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The differences between Czechs and Slovaks!

Full English lesson plan – 2 or 3 x 90 mins

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Ideas and Articles by David Robinson	

5th October 2009

Category: Lifestyle / Central Europe / Czechs & Slovaks

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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THE ARTICLE

The differences between Czechs and Slovaks!

What's the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? This is not a joke! It could be but for now it is a question for you to think about.

Generally speaking the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of Europe', are culturally assertive, more dynamic and are mostly atheist. Their men more 'cunning'. Having formerly lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. They look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves from Eastern Europe. The Slovaks who had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and are more hospitable. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are regarded as more romantic. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said that Slovak women are the most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful than Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different habits to Slovaks. Czechs like to regard themselves as more superior than Slovaks. This of course is absolute rubbish as both are equal. But it is known the Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks as the poorer class. Czechs are a bit snobbish about their Slovak neighbours!

Slovakia and the Czech Republic are in fact next door to each other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up of the former Austro Hungarian Empire after the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was primarily made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians and Gypsies. Boundaries and politics changed. Roll forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, as it was then, into the two countries. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks in the Slovak Republic. Many Slovaks however live in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic whilst not so many Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. Why? I guess money and work. Another reason is that many Slovaks study at university in Prague and after they

graduate they decide to stay in Prague.

Since joining the EU many people from both countries have lived or currently live in the UK or Ireland. One Czech said: "Czechs care about themselves and are inward looking. Because Slovakia is so small most Slovaks look abroad out of necessity."

Of course there are other differences today - like the currency. Since 2009 Slovaks have had the euro, which helps give the country stability thus avoiding foreign exchange fluctuations. It makes it easier to do business, which is something the Czech Crown cannot do. Mind you, it can have advantages – like cross border shopping. The Czechs in 2009 held the EU Presidency yet their government imploded halfway through it giving the Slovaks a big lead in political maturity.

Tomas Sedlacek, an economic advisor to the former President Havel of the Czech Republic recently said: "It can be said that the Slovaks have become a proud nation. The Czechs have become the grumps of Europe. The Czechs were the model but the Slovaks have turned this around." It is probably true, as during the 90s Slovakia's then Prime Minister Vladimir Mečiar isolated the country from the EU and NATO. Madeleine Albright the then U.S. Secretary of State described Slovakia as 'the black hole of middle Europe'. My, how things have changed! Both countries are now part of the EU, NATO and are now also part of the Schengen zone.

Both countries have reached out to investors. During the Dzurinda years (the former Slovak Prime Minister) Slovakia saw huge reforms take place. Taxes were set at 19%. Businesses especially car companies were attracted to the country. Today Slovakia is known as 'the Detroit of the East', while in the Czech Republic Hyundai have set up shop alongside the world famous Skoda brand. Today in Slovakia Volkswagen is continuing to expand. Unfortunately both countries today have had recent political scandals – tell me which country hasn't? It's still all about politicians lining their pockets! By the way have you noticed the similarities between the Czech and Slovak Presidents? They look like brothers!

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The economic crisis has had a bigger contraction in Slovakia than the Czech Republic (C.R). This is probably due to faster development in 2008 there. Slovakia in the past few years has been playing the catch up game. A game it now appears to be winning. Nevertheless, there appears to be a better standard of living in the C. R. Services there are also better and are on a higher level than in Slovakia. Infrastructure too is very poor in Slovakia. It lacks motorways. The further east you go the poorer the resources, the poorer the people. Thus resentment creeps in creating a divide. Unfortunately successive governments have failed to address this issue properly. Of course this was happening long before the two countries split. Only then Prague took all the money, which today is channelled towards Bratislava.

As for the language well Czechs speak Czech and Slovaks speak Slovak. The language is similar. In the old days both knew each others language. Today this is not so. While the young people in Slovakia know Czech the young Czechs do not learn Slovak – thinking they are superior and don't need to know it. This is a huge mistake, as it will only isolate the Czechs in the future. While the Slovaks watch Czech TV the Czechs watch little Slovak TV. In Slovakia bookshops are dominated by Czech literature. There aren't so many Slovak books in the Czech Republic. Czech newspapers are sold in Slovakia but less so the other way around.

