

English report for the Telezentrum paper

My English is not so professional and hopefully not too complicated so that I want to hope you can follow my wandering expressions ...

The beginning of our English course was that my office colleague said that their English course of the Werkstätten did not take place anymore. When I asked my female boss if we could do English here in the Telezentrum within a short time she came with the agreement that it is possible. We started Tuesdays and are now on Wednesdays from 11:15 to 12:00.

We don't talk grammar and rather speak English in the way in which each one of us is able to do so. I may say it has become a little tradition that I bring some Peanuts comics for everyone to take a look at. Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Woodstock, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, Sally, Peppermint Patty, Marcie and the other characters of the Peanuts are good for a laugh and may even provoke deeper thoughts in the midst of everyday situations.

The last Wednesdays we had some song lyrics in English like "Talkin' bout a Revolution" (Tracy Chapman), "What is truth?" and "A boy named Sue" and "The man who couldn't cry" sung by Johnny Cash, "The times they are a-changing" (Bob Dylan) or "Fragile" by Sting.

Once we took a look on a poem by Edgar Allan Poe, but maybe it was a bit too depressing.

In the Mehrzweckraum we once watched a short film "Butterfly Circus" that was about a young man without arms and legs who was showed around as an attraction in a freak show at a circus. His life began to change into another direction when the director of the Butterfly Circus comes around and tells him "You are beautiful". He didn't know him and couldn't take the compliment for real and spat in his face. When he finds out about the director he crawls on the truck of the Butterfly Circus and hides there. When he was discovered he stays with the folks of that Circus. When he almost drowns falling in some water he makes the experience that he can paddle with the very small foot-like extension that he still got, though it wasn't a foot like we know "usually". He paddles back up to the surface of the water and the others find him and rejoice with him over his new found ability to swim a little or at least getting back to the surface in the water. As result he gets his part in the show of the Butterfly Circus in jumping from a spring board into a pool of water and then the attraction is his coming back to the surface of the water by himself.

We also did games like "Stadt Land Unseriös" – an alternative version of "Stadt Land Fluß" with other categories. We played Yatzee with categories named in English.

Talking about travelling and other countries also had some space in our talks. Fortunately we had rather many people in our course who had experienced English by travelling or staying in English spoken countries or English course and we even had two of us who had direct mother tongue connections from one part of their parents (Ireland and USA).

At times when the weather is fine we are outside in the sun. In the beginning of our course we played the game in which one of the group chooses to be a certain personality and the others are asking questions to find out who he is.

Though I guess we enjoy not having to be "productive" and sometimes there are also German words found in our communications I want to hope we all find something worth for our English in the meetings and have some fun by the way, too.

Jörg Kuppler, 28th of March 2023