

# Newspaper

## *in Education*



### F A M O U S E V E N T S



- 1 Which events are held annually and which every four years?
- 2 Do you know any more regular events?
- 3 Which events are you interested in/participate in/watch on TV?

**Davis Cup**

**FIFA World Cup**

*Prague Spring Festival*

**MISS WORLD**

**The Olympic Games**

**Presidential elections (CR)**

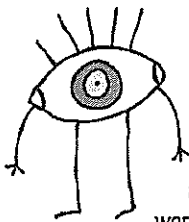
**Academy Awards**  
(Oscar nomination)



### Vocabulary

annual	every year
prominent	well known, important
a host	organizer of a social event
responsibility	a duty to take care of sb/sth
a roundtable	discussion at "round table"
current	present, contemporary
an issue	a topic
to oppress	not to give sb the same rights
to promote	to help something to develop
an obligation	a duty to do something
extensive	wide
faith	religion

## Forum 2000



For the past eleven years, Prague has played host to hundreds of prominent international guests who have come to discuss current global issues at the annual Forum 2000 Conference. Among the thought leaders and policymakers who have attended the Conference were, for example, Dalai Lama, Boutrus Boutrus-Ghali, Hillary and Bill Clinton or Madeleine Albright. With as many as 90 delegates, this year was the biggest event in the history of Forum 2000.

The year's theme was „Freedom and Responsibility” and the Conference was traditionally opened by its co-founder, former President Václav Havel. In his speech, Havel drew attention to societies oppressing basic democratic freedoms such as Belorussia or Burma and emphasized the obligation of democratic countries to promote freedom. He also appealed to the audience to take individual responsibility and invited everybody to sign up a petition against the violence in Burma.

During the two days of the Conference, the main theme was debated in four different areas: Freedom and Responsibility in Politics, International Law, Media, and Business. Besides, a number of additional seminars, workshops and roundtables such as Water in Middle East or Interfaith Dialogue completed the extensive programme of Forum 2000. The Conference was closed with a multi-faith meditation at San Salvator Church, where representatives of Islam, Judaism and Christianity lit together a symbolic candle of tolerance and cooperation.

### Test yourself - True or False ?

- Forum 2000 Conference started in the year 2000.
- George Bush has attended the Conference.
- Václav Havel is one of the founders of Forum 2000.
- Václav Havel didn't agree with the petition against the violence in Burma.
- The main theme of this year's Forum 2000 Conference was Freedom and Responsibility in Business.
- Representatives of Islam, Hinduism and Christianity participated in the multi-faith meditation.

### TEACHER'S CORNER

Tips for warm up activities:

The aim is to practise a spontaneous conversation in real-life situation. SS take turns, everyone should be the host a few times. Keep the individual sketches short. Encourage SS to be as inventive as possible they will enjoy it more!

#### Act it out!

- What kind of people/professions meet at conference?
- (Brainstorming: Photographers, journalist, delegates, visitors, hostesses, catering personnel, interpreters, cloakroom attendants, coordinators, bodyguards, etc.)
- A student thinks of profession and acts it out without using words (Pantomime). The others have to guess.

#### Small talk at a party

- SS make groups of 3, one plays the host and the others are his/her guests who don't know each other. The host has to introduce them briefly e.g. this is my old school friend, Mike, and this my sister Veronica. The guests should ask each other a few questions based on this information and improvise a short conversation. e.g. Were you and Joe in the same class? What are you doing here in New York? What's your job?

(source: www.jeviste.cz)

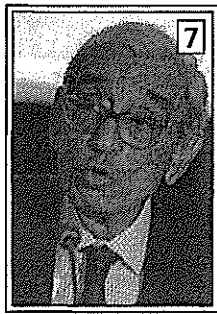
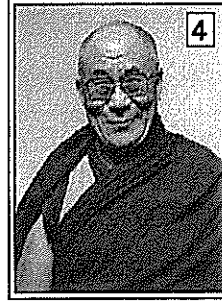
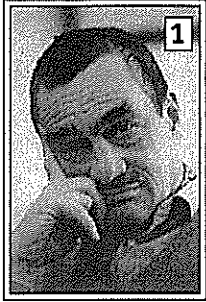
# Who is who?

## TEACHER'S CORNER Tips for warm up activities:

### Who is Who game

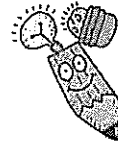
Extend Who is who activity in a game. SS make groups, each group has a speaker who gives a description of a famous person the others have to guess.

