

## JAHRESBERICHT 2018/2019 ENGLISH – LAURA SALMON

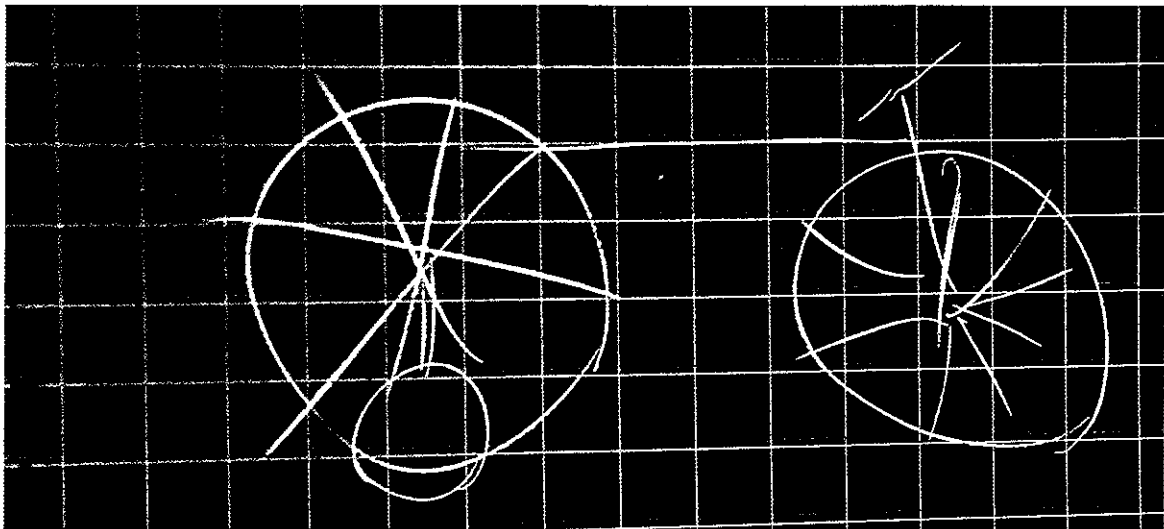
Billions of people speak it – so what do the Muhen students do to learn English?

English is such a diverse language, which is why English lessons should be diverse too! This means we talk about and listen to different accents (tough to understand some of the world's English accents, so better practice), we look at how people all over the world live (in India, the UK or the US) and of course we do grammar exercises and learn new words.

Grammar can be dry and boring – but when we talk about our own experiences, it gets a little bit more interesting, such as these questions in the present perfect tense:

- Have you ever been to France?
- Have you ever eaten a spider?
- Have you ever wanted to become President?

Nobody has eaten a spider in my classes, but we don't judge! Vocabulary is also important to be able to communicate with people. To make it more fun, we play vocabulary games (who doesn't like games?!). Pictionary is artistically challenging but the students manage to come up with creative ideas and draw it well – more or less.



("Bike on Blackboard", modern art)

We also play *Kahoot!*, a fun quiz that you can play at home, with friends or family or at school to prove your superior knowledge of history, geography, chemistry, art or anything you like. Did you know that New Zealand isn't part of any continent?

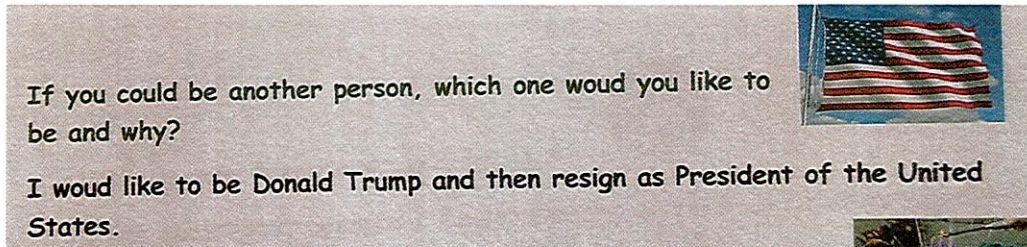
When we play games, emotions can run hot (everyone wants to win) but sometimes it gets very dramatic in English – drama baby, drama: Every now and then students perform small plays that they write themselves (yes, they are that creative). Drama is also present for those who get detention in my class: Copying Shakespeare poems really isn't fun. To behave or not to behave – it shouldn't be a question.

We discuss other important questions during our more speaking-focussed lessons, such as "What do you want to have done before you're 20?" or what about before you reach 50? The final year students want to...

- Learn to drive
- Buy a car

- Go to Amsterdam
- Finish their apprenticeship
- Do bungee jumping

... before they're 20. Getting married, having kids, further education, travelling around the world (or just Iceland) as well as making a film and parachuting are on their to-do before 50 list. Sometimes the questions can get political and the answers rather interesting:



Good idea! Speaking of the anglophone world, we sometimes also discuss anglophone holidays such as Halloween (31 October, international), Independence Day (4 July, USA), Bonfire Night (5 November, UK) or St. Patrick's Day (17 March, Ireland). You can see, English lessons go beyond just grammar and vocabulary: We also talk about history, whether that is the horrible time of Apartheid in South Africa or the Jim Crow era in the US or the entire history of the British Isles in 60 minutes (or at least a summary thereof).

I'll end my report on English lessons in Muhen by repeating something I chant regularly, as if I'm part of a grammar cult: **He, she, it – das S muss mit!** And leave you with this Halloween inspired comic



**THANK YOU FOR THIS YEAR, TAKE CARE AND MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU! – LAURA SALMON**