



САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ  
ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГСКОГО  
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО УНИВЕРСИТЕТА  
Общеобразовательный предмет/ комплекс предметов: **иностранные**

**ЯЗЫКИ**

**2011-2012 учебный год**

**АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК**

**1. Comment on the following extract.**

*The Art of Nothing*

Westerners who first met the Shoshonean bands of Indians remarked that they lived in a total wasteland and yet seemed to do nothing to improve their situation. They built no houses or villages; they had few tools or possessions, almost no art, and they stored little food, if at all. It seemed that all they did was sit around and do nothing. The reason for that was that houses were useless to them, and everything they owned they carried on their backs from place to place.

Anthropological studies have indicated that nomadic peoples were not being lazy; they were just being economical. Doing nothing for hours on end helped them to conserve precious calories of energy.

Today many of us westerners find ourselves fascinated with these simple cultures, and a few of us really dive into it to reproduce or recreate the primitive lifestyle. In this effort we find that we have ironically missed our mark completely.

Understanding this art is a somewhat challenging concept. When we go on a "primitive" camping trip, for instance, we take our western preconceptions with us. We do what we are accustomed to; we build a frame house on a surveyed plot in the meadow. Part of the reason we act this way stems from our cultural upbringing. Another part of it is simply because it is easier for the instructors to teach something rather than to teach nothing.

Primitive hunter-gatherer type cultures were very good at doing nothing. Yet, how well they did this is difficult to determine, because doing nothing leaves nothing behind for the archaeological record. Every time we find an artifact we have documentation of something they did; yet the most important part of their skills may have been what they did not, and there is no way to discover what that was by studying what they did.

Doing nothing is an approach to research; it is a way of thinking and doing.

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2. Write the appropriate ending to the story given below.

This story goes back to the time when gas appliances in England were being converted from methane to natural gas. A friend of Trevor's called Barney had a good job as a fitter of these replacement gas appliances. It was a lovely job because they were paid on piece rate. The more houses they could convert, the more they earned.

Barney got faster and faster at his job. He was expert at unscrewing the old oven and boiler parts, then whipping in the new fittings. He was so good that he could even convert the appliances without turning off the gas at the mains. Now to pull off this trick Barney trained his breathing along the lines of those boys who dive for oysters. He would take a huge lungful of air, take off with the old fitting - O.K. so gas escapes, but he soon whacked in the new shiny joint, and then gasped another breath from an open window. There was one other proviso for this risky shortcut; the owner had to be out.

One day he knocked on the door, and explained to the lady that he had come from the gas board. The owner was delighted that she was finally going to move from the smelly old gas to the new natural gas. She told Barney that she just had to pop to the shops and as her husband was working in the garden, Barney could go ahead with his fitting. Great, thought Barney, this will be a quick job, no need to turn off the gas at the mains. The boiler was no trouble, but one of the jets in the oven was rusty and crusted. Even though the gas was escaping, Barney sprayed a can of WD-40 on the obstinate fitting and eventually it unscrewed and he whisked on the replacement part.

As Barney came up for air, to his horror, he spotted that the budgie in the kitchen was lying on its back at the bottom of his cage. It was not looking good, and to add to his trouble he could see the lady opening the gate at the bottom of the garden. What to do? Being resourceful, Barney cut ...

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**3. Underline the mistakes and write the correct words above each mistake.**

Researches on laughter or humour therapy have found they can help rise mood, lowen stress hormone levels, possibly improve immunity, and lowen blood pressure. I haven't yet found none research on heart deseases and humour therapy, in particular, but don't let that to stop you to have a good, hearty laugh.

On maintaining a sense of humour during treatment can help you cope better, and also make you more pleasant to be around. But sometime, it's hard to get laughed on your own. Consider watching some stand-up comedy, a good funny movie, or hanging out with friends who know how to tickle your funny bone.

You may even want to consider a laughter yoga class, if you can find one in your area. In laughter yoga, group comes together and purposelessly laughs. At first, the laugh may feel forcing, but soon anyone is really laughing. Sounds strangely, but many people enjoy it.

If you'll think there's nothing to laugh about, you have to check out 999 Reasons to Laugh at Something.