2 Match the photos with the names and the occupations



- Karel Schwarzenberg
- Tomáš Halík
- Hillary Clinton
- Dalai Lama
- Madeleine Albright
- Magdaléna Vašáryová
- Boutros Boutros-Ghali
- Ségolène Royal

- former Secretary of State, USA
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, CR
- French Socialist Presidential candidate
- former UN Secretary General, Egypt
- Diplomat, politician and former actress, Slovakia
- Democratic Presidential candidate and U.S. Senator
- Head of State and Spiritual Leader, Tibet
- Professor at Charles University, Catholic priest, CR



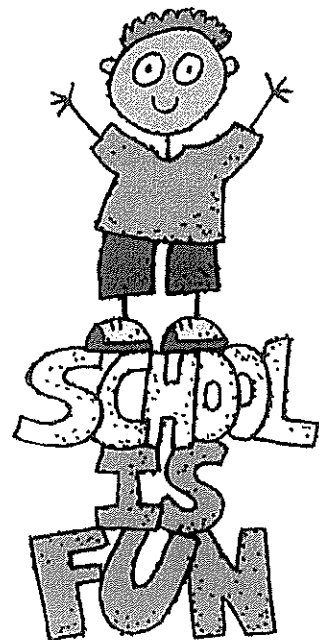
(1) Karel Schwarzenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2) Tomáš Halík, Professor at Charles University, Catholic priest (3) Hillary Clinton, Democratic Presidential candidate and U.S. Senator (4) Dalai Lama, Head of State and Spiritual Leader, Tibet (5) Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State, USA (6) Magdaléna Vašáryová, Diplomat, politician and former actress, Slovakia (7) Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former UN Secretary General, Egypt (8) Ségolène Royal, French Socialist Presidential candidate

### GRAMMAR SPOT

The PASSIVE

1. Find examples of the passive forms in the text.
2. How do we form the passive?
3. Change the passive into active forms.

1. The Conference was traditionally opened by..., the main theme was debated..., the Conference was closed...  
 2. to be+3rd verb form  
 3. V. Havel traditionally opened the Conference, the participants debated the main theme, the organizers closed the Conference...



# SAY IT WITH YOUR BODY!



There is one group of people who are rarely written about in the newspapers even though any prestigious event such as international conferences with VIP participants could not do without them. They are the event coordinators and the supporting staff who work hard to make the event a success. A Diplomacy student Tomáš Táborský, who works occasionally as a personal assistant of VIP\* delegates at international conferences, is one of them.

„I didn't realize how challenging this job can be and what different problems you might have to face. There are so many factors involved that may turn the things out of hands and very often you find yourself in situations where you just have to play it by ear. For example, the first time I worked as a personal assistant, my delegate's luggage was lost by the airline and the delegate arrived at the conference not only without his cloth and all personal belongings but also without his speech which he had prepared for the opening ceremony. The delegate tried to keep his hair on but you can imagine how upset he was. Luckily, the airline sent the luggage on the next plane so all got sorted out in the end.

Other time my delegate, who was an elderly lady, forgot her purse with her medicine in the taxi. She got very nervous and started losing her head. I tried to calm her down and called the taxi company immediately. Unfortunately, they didn't have any information about the purse but promised to call back as soon as they get some. At that moment I put my foot in it by asking her what type of medicine she takes. The delegate got very emotional and started telling me all about her health problems and complaining about me for not keeping an eye on the purse. Just when she was crying at me that I wouldn't lift a finger to help her, my mobile phone rang. It was the taxi company saying that they found the purse and they would bring it in a few minutes. The delegate relaxed immediately and apologized for losing her face and being unfair to me.

One of the things I've learned in this job is that you always have to keep your head and be ready for everything. Another important lesson I took to heart is that VIPs are only humans and have their weak sides like everybody else. You have to treat them with respect but don't get carried away - keep your feet on the ground.”

\*VIP - Very Important Person

## QUESTION TASK

Match the underlined phrases with the phrases:

to deal with

to have a realistic attitude to life

to watch

to make a mistake

to show one's weaknesses, to lose control of one's emotions

to follow advice

to turn out of control

to panic

not to make any effort

not to be angry

to keep calm

to improvise

Do you have any similar expressions in your native language?

- Do you know any more phraseological expressions using parts of the body?
- Make 5 sentences using the underlined phrases

## GRAMMAR SPOT

Modal verbs expressing a hypothetical possibility:

**CAN · COULD · MAY · MIGHT**

**! remember 3 don't about modal verbs !**

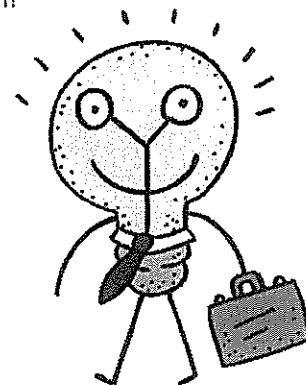
- Modal verbs don't use „do“ in questions  
(What could happen in the next part of "Friends"?)
- Modal verbs don't take „s“ in 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular
- Verbs following modals don't take „to“  
(Rachel might get back with Ross)

## QUESTION TASK

Work in small groups (3-4 people):

Imagine you are the personal assistant of a VIP like Tomáš Táborský.

