ask a job applicant if they plan to have a family, for example, but some employers more or less openly ask about this. The reader can imagine the employer's reaction to a young woman's saying:

*Yes, I plan to have three children.* Does that make her less educated or more **irresponsible, unreliable** or undisciplined?

Sexual harassment is also a way of discriminating against a colleague or employee as well as **bullying** at work.

### **Xenophobia**

Xenophobes are people who automatically think that strangers and foreigners are bad and inferior. Xenophobia does not let immigrants (or tourists and others) show their real personality, character, skills or abilities. If the feeling of xenophobia against foreigners is strong in the country, it is extremely hard for the immigrants to use their true potential to show who they are and how able they are. Severe xenophobia results in street fighting, illegal demonstrations and racial fights.

### **Bullying**

In bullying, one person **causes** repeated physical and psychological harm to others. The **victims** find themselves in a situation when they feel they must not tell anyone about what is happening. They suffer and keep everything a secret, they accept physical aggression and/or verbal insults. A bully (the person committing the terror against another) is often a person who suffered or still suffers bullying somewhere else in their life (with school children it is often aggressive parents or family members). Bullying exists between people who are somehow different (children with good school results, children with bad school results, tall children, short children, talented children, children from other social groups, different parts of the town or



country, different social classes, different origin, religion and/or skin colour). With school children, bullying covers fighting, kicking, throwing things, beating, pulling hair, biting and so on.

In the workplace, bullying often takes place within the **framework of rules and company policy**; mobbing or bossing often belong to this.

Modern information technologies have brought cyberbullying to life. This means it is possible to threaten and bully somebody via e-mail, text messaging, blogging or online games as well as some Web sites.

Research shows that adults who bully are often personalities who are authoritarian, combined with a strong need to control or dominate. But a lot of other risk factors are present, too.

Reasons for bullying would be endless and so would be the description of potential victims as well as bullies.

### **Vocabulary**

inferior	podřadný
religion	víra
slavery	otroctví
Jew	žid
valuable	hodnotný
subtle	nenápadný, jemný
to treat	zacházet
unequally	nerovně, nerovnoprávně
violent	násilný, násilnický
irresponsible	nezodpovědný
unreliable	nespolehlivý
bullying	šikana, šikanování
to cause	zapříčinit, (z)působit
framework	rámec
rule	pravidlo
company policy	politika firmy (interní)

### **Follow-up: Ideas for discussion**

Why can immigrants, the elderly or homosexuals be discriminated against?

What are the basic underlying causes of terrorism?

Do you remember any terrorist attacks, why they happened and what followed them?

What do you think the importance of the U.S. September 11 is today?

What is ageism?

When can telling jokes be seen as “discrimination”?

Why do you think there are fewer women in politics? Why were they none in the past?

What are the principles of feminism?

What is positive discrimination?

Name some minorities living in our country.

What are the best ways to fight discrimination?

What is sexism?

Think of individual situations from real life showing an example of ageism, sexism, employment discrimination, racial segregation, xenophobia, mobbing, political bullying, social exclusion and racism.

### **Practice**

#### ***Find nouns for the following words:***

*e.g.: discriminate – discrimination*

- |             |             |                |             |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. valuable | 2. major    | 3. responsible | 4. violent  |
| 5. think    | 6. inferior | 7. accept      | 8. reliable |
| 9. earn     | 10. exclude | 11. oppose     | 12. employ  |

#### ***Find opposites:***

*e.g.: hard – soft*

- |                |               |                    |               |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. inferior    | 2. majority   | 3. human           | 4. direct     |
| 5. responsible | 6. reliable   | 7. friendly        | 8. employment |
| 9. minor       | 10. available | 11. full-time work | 12. empty     |

#### ***Fill in the phrases according to your own ideas:***

1. I think people who abuse others are ...
2. It seems to me that people who act as bullies are often ...
3. I think the best prevention against school bullying is ...
4. ... is a way of showing one's own power and also aggression.
5. We all should realize that getting old or being old is ....
6. Slavery was once a ... thing in developed parts of the world.
7. I would not believe a normal and healthy adult could ...
8. In my opinion, terrorism is a result of ...

# KEY TO PRACTICE

## 1 Studies

### **Multiple choice**

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. C
11. A
12. A

### **Find an appropriate word for the following descriptions:**

*(suggested answers)*

1. kindergarten
2. charge
3. curricula; curriculum
4. classes
5. report

### **Translate:**

*(suggested answers)*

1. The headmaster spoke about school funding.
2. I've always been bad at languages.
3. Children learn to read and write in the first class of an elementary school.
4. Pre-school education is voluntary in some countries.
5. High school graduates found work more easily.
6. He works as a lecturer in German classes.
7. We supported new plans and curricula in education.
8. Individual classes took part in the conference.
9. Secondary schools and grammar schools are very popular
10. It is hard to decide on the right school.

