

## Bratislava or Bust!

Whilst flicking through the British newspaper *The Times* recently an interesting charity advert caught my eye...

- *'Bratislava or Bust!' July 22-26 2011. Meningitis Trust.*
- *Set yourself a challenge with a difference for 2011. 1 car. Your friends. 5 days. 6 countries. 1,000 mile road trip of a lifetime. 1 fantastic challenge. 1 fantastic cause. For more information visit [www.meningitis-trust.org/BoB](http://www.meningitis-trust.org/BoB) Reg charity Nos. 803016/SC037790*

Further investigation revealed it's a charity event for students of all ages! The money raised is for the charity the Meningitis Trust. The event is a car rally that starts in St Omer in northern France. This is where a driver and co-driver check in. The rally lasts for three to five days. It offers a fun-filled adventure that will see participants wind their way through France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Slovakia. Teams can choose to stop in Italy or go the whole hog and finish in Bratislava. Naturally, it is no ordinary road trip! Along the way participants will be set a series of daily challenges delivered by the organiser's man in a white coat, which will test driver's ingenuity, their co-driver's map reading skills and the driver's ability to barter and negotiate in a foreign language! Master the art of the challenges and you will be rewarded with riches and glory.

Bratislava or Bust will have a few social gatherings along the way so drivers can get to know fellow drivers. Meet ups will be held in Brescia at the end of day three and when drivers arrive in Bratislava on day five. However, before you can take to the open road you'll need to prepare your car... A gentlemen's agreement is in place that to enter your car it must cost £250 or less to purchase (you can spend as much as you like doing the car up!) or be older than your oldest team member. Onlookers might see classic British cars like Morris Minors, Ford Anglias or Ford Escorts take part! You'll have to prepare your car for this mad-cap adventure across Europe in five days, as it's a long way to go. Prizes will be for teams with the best dressed car, 'least likely to make it', the winner of the daily challenges on the five days and winner of the overall rally over five days. Bratislava or Bust is an adventure on four wheels. It promises to be an unforgettable road trip. So what are you waiting for – grab your friends and sign up!

**Category: Car rallies / Fund raising / Meningitis  
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. Car rallies:** Think of three car rallies you know about. Discuss them briefly - going round the room swapping details with others.

**2. Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six 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 one - 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 five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

**3. Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

**4. Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

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

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to take part in the car rally?
- d) Think of five ways you would raise money for the charity.

**6. Geography +: Rally map: Austria, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Slovakia, Switzerland:** Draw a map on the board then label it to show your possible route of the rally then **look on Google maps** to help you.

**7. Let's think!** Think of five classic cars (more than 25 years old) from your country. Then add five classic cars that you know from other countries. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Discuss together.

Five classic cars from your country	Five classic cars from other countries
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

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

**8. Let's roleplay: Car FM:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Car FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about the forthcoming adventure – *Bratislava or Bust!*

1	Driver	3	The organiser
2	Co-driver	4	The man in a white coat

## Bratislava or Bust! – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**9 . Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Car rallies**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**10. Let's think!** With your partner think of five things you might do in your preparation of taking part in the car rally. Add five spare parts you might take with you then add five silly daily challenges you would set the teams to do! Write them below. Explain to the class why you chose these.

Preparation	Spare parts	Challenges
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5

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

**11. Let's discuss:** Imagine you have taken part in the car rally...The organisers tell the teams the following in advance... "**Once you reach Bratislava you can either turn around and have a road trip back, try to sell your car on or the organisers will help you scrap the vehicle and you can fly back home.**"

Decide what would you do and why? Discuss together in pairs.

**12. Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

### **Student A**

- 1) What is the charity?
- 2) How many days is the car rally?
- 3) What countries will the rally go through?
- 4) Name the classic cars.
- 5) How many people are there in a team?

### **Student B**

- 1) Who should you grab and why?
- 2) Along the way participants will be expected to do what?
- 3) Name the newspaper.
- 4) Name two of the prize categories
- 5) What colour is the organisers coat?

**13. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Bratislava or Bust!** You and a friend are going to take part in the rally. Write about your preparation before and during the rally. Imagine! Your e-mail can be read out in class.

