

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2A – úlohy**V O C A B U L A R Y**

Read the text and complete the sentences with the correct form of the word written in brackets.

In the hands of a great (1) _____ (PERFORM), the guitar can charm audiences with its beauty and emotional power. In the 20th century, the (2) _____ (SPAIN) guitar legend Andrés Segovia took the instrument from the salon to the large concert halls of the world. He took advantage of (3) _____ (DEVELOP) in guitar-making that produced louder instruments. In the 21st century, younger players such as Xuefei Yang, Ana Vidović, and Gabriel Bianco are reaching new audiences via YouTube and (4) _____ (SOCIETY) media.

What's typical of the classical guitar is its simplicity. It's basically a (5) _____ (WOOD) box with strings attached and a neck, a bridge, a saddle, and tuning pegs. A (6) _____ (CLASS) guitar produces sounds very directly