## 2 University Life

### **Complete the sentences:**

*(suggested answers)*

1. full-time study programme
2. diploma
3. graduation ceremony
4. rector
5. dean
6. head
7. part-time
8. dormitory
9. library
10. syllabus
11. major

12. fee(s)
13. grant
14. terms
15. Arts

**Explain the following terms:**

*Answers to this exercise depend on your own ideas. Many variants are acceptable*

**Fill in the text according to your own situation:**

*(sample answers, many variants are acceptable)*

Now I am in my **third** year of university studies. I chose **physical education** as my branch, which means in the future I could find a job as a **P. E. teacher or a coach**. I study at university at the **pedagogical** faculty. I enjoy **the practical part of my studying** but **the need of so much theory** was a disappointment to me.

**Complete the sentences according to your own ideas:**

*Answers to this exercise depend on your own ideas. Many variants are acceptable*

**Translate:**

1. Někteří z mých spolužáků plánují pro letní semester výměnný pobyt.
2. Jill propadla u zkoušky z dějepisu, ale pak strávila celý měsíc vyhledáváním informací a byla ráda, že minulou středu u zkoušky uspěla.
3. Myslím, že jsme tolik studentů se zájmem o studium chemie a biologie jako máme letos, ještě neměli.
4. Doporučili bychom docházku do zvláštního kurzu o poválečné evropské politice.
5. A co se dát do studia latiny?

**Translate the phrases:**

*magisterský titul, denní studium, velká změna v sylabu předmětu, studovat s vyznamenáním, neuspět u závěrečné zkoušky, odevzdat seminární práci, získat stipendium, interní politika školy, rozhodnutí děkana, index;*

### 3 The Environment

**Make the following verbs into nouns:**

<b>verb</b>	<b>noun</b>
recycle	recycling
destroy	destruction
deforest	deforestation
reduce	reduction
govern	government
waste	waste
use	usage, use, user
pollute	pollution, pollutant
invent	invention
reward	reward
benefit	benefit

**Find synonyms for the following expressions:**

*(other phrases may also be acceptable)*

rubbish – garbage, litter, waste  
 reduce - lower, cut down  
 drastic – very strong

produce – make, create  
large – vast, huge, very big

**Find the right explanation for the following words:**

rubbish – b)  
invention – a)  
to reduce – b)  
catastrophe – a)  
greenhouse – b)

**Multiple choice**

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. C
11. C
12. A
13. C
14. C
15. C
16. B
17. B
18. A

#### **4 Social Issues**

**Fill in the correct prefix (předpona) to make the word negative.**

1. immoral
2. indirect
3. incorrect
4. unreal
5. irregular
6. insecure
7. intolerant
8. illegal
9. impossible
10. non-alcoholic

**Explain the following terms in full English sentences:**

*Answers to this exercise depend on your own ideas. Many variants are acceptable.*

**Find opposites to the phrases below:**

*Other variants may also be correct.*

1. sober
2. hard drugs
3. a non-alcoholic drink, a soft drink
4. to lose
5. quiet
6. poor

7. unnecessary
8. unimportant
9. majority
10. empty
11. unfaithful, faithless
12. neglect a child
13. discomfort
14. uninteresting, boring
15. tell lies, tell a lie

## 5 Employment and Social Affairs

### **Multiple choice**

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. A

## 6 Crime

### **Name the described crimes (or illegal behaviour) of find adequate words:**

*(suggested answers)*

1. pickpocketing
2. arson
3. murder
4. speeding
5. drug dealing
6. robbery
7. arrest
8. fraud
9. kidnapping
10. attack, battery
11. killing, manslaughter
12. tax evasion, theft
13. smuggling, illegal trade
14. shoplifting
15. tax evasion

### **Fill in appropriate words of your choice:**

*(suggested answers)*

1. owner
2. capital punishment
3. death sentence
4. prison
5. fake
6. violent
7. lawyer
8. justice
9. judge
10. handcuffs

11. robbery

## 7 Addictions

### Multiple choice

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. B

### Fill in the gaps according to your own ideas:

*This exercise is open to your own ideas. A large variety of answers is acceptable.*

### Give definitions of the following expressions:

*The way in which you explain the meanings of words is very personal. Many possible answers are acceptable.*

### Give synonyms for the following expressions:

flaw	-	mistake, blunder, negative
obtain	-	get, reach
seek	-	search, look for
due to	-	because of
common	-	usual
occur	-	come to existence, come to life, happen

### Which of the following movies deal with addictions and what are their Czech titles?

Requiem for a Dream	-	drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Requiem za sen</i>
Pulp Fiction	-	drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Pulp Fiction</i>
The Butterfly Effect	-	no drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Osudový dotek</i>
Forrest Gump	-	no drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Forrest Gump</i>
Trainspotting	-	drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Trainspotting</i>
The Hours	-	no drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Hodiny</i>
Grease	-	no drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Pomáda</i>
The Limitless	-	drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Všemocný</i>
Insomnia	-	no drug addiction as part of the story, <i>Insomnie</i>

## 8 Discrimination

### Find nouns for the following words:

1. value
2. majority
3. responsibility
4. violence
5. thought
6. inferiority
7. acceptance
8. reliability
9. earnings

10. exclusion
11. opposition
12. employment

***Find opposites:***

1. superior
2. minority
3. inhuman
4. indirect
5. irresponsible
6. unreliable
7. unfriendly
8. employmen
9. major
10. unavailable
11. part-time work
12. full

***Fill in the phrases according to your own ideas:***

Many answers are acceptable.









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