

ADVANCED LEVEL NEWSLETTER

29th April 2011

OUR RECENT NEWS

EURO B2 (Intermediate) language exam

Would you like to take an intermediate level language exam? The next EURO B2 exam is going to be on 14th May (application deadline was 15th April). Are you ready? If not or you think you can be better, enrol on our special exam-preparation course between 2 – 13 May. Check our website for more information or send us an e-mail.

Recruitment period

We are at the beginning of our recruitment period and we are happy to get your applications for our Study-tours due to be organized in the summer of 2011.

Destinations and dates:

Plymouth, England, 19 June – 3 July 2011

Plymouth, England, 3 - 17 July 2011

Dublin, Ireland, 17 - 31 July 2011

Edinburgh, Scotland 31 July - 13 August 2011

Malta 14 – 28 August 2011

Visit our website for more information!

AND NOW, IT'S TIME TO PRACTISE YOUR ENGLISH!

Although this married couple enjoyed their new fishing boat together, it was the husband who was behind the wheel operating the boat. He was concerned about what might happen in an emergency.

So one day out on the lake he said to his wife, "Please take the wheel, Dear. Pretend that I am having a heart attack. You must get the boat safely to shore and dock it."

So she drove the boat to shore.

Later that evening, the wife walked into the living room where her husband was watching television. She sat down next to him, switched the TV channel, and said to him, "Please go into the kitchen, dear. Pretend I'm having a heart attack and set the table, cook dinner and wash the dishes."

The Royal Wedding



An event of worldwide interest for the eyes and the ears of all those following the live TV or Internet broadcast is the wedding of the most famous couple of our times. The marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey today inevitably brings to mind a previous wedding 30 years ago when Prince Charles led Diana Spencer to the altar of St. Paul's Cathedral on 29 July 1981.

Between the two dates much intrigue, tragedy and animosity has overshadowed the British monarchy such that Shakespeare could have written a drama based on the events. The love of William and Kate, born of a university romance, however, would perhaps be more

fitting for the pen of George Bernard Shaw, considering his genre of romantic comedy, such as *Pygmalion*, in which, incidentally, Kate Middleton once tested her acting ability as an amateur actress at secondary school.

The life story of Catherine Elizabeth Middleton has many similarities to that of Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion*. Her great-great grandfathers were miners and the family gained middle-class status only at the start of the 20th century. Kate's father, Michael Francis Middleton, met his future wife, Carole Elizabeth Goldsmith, when he was working as a British Airways air traffic dispatcher. Her mother from being a flight attendant taught herself to be a businesswoman. Her successful company selling party supplies and decorations, *Party Pieces*, laid the foundations for the family's wealth. Thanks to that, Kate graduated in art history at Scotland's St. Andrew's University, where she was in the same year as Prince William of Wales.

Meanwhile the shy teenage brunette, distinguished in various sports and intellectual pursuits, turned into a purposeful woman who today is already spoken of as a fashion icon. With her hats decorated with ribbons, her tight jersey dresses and her tailored suits she has created a style. The Middleton look rivals the elegance of Michelle Obama. The future Princess Catherine is a fan of polo, horse-racing and hunting. She has two harmful passions - smoking and an addiction to shopping.

Her prince, who is of the same age - more precisely, six months younger - is a combination of gentleman and naughty kid. William Arthur Philip Louis bears a heavy burden, with many people looking to him to brighten up the pale light of the British monarchy. Princess Diana's philanthropic propensity is mixed in his genes with Prince Charles's love of adventure. After finishing university Prince William started out with the Royal Air Force as a helicopter pilot. Otherwise, he is the romantic type. In his childhood he more than once consoled his suffering mother as a result of his father's indifference and a lack of affection on the part of Queen Elizabeth. It's as if the spirit of his adored mother hangs over his forthcoming marriage to Kate Middleton. The blue sapphire ring with 17 diamonds which he slipped on her finger was the one given by Prince Charles to Diana when they were engaged. With this gallant gesture last November, William put the seal on their eight-year relationship.

VOCABULARY

proposal – a request to someone to get married to you

fiancée – your fiancée is the woman you are engaged to and are going to get married to

fiancé – your fiancé is the man you are engaged to and are going to get married to

bachelor flat / pad – a small flat, consisting of a main room for living in, a kitchen, and a bathroom, suitable for a person who is not married

stag party – an occasion when a group of men celebrate together because one of them is soon to be married

hen party – a celebration for a woman who is about to be married, in which only her women friends take part

to be married to something – to spend so much time doing something or thinking about something that you have little time to do or think about anything else

bridesmaid – a girl or young woman who helps a bride before and during her wedding

best man – the friend who helps a bridegroom at his wedding

registrar – someone whose job is to keep official records, especially of births, deaths, and marriages

to lead to the altar – to get married

vow – a serious promise

to exchange vows - a set of promises that people make to each other, for example during a wedding ceremony

veil – a thin piece of cloth worn over a woman's head and often partly over her face

arranged marriage - a marriage that is arranged by the parents of the man and woman getting married, instead of the man and woman choosing to marry each other

marriage guidance - advice given by a trained person to married people who are having problems in their relationship

marriage of convenience - a marriage arranged for political or financial reasons and not for love

marriage portion – the money or other assets one brings into a marriage

GRAMMAR BITS

No, not any

Look at these sentences:

Hong Kong's goal: zero accidents on the road.

