

“British English ESL/EFL Lesson plans for
English Language Teachers Worldwide
direct from Central Europe”

Tragedy at 13th Slovak music festival

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Ideas and Articles by David Robinson	

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Category: Lifestyle / Central Europe / Music festival

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

THE ARTICLE

Tragedy at 13th Slovak music festival

Tragedy struck in Slovakia recently at a music festival attended by over 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military airfield near Trenčín, Slovakia when the gig was hit by freak weather conditions. A massive thunderstorm and gales ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. The result was that tragically a 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the disaster occurred inside the collapsed canopy more than a 1,000 people were watching a concert and sheltering from the storm.

According to an eyewitness: "The O2 arena acted as a kind of "fly trap", as it was the only place at Pohoda where a gig was underway at the time of the accident, so thousands of festival goers pushed their way in there." He added, "The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that they could leave quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind rushed in so quickly that they didn't manage to warn the people under the tent." Lucy Madarasova, 26: "It was so sudden...there were people lying on the ground covered in blood. It was so horrible." Boris Fojtik, 25, was inside the tent when it collapsed: "It was terrible. Screaming people ran out from the tent. Some of them had blood flowing from their heads. I was hit on the head by the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I managed to escape from the tent."

Following the tents collapse organisers immediately cancelled the event featuring Patti Smith, Basement Jaxx and Scotland's Travis. The tent may have collapsed around 4pm because both sides were open. The freak gust of wind then blew right across it, lifting it up before it collapsed. The tent supports were ripped away resulting in the uplifting tent. Some lighting and other equipment then fell on some of the audience.

Emergency services raced to the scene. The injured were taken to

nearby hospitals in Žilina, Trenčín and Martin. People were evacuated. Those leaving by car had to endure up to 5 hours wait in the main parking area due to traffic jams spanning several kilometres. The city of Trenčín immediately provided special buses to transport 10,000 festival goers to Trenčín railway station. In fact all public-transport buses from the town and neighbouring areas were used to evacuate the festival goers. Festival organisers provided indoor accommodation in a local sports hall in Trenčín for those not able to depart immediately. The arena where the accident happened was built by a German company specialising in tent construction. A spokesperson for O2 said, "O2 only paid for promotional space in it. We feel immensely sorry about the situation."

An investigation was immediately started by the police to try to find the cause of the tragic accident. It was established approximately one hour before the massive storm hit the area the festivals organiser, Michal Kaščák warned people about the approaching storm recommending that families with children should leave the arena. An unnamed festival goer told reporters, "An evacuation might be needed due to the dodgy weather." The actual festival was suspended for 3 hours due to the bad weather but the concert in the main O2 Arena tent continued. Many partying people disregarded the warning. According to the unnamed festival goer: "All of a sudden everything began to crumble, some tried to get out, but some stayed laying on the ground." Police investigations at the scene focused into whether the crime of endangering the public was committed.

In Žilina three hospitalised people suffered severe skull injuries with one being kept in an induced coma. Another 18 people remained in the Trenčín hospitals traumas ward. A 25-year-old man who sustained serious injuries at the festival underwent an operation at the neurosurgery department of Žilina hospital the same day. He was being kept in an induced coma, with his condition remaining extremely serious. A 19-year-old girl with severe skull and brain injuries was operated on in Martin Faculty hospital. She also underwent a neurosurgical operation. She was said to be in a stable condition in the anaesthesia and resuscitation ward but it was

reported it was a very serious injury. Four more festival goers were treated in Myjava hospital while two people remained in the hospital in Piestany. Seven music fans were transported to the hospital in Bojnice. One was kept in for monitoring.