In the future far from being 'superior' the Czechs will have a big disadvantage over their neighbours who know both languages. An exception is Slovak pop music that is listened to in the C.R. Both countries students learn English and German with Russian making a comeback in the C.R. One current good example of bringing the two nations together is the new TV show 'Czechoslovakia's Superstars' in which both countries will participate together. Mind you, many famous Czech and Slovak musicians are respected in both countries. Naturally there is a bit of friendly rivalry between the two countries - like ice hockey and football. The Czechs always seem to beat their neighbours in both.

The Czech population outnumbers the Slovaks by about two to one. There are 10.4m people living in the Czech Republic, 5.5m in

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Slovakia. Czech and Slovak beers are similar but Czech beers are more famous - Budweiser and Pilsner. I mean who has heard of Sariš or Zlatý Bazant (Golden Pheasant) outside Slovakia? Okay, the brew is sold in Ireland and Budapest!

The Slovaks do have the beautiful Tatra Mountains, which the Czechs love to visit. The mountain scenery certainly makes Slovakia the more interesting place to visit. Many visiting Czechs, statistics prove, have had to be rescued more in the Tatra mountains.

A Slovak student studying in Pilsen in the Czech Republic recently said: "I don't feel at home in the Czech Republic. We were the same country, and I should feel it is my home, but I don't, because the Czechs never cease to remind me that it is not!"

Today we have spoken about the differences between Czechs and Slovaks. Of course Moravia is a part of the Czech Republic. How do they fit into all this? Then again, that's another English lesson!

STATISTICS

GDP per capita in PPS Czech Republic and Slovakia

PPS = This is the purchasing power standard – an artificial currency, which helps one eliminate differences due to price levels of compared countries.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Czech Republic	13000	13900	14400	15200	16300	17100	18300	20000	20200
Slovakia	9500	10400	11100	11500	12400	13500	15000	16700	18000
ratio %	73.10%	74.80%	77.10%	75.70%	76.10%	78.90%	82.00%	83.55%	89.10%

Source: Tatra Bank, Bratislava

Within 8 years Slovakia gained an impressive 15.8 pp.

Boris Fojtik, Economic analyst at Tatra Bank H.O. in Slovakia:

“The result in my opinion is very clear. The last decade was about economically catching up with the Czech Republic.” He added, “I am expecting stagnation of the catch up process in the coming years.”

Currency CZK/EUR

Boris Fojtik: “Regarding the currency. The CZK/EUR is currently 25.7. In comparison with the strongest point the crown reached during the last year the figure is now 8% less (23.8).”

“In February when the Czech crown was at its weakest its value was about 29.5. So the figure is almost 24% less compared against the figure of 23.8 in the summer of 2008.”

Year on Year (YOY) quarterly growth:

Czech Republic and Slovakia:

	2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Czech Republic	6.5	5.5	6	6.5	3.5	4.9	4.1	-0.6	-3.3	-4.9
Slovakia	8	8.5	10.5	14.3	9.3	7.9	6.6	2.5	-5.6	-5.3

Source: Tatra Bank, Bratislava

Boris Fojtik: “The Slovak GDP growth numbers in the observed period are still higher except the last two quarters.”

LET'S START

1. Czech Republic and Slovakia: What part of the world will you find the Czech Republic and Slovakia? What are their capital cities? Who are their leaders? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read 4 to 6 lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page 2 - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than 5 is very good. 10 are acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than 20 - we need to do some work!

3. Reading: Get students to read the passage aloud. Swap readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students look through the article. Underline/highlight any vocabulary you do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through & explain any words or phrases you do not understand.

