Dear teachers,

This file contains exercises based on the articles in the magazine to be used in your classes and also solutions to Exam Time from the magazine (p. 10). TF is available at www.bridge-online.cz in the “Učitelé” section. The password is ACTIVITY.

Exam Time – Solutions (p. 10)

Basic level: 1C, 2B
Higher level: 1A, 2B, 3D

A Battle with Demons (pp. 4–5)

Listen to the end of the story “The Black Cat” at www.bridge-online.cz/studenti/poslechy or read it below.

The Black Cat
by Edgar Allan Poe

I was now a very different man. There was not the smallest piece of good left in me. I now had only evil thoughts – the darkest and most evil thoughts. I hated everyone and everything, my dear wife too.

One day she came down into the cellar with me to cut some wood (we were now too poor to have a servant). Of course, the cat followed me down the stairs and nearly made me fall. This made me so angry that I took the axe and tried to cut the animal in two. But as I brought the axe down, my wife stopped my arm with her hand. This made me even more angry, and I pulled her hand away from my wrist, lifted the tool again, brought it down hard and buried it in the top of her head.

I had to hide the body. I knew I could not take it out of the house. The neighbours noticed everything. I thought of cutting it into pieces and burning it. I thought of burying it in the cellar. I thought of throwing it in the river at the end of the garden. I thought of throwing it in a wooden box and taking it out of the house that way. In the end, I decided to hide the body in one of the walls of the cellar.

It was quite an old building, near the river, so the walls of the cellar were quite wet and the plaster was soft. There was new plaster on one of the walls, and I knew that underneath it the wall was not very strong. I also knew that this wall was very thick. I could hide the body in the middle of it.

It was not difficult, I took off some plaster, took out a few stones, made a hole in the earth that filled the middle of the wall. I put my wife there, put back the stones, made some new plaster and put it on the wall. Then I cleaned the floor, and looked carefully around. Everything looked as it did before. Nobody would ever know. Next, I went upstairs to kill the cat. The animal was bringing me bad luck. I had to kill it. I searched everywhere, but I could not find him. I was sure it was because of my wife's murder; he was too clever to come near me now.

I waited all evening, but I didn't see the evil animal. He did not come back during the night either. And so, for the first time in a long time, I slept well. When I woke up in the morning, I was surprised to see that the cat still was not there. Two, three days passed, and there was still no cat. I cannot tell you how happy I began to feel. I felt so much better without that cat. Yes, it was he who brought me all my unhappiness. And now, without him I began to feel like a free man again. It was wonderful – no more cat! Never again!

Several people came and asked about my wife but I answered their questions easily. Then on the fourth day the police came. I was not worried when they searched the house. They asked me to come with them as they searched. They looked everywhere, several times. Then they went down into the cellar. I went down with them, of course. I was not a bit afraid. I walked calmly up and down, watching them search.

They found nothing, of course, and soon they were ready to go. I was so happy that I could not stop talking as they went up the stairs. “Good day to you all, dear sirs.” I said. “Yes, this is a well-built old house, isn’t it? Yes, a very well-built old house. These walls – are you going, gentlemen? – these walls are strong, aren’t they?” I knocked hard on the part of the wall where my wife was.

A voice came out from inside the wall, in answer to my knock. It was a cry, like child’s. Quickly it grew into a long scream of pain and horror. I saw the policemen standing on the stairs with their mouths open. Suddenly, they all ran down in a great hurry and began breaking down the wall. It fell quickly, and there was my wife standing inside. She was, with dried blood all over her head, looking at them. And there was the cat standing on her head, his red mouth wide open in a scream, and his one gold eye shining like fire. The clever animal! My wife was dead because of him, and now his evil voice was sending me to the gallows.

After either reading or listening to the end of the story “The Black Cat”, answer the following questions.

1. What crime did the narrator commit?
2. How was his crime revealed?
3. What is the message of the story?

Solutions:
1. The narrator killed his wife in a fit of anger when she tried to stop him from killing the cat.
2. The cat’s scream brought the police to the place where the body was buried.
3. You cannot escape your past and no crime will go unpunished. Alcohol can drive people to insanity and murder.
A Battle with Demons (pp. 4–5)

Based on the end of the story “The Black Cat”, decide which of the sentences 1–10 are true (T) and which are false (F).