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

- a) Bratislava or Bust \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The car rally \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The car \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

*You are considering taking part in the car rally!*

### **Student A questions**

- 1) What three types of sponsorship deal could you arrange?
- 2) Give three reasons why you might like to take part in the car rally.
- 3) Give three reasons why you might not want to take part in it.
- 4) Name the best country you will travel through and why?
- 5) Think of three daily challenges for a team to do.
- 6) Think of three useful things you might take with you.
- 7) Name a national food/dish from each country you will visit.
- 8) Give a reason why your car will make it rather than win the prize for 'least likely to make it'!
- 9) Why does this car rally appeal to you?
- 10) Who will be your co-driver?

### **Student B questions**

- 1) Which famous person would you choose to come with you?
- 2) What make and model of car might you choose to buy and drive in the rally? (It must be more than 25 years old)
- 3) What three extra things might you add to your car to make it the 'best dressed car'?
- 4) What three things might you add to your car to help it make it to Bratislava?
- 5) Three things in your tool kit.
- 6) Three common breakdown problems and your solution to them.
- 7) Where might you stay en route?
- 8) Which of you will be the car mechanic?
- 9) If you break down what will you do?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**Meningitis – what is it?** It is inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, known collectively as the meninges. The inflammation may be caused by infection with viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms, and less commonly by certain drugs. Meningitis can be life-threatening because of the inflammation's proximity to the brain and spinal cord; therefore the condition is classified as a medical emergency.

The most common symptoms of meningitis are headache and neck stiffness associated with fever, confusion or altered consciousness, vomiting, and an inability to tolerate light (photophobia) or loud noises (photophobia). Sometimes, especially in small children, only nonspecific symptoms may be present, such as irritability and drowsiness. If a rash is present, it may indicate a particular cause of meningitis; for instance, meningitis caused by meningococcal bacteria may be accompanied by a characteristic rash.

## SPEAKING

**Let's discuss! Bratislava or Bust / Car rallies / Meningitis**

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Bratislava or Bust / Car rallies / Meningitis
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The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### Bratislava or Bust!

Whilst flicking through the British newspaper *The Times* recently an interesting (1)\_\_\_\_\_ advert caught my eye...

Further investigation revealed it's a charity event for students of all ages! The money raised is for the charity the Meningitis Trust. The event is a car rally that starts in St Omer in northern France. This is where a driver and co-driver check in. The rally lasts for three to five days. It offers a fun-filled (2)\_\_\_\_\_ that will see participants wind their way through France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Slovakia. Teams can choose to stop in Italy or go the whole (3)\_\_\_\_\_ and finish in Bratislava. Naturally, it is no ordinary road trip! Along the way participants will be set a series of daily (4)\_\_\_\_\_ delivered by the organiser's man in a white (5)\_\_\_\_\_, which will test driver's (6)\_\_\_\_\_, their co-driver's map reading skills and the driver's ability to (7)\_\_\_\_\_ and negotiate in a foreign (8)\_\_\_\_\_! Master the art of the challenges and you will be rewarded with riches and glory.

Bratislava or Bust will have a few social gatherings along the way so drivers can get to know (1)\_\_\_\_\_ drivers. Meet ups will be held in Brescia at the end of day three and when drivers arrive in Bratislava on day five. However, before you can take to the open road you'll need to prepare your car... A gentlemen's (2)\_\_\_\_\_ is in place that to enter your car it must cost £250 or less to purchase (you can spend as much as you like doing the car up!) or be older than your oldest (3)\_\_\_\_\_ member. Onlookers might see classic British (4)\_\_\_\_\_ like Morris Minors, Ford Anglias or Ford Escorts take part! You'll have to (5)\_\_\_\_\_ your car for this (6)\_\_\_\_\_ adventure across Europe in five days, as it's a long way to go. Prizes will be for teams with the best dressed car, 'least likely to make it', the winner of the daily challenges on the five days and winner of the (7)\_\_\_\_\_ rally over five days. Bratislava or Bust is an adventure on four wheels. It promises to be an unforgettable road trip. So what are you waiting for – (8)\_\_\_\_\_ your friends and sign up!