5. The article: Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. Let's tell a story! The differences between Czechs and Slovaks: Below are 20 words and phrases from the article. Use them to compile your own story about the differences between Czechs and Slovaks. (Imagine!) Add 2 words of your own. Tell your story to your partner. (*Maybe tick off your words as you tell it*)

1	Czechs	11	differences
2	language	12	Slovaks
3	rivalry	13	Czechoslovakia
4	population	14	Catholic
5	beer	15	Atheist
6	hockey	16	similarities
7	Prague	17	the black hole of middle Europe
8	rubbish	18	Bratislava
9	Tatra mountains	19	Slovak women
10	superior	20	the Detroit of the East
Your choice 1 _____		Your choice 2 _____	

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their stories in front of the class.

7. Let's write! A leisurely e-mail: Write and send a leisurely e-mail to your teacher about the differences between your nationality and another. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

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8. Let's talk! In a pub: In pairs. Imagine you are in a pub. One of you is a barman/barmaid. The other is a local, who whilst propping up the bar orders a drink. You get talking about the differences between your nationality and another. *5-minutes.*

9. Let's differentiate! 3 differences between Czechs and Slovaks: Think of 3 differences of your own between Czechs and Slovaks. Write them below. Use these words/phrases to tell your partner why. (Imagine!)

	Czechs		Slovaks
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

The teacher will choose some pairs to hear their results.

10. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': With your partner or in small groups: (*1 point for each correct answer. Lose ½ point if you look at the article for help!*)

Student A

- 1) Which cities are mentioned?
- 2) Name the nationalities.
- 3) Name the former Empire.
- 4) What happened in 1992?
- 5) Who are snobbish?
- 6) Who held the EU Presidency in 2009?
- 7) Who isolated Slovakia in the 90s?

Student B

- 1) What did Madeline Albright say?
- 2) Name the former Slovak Prime Minister
- 3) Name the car companies.
- 4) Who have become a proud nation?
- 5) Name the new TV show.
- 6) Name the sports mentioned.
- 7) What is the population of the C.R. and Slovakia?

11. Let's think! Czechs/Slovaks: Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with '**Czechs/Slovaks**' as you can. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

12. Let's compile! Sentences: Choose six/nine of the words from no 14. Write two/three sentences using two/three words in each. Underline your chosen words. The teacher will if necessary correct your work. Students might be asked to read their sentences aloud.

13. Let's remember! Retelling the article: In groups. Read the first page of the article to yourself again. Try to remember it! Hide the page then taking turns and *in your own words* try to retell the article sentence by sentence. You get a point for every correct sentence. *5-minutes*

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14. Let's think! 10 things about the Czech Republic:

Think of 10 things you know about the Czech Republic? Write them below. Then tell your partner about your findings. (You may need to use the internet on this) What is the most unusual thing? What is the most obvious? What is the most expensive?

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

15. Let's think! 10 things about Slovakia:

Think of 10 things you know about the Slovakia? Write them below. Then tell your partner about your findings. (You may need to use the internet on this) What is the most unusual thing? What is the most obvious? What is the most expensive?

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

16. Let's remember! 10 things about Czechoslovakia!

Think of 10 things you remember about Czechoslovakia? Write them below. Then tell your partner about your findings. (You may need to use the internet on this) What is the most unusual thing? What is the most obvious? What was the most expensive?

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

17. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Czechs are _____
- b) Slovaks are _____
- c) The differences _____
- d) The similarities _____
- e) Both nationalities _____

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18. Let's write! Nostalgia! A leisure e-mail: Write and send a leisure e-mail to your teacher about the former Czechoslovakia. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

19. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think Czechs are better than Slovaks. Students B think otherwise! Explain why.

20. Let's be economic 1: Statistics:

Look at the statistics on page 6. With your partner compare them. Discuss the following together:

- 1) The GDP figures.
- 2) CZK/EUR currency comparisons
- 3) YOY quarterly growth figures

Now answer the following questions:

Student A

- 1) Why do you think Slovakia's GDP figures have recovered so much?
- 2) Why were Slovakia's GDP figures so behind those of the Czech Republic back in 2000?
- 3) What is your forecast of GDP figures for the next few years?
- 4) What advice would you give to the Czech and Slovak governments to *increase/turnaround* their GDP in 2010?

