

Spotlight



A Presentation in the English Sunshine

Die Meisten, die eine Zeit im Ausland verbracht haben, können viele lustige Geschichten erzählen. Hier beschreibt der Student Stefan ein ungewöhnliches Referat.

MITTEL by Clare Maas

You know, one of the funniest memories of my summer school near London was giving my oral presentation. I never thought I'd say that giving a presentation was fun, but this time was so different from anything I had done before at school. We were visiting Shakespeare's Globe playhouse, and I was given the task of talking about the Globe's history. **So**, we got off the coach and gathered in a group in front of the main entrance. There were about a dozen of us, all from different countries. The only language we could all understand was English. That doesn't mean we understood the English people, **though!** I remember that we were all wearing jeans, and some students from South America were **even** wearing jackets. But most of the English people around us, **even** the tutor, were wearing shorts, summer dresses or sandals! They all seemed happy about the "summer" weather. It was only 20 degrees! **Still**, it wasn't raining, so **at least** my note cards didn't get wet! **Anyway**, we stood there and I had to give my presentation,

without slides and without a desk — just in front of the building. **But instead** of me just talking on my own for 10 minutes, everyone joined in. The other students shared anecdotes and comparisons with old buildings in their own countries. The tutor joined in, **too**, making us squash together to feel what it would have been like to be in the "pit" audience when the Globe first opened, or making the others stand further away from me to see if they could hear me without modern microphones **and everything**. I had researched the basic facts, but as a group we really made the presentation memorable. I've never enjoyed giving a presentation so much!

a dozen
• ein Dutzend

main entrance
• Haupteingang

pit
• Parkett

slides
• Folien

task
• Aufgabe

Words you need to know

Wie können Sie als Lehrer oder Lehrerin den Text in Ihrer Klasse bearbeiten?

LEICHT MITTEL SCHWER

1. Vocabulary M

Match the words in red in the original text with their German translations below. These are words and phrases you often hear in casual speech.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| a. aber
(two translations) | e. sogar |
| b. also | f. statt |
| c. auch | g. und alles |
| d. jedenfalls | h. zumindest |

Notes for teachers

Language levels: B2 on CEFR.

Language & skills practice: content-based vocabulary; reading comprehension; spoken language; linking vocabulary.

Content aim: to briefly show a case study of a summer school experience and encourage thought on positive experiences of spending time abroad.

Procedure:

Reading	5 mins	
Vocabulary	5-10 mins	Can be done in pairs.
Text comprehension	10-15 mins	Encourage the use of dictionaries for this activity.
		Check answers in plenum & use wrong alternatives to introduce more new vocabulary.
Tell your story	10 mins	Best done in pairs or small groups (3-4 pupils). As an extension/for language checking: partners can summarize stories to the class.



Clare Maas

Clare is a lecturer in EFL and EAP at Trier University. Before moving into tertiary education, she taught general English at German grammar schools, and English for Specific Purposes at several language academies in the UK and Germany.

Answers

Stefan was on a school trip / a summer course / an exchange which was in southern England / in London / around the globe, and he had to take an exam / hold a speech / write an essay about a museum / a church / a theatre. The weather was scorching / mild / chilly but dry. There were just over ten / twenty / thirty students in the group, and they all listened carefully / played a game / participated while Stefan was speaking. They asked questions / shared their opinions / told stories about the topic. The teacher explained / demonstrated / pointed out what a visit to the Globe was like for the first audiences by getting the students to move around / stand still / hug each other. The presentation was an experience Stefan will always laugh at / enjoy / remember. Potentially new vocabulary: exchange (Austausch), essay (Aufsatz), scorching (glühend heiß), chilly (kühl), participate (mitmachen), demonstrate (demonstrieren), point out (hinweisen auf), hug (umarmen).

1. Vocabulary
a. aber (2 words) – still (usually)
at beginning of sentence / clause, though (usually at end of sentence/clause)
b. also – so
c. auch – too (at end of sentence/clause)
d. jedenfalls – anyway
e. sogar – even
f. statt – instead of (+ing)
g. und alles – and everything
h. zumindest – at least



In fünf Schritten zum Studium, Praktikum oder Sprachkurs im Ausland: „studieren weltweit – ERLEBE ES!“ liefert die wichtigsten Informationen, Organisations- und Planungshilfen für einen Auslandsaufenthalt während des Studiums. Schau dir die Infos jetzt schon an und lass dich von Correspondents - Studierende, die weltweit live von ihren Aufenthalten berichten und Tipps geben - inspirieren!

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