Bijlage VMBO-GL en TL

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tijdvak 1

Engels CSE GL en TL

Tekstboekje
Doggie Vibes

A group of German Members of Parliament (MPs) are trying to change parliamentary rules – so they can take their dogs to work with them.

Around 15 of Germany’s MPs have formally applied to parliamentary president Norbert Lammert to change the rules so they can bring their dogs, the Tagesspiegel newspaper reported. They are hoping some canine company could help make the atmosphere more constructive. “A dog has a positive effect on its environment,” said Heinz Paula, animal protection expert for the Social Democrat parliamentary party.

dailyeurope.org, 2013
Flatly refuse the shoes

Call me a boring kill-joy medic, but I can’t see the appeal in the latest footwear craze for women – heel-less high heels.

Harry Potter star Emma Watson, along with the likes of Victoria Beckham, have been spotted sporting the heel-less shoes. I say sporting, but there’s absolutely nothing sporting about seeing them wobble down the red carpet as they try to balance on the balls of their feet and not topple backwards.

I was at a party last week and saw someone wearing them – she spent most of the evening either holding someone’s arm or leaning against the wall for support.

All I could think of was the risk of arthritis in her toes, of spinal problems and bunions. So bring back flats immediately.

*The Daily Telegraph, 2014*
Give Us a Break!

1. A picnic just wouldn’t be a picnic without the great British weather trying to ruin it. Jon Hacker and his family were prepared for that – what they didn’t count on, was a pair of overenthusiastic council officers trying even harder.

2. After the family put up a windbreak, they spotted a 4x4 speeding ominously towards them across the Downs. Council enforcement officers leapt out and ordered them to take down the £12,99 plastic sheet.

3. The windbreak was in breach of by-laws aimed at Clifton Downs, the officers said. Mr Hacker, 41, was trying to enjoy a picnic with his family. He said: “One of the officers gave me a leaflet about the by-laws and it said you weren’t allowed to put up semi-permanent structures like tents because they can do damage to the natural surroundings. It didn’t say anything about a windbreak, however.”

4. Mr Hacker, added: “I think they were being very strict. We took the windbreak down but it was so windy that our paper plates flew away. We packed up and drove home and ended up finishing our picnic in our garden.”

5. A spokesman for Bristol City Council yesterday admitted their employees had gone over the top. He said: “We the gentleman and his family. Clearly there needs to be discretion when enforcing the by-laws of the Downs.”

Daily Mail, 2010
French bees produce rainbow honey

by Tala Mukaddam

1 It may sound like a gag, but trust me, it’s true: Beekeepers in Alsace, France have been shocked to discover that their bees have been producing some “weird” colored honey. These French bees were producing blue, green and even red honey without any prior signs.

2 ...

3 ...

4 ...

outlookaub.com, 2013
Pay it Forward

A woman started an act-of-kindness chain that lasted for hours and hundreds of customers at a Starbucks drive-thru in St. Petersburg, Florida. She ordered an iced coffee around 7 in the morning Wednesday and asked to pay for the caramel macchiato for the stranger in the car behind her, who returned the favor. The chain kept going as employees began keeping count. By 1:30 the chain had reached 260 customers.

Customers first ordered at the speaker. When they came to the next window, employee Vu Nguyen told them their beverages had already been paid for by the person in front of them. Would they like to return the favor?

“It makes your day better, I think,” said Lexie Kane, 17, of St. Petersburg, who ordered an iced coffee. Tim Burnside, 19, had visited in the morning and paid it forward so he returned later to see whether it was still going on. Seeing that it was, he ordered a second chai tea. “It’s nice just to do a random act of kindness for someone you don’t know,” said Burnside, also of St. Petersburg. Some said the simple act connected them to all in line before them while others said they didn’t want to be the one to end it.

The chain finally ended around 6 o’clock in the evening when customer number 379 pulled up and ordered a regular coffee. Nguyen leaned out the window, explained the chain and asked if the woman would like to participate. She declined, saying she only wanted to pay for her coffee. Nguyen said he doesn’t believe she understood the concept of paying it forward.