Student B

- 1) How do the quarterly growth figures compare between the 2 countries?
- 2) Why did the Czech Crown collapse against the euro?
- 3) Are the Czechs likely to join the euro soon? Why? Why not?
- 4) How do you see quarterly growth in Q3 and Q4 in 2009 in the Czech Republic and Slovakia?

21. Let's be economic 2: The economic issues of the Czech Republic and Slovakia:

Think of 2 economic advantages the Czech Republic and Slovakia have today. Add 2 economic issues they face today. Fill in the list below then discuss with your partner.

Economic advantages for the Czech Republic today	Economic advantages for Slovakia today
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
Economic issues the CR faces today	Economic issues SL faces today
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to hear their findings in front of the class.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: After reading the article guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Czechs regard themselves as more superior than Slovaks | T / F |
| b. Czechs are a bit snobbish towards their Slovak neighbours | T / F |
| c. Czechs hate the Slovaks | T / F |
| d. It is said Slovak women are the most beautiful women in the world | T / F |
| e. Czechoslovakia used to be next door to Transylvania | T / F |
| f. Slovaks are mostly atheist and are more temperamental | T / F |
| g. Slovaks are more friendly, proud and greedy | T / F |
| h. Slovaks are better at ice hockey and football than the Czechs | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. Joke | Divine |
| b. Question | Pagan |
| c. Assertive | Courteous |
| d. Dynamic | Impartial |
| e. Atheist | High-and-mighty |
| f. Rational | Tosh / poppycock |
| g. Hospitable | Inquiry |
| h. beautiful | Enterprising |
| i. Rubbish | Confident |
| j. Snobbish | Witticism |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. What's the difference | at university in Prague |
| b. it is a question for you | as more superior than Slovaks. |
| c. the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of | are the most beautiful in the world. |
| d. The Slovaks who | called Czechoslovakia. |
| e. many Slovaks study at | and different habits to Slovaks. |
| f. It is said that Slovak women | as the poorer class. |
| g. Czechs have a different mind set | to think about. |
| h. Czechs like to regard themselves | had been a part of the Hungarian Empire |
| i. Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks | between a Czech and a Slovak? |
| j. Once upon a time they were one country | Europe', are culturally assertive |

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

What's the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? This is not a joke! It could be but for now it is a question for you to think about. Generally speaking the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of Europe', are culturally _____, more _____ and are mostly _____. Their men more 'cunning'. Having formerly lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. They look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves from Eastern Europe. The Slovaks who had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and are more _____. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are regarded as more _____. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said that Slovak women are the most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful than Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different habits to Slovaks. Czechs like to regard themselves as more _____ than Slovaks. This of course is absolute _____ as both are equal. But it is known the Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks as the poorer class. Czechs are a bit _____ about their Slovak neighbours!

Slovakia and the Czech Republic are in fact next door to each other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up of the _____ Austro Hungarian _____ after the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was _____ made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians and Gypsies. _____ and politics changed. Roll forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, as it was then, into the two _____. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks in the Slovak Republic. Many Slovaks however live in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic whilst not so many Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. Why? I guess money and work. Another _____ is that many Slovaks study at _____ in Prague and after they _____ they decide to stay in Prague.

romantic

superior

rubbish

atheist

hospitable

dynamic

snobbish

assertive

countries

reason

former

Empire

boundaries

university

primarily

graduate

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

The differences between Czechs and Slovaks!

What's the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? _____! It could be but for now it is a question for you to think about. Generally speaking the Czechs, who live in the '_____', are culturally assertive, more dynamic and are mostly atheist. Their men more 'cunning'. Having formerly lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. They look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves from Eastern Europe. The Slovaks who had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and _____. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are regarded as more romantic. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said that _____ most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful than Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different habits to Slovaks. Czechs like to regard themselves _____ Slovaks. This of course is absolute rubbish as both are equal. But it is known the Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks as the poorer class. Czechs _____ about their Slovak neighbours!