Hong Kong's goal: no accidents on the road.

and decide if they are correct or should we use the singular form?

Hong Kong's goal: zero accident on the road.

Hong Kong's goal: no accident on the road.

So?

zero = not any

With countable nouns, 'zero' is always followed by plural nouns. With uncountable nouns, the singular form is used. Compare the following:

Zero degrees centigrade is the same as 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

We are likely to see zero growth on the stock market this year.

We are not likely to see any growth on the stock market this year.

no = not a / not any

With countable nouns, 'no' is normally followed by plural forms. It sounds more natural and makes better sense to say:

It was early December and there were no leaves on the trees.

No dogs, unless they are on a lead, are allowed in the flower garden.

No road accidents were reported in Chelsea throughout August.

than:

It was early December and there was no leaf on the trees.
No dog, unless it is on a lead, is allowed in the flower garden.
No road accident was reported in Chelsea throughout August.

Sometimes, 'no' may be followed by singular or plural nouns, depending on whether one is thinking of one or more than one:

It was 9 a.m., yet there was no policeman on duty outside the embassy.
It was 9 a.m., yet there were no policemen on duty outside the embassy.

In the Premiership last Saturday, no players were sent off.
In the Premiership last Saturday, no player was sent off.
In the Premiership last Saturday, not a single player was sent off.

Sometimes, it is more natural to combine singular and plural use:

He must lead a lonely life in that village: he has no wife and no children.

(A man normally has one wife, but often has more than one child!)

no = emphatic use

Note that we tend to use 'no', rather than 'not a' or 'not any' when we want to emphasise a negative idea. In the lonely man example above, 'no' is more effective than 'not a / not any'. Compare:

He must lead a lonely life: he doesn't have a wife and he doesn't have any children.

With subject nouns, when 'no' is used emphatically, 'not a' / 'not any' are not possible:

No politician tells the truth all the time.
No writer has won the Booker prize more than once.

Note that singular use sounds more natural in these examples.

no collocations

There are a number of common nouns that normally combine with 'no', rather than 'not a' or 'not any'. Most of them are uncountable and include 'no amount, no time, no idea, no doubt, no reason, no need, no evidence, no problem, no way, no point, no use'. Study these examples of use:

No amount of washing could remove the stain from the garment.
There's no time to lose. We must leave immediately.
I have no idea how you solve this problem. It's quite beyond me.
There was no doubt she had lied. All the evidence pointed to her guilt.
I've no reason to think he won't return. He needs me as much as I need him.
There's no need to cry. We can sort this out together.

*Can you help me with the ironing? ~ No problem. I'm not busy this evening.
Can you help me with the cleaning? ~ No way. I have to be out by seven.
There's no point in shouting. He's deaf and can't hear you.
It's no use complaining. They won't bother to answer your letter.*

EXERCISES

If necessary, correct these sentences. If they are correct, write OK.

- 1 There were no dates on the jar to say when the jam should be eaten by.
- 2 Although he is French, none of his novels are set in France.
- 3 None of the information we were given were particularly helpful.
- 4 Although I put food out in the garden every day, no bird ever took it.
- 5 I phoned the booking office but they said they had no seat left for the concert.
- 6 Surprisingly, there was no police officer outside the embassy.
- 7 Seeing that the soldiers were carrying no weapons, I walked towards them.
- 8 None of the company's business are done I the US.
- 9 I'm afraid that none of the local newspapers make much of a profit now.
- 10 I phoned Sally three times yesterday, but each time there were no answers.

Correct these sentences.

1. They are quicker doing this as I am.
2. I got there more earlier than everyone else.
3. They are not as good as at using a computer than I am.
4. I don't think this novel is so good than his last one.
5. I ate pretty the same much as the last time I went to his restaurant.
6. The longer I sit here, less I feel like moving.
7. I prefer Tarantino's films than Oliver Stone's.
8. He ran as the wind.

9. He has worked like a clerk for the same bank for most of his life.

10. They seemed as they didn't really understand what was going on.

You can find the keys to these exercises at the end of this newsletter on the last page.

Well, that's all for now. We hope you enjoyed our material and you are eager to receive the new one next week. Have fun and see you again soon!

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to write to us at newsletter@shetland.hu

Best regards,

Shetland UK Nyelviskola
1192 Budapest, Kábel utca 10.
281-0822, 280-3123, 06-30-952-1202
www.shetland.hu

SEE ANSWERS BELOW

Here are the correct answers for the exercises:

If necessary, correct these sentences. If they are correct, write OK.

- 1 was no date
- 2 OK
- 3 we were given was
- 4 no birds
- 5 no seats
- 6 OK
- 7 OK
- 8 is done
- 9 OK
- 10 was no answer

Correct these sentences.

1. They are quicker doing this THAN I am.
2. I got there - earlier than everyone else.
3. They are not as good as at using a computer AS ME.
4. I don't think this novel is AS GOOD AS his last one.
5. I ate pretty MUCH THE SAME as the last time I went to his restaurant.
6. The longer I sit here, THE less I feel like moving.
7. I prefer Tarantino's films TO Oliver Stone's.
8. He ran LIKE the wind.
9. He has worked AS a clerk for the same bank for most of his life.
10. They seemed as IF they didn't really understand what was going on.