*tweentribune.com, 2014*
Almost Human

The Chief was stretched out on the settee, half-asleep. Monty sat opposite him, bolt upright in his chair. Neither of them moved as Dick helped himself to gin and water. They didn’t care for strong drink, the Chief not even for the smell of it, though it wasn’t his way to show his feelings. Monty would sometimes drink beer in the George Tavern with Dick. It was cigarette smoke that upset him, and now as he caught a whiff from Dick’s Capstan, he sneezed.

‘Bless you,’ said Dick.

Better smoke the rest of it in the kitchen while he was getting their supper. It wasn’t fair on Monty to start him coughing at his age, bring on his bronchitis maybe. There was nothing Dick wouldn’t have done for Monty’s comfort, but when he had taken the steak out of the fridge and gone once more into the sitting room for his drink, it was the Chief he addressed. Monty was his friend and the best company in the world. You couldn’t look on the Chief in that light, but more as a boss to be respected and deferred to.

‘Hungry, Chief?’ he said.

The Chief got off the settee and walked into the kitchen. Dick went after him. It was almost dark outside now but enough light remained to show Dick Monty’s coat, the old check one, still hanging on the clothesline. Better take it in in case it rained in the night. Dick went out into the yard, hoping against hope old Tom, his next-door neighbour, wouldn’t see the kitchen light and come out. Such hope was always vain. He got the first of the pegs out when he heard the door open and the cracked whining voice.

‘Going to be a cold night.’

‘Mmm,’ said Dick.

‘Shouldn’t be surprised if there was to be a frost.’

Who cared? Dick saw the great angular shadow of the Chief appear in the rectangle of light. Good, that would fix him. Standing erect, as he now was against the fence, the Chief was a good head taller than old Tom, who backed away, grinning nervously.

‘Come on, Chief,’ said Dick. ‘Suppertime.’

‘Just like children, aren’t they?’ old Tom whined. ‘Almost human. It’s uncanny. Look at him. He understands every word you say.’
Public Library

adapted from an article by Kate McGeown

1 If you put all the books you own on the street outside your house, you would expect them to disappear in a flash. But one man in Manilla tried it – and found that his collection grew. Hernando Guanlao is a cheerful man in his early 60s, with one abiding passion – books. They're his pride and joy, which is just as well because, whether he likes it or not, they seem to be taking over his house.

2 Guanlao has set up an informal library outside his home in central Manilla to encourage his local community to share his joy of reading. The idea is simple: readers can take as many books as they want, for as long as they want – even permanently. It’s a policy you might assume would end very quickly – with Guanlao having no books at all. But in the 12 years he’s been running his library he’s found that his collection has grown rather than diminished, as more and more people donate to the cause.

3 Guanlao started his library in 2000, shortly after the death of his parents. He was looking for something to honour their remembrance, and that was when he hit upon the idea of promoting the reading habit he’d inherited. “I saw my old textbooks upstairs and came up with the concept of having the public use them,” he says. So he put them outside the door of his house to see if anyone wanted to borrow them. They did, and they brought the books back with others to add to the collection – and the library was born.
4 Somehow, every day, a steady stream of people find their way there, to browse and to contribute. But it’s people like Celine who sustain the library. She lives down the road from Guanlao which gives her the opportunity to help by regularly visiting with bulging bags of books. She says she loves the concept because Filipinos – certainly those who are not particularly wealthy – have limited access to books. “Considering the income here, I think parents have other priorities.”

5 As we sit outside Guanlao’s house watching people browse through his collection, he tells me why he thought it was worth spending all his time – even to the point of giving up his job and surviving purely on his savings – to maintain the library. He has also given several boxes of books to a man trying to set up a similar venture outside Manilla. “You don’t do justice to these books if you put them in a cabinet or a box,” he says. “A book should be used and reused. It has life, it has a message. As a book caretaker, you become a full man.”

bbc.co.uk, 2012
Every dog has its day: Crufts lets in mutts

adapted from an article by Laura Dixon

1 EVERY year, the great hall of a kingsized arena in Birmingham is turned into a temple for the worship of pedigree dogs. Thousands of canines are paraded in front of the judges, hoping to win the coveted Best in Show prize. But for the first time this year Crufts, the Kennel Club’s dog show, will feature a competition for crossbreeds and mongrels.