At a press conference on Sunday Dusan Gasa, head doctor of Trenčín hospitals anaesthesia and resuscitation department said: "A female patient who suffered huge brain injuries is in the most serious condition. In light of the weather conditions it wasn't feasible to transport her by air to Martin hospital. We operated on her here instead. She wouldn't have survived transport by ambulance." He added, "The two severely-injured people who were transported to Trenčín hospital are also in an extremely serious condition. A young woman who sustained extensive head injuries was subsequently transported to Martin, where she underwent an operation. The last of the three patients had devastating injuries to his left eye, which we couldn't save. He was transported to Žilina hospital, where he is being kept in an induced coma and his life is under threat."

The day after the tragedy a silent memorial with candles was held in Bratislava to allow people who were at the event to grieve together. Organised on Facebook, the social networking website, many people there wanted the event to continue next year. The memorial also allowed people to create 'positive energy and ideas' to bring people together for future music festivals. One lesson for organisers in the future could be not to have an open sided tent. Maybe separate side entrances with two doors with door flaps - one at 90 degrees to the other - could be added to the main tent together with more secure tent fixtures in order to avoid future tragedies ever happening again.

The Pohoda festival is Slovakia's largest and most popular open air festival. It mixes various types of music with accompanying events including ballroom dancing, orchestras and film screenings on politics and society. The festival is not only for young people. It is suitable for entire families of all ages.

Note: Link to viewing:

http://www.spectator.sk/articles/view/35996/2/one_person_dies_and_dozens_are_injured_at_pohoda_open_air_festival.html

LET'S START

1. Music festivals: What music festivals have you been to recently? Where were they? What type of music was played? Was it good? Who headlined? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read between 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?
- c) Will you be going to the festival next year?
- d) What is the latest on this story?

6. Let's tell a story: A tragedy at Slovak music festival:

Below are 20 words and phrases from the article. Use them to compile a story about the tragedy at the Slovak music festival. (Imagine!) Add 2 words of your own. Tell your story to your partner. (*Maybe tick off your words as you tell it*)

1	festival	11	hospitals
2	tragedy	12	emergency services
3	4pm	13	tent
4	tent supports	14	an eye witness
5	terrible	15	escape
6	blood	16	audience
7	thunderstorm	17	collapsed canopy
8	O2	18	Pohoda
9	freak gust of wind	19	gales
10	evacuated	20	police

Your choice 1 _____ Your choice 2 _____

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

7. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think 13 is unlucky. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

8. Let's write! A leisure e-mail: Write and send a leisure e-mail to your teacher about your experience at the Slovak music festival Bazant Pohoda you attended recently. Describe what you saw. What you were doing before, during and after the tragic tents collapse. The help you gave or not etc... (Imagine!) (You might need to use the internet) Your e-mail can be read out in class.

9. Let's chat! In a pub: In pairs. You are in a pub. Your friend arrives. You get talking. Talk about the Slovak music festival - Bazant Pohoda. One of you was there in the tent when it collapsed. Describe events before during and after it happened. How you felt. What you did etc... *5-minutes*.

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) How many people attended the festival?
- 2) Name the headline acts.
- 3) Who raced to the scene?
- 4) Where did the festival take place?
- 5) How many people were in the tent when it collapsed?
- 6) How many people were hospitalised?
- 7) What was started by the police?

Student B

- 1) What did the city of Trenčín immediately provide?
- 2) What did Michal Kaščák warn people?
- 3) What happened in Bratislava the day after the tragedy?
- 4) What is the Pohoda festival?
- 5) Name the sponsor.
- 6) How many people were evacuated and to where?
- 7) Who ignored the warning?