**4. Newspapers are prepared so quickly that sometimes the journalists do not see double meanings in the headlines they write. Explain what the story was probably about and how the headline could also be interpreted.**

<i>HEADLINE</i>	<i>PROBABLE STORY</i>	<i>DOUBLE MEANING</i>
Kids make nutritious snacks		
Local high school dropouts cut in half		
Stolen painting found by tree		
New study of obesity seeks larger test group		

Pop star appeals to Pope		
Milk drinkers turning to powder		
British left waffles on public transport		
Police begin campaign to run down illegal workers		
Drunks get nine months in violin case		
Police head seeks arms		

**5. Comment on the following statement:**

In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place. (*Mohandas K. Gandhi*)

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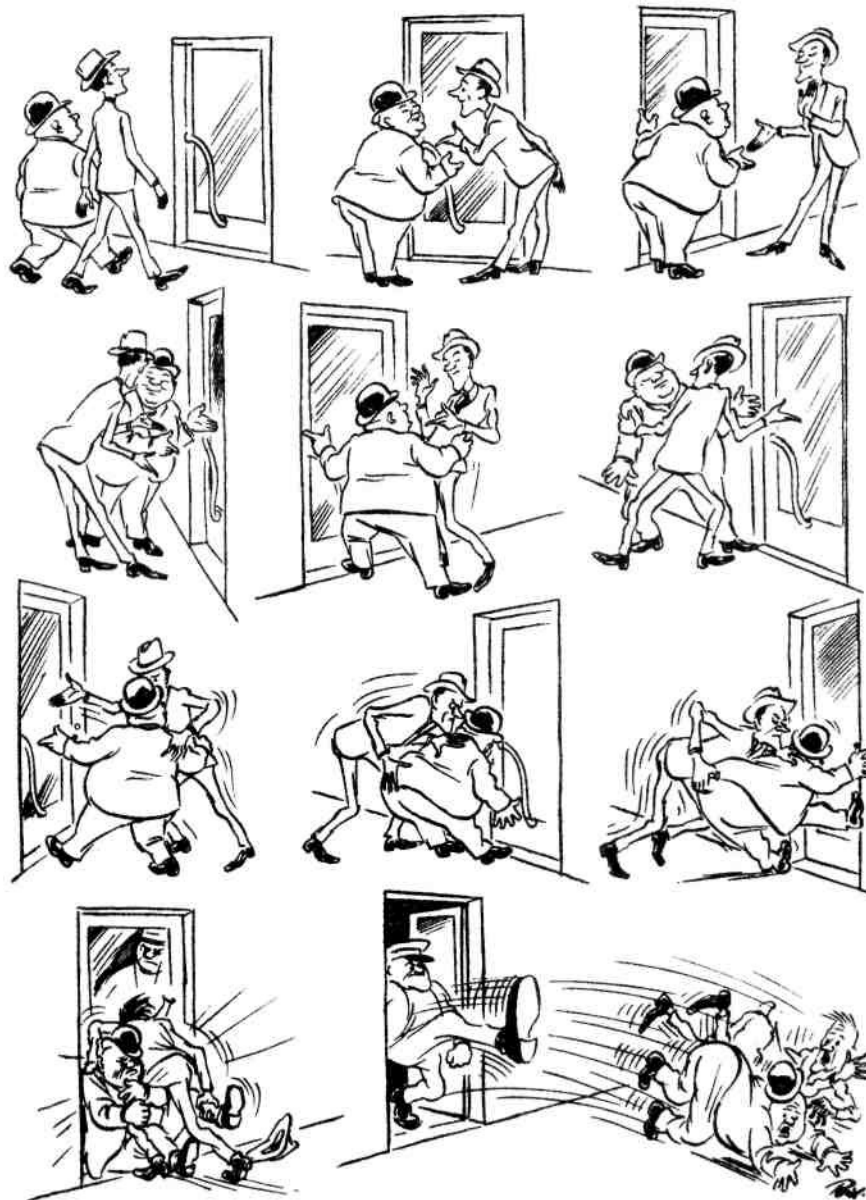


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6. How would YOU behave in a situation like this? Why? Can you think of an English proverb that would best suit the situation shown in the pictures below.





1. Projecting short, loud, canine-like noises erroneously toward the top of an incorrect arboreal plant.

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2. To subject a slender illumination device to rapid carbonization on its antipodal points.

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3. To slay a brace of avian creatures with just a single petrous conglomeration.

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4. Like sending dense shelly concretions through the air to fall in front of stout-bodied, artiodactyl creatures.

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**8. What exercises do people generally do in a gym in case they want to trim down? Describe at least five most effective ones.**

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**9. Form adjectives from the following proper nouns:**

Example: Shakespeare    *Shakespearean*

Aristotle	
Caesar	
Chekhov	
Christ	
Dali	
Descartes	
Plato	
Elisabeth	
Kafka	
Venus	

**10. Think of possible answers to the following questions and write them down.**

1. When you go Dutch with a Dutch uncle do you enjoy the outing? Why, or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If someone lisps, how would they say the name Suzie? (*A transcription might also help*) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Why do some people see red on being rebuffed? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why wouldn't our company pick up the tab for the annual picnic? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. In what ways are they plu? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Can a person be a yuppie and a woopie at the same time? Why, or why not? \_\_\_\_

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7. Why do you call David an Indian giver? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Why doesn't he want to go down to the nitty-gritty after everything has been discussed? \_\_\_\_\_

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