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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/04/16

## The Czech Republic wants to adopt the name Czechia

The Czech Republic in Central Europe has decided to change its official name to Czechia. There are many reasons for this. One is that Czechs are fed up with people always trying to shorten their country's name to Czecho or Czechland.

The new name will be similar to its neighbour Slovakia – that is also known as the Slovak Republic. Some people might say that Czechia is too similar in name to the Russian Republic of Chechnya.

Czechia is shorter than its former name of Czechoslovakia - before the country split in 1993 into two countries – namely The Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Some people would have preferred the adjective Czech to be used rather than Czechia. The new name is due to the lack of an agreed English translation of Cesko.

The Czech Republic is split into 3 parts – Bohemia (in Czech this is Cechy), Moravia and Czech Silesia. Czechia, which has a Latin root, has been around since 1841, and till now has not been used much, if at all.

The new name, agreed last night by the president, prime minister, heads of parliament and foreign and defence ministers, must still win cabinet approval before the foreign ministry can submit the name to the United Nations and it officially becomes the country's new name.

Quite what the advertisers, tourists, and actual Czechs think of the new name remains to be seen. The country's ice hockey team sport the name Czech on their jerseys, as does the country's premium beer – Pilsner Urquell. Soon you will see Czechia on everything. We might just see a mini-tourist boom to its capital Prague.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Czech Republic. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What happened around 1841?
- 2) Name the sport.
- 3) Name the beer.
- 4) Name the capital.
- 5) Where in the world is the Czech Republic?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Name a similar sounding country to Czechia.
- 2) Name the three parts of the Czech Republic.
- 3) Who agreed to the new possible name of Czechia?
- 4) Where might a mini-tourist boom take place?
- 5) What was the name of the Czech Republic in 1988?

**Category: Europe / The Czech Republic / Czechia**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

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### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words about the 'Czechia'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - think of three advantages and three disadvantages of changing the name of the Czech Republic to Czechia.

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

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - think of three other countries that have a short and longer name. Write them below. Which of these names do you use? Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

*The Czech Republic – Czechia*  
*Best cities / attractions / drink / food / industry / festivals / people / film / other*

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you visited the Czech Republic? If yes, when? How did you find it?
- 3) What do you think of Prague?
- 4) What is Prague famous for?
- 5) What language do they speak in the Czech Republic?
- 6) Who is the president of the Czech Republic?
- 7) Why is Prague popular for tourists?
- 8) What are the three most famous exports you know of from the Czech Republic?
- 9) How good is the Czech hockey team and its football team?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *The Czech Republic wants to adopt the name Czechia.*

- 1) A famous Czech.
- 2) A Czech.
- 3) A tourist.
- 4) A journalist.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs* - *Student A* is a reporter. *Student B* is a Czech. *Student A* is talking to *Student B* about the new country name. *3 mins.*

### SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

*Prepare a 3-5 minute presentation on*  
*The Czech Republic - Czechia*  
*Google it if necessary!*

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of the new proposed country name of Czechia?
- 3) What is the main sport in the Czech Republic?
- 4) What are the main industries of the Czech Republic?
- 5) Has your country ever changed its name? If yes, from what to what?
- 6) What will advertisers think of the new Czech name?
- 7) Is the new Czech country name too similar to Chechnya?
- 8) Will you be visiting Czechia this year?
- 9) What is the best Czech beer?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

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## **GAP FILL: READING**

### **The Czech Republic wants to adopt the name Czechia**

The Czech Republic in Central Europe has decided to change its (1)\_\_\_ name to Czechia. There are many reasons for this. One is that Czechs are fed up with people always trying to (2)\_\_\_ their country's name to Czecho or Czechland.

The new name will be (3)\_\_\_ to its (4)\_\_\_ Slovakia – that is also known as the Slovak Republic. Some people might say that Czechia is too similar in name to the Russian Republic of Chechnya.

Czechia is shorter than its former name of Czechoslovakia - before the country (5)\_\_\_ in 1993 into two countries – (6)\_\_\_ The Czech Republic and Slovakia. Some people would have preferred the (7)\_\_\_ Czech to be used rather than Czechia. The new name is due to the lack of an agreed English (8)\_\_\_ of Cesko.

***namely / similar / translation / neighbour / adjective / split / official / shorten***

The Czech Republic is split into 3 parts – Bohemia (in Czech this is Cechy), Moravia and Czech Silesia. Czechia, which has a Latin (1)\_\_\_, has been around since 1841, and till now has not been used much, if at all.

The new name, (2)\_\_\_ last night by the president, prime minister, heads of parliament and (3)\_\_\_ and defence ministers, must still win cabinet approval before the foreign ministry can (4)\_\_\_ the name to the United Nations and it (5)\_\_\_ becomes the country's new name.

Quite what the (6)\_\_\_, tourists, and actual Czechs think of the new name remains to be seen. The country's ice hockey team sport the name Czech on their jerseys, as does the country's (7)\_\_\_ beer – Pilsner Urquell. Soon you will see Czechia on everything. We might just see a mini-tourist (8)\_\_\_ to its capital Prague.

***boom / root / officially / agreed / advertisers / foreign / premium / submit***

## **GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

### **The Czech Republic wants to adopt the name Czechia**

The Czech Republic in Central Europe has decided to change its official name to Czechia. There are (1)\_\_\_ reasons for this. One is that Czechs are fed up (2)\_\_\_ people always trying to shorten their country's name to Czecho or Czechland.

The new name will be similar to its neighbour Slovakia – (3)\_\_\_ is also known as the Slovak Republic. (4)\_\_\_ people might say that Czechia is too similar in name to the Russian Republic of Chechnya.

Czechia is shorter (5)\_\_\_ its former name of Czechoslovakia - before the country split in 1993 (6)\_\_\_ two countries – namely The Czech Republic and Slovakia. Some people (7)\_\_\_ have preferred the adjective Czech to be used (8)\_\_\_ than Czechia. The new name is due to the lack of an agreed English translation of Cesko.

***than / rather / that / some / would / into / many / with***

The Czech Republic is split into 3 parts – Bohemia (in Czech this is Cechy), Moravia and Czech Silesia. Czechia, which has (1)\_\_\_ Latin root, has been around since 1841, and till now has not been used much, (2)\_\_\_ at all.

The new name, agreed last night by the president, prime minister, heads of parliament and foreign and defence ministers, must still win cabinet approval before the foreign ministry (3)\_\_\_ submit the name to the United Nations and it officially becomes the country's new name.

Quite what the advertisers, tourists, and actual Czechs think of the new name remains to be seen. The country's ice hockey team sport the name Czech on their jerseys, (6)\_\_\_ does the country's premium beer – Pilsner Urquell. Soon (7)\_\_\_ will see Czechia on everything. (8)\_\_\_ might just see a mini-tourist boom to its capital Prague.

***its / you / who / can / we / a / if / as***

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## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### The Czech Republic wants to adopt the name Czechia

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list 20 things you know about: Prague. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Czechia \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The Czech Republic \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Prague \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: The Czech Republic wants to adopt the name Czechia.** Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The Czech Republic wants to adopt the name Czechia.** Your email can be read out in class.

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) Czechia
- 2) than
- 3) adjective
- 4) Slovakia
- 5) might
- 6) agreed
- 7) tourists
- 8) parliament
- 9) foreign
- 10) defence

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) Prague
- 12) quite
- 13) advertisers
- 14) mention
- 15) remains
- 16) people
- 17) jerseys
- 18) premium
- 19) official
- 20) similar

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