- What could/may/might go wrong at a conference and how would you deal with the situation?
- Make a list of at least five possible incidents using modal verbs. Discuss in groups how you would solve the situation.





Among the many discussions of this year's Forum 2000 Conference was the roundtable dedicated to Freedom and Responsibility in Media. Many panelists including former Slovak Ambassador to Poland and current Member of Parliament Magdaléna Vašaryová expressed their discontent with media's lack of responsibility, be it individual reporters or media as a whole. She finds it alarming that nowadays media are more interested in gossip rather than serious journalism. Read the following interview and discuss:

## „WEAKNESS FOR ORIGINALITY“ OR BAD JOURNALISM ?

Reporter: Hello, Mrs Albite, I am an independent reporter and I need you to answer a few questions for me. You look great today, by the way.

Mrs Albite: Well, thank you, young...ehm ehm...gentleman, I have an appointment with a BBC reporter in 5 minutes so really only a few questions, please.

Reporter: Don't worry, I'm running for lunch in a minute anyway... So my first question is, where do you like spending your holidays?

Mrs Albite: Well...what an unusual question, I have to say. It makes me realize that I haven't been on holiday in years, so I don't have any answer to this, I'm afraid.

Reporter: How strange....well anyway, here is my next question: What is your favourite TV programme?

Mrs Albite: TV programme? Well, I cannot really say as I don't even remember when I last had time to watch TV...

Reporter: Oh, really? Then my following question is: Would you say, you are rather a morning bird or a night hawk?

Mrs Albite: What a surprising question again...Considering that my day usually starts at 6am and rarely finishes before midnight, I'm a bit of both, I suppose.

Reporter: Right. I can see time is pressing on us and so is my empty stomach, ha ha...so here comes my last question: If you were the reporter and I were you, what question would you ask in this moment?

Mrs Albite: Excuse me???

Reporter: I know, it's a bit unusual but I've always had a weakness for originality.

Mrs Albite: In that case my question would be, have you ever had such a silly interview? And the answer would be NO.

### DISCUSSION

- 1 Did you find the interview original or an example of bad journalism? Why?
- 2 What are the examples of reporters' rudeness and incompetence?
- 3 Can you find examples of irony on Mrs Albite side?
- 4 How would you respond to such an interview if you were Mrs Albite?

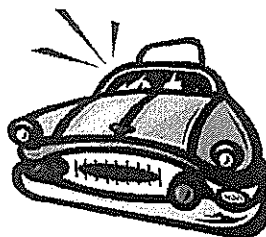
### TASK

Work in pairs and rewrite the interview sounding polite and competent. Think of more appropriate questions. You can choose a real VIP or you can invent somebody.

### A SMALL QUIZ ON ETIQUETTE

- 1 If you walk with a VIP, should you lead them on your left or right hand side?
- 2 If you walk down the stairs, who goes first, you or the VIP? And if you go upstairs?
- 3 Which seat in the car is the most honourable? Where would you sit a VIP?

(1) on your right hand side  
(2) downstairs in front of them  
(3) upstairs behind them  
(for safety reasons)  
(3) at the back, across the driver



### CLASS/GROUP PROJECT:

#### Planning a Conference:

- o What would be the main theme?
- o What subtopics would you choose?
- o Who would you invite as delegates?
- o Where would you organize it?
- o Who would have the opening speech? etc

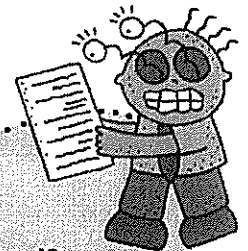
Present your plan in the class. Divide the roles in the group and stage a conference. One is the conference moderator, some students are the delegates and the rest are visitors. Each delegate prepares a short speech which they present, visitors ask delegates questions and start a discussion.

Resources: [www.forum2000.cz](http://www.forum2000.cz)  
[www.praguepost.com](http://www.praguepost.com)

### READING:

Prague Post October 10 – 16, 2007, page A2

- o What were the key points of Canadian Governor General Michael Jean's speech?
- o What did Madeleine Albright criticize George Bush for? What did she mean by „Democracy is never done“?
- o What suggestion did Segolene Royal make to promote freedom and responsibility?



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