Slovakia and the Czech Republic are _____ each other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up of the former Austro Hungarian Empire after the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was primarily made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, _____, _____, Hungarians and Gypsies. Boundaries and politics changed. Roll forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, _____, _____ the two countries. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks in the Slovak Republic. Many Slovaks however live in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic _____ Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. Why? I _____. Another reason is that many Slovaks study at university in Prague _____ they decide to stay in Prague.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Why are most Czechs atheist?
- c. Are Czech women ugly?
- d. Why do Czechs think they are superior to their neighbours the Slovaks?
- e. Do you think it is a good idea to have a joint TV programme 'Czechoslovakia's Superstars'? Why? Why not?
- f. What about the Moravians in all of this discussion?
- g. What would you advise the Slovak student studying in Pilsen?
- h. What do you think of Czech and Slovak beer?
- i. What advise would you offer young Czechs who aren't bothering to learn Slovak?
- j. Is it still true that many Slovaks still look abroad out of necessity? Why? Why not?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. What do you think about what you read?
- b. Compared with Czechs are Slovaks the poorer class? Why? Why not?
- c. Why do Czechs prefer to look to Germany?
- d. Is it true Slovak women are the most beautiful in the world?
- e. Do you think it was a good idea to split Czechoslovakia?
- f. Who has benefitted since the split of Czechoslovakia?
- g. Are Czechs a bit snobby about their Slovak neighbours?
- h. Why is Prague such a popular place to study?
- i. Why doesn't Slovakia have its own Church of Slovakia?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's brainstorm! Nostalgia! Czechoslovakia:

Allow 10-20 minutes

Small groups

In small groups brainstorm some ideas about what life was like in the former Czechoslovakia! (Imagine!) (You might need to use the internet for this) Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative! *10-20 minutes.*

	Your ideas	
1) 5 former Czechoslovakian foods and 5 former drinks	1	1
	2	2
	3	3
	4	4
	5	5
2) 5 famous former Czechoslovakian stores plus 5 things you couldn't buy!	1	1
	2	2
	3	3
	4	4
	5	5
3) 5 former Communist allowed places to go on holiday plus 5 former Czechoslovakian movies	1	1
	2	2
	3	3
	4	4
	5	5
4) 5 former Czechoslovakian musicians, 5 writers	1	1
	2	2
	3	3
	4	4
	5	5
5) 5 former Czechoslovakian TV programmes plus 5 old Czechoslovakian TV ads	1	1
	2	2
	3	3
	4	4
	5	5
6) Your choice!	1	1
	2	2
	3	3
	4	4
	5	5

The teacher can moderate the session.

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

Put the article back together

- () Hungarian Empire after the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was primarily made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians and Gypsies. Boundaries and politics changed. Roll
- () Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic whilst not so many Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. Why? I guess money and work. Another reason is that many Slovaks study at university in Prague
- () assertive, more dynamic and are mostly atheist. Their men more 'cunning'. Having formerly lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. They look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves from
- () regarded as more romantic. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said that Slovak women are the most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful than Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different habits to Slovaks. Czechs
- (1) What's the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? This is not a joke! It could be but for now it is a question for you to think about. Generally speaking the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of Europe', are culturally
- () their Slovak neighbours! Slovakia and the Czech Republic are in fact next door to each other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up of the former Austro
- () Eastern Europe. The Slovaks who had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and are more hospitable. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are
- () like to regard themselves as more superior than Slovaks. This of course is absolute rubbish as both are equal. But it is known the Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks as the poorer class. Czechs are a bit snobbish about
- () forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, as it was then, into the two countries. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks in the Slovak Republic. Many Slovaks however live in
- () and after they graduate they decide to stay in Prague.

LANGUAGE: Choose the correct words from a–d below and write them in the article.