*language*

*ingenuity*

*coat*

*challenges*

*adventure*

*hog*

*barter*

*charity*

*overall*

*cars*

*agreement*

*team*

*mad-cap*

*fellow*

*grab*

*prepare*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Bratislava or Bust!

Whilst flicking through \_\_\_\_\_ *The Times* recently an interesting charity advert caught my eye...

Further investigation revealed it's a charity event for students of all ages! The money raised is \_\_\_\_\_ Meningitis Trust. The event is a car rally that starts in St Omer in northern France. This is where a driver and co-driver check in. The rally lasts for three to five days. It offers a fun-filled adventure that will see participants wind \_\_\_\_\_ France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Slovakia. Teams can choose to stop in Italy or go \_\_\_\_\_ finish in Bratislava. Naturally, it is no ordinary road trip! Along the way participants will be set a series of \_\_\_\_\_ delivered by the organiser's man in a white coat, which will test driver's ingenuity, their co-driver's map reading skills and the driver's ability to barter and negotiate in a foreign language! Master the art of the challenges and you will be rewarded \_\_\_\_\_.

Bratislava or Bust will have a few \_\_\_\_\_ along the way so drivers can get to know fellow drivers. Meet ups will be held in Brescia at the end of day three and when drivers arrive in Bratislava on day five. However, before you can take to the open road you'll need to prepare your car... A \_\_\_\_\_ is in place that to enter your car it must cost £250 or less to purchase (you can spend as much as you like doing the car up!) or be older than your oldest team member. \_\_\_\_\_ classic British cars like Morris Minors, Ford Anglias or Ford Escorts take part! You'll have to prepare your car for this \_\_\_\_\_ across Europe in five days, as it's a long way to go. Prizes will be for teams with the best dressed car, 'least likely to make it', the winner of the daily challenges on the five days and winner of the overall rally over five days. \_\_\_\_\_ is an adventure on four wheels. It promises to be an unforgettable road trip. So what are you waiting for – \_\_\_\_\_ and sign up!

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Bratislava or Bust!

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Bratislava or Bust will have a few social gatherings along the way so drivers can get to know fellow drivers. Meet ups will be held in Brescia at the end of day three and (1)\_\_\_ drivers arrive in Bratislava on day five. (2)\_\_\_, before you can take to the open road you'll need to prepare your car... A gentlemen's agreement is in place (3)\_\_\_ to enter your car it must cost £250 or less to purchase (you can spend as much as you like doing the car up!) or be older (4)\_\_\_ your oldest team member. Onlookers (5)\_\_\_ see classic British cars like Morris Minors, Ford Anglias or Ford Escorts take part! You'll have to prepare (6)\_\_\_ car for this mad-cap adventure across Europe in five days, as it's a long way to go. Prizes will be for teams (7)\_\_\_ the best dressed car, 'least likely to make it', the winner of the daily challenges on the five days and winner of the overall rally over five days. Bratislava or Bust is an adventure on four wheels. It promises to be an unforgettable road trip. So (8)\_\_\_ are you waiting for – grab your friends and sign up!

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## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	ability	11	barter
2	ingenuity	12	grab
3	agreement	13	participants
4	negotiate	14	challenges
5	caught	15	unforgettable
6	through	16	winner
7	rally	17	fellow
8	gatherings	18	fantastic
9	naturally	19	adventure
10	Luxembourg	20	winner

### LINKS

<http://www.studentadventures.co.uk/events/bratislava-or-bust>  
<http://www.leapanywhere.com/events/bratislava-or-bust/2011-07-22>  
<http://www.meningitis-trust.org/fundraising/events/overseas/bratislava-or-bust/>  
<http://www.myspace.com/video/vid/13764033>  
<http://www.studentadventures.co.uk/files/event/bratislava-or-bust-the-rally-prizes.pdf>

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Bratislava or Bust! Whilst flicking through the British newspaper *The Times* recently an interesting **charity** advert caught my eye...

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