1 The woman tried to protect the cat from her husband.  [T] [F]
2 One of the places where the man wanted to bury his wife was the garden.  [F] [F]
3 The man decided to hide the body in the wall covered with new plaster.  [T] [F]
4 It was easy to make a hole in the wall.  [F] [F]
5 The man was satisfied with the place he had hidden his wife’s body in.  [T] [F]
6 After the murder, the man searched for the cat the whole night.  [F] [F]
7 The man was unhappy when the cat didn’t return home the day after the crime.  [T] [F]
8 The police broke down the wall because they heard a scream coming from inside the wall.  [F] [F]
9 The police discovered a dead cat and woman inside the wall.  [T] [F]
10 The cat revealed the crime the narrator had committed.  [T] [F]

Solutions: 1 T, 2 F, 3 T, 4 T, 5 T, 6 F, 7 F, 8 T, 9 F, 10 T

Exam Time – Halloween (p. 10)

Most Halloween festivities are based on folk beliefs concerning supernatural forces and spirits of the dead. Images thought to symbolize bad omens are also commonly featured in the decorations. The autumn season is also reflected in the symbols of Halloween.

Test your knowledge of words associated with Halloween by matching each definition (1–10) with the correct word (A–L). There are two extra words that you will not use.

1 the spirit of someone who has died and has returned to earth to haunt a place or living people  A) MUMMY
2 a building inhabited or visited by the spirit of someone who has died  B) SPIDER
3 a corpse preserved by embalming, in the manner of the ancient Egyptians  C) VAMPIRE
4 a large, round orange fruit that has thick edible flesh and is used for Halloween lanterns (AmE Jack-o’-Lanterns)  D) BAT
5 a nocturnal (active at night) mammal that has wings covered with membranes  E) PUMPKIN
6 a legendary being that drinks people’s blood  F) GHOST
7 a woman who practises magic  G) HAUNTED HOUSE
8 a creature with eight legs that spins webs  H) OWL
9 a figure of a person used for scaring birds away from fields  I) BLACK CAT
10 a furry animal considered to bring bad luck and to have nine lives  J) WITCH

Solutions: 1 F, 2 G, 3 A, 4 E, 5 D, 6 C, 7 J, 8 B, 9 K, extra H and K
**Exam Time** (p. 10)

Try to make pairs. There are two extra letters you will not use.

1. a witch  A) a bone  
2. a spider  B) a ghost  
3. a vampire  C) a branch  
4. a haunted house  D) a sock  
5. a skeleton  E) blood  
                      F) a broomstick  
                      G) a web

Solutions: 1F, 2G, 3E, 4B, 5A extra C and D

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**Weird News** (p. 14)

Try to replace the definitions in the text with the correct words from the box.

| A) arrest | B) bare | C) beaches |
| D) gathered | E) harbour | F) onlookers |
| G) skyscrapers | H) thrill seeker | I) tightrope |

SPIDER-MAN ARRESTED

Alain Robert, a French climber, can’t shoot a web from his hands, but just like Spider-Man he can climb buildings using just his (1) mere hands. He has climbed more than 80 (2) high rise buildings and other tall structures around the world.

In August, Robert climbed the 57-storey Lumiere building in Sydney, Australia. He reached the top in 20 minutes. A large crowd of (3) watchers (4) came together to cheer him on, while police were waiting on the roof to (5) take him to the police station. This was not the first time Robert has performed such a dangerous act. He had already climbed famous structures such as the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building and the Sydney (6) Port Bridge. In fact, he is not the only French (7) a person who looks for adventure. In 1973, Philippe Petit crossed two of the bridge’s towers on a (8) long wire. What is it about these people? Has no one told them about the lovely Australian (9) seaside?

Solutions: 1B, 2G, 3F, 4D, 5A, 6E, 7H, 8I, 9C

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**Keeping up the Beat** (pp. 12–13)

**AN INTERVIEW WITH A RAPPER**

Imagine you are a reporter interviewing Ice Cube (IC), a rapper who helped create gangsta rap and is probably one of the most high profile West Coast rappers. Try to complete the questions to his answers.

You: Ice Cube is obviously your stage name. What (0) __ is your real name __ ?
IC: It’s O’Shea Jackson.

You: How did (1) ___________________? 
IC: I began my career as a member of C.I.A and later joined the gangsta rap group N.W.A.

You: C.I.A.? What does (2) ___________________? 
IC: C.I.A. stands for Cru’ in Action!

You: You began your career with N.W.A. Why (3) ___________________? 
IC: I quit the band because we had different views about the music business.

You: Your musical output has slowed down considerably since 2000, (4) ___________________? 
IC: Yes, it has.

You: And why (5) ___________________? 
IC: It slowed down because I started focusing on acting.

You: I see. And how many (6) ___________________? 
IC: I've starred in, maybe, 14 films since 2000. But actually, I have been in the film industry much longer.