11. 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*

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

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

- a) The tragedy _____
- b) Central Europe _____
- c) Gusts of wind _____
- d) The tent _____

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. 44,000 music fans attended the Slovak music festival | T / F |
| b. The Slovak music festival was over the period of July 17 th -18 th | T / F |
| c. A 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed | T / F |
| d. More than 1,000 people were in the tent when it collapsed | T / F |
| e. The arena was sponsored by Orange | T / F |
| f. The arena acted as a kind of "fly trap" | T / F |
| g. The organisers immediately cancelled the event | T / F |
| h. Emergency services raced to the scene | T / F |

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

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. Tragedy | Observer |
| b. festival | Regrettably |
| c. tent | Catastrophe |
| d. Freak | Stadium |
| e. Disaster | Fair |
| f. Eyewitness | Lift up |
| g. Arena | Terrible |
| h. uplift | Anomaly |
| i. Unfortunately | Canopy |
| j. horrible | Calamity |

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Tragedy struck in Slovakia recently | concert and sheltering from the storm. |
| b. the gig was hit by | rushed in so quickly |
| c. A massive thunderstorm and gales | as a kind of "fly trap", |
| d. The result was that tragically a 29-year-old | ripped down the main tent |
| e. Another 40 people | gather at the side of the tent, |
| f. more than a 1,000 people were watching a | freak weather conditions |
| g. The O2 arena acted | covered in blood |
| h. The organisers warned people they should | were hospitalised |
| i. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind | at a music festival |
| j. there were people lying on the ground | man from Piestany was killed |

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Tragedy at 13th Slovak music festival

_____ struck in Slovakia recently at a music festival attended by over 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military _____ near Trenčín, Slovakia when the gig was hit by _____ weather conditions. A massive _____ and gales ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. The result was that tragically a 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the _____ occurred inside the collapsed _____ more than a 1,000 people were watching a _____ and sheltering from the storm.

tragedy

concert

disaster

airfield

thunderstorm

canopy

freak

According to an eyewitness: "The O2 arena acted as a kind of " _____", as it was the only place at Pohoda where a gig was underway at the time of the accident, so thousands of festival goers pushed their way in there." He added, "The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that they could leave quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the _____ of wind rushed in so quickly that they didn't manage to warn the people under the tent." Lucy Madarasova, 26: "It was so sudden...there were people lying on the ground covered in blood. It was so _____." Boris Fojtik, 26, was inside the tent when it collapsed: "It was terrible. _____ people ran out from the tent. Some of them had _____ flowing from their heads. I was hit on the head by the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I managed to escape from the tent."

equipment

gusts

horrible

fly trap

collapse

blood

screaming

audience

Following the tents _____ organisers immediately cancelled the event featuring Patti Smith, Basement Jaxx and Scotland's Travis. The tent may have collapsed around 4pm because both sides were open. The freak gust of wind then blew right across it, lifting it up before it collapsed. The tent supports were ripped away resulting in the uplifting tent. Some lighting and other _____ then fell on some of the _____.

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Tragedy at 13th Slovak music festival

Tragedy struck in Slovakia recently at a music festival attended by over 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military airfield near Trenčín, Slovakia _____ by freak weather conditions. A massive thunderstorm and gales ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. _____ tragically a 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the disaster occurred inside the collapsed canopy more than a 1,000 people _____ and sheltering from the storm.

According to an eyewitness: "The O2 arena acted as a kind of "fly trap", as it was the only place at Pohoda where a gig was _____ of the accident, so thousands of festival goers pushed their way in there." He added, "The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that _____ quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind rushed in so quickly that they didn't manage _____ under the tent."

Lucy Madarasova, 26: "It was so sudden...there were people lying on the ground covered in blood. _____." Boris Fojtik, 26, was inside the tent when it collapsed: "It was terrible. Screaming people ran _____. Some of them had blood flowing from their heads. I was hit on the head by the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I _____ from the tent."

Following the tents collapse organisers immediately _____ featuring Patti Smith, Basement Jaxx and Scotland's Travis. The tent may have collapsed around 4pm because both sides were open. The freak gust of wind then blew right across it, lifting it up _____. The tent supports were ripped away resulting in the uplifting tent. Some lighting and other equipment then fell on _____.

DISCUSSION

Note: This discussion will probably only benefit Slovak students.