What’s the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? This is not a (1)___! It could be but for now it is a question for you to think about. (2)___ speaking the Czechs, who live in the ‘(3)___ of Europe’, are (4)___ assertive, more dynamic and are mostly (5)___. Their men more ‘cunning’. Having (6)___ lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. They look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves from (7)___ Europe. The Slovaks who had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and are more hospitable. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are regarded as more romantic. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said that Slovak women are the most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful than Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different (8)___ to Slovaks. Czechs like to regard themselves as more (9)___ than Slovaks. This of course is absolute rubbish as both are equal. But it is known the Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks as the (9)___ class. Czechs are a bit (11)___ about their Slovak neighbours!

Slovakia and the Czech Republic are in fact next door to each other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up of the former Austro Hungarian Empire after the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was primarily made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians and Gypsies. Boundaries and politics changed. Roll forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, as it was then, into the two countries. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks in the Slovak Republic. Many Slovaks however live in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic whilst not so many Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. Why? I guess money and work. Another reason is that many Slovaks study at (12)___ in Prague and after they graduate they decide to stay in Prague.

1.	(a)	poke	(b)	joke	(c)	yoke	(d)	coke
2.	(a)	generals	(b)	general	(c)	generally	(d)	genetically
3.	(a)	toe	(b)	finger	(c)	east	(d)	heart
4.	(a)	cultured	(b)	cultures	(c)	culture	(d)	culturally
5.	(a)	atheist	(b)	ageist	(c)	atheists	(d)	atheism
6.	(a)	form	(b)	formerly	(c)	forming	(d)	forms
7.	(a)	Eastern	(b)	Western	(c)	Northern	(d)	Southern
8.	(a)	habit	(b)	habitat	(c)	habituated	(d)	habits
9.	(a)	clever	(b)	superior	(c)	super	(d)	superiors
10.	(a)	poorly	(b)	poor	(c)	poorer	(d)	pour
11.	(a)	snobbish	(b)	snob	(c)	snobs	(d)	snobby
12.	(a)	college	(b)	school	(c)	university	(d)	home

GRAMMAR 1: MIDWAY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The differences between Czechs and Slovaks!

What's the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? This is not a joke! It (1)___ be but for now it is a question for you to think about. Generally speaking the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of Europe', are culturally assertive, more dynamic and are (2)___ atheist. Their men more 'cunning'. Having formerly lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. (3)___ look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves (4)___ Eastern Europe. The Slovaks who had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and are more hospitable. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are regarded as (5)___ romantic. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said (6)___ Slovak women are the most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful (7)___ Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different habits to Slovaks. Czechs like to regard themselves as more superior than Slovaks. This of course is absolute rubbish as both are equal. But it is known the Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks as the poorer class. Czechs are a bit snobbish (8)___ their Slovak neighbours!

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Slovakia and the Czech Republic are in fact next door to (1)___ other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up of the former Austro Hungarian Empire (2)___ the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was primarily made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians and Gypsies. Boundaries and politics changed. Roll forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, as it was (3)___, into the two countries. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks in the Slovak Republic. (4)___ Slovaks (5)___ live in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic whilst not so many Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. Why? I guess money and work. (6)___ reason is (7)___ many Slovaks study at university in Prague and after they graduate (8)___ decide to stay in Prague.

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GRAMMAR 2: EASY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The differences between Czechs and Slovaks!

What's the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? This is not a joke! It could be but for (1)___ it is a question (2)___ you to think about. Generally speaking the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of Europe', are culturally assertive, more dynamic (3)___ are mostly atheist. Their men more 'cunning'. Having formerly lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. They look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves from Eastern Europe. The Slovaks (4)___ had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and are more hospitable. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are regarded as more romantic. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said that Slovak women are (5)___ most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful than Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different habits to Slovaks. Czechs like to regard themselves as more superior than Slovaks. This (6)___ course is absolute rubbish as both are equal. (7)___ it is known the Czechs like to look down (8)___ the Slovaks as the poorer class. Czechs are a bit snobbish about their Slovak neighbours!