2 Alongside animals that have been bred to succeed will be Becky, rescued from the River Lagan near Belfast seven years ago, and Alfie, who was once so skinny that his ribs protruded from his flanks. After years of criticism that the main event has promoted characteristics that do not always make for a healthy dog, campaigners said it was a step in the right direction.

3 Crossbreeds are more likely to escape the sometimes painful exaggerated physical features or inherited diseases plaguing some pedigree animals. Some show dogs have skulls that are too small for their brains, or suffer from breathing problems. The Dogs Trust and the RSPCA pulled out of the show, in 2008. The BBC also dropped the show from its programming that year after its request for certain breeds to be excluded was rejected.

4 The Kennel Club rewrote its breed standards, changing the wish-list characteristics that could lead to health problems in some dogs and introducing in-show vet check, after the outcry. Last year, six dogs failed the tests.

5 Clarissa Baldwin, the head of the Dogs Trust, said: “Clearly, the Kennel Club has done a lot to improve things. The first purely crossbreed competition is not enough yet – and not enough for us to return, but we welcome crossbreeds going to Crufts. I think it’s a brave move, it has to be good showing people that you don’t have to be a pedigree to be at Crufts, and crossbreeds have a huge place in our lives.”

6 Robin Hargreaves of the British Veterinary Association said that while bringing the crossbreed competition to the main event was “significant, in a way”, it did little to change the problems affecting pedigree dogs. He was that people believed crossbreeds were always healthier. He expressed his anxiety by emphasising that two limited gene pools might not improve the animal’s health. He explained: “You really need genuine mongrels, a cross of several crosses, for there to be a big difference.”
According to the Kennel Club it was the right time to bring the ‘Scruffts’ competition into the main event.

The Times, 2013
Is it ever okay to spy on your children?

based on an article by Annalisa Barbiera

1. The TV star and sometime chef, Gordon Ramsay, has admitted planting a camera in his teenage daughter’s bedroom to make sure she’s studying and not making out with her boyfriend. Of course, Ramsay is either joking or stupid, because you don’t plant a camera and then admit to it. The first rule of spying is: you never talk about it. Second, you only plant surveillance equipment to confirm what you already know.

2. What this all comes down to, of course, is trust. But not in the way you might think. If you don’t trust your child to tell you the truth, the reality is that they probably don’t trust you to be able to handle the truth. Which is why teenagers often force an argument because they feel that they have nothing to lose in an already heated situation – they can say how they really feel in a row. The unpleasant truth of that is that parents then have to look at their own role. Why can’t my children trust me? It’s far easier, in those situations, to put away the mirror and get out a camera, or flick through a diary, or scroll through text messages. This makes it all their fault, their failings. Which is really convenient for the parent.

3. So, is it ever okay to spy on your actual children? Not really. Spying is a one-way process, it’s all about gathering intelligence to use against someone. They won’t say “gosh, thanks for that! I’ve learned so much about myself!” If you spy on your children they won’t stop doing what they’re doing, they’ll simply become better at hiding stuff. After all, that’s what you’re teaching them: 23.

*The Guardian, 2013*
Support the School Food Revolution!

adapted from an article by Henry Dimbleby

1 I have tried hard to turn my children into healthy eaters. Our eldest, George, aged four, has his own tiny vegetable patch in our back garden, in which he and I have grown radishes, lettuces and wild strawberries. And yet, if left to his own devices, he would subsist entirely on Cadbury Fingers. His evolutionary instinct to gorge on sugary, fatty foods at every opportunity is simply too strong to be overridden by his tender will. So I have a lot of sympathy, both personal and professional, with those people whose job it is to produce healthy food on a tight budget for schoolchildren, and then persuade them to eat it.

