



evropský  
sociální  
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## Lesson 42:

# Mail

Conversation Lesson with a Story,  
Vocabulary Practice,  
Questions and Activities

# Content

- The Story
  - Vocabulary Practice
  - Questions for Discussion
  - Activities
  - A Related Proverb
- Role Play
  - Ideas to Help You

# The Story

A man was in his yard mowing the grass when his neighbour came out of the house and went straight to the mailbox. She opened it then slammed it shut and stormed back in the house. A little later she came out of her house again, went to the mailbox and again opened it, and slammed it shut again. Angrily, back into the house she went. As the man was getting ready to the edge of the lawn, she came out again, marched to the mailbox, opened it and then slammed it closed harder than ever. Puzzled by her actions the man asked her, 'Is something wrong?' To which she replied, 'There certainly is!' My stupid new computer keeps saying, 'You've got mail.'

Source: [Best Collection of English Humour](#)



# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

1) **'Yard'** here means ...

- a) a unit for measuring length (0.91 m)
- b) a garden around a house (US)
- c) an area without grass at the back of a small house
- d) an area around a prison

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

2) To **'slam'** means ...

- a) to hit something with your foot
- b) to shut a door or a lid with a great force, often because you are angry
- c) to hit a door with your hand so that someone inside knows you are there

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

3) To '**storm**' here means ...

- a) to use force to enter a place and take control of it
- b) to say something in a very angry way
- c) to go somewhere very quickly because you are angry or upset

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

- 4) To '**march**' here means ...
- a) to walk somewhere quickly and in a determined or angry way
  - b) to walk along a road as part of a group of people protesting about something
  - c) to force someone to walk somewhere with you

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

5) **'Puzzled'** means ...

- a) confused because you cannot understand something
- b) showing surprise
- c) unusual and interesting

Content

Story



# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

6) To **'keep'** here means ...

- a) to store something in a particular place so that you know where it is
- b) to own animals and look after them
- c) to continue doing something

Content

Story

# Questions for Discussion

- 1) What is funny about this story?
- 2) Why was the neighbour wondering?
- 3) How do you think the neighbour reacted after he found out what had happened?
- 4) How would you react if you were the neighbour?
- 5) Are your (grand)parents experienced with using a computer? Tell me about it.

Content

Story

# Activities

- Now tell your friend(s) the story in your own words.
- Pronounce the following words several times:
  - a) mow the grass
  - b) neighbour
  - c) ... stormed back
  - d) ... slammed it shut
  - e) the edge of the lawn
  - f) puzzled

Content

Story

# A Related Proverb

**‘Good fences make good neighbours.’**

- What does the proverb mean?
- Is there a proverb in your mother tongue which bears the same meaning?

Content

Story

# A Related Proverb

**‘Good fences make good neighbours’**

i.e. We remain better friends if we do not see too much of one another. Our neighbour does not live in our house and we do not live in his. Hedge or fence between our properties are not just physical barriers; they are a reminder to both of us that a good neighbour should never be obtrusive.

Content

Story

# Role Play

Imagine the following situation:

Your English class have decided to **find pen friends in England** to exchange letters and practise English. Your English teacher suggests **traditional letters**. However, **you would prefer using email or modern internet applications** such as Skype or ICQ. Try to discuss the advantages of the modern means of communication and **convince your English teacher that using the internet is a better option**. Person B **will start** the conversation.



## Role Play:

# Ideas to Help You

The following ideas may help you:

- *Speed*
- *Availability*
- *Number of people you can contact/talk to*
- *Cost*
- *Possibility of sending various media files (photos, videos, etc.)*
- *Other*