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Slovakia and (1)___ Czech Republic are in fact next door to each other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up (2)___ the former Austro Hungarian Empire after the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was primarily made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians and Gypsies. Boundaries and politics changed. Roll forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, (3)___ it was then, into the two countries. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks (4)___ the Slovak Republic. Many Slovaks however live in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic whilst not so many Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. (5)___? (6)___ guess money and work. Another reason is that many Slovaks study (7)___ university in Prague (8)___ after they graduate they decide to stay in Prague.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article:

1	assertive	11	unfortunately
2	superior	12	contraction
3	temperamental	13	nevertheless
4	rubbish	14	infrastructure
5	Czechoslovakia	15	resentment
6	neighbours	16	statistics
7	snobbish	17	literature
8	hospitable	18	exception
9	fluctuations	19	naturally
10	imploded	20	participate

Your score: Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

HOMEWORK

Newspaper article: Write an article on "**The differences between...** ". (Choose your nationality and another) (Minimum 200 words) Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

WRITING: In class:

Five-minute article: Write an article on "**The differences between...** ". (Choose your nationality and another) You have five minutes. The teacher will select some students to read out their work.

Countdown: Every minute the teacher may say, "You have xx minutes left".

20

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. T c. F d. T e. F f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. Joke | Witticism |
| b. Question | Inquiry |
| c. Assertive | Confident |
| d. Dynamic | Enterprising |
| e. Atheist | Pagan |
| f. Rational | Impartial |
| g. Hospitable | Courteous |
| h. beautiful | Divine |
| i. Rubbish | Tosh / poppycock |
| j. Snobbish | High-and-mighty |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. What's the difference | between a Czech and a Slovak? |
| b. it is a question for you | to think about. |
| c. the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of | Europe', are culturally assertive |
| d. The Slovaks who | had been a part of the Hungarian Empire |
| e. many Slovaks study at | at university in Prague |
| f. It is said that Slovak women | are the most beautiful in the world. |
| g. Czechs have a different mind set | and different habits to Slovaks. |
| h. Czechs like to regard themselves | as more superior than Slovaks. |
| i. Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks | as the poorer class. |
| j. Once upon a time they were one country | called Czechoslovakia. |

GAP FILL: The differences between Czechs and Slovaks! What's the difference between a Czech and a Slovak? This is not a joke! It could be but for now it is a question for you to think about. Generally speaking the Czechs, who live in the 'heart of Europe', are culturally **assertive**, more **dynamic** and are mostly **atheist**. Their men more 'cunning'. Having formerly lived under Austrian rule they are regarded as rational good administrators. They look to Germany as a role model, preferring to distance themselves from Eastern Europe. The Slovaks who had been a part of the Hungarian Empire are regarded as more friendly, proud of their nationality, and are more **hospitable**. Slovaks are more temperamental, mostly Catholic and are regarded as more **romantic**. Slovak men are more aggressive. It is said that Slovak women are the most beautiful in the world. They are certainly more beautiful than Czech women. Czechs have a different mind set and different habits to Slovaks. Czechs like to regard themselves as more **superior** than Slovaks. This of course is absolute **rubbish** as both are equal. But it is known the Czechs like to look down on the Slovaks as the poorer class. Czechs are a bit **snobbish** about their Slovak neighbours! Slovakia and the Czech Republic are in fact next door to each other. Once upon a time they were one country called Czechoslovakia. Created following the break up of the **former** Austro Hungarian **Empire** after the end of the Great War in 1918 Czechoslovakia was **primarily** made up of Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Germans, Hungarians and Gypsies. **Boundaries** and politics changed. Roll forward to July 1992 and politics dictated the break up of the country, as it was then, into the two **countries**. Most Czechs live in the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks in the Slovak Republic. Many Slovaks however live in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic whilst not so many Czechs live in Bratislava - the capital of the Slovak Republic. Why? I guess money and work. Another **reason** is that many Slovaks study at **university** in Prague and after they **graduate** they decide to stay in Prague.

LANGUAGE WORK:

- 1 - b 2 - c 3 - d 4 - d 5 - a 6 - b 7 - a 8 - d 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - c

The differences between Czechs and Slovaks – 5th October 2009