2 Still, since 2005, when Jamie Oliver alerted the nation to just how bad much school food had become, the central argument has been more or less won. Most people now agree it’s highly difficult to nourish the mind unless you have first nourished the body. The average standard of food in schools has already improved, thanks to the efforts of many individual staff and volunteers and there are isolated pockets of brilliance. Some places have gone far beyond the basics. I have visited inner-city schools where the children grow their own five-a-day in kitchen gardens; and where chickens scratch about in the playground, laying eggs for the kitchen.

3 There are... also many places that have not yet made progress. Half of our secondary schools still offer pizzas and starchy food cooked in oil on most days. A third of young people are not choosing a healthy balanced meal. No school in the land wants its children to eat bad food, so the question is: what is holding them back?

4 Every school has a different way of doing things. Some employ their own chefs, for instance. Others use council caterers or private contractors. The logistics of producing nutritious school meals – fresh, consistent and to a budget – however, are always maddeningly difficult. But if the school food revolution is to succeed, we have to tackle this head-on.

guardian.co.uk, 2012
US AIRWAYS’ UNWRITTEN POLICY:

On June 16, 2011, a US Airways Captain with 30 years of experience stopped her flight from departing. Something was wrong with the airplane. She was deeply concerned about a balky power component that, should it continue to fail, might have eliminated all electrical power on her trans-American flight.

Despite her valid concerns, US Airways’ management pressured her to fly the airplane, over the ocean, at night. When she refused to jeopardize the safety of her passengers, US Airways’ security escorted her out of the airport, and threatened to arrest her crew should they not cooperate.

After she was removed from the airport, three more US Airways pilots refused to fly the aircraft, citing their own concerns about the fitness of the plane. It turned out the pilots were right: the power component was faulty and the plane was removed from service and, finally, fixed. Eventually a new crew operated the flight, hours later.

The flying public deserves the highest levels of safety. US Airways wants to maximize their revenues by pushing their employees to move their airplanes regardless of the potential human cost. US Airways’ pilots are committed to resist any practices that compromise your safety for economic gain. We’ve been trying to fix these problems behind the scenes for quite some time. Now we think it’s time to inform you.

The 5,000 pilots of the US Airline Pilots Association want you to know the facts.

USA TODAY, 2011
Aged 16-30? Show us the cool hangouts in your city

Forget the boring museums and churches – we want to see and hear about the places young people hang out. If there is a seemingly undiscovered cool café, art scene or magnificent green space in the village or city where you live, and you’re aged 16-30, please let us know.

Share a 100-word tip for a chance to win a £200 Hotels.com voucher.

If you have a photo of your local hotspot, and you own the copyright to the photo, then please include it as well. We will be judging the text, not the image, however, so give a good description and as much information about your favourite spot as you can.

Tips should be about 100 words – and don’t forget to read the terms and conditions.

Send your entry to: hangouts@guardian.com

Terms & Conditions:
- A judge who is independent of GNM will select one (1) winning entry from all valid entries received in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
- When choosing the winner, the judge will consider the most original and creative entries.
- The judge will select the winning entry within four (4) days of the closing date. The judges’ decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The winner will receive one (1) Hotels.com voucher worth £200.
- The winner will be notified by phone or email within seven (7) days of the closing date and be given details of how to claim the prize.
- The winner will receive the prize within 30 days of claiming the prize. If a winner does not respond to GNM within fourteen (14) days of being notified of their win, the winner’s prize will be forfeited and GNM shall be entitled to select another winner in accordance with the process described above.
- For more information or any questions about the competition, mail to: hangouts@guardian.com

theguardian.com, 2014
Go Slow Danger

The £100 million-a-year revenue from speeding tickets came under fire yesterday. One in four accidents occur at speeds lower than 10mph, says an accident lawyers’ report.

Phil Waters, of Your Legal Friend, said: “The Government needs to expand its focus from punishing speeding drivers. Driving slowly doesn’t always mean you are driving safely.” Most accidents happened at roundabouts or junctions, he said.

Daily Express, 2013