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

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What music festivals have you been to this year?
- c. What types of music do you like?
- d. What would you have done if you had been in the tent at the festival?
- e. Do you know any friends or family who were there?
- f. Do you think the emergency services acted quickly enough?
- g. What, if any, criticism would you offer on this tragedy?
- h. What lessons have been learnt from the tragedy?
- i. Will the tragedy make you more aware next time you attend a festival?
- j. Do you think the organisers should have stopped the concert in the tent knowing the storm was approaching?

□-----

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

- a. What do you think about what you read?
- b. Who is responsible for the tragedy?
- c. Do you think there should be another Slovak music festival at the site next year? Why? Why not?
- d. If there was another festival next year at the same site would you go? Why? Why not?
- e. What were you doing when you heard the news about the tragedy?
- f. How did you hear about the tragedy?
- g. How quickly after the tragedy took place did you hear about it?
- h. What advice would you give the organisers?
- i. Do you pay any attention to weather forecasts?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Emergency debate! Music festival disaster:

Allow 10-20 minutes

Small groups

You are one of the following people listed below. You have gathered together to discuss the aftermath of the tragedy at the Slovak music festival so that lessons can be learnt from it. Discuss together your role in the evacuation of the event, i.e. what you did etc.... Make suggestions about what you would do at a future similar music festival i.e. the way forward. Choose a spokesperson to chair the debate. *15-20 minutes.*

	Your ideas
1) Bus driver	
2) Event organiser	
4) Ambulance driver	
5) Concert goer	
6) Doctor	
7) Mayor of Trenčín or your choice of person	

The teacher can moderate the session.

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

Put the article back together

- () their way in there.” He added, “The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that they could leave quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind rushed in so quickly that they didn’t
- () terrible. Screaming people ran out from the tent. Some of them had blood flowing from their heads. I was hit on the head by the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I managed to escape from the tent.” Following the tents
- () right across it, lifting it up before it collapsed. The tent supports were ripped away resulting in the uplifting tent. Some lighting and other equipment then fell on some of the audience.
- () Trenčín, Slovakia when the gig was hit by freak weather conditions. A massive thunderstorm and gales ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. The result was that tragically a 29-year-old
- () from the storm. According to an eyewitness: “The O2 arena acted as a kind of “fly trap”, as it was the only place at Pohoda where a gig was underway at the time of the accident, so thousands of festival goers pushed
- (1) Tragedy struck in Slovakia recently at a music festival attended by over 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military airfield near
- () man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the disaster occurred inside the collapsed canopy more than a 1,000 people were watching a concert and sheltering
- () manage to warn the people under the tent.” Lucy Madarasova, 26: “It was so sudden...there were people lying on the ground covered in blood. It was so horrible.” Boris Fojtik, 26, was inside the tent when it collapsed: “It was
- () collapse organisers immediately cancelled the event featuring Patti Smith, Basement Jaxx and Scotland’s Travis. The tent may have collapsed around 4pm because both sides were open. The freak gust of wind then blew right

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

Tragedy (1)___ in Slovakia recently at a music festival attended by over 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military airfield near Trenčín, Slovakia when the (2)___ was hit by freak weather conditions. A massive thunderstorm and (3)___ ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. The result was that tragically a 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the disaster occurred inside the collapsed canopy more than a 1,000 people were watching a concert and sheltering from the storm.

According to an eyewitness: "The O2 arena acted as a kind of "fly trap", as it was the only place at Pohoda where a gig was underway at the time of the accident, so thousands of festival (4)___ pushed their way in there." He added, "The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that they could leave quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind rushed in so quickly that they didn't manage to warn the people under the tent." Lucy Madarasova, 26: "It was so sudden...there were people lying on the ground covered in blood. It was so horrible." Boris Fojtik, 26, was inside the tent when it collapsed: "It was terrible. Screaming people ran out from the tent. Some of them had blood flowing from (5)___ heads. I was hit on the head by the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I managed to escape from the tent."

