

CASE STUDY “THE EVENT IN A LATVIAN TRADITIONAL BATHHOUSE”

Learning objectives:

1. To develop problem solving skills;
2. To develop analytical thinking;
3. To develop language skills- reading, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, writing

Introduction

“The Event in a Latvian Traditional Bathhouse” is a case study devised by teachers at Turība University for the “Culture and Languages for all” project.

Its aim is to develop language skills for learners of English at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference. It can be used with groups of 4-8 students, guided by a language teacher. The case study also contains preparation activities which students can complete autonomously, either in a language laboratory or at home.

In completing the case study, learners have the chance to improve the skills of reading, spoken production and spoken interaction. They have access to a number of authentic texts to read, and as regards writing, they are required to write an essay focusing on the usage of conditional sentences. In a section devoted to warm-up activities, learners have the opportunity to do exercises, related to the topic of the case study, with the dual aim of acquiring knowledge about the topic and improving language skills. Finally, great attention is paid to speaking skills, both production and interaction, with learners having to participate in a discussion, make a narrative, express agreement/disagreement, offer a solution to a problem.

Explanation of the tasks:

These activities are useful to help learners to fulfil the case study effectively. By doing the following exercises, they will also learn some useful vocabulary as well as practice grammar. All the activities can be done in a language laboratory or at home in the students’ own time. It is up to the teacher and the learners to decide how many of these activities should be completed, depending on the time available.

Activity 1: Answer the following questions; the aim is to develop comprehension skills and acquire useful vocabulary.

Activity 2: Read the given sentences, choose the best phrase to fill the gap, the aim is to enrich the learner's individual vocabulary.

Activity 3: Match the beginning of the sentence to its end.

Activity 4: Make a dialogue by inserting the given words / phrases, the aim is to enrich the learner's individual vocabulary, to practice speaking skills

Activity 5: Discuss the following items in small groups of 3 to 4 people. Then compare your ideas. The aim is to develop problem solving and speaking skills.