You: I've heard that you are no stranger to the other side of the camera. Have you (7) ___________________? 
IC: Yes, I have written a few screenplays.

You: What (8) ___________________? 
IC: My first screenplay was a comedy, Friday.

You: Oh, Friday! Friday became a hit. How much (9) ___________________? 
IC: It earned $28 million worldwide on a $3.5 million budget.

You: Amazing! And have (10) ___________________? 
IC: I have won two film awards so far.

You: My last question is about your new album I Am The West. When (11) ___________________? 
IC: It will be released in September. I hope.

Solutions: 2) you begin your career, 2) C.I.A. / it stand for, 3) did you quit / leave the band, 4) hasn’t, 5) did it slow down, 6) films have you been / starred / acted in, 7) ever written a / any screenplay(s) / before, 8) was your first screenplay, 9) did it earn, 10) you ever won a / any film award / awards, 11) will it be released
I. Housing and Living
Slipper Dictatorship (p. 8)

1 Discuss the habit of taking your shoes off when entering a flat / house.

**Pros:** You don't bring mud and germs into the house if you take your shoes off. / It's more hygienic and you don't have to clean the floor or carpets as often. / It's more comfortable walking around the house with your socks on. / Slippers are more comfortable than shoes and keep your feet warm. / Your shoes last longer because you don't wear them out at home.

**Cons:** It doesn't really matter – it isn't as if you touch the floor at home very often anyway. / It takes time to put your shoes on and take them off when you enter and leave the house. / If you're wearing socks or slippers, it's easier to slip on wooden floors. / If you step on something sharp, you'll hurt your feet.

2 When you come home, do you keep your shoes on or do you take them off? Why?

II. Culture – Music
Keeping up the Beat (pp. 12–13)

Music is a great topic for classroom discussion and projects if combined with mind mapping.

1 Read the text Keeping up the Beat and fill in the mind map – link and arrange key words and ideas connected to hip hop round the central key word.

2 Use the mind map to structure and organize your speech about hip hop.

3 Choose any music genre / style (besides hip hop) and create your own mind map. Present your music genre / style to your classmates.

4 Look at the photo on page 12 and speak about the clothes and accessories the singers are wearing.

**Answer Tips**
- Chain, rings, crown, bracelet / wristband, necklace, bling (a collective noun for flashy jewellery), baseball cap, leather / plastic / latex trousers / pants, shirt, T-shirt, sweater, belt, trainers, sunglasses / shades, eye patch, bag

5 Discuss the following statement: ‘Listening to recorded music is nothing compared to listening to live music.’

**Answer Tips**

*Agreement*
- Even if you have a good CD or record player, the sound is never such good quality as at a concert.
- Music is a way of connecting and communicating with other people. It feels much more personal if the sound is coming from the musicians themselves and not from a machine.
- If you listen to music at home, you always get distracted or do something else at the same time – at a concert you just listen.

*Disagreement*
- If there's a good atmosphere and you have a high quality CD player, there's not much difference between listening at a party and listening in a crowded concert hall.
- At a concert you're distracted by people talking or coughing, or bumping into you.
- At concerts, there might be problems with sound, or the musicians might perform badly.
- At a concert you can't choose exactly which songs you listen to, but at home you can.

6 Discuss the pros and cons of the following music media.

A) DVD

**Pros:** You can watch and listen to exactly what you want. You can use it on a computer and take it round with you when you're travelling. The sound quality is often better than on computers and tapes.

**Cons:** The pictures can be distracting, the sound is only as good as the computer / DVD player you're using, everything has been changed to make it sound better. In some ways, you're just listening to a machine.

B) Vinyl records / LPs

**Pros:** Most people think the sound is clearer and better than the sound from CD players or tapes. It's the original, 'authentic' way to listen to music. The music hasn't been doctored and 'improved' until it is flawless and impersonal.

**Cons:** They're big and easy to damage. If they get scratched, they start to skip (repeat themselves) and don't work properly.

C) The internet

**Pros:** You can find almost any piece of music on the internet.

**Cons:** The sound quality isn't always the best on computers.

7 Take a strip of paper and write a statement starting MUSIC IS... The statement should express your attitude to music, e.g.: Music is when butterflies are dancing and all creatures talk together. Music is full of magic. Music is the universal language.

In groups, order the statements of the group members into a non-rhyming poem. You may use the statements more than once in your poem. When you've finished, a volunteer from each group recites the poem to the class. Rewrite the best poem on a sheet of paper and stick it on the wall.