Following the tents collapse organisers immediately cancelled the event featuring Patti (6)___, Basement Jaxx and (7)___'s Travis. The tent may have collapsed around 4pm because both sides were open. The (8)___ gust of wind then blew right across it, lifting it up before it collapsed. The tent supports were (9)___ away resulting in the uplifting (10)___ . Some (11)___ and other equipment then (12)___ on some of the audience.

1.	(a)	strike	(b)	struck	(c)	stuck	(d)	truck
2.	(a)	gig	(b)	jig	(c)	big	(d)	dig
3.	(a)	gales	(b)	hales	(c)	bales	(d)	tales
4.	(a)	goers	(b)	go	(c)	going	(d)	goes
5.	(a)	those	(b)	their	(c)	them	(d)	there
6.	(a)	Robinson	(b)	Jones	(c)	Smith	(d)	Blair
7.	(a)	Wales	(b)	England	(c)	Scotland	(d)	N. Ireland
8.	(a)	streak	(b)	teak	(c)	leak	(d)	freak
9.	(a)	rip	(b)	ripping	(c)	ripe	(d)	ripped
10.	(a)	laptop	(b)	caravan	(c)	tube	(d)	tent
11.	(a)	lights	(b)	lighting	(c)	lit	(d)	Lighted
12.	(a)	well	(b)	tell	(c)	fell	(d)	bell

GRAMMAR 1: MIDWAY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Tragedy at 13th Slovak music festival

Tragedy struck in Slovakia recently at a music festival attended by (1)___ 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military airfield near Trenčín, Slovakia (2)___ the gig was hit by freak weather conditions. A massive thunderstorm and gales ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. The result was (3)___ tragically a 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the disaster occurred inside the collapsed canopy (4)___ than a 1,000 people were watching a concert and sheltering from the storm. According to an eyewitness: "The O2 arena acted as a kind of "fly trap", as it was the only place at Pohoda (5)___ a gig was underway at the time of the accident, so thousands of festival goers pushed (6)___ way in (7)___." He added, "The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that they could leave quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind rushed in so quickly that (8)___ didn't manage to warn the people under the tent."

Lucy Madarasova, 26: "It was so sudden...(1)___ were people lying on the ground covered in blood. It was so horrible." Boris Fojtik, 26, was inside the tent (2)___ it collapsed: "It was terrible. Screaming people ran out (3)___ the tent. Some of (4)___ had blood flowing from (5)___ heads. I was hit on the head by the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I managed to escape from the tent."

Following the tents collapse organisers immediately cancelled the event featuring Patti Smith, Basement Jaxx and Scotland's Travis. The tent may have collapsed around 4pm (6)___ both sides were open. The freak gust of wind then blew right across it, lifting it up before it collapsed. The tent supports were ripped away resulting in the uplifting tent. (7)___ lighting and other equipment (8)___ fell on some of the audience.

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GRAMMAR 2: EASY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Tragedy struck (1)___ Slovakia recently at a music festival attended (2)___ over 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military airfield near Trenčín, Slovakia when the gig was hit by freak weather conditions. A massive thunderstorm and gales ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. The result was that tragically (3)___ 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the disaster occurred inside the collapsed canopy more than a 1,000 people were watching a concert (4)___ sheltering from the storm. According to an eyewitness: "The O2 arena acted as a kind of "fly trap", as (5)___ was the only place at Pohoda where a gig was underway (6)___ the time of the accident, so thousands of festival goers pushed their way in there." (7)___ added, "The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that they could leave quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind rushed in so quickly that they didn't manage to warn the people under (8)___ tent."

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Lucy Madarasova, 26: "(1)___ was so sudden...there were people lying (2)___ the ground covered in blood. It was (3)___ horrible." Boris Fojtik, 26, was inside the tent when it collapsed: "It was terrible. Screaming people ran out from the tent. Some of them had blood flowing from their heads. I was hit on the head (4)___ the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I managed to escape from the tent." Following (5)___ tents collapse organisers immediately cancelled the event featuring Patti Smith, Basement Jaxx and Scotland's Travis. The tent (6)___ have collapsed around 4pm because both sides were open. The freak gust of wind then blew right across it, lifting it up before it collapsed. The tent supports were ripped away resulting in the uplifting tent. Some lighting (7)___ other equipment then fell (8)___ some of the audience.

