



HELLO!

WELCOME TO MY SECOND NEWSLETTER.

How is life back in the office? After a cold beginning of the autumn time the sun is back in Vienna and I'm happy. I've been doing a bit of job hunting and have managed to get some teaching work already. Life is good.

Who knows what our last month's new words were? **Get away from it all** / **Indian summer** / **mocktail** / **staycation**. Well done. I knew you'd remember.

LET'S START WITH: SOME OCTOBER-RELATED VOCABULARY

old chestnut

a story or joke that has been told so many times that everyone is bored with it

- Not that **old chestnut** again!

(one's) autumn years

the later years in someone's life

- Now that you're retired from work, how do you plan to spend **your autumn years**?

to drive someone nuts

to make someone go crazy

- That noise is **driving me nuts!** Please stop it immediately!

to squirrel something away

to put something away in a secret place, especially money (the same way that squirrels store nuts for use in the winter)

- I **squirreled** a little money **away** for this holiday.



Some useful (& free) online dictionary links for you to check new vocabulary, see examples of usage, listen to the pronunciation etc:

www.macmillandictionary.com

www.thefreedictionary.com

www.dictionary.cambridge.org

Do you recognize the drink on the right? Yes, it's the so-called *Federweisser* (or as they say in Austria: the *Sturm*), in Czech *burčák*. I haven't found any accurate English translation of this, only phrases like young **fall** wine, but that's not quite correct. It's one of those words that are commonly used in their original German version in English-written texts. It's typical for its **cloudy** look and heavenly sweet taste. For the **uninitiated** among you, it's grape juice that is still in the process of **fermentation** (it's semi-fermented). This **beverage** contains alcohol but it's not very strong so you can drink a lot of it. Fun fact: according to the Austrian wine law, it is only allowed to be sold between August 1 and December 31. In any case, it marks the official start of autumn for many locals.



fall

'autumn' in American English

cloudy

a cloudy liquid is not clear / not transparent (typically used about drinks)

uninitiated

lacking knowledge or experience of something

fermentation

if food or drink ferments or is fermented, a chemical change happens to it and the sugar in it produces alcohol

beverage

another (slightly more formal) word for 'drink'

HERE'S SOME READING FOR OCTOBER: WINE-RELATED

"A beginner's Guide to German Wine"

#authentic text #easy topic #food and lifestyle vocabulary #medium-long
www.serious-eats.com/2014/08/german-wine-introduction-riesling-what-is-kabinett-spatlese-auslese-mosel-rheingau.html

"Drinking Up a 'Sturm' in Austria"

#authentic text #easy topic #food and lifestyle vocabulary #medium-long
www.abcnews.go.com/Travel/story?id=1267528

NOT WINE-RELATED

"The AfD Heartland: A Visit to Germany's Flyover Country"

#authentic text #medium-difficult topic #politics vocabulary #medium-long
www.spiegel.de/international/europe/germany-a-visit-to-the-afd-stronghold-of-wilsdruff-saxony-a-1169968.html

"Neither a Plan A or a Plan B: What Strategy is London Pursuing with Brexit Talks?"

#authentic text #medium-difficult topic #politics vocabulary #medium-long
www.spiegel.de/international/europe/what-strategy-is-london-pursuing-with-brexit-talks-a-1169944.html

"Migraine Headaches: Go Away!"

#EASY level #easy topic #health and lifestyle vocabulary #short text
www.thetimesinplainenglish.com/migraine-headaches-go-away/

"Where are the Babies?"

#EASY level #easy topic #lifestyle vocabulary #short text
www.thetimesinplainenglish.com/where-are-the-babies/

HERE ARE TWO VIDEOS TO WATCH THIS MONTH:

"The future of cars"

#authentic video #easy topic #short (09:12) #technology and lifestyle vocabulary

www.ted.com/talks/reinventing_the_car

"What I discovered in New York City trash"

#authentic video #easy topic #short (07:52) #lifestyle and city vocabulary

www.ted.com/playlists/412/talks_for_neat_freaks (TALK 4)



Try to watch the videos without subtitles.

Why not watch them twice for better understanding?

SHORT GRAMMAR LESSON FUN

PAST TENSE / EASY VERSION (REGULAR VERBS)

When you come back to work and you want to talk about your summer with your colleagues (or anything else that happened in the past - yesterday or last year) it's good to know how to use the Past Tense correctly. Let's get started.

I played games on the iPad with my kids.

My wife **worked** a lot but I had more free time.

Did you cook any new dishes?

STRUCTURE

NORMAL: 😎 + infinitive + -ed
 QUESTION: Did + 😎 + infinitive ... ?
 NEGATIVE: 😎 + didn't + infinitive



The majority of verbs in English are “regular”. That means that you only need to add the ending -ed to them to create the past form. Easy! (We'll talk about “irregular” verbs next time).

MORE EXAMPLES

- We **talked** for hours, there was so much to discuss!
- She **walked** home slowly because she was tired.

PAST TENSE / DIFFICULT VERSION (PAST PERFECT)

This is useful if, for some reason, you want to talk about various events in the past and you do not stick to the chronological order.

I didn't want to watch that movie because **I'd** already **seen** it.

STRUCTURE

😎 + 'd / had + 3rd form of the verb



'd = **had** (the short form version is more common in spoken English)

PRACTICE



Complete these sentences:

/ EASY VERSION (REGULAR VERBS)

1. I _____ (love) watching cartoons on TV when I was younger.
2. We _____ (visit) the villages near the Baltic Sea last year.
3. Did you _____ (order) enough books for the holiday?
4. I _____ (talk) to her the whole evening.
5. She _____ (walk) so much faster than me.

/ DIFFICULT VERSION (PAST PERFECT)

6. He _____ (lose) the documents before we could even talk about them.
7. When we met I realised I _____ (see) her many years ago.

KEY

1. I loved watching cartoons on TV when I was younger.
2. We visited the villages near the Baltic Sea last year.
3. Did you order enough books for the holiday?
4. I talked to her the whole evening.
5. She walked so much faster than me.
6. He'd lost the documents before could even talk about them.
7. When we met I realised I'd seen her many years ago.



“
The probability of rain is inversely
proportional to the size of the umbrella
you carry around with you all day.”

MURPHY'S LAW

www.lanickova.com