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SPELLING TEST

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

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|---------------|
| 1 | tragedy | 11 | approximately |
| 2 | immediately | 12 | tragic |
| 3 | unfortunately | 13 | disregarded |
| 4 | canopy | 14 | neurosurgery |
| 5 | thunderstorm | 15 | anaesthesia |
| 6 | emergency | 16 | resuscitation |
| 7 | accommodation | 17 | devastating |
| 8 | neighbouring | 18 | extremely |
| 9 | evacuate | 19 | feasible |
| 10 | investigation | 20 | subsequently |

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

HOMEWORK

Newspaper article: Write an article on “**13th Slovak music festival - Bazant Pohoda**”. (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 “**13th Slovak music festival - Bazant Pohoda**”. 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”.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. Tragedy | Calamity |
| b. Festival | Fair |
| c. Tent | Canopy |
| d. Freak | Anomaly |
| e. Disaster | Catastrophe |
| f. Eyewitness | Observer |
| g. Arena | Stadium |
| h. Uplift | Lift up |
| i. Unfortunately | Regrettably |
| j. Horrible | Terrible |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Tragedy struck in Slovakia recently | at a music festival |
| b. the gig was hit by | freak weather conditions |
| c. A massive thunderstorm and gales | ripped down the main tent |
| d. The result was that tragically a 29-year-old | man from Piestany was killed |
| e. Another 40 people | were hospitalised |
| f. more than a 1,000 people were watching a | concert and sheltering from the storm. |
| g. The O2 arena acted | as a kind of "fly trap", |
| h. The organisers warned people they should | gather at the side of the tent, |
| i. Unfortunately, the gusts of wind | rushed in so quickly |
| j. there were people lying on the ground | covered in blood |

GAP FILL: Tragedy at 13th Slovak music festival: **Tragedy** struck in Slovakia recently at a music festival attended by over 33,000 music lovers. The 13th open air music festival called Bazant Pohoda was being held over the weekend of July 18th-19th at a military **airfield** near Trenčín, Slovakia when the gig was hit by **freak** weather conditions. A massive **thunderstorm** and gales ripped down the main tent that covered the main O2 sponsored arena. The result was that tragically a 29-year-old man from Piestany was killed. 52 people were injured. Another 40 people were hospitalised. At the time the **disaster** occurred inside the collapsed **canopy** more than a 1,000 people were watching a **concert** and sheltering from the storm.

According to an eyewitness: "The O2 arena acted as a kind of **"fly trap"**, as it was the only place at Pohoda where a gig was underway at the time of the accident, so thousands of festival goers pushed their way in there." He added, "The organisers warned people they should gather at the side of the tent, so that they could leave quickly if advised to do so. Unfortunately, the **gusts** of wind rushed in so quickly that they didn't manage to warn the people under the tent." Lucy Madarasova, 26: "It was so sudden...there were people lying on the ground covered in blood. It was so **horrible**." Boris Fojtik, 26, was inside the tent when it collapsed: "It was terrible. **Screaming** people ran out from the tent. Some of them had **blood** flowing from their heads. I was hit on the head by the tents canvas as the tent collapsed but I managed to escape from the tent." Following the tents **collapse** organisers immediately cancelled the event featuring Patti Smith, Basement Jaxx and Scotland's Travis. The tent may have collapsed around 4pm because both sides were open. The freak gust of wind then blew right across it, lifting it up before it collapsed. The tent supports were ripped away resulting in the uplifting tent. Some lighting and other **equipment** then fell on some of the **audience**.

LANGUAGE WORK:

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

Tragedy at 13th Slovak music festival (V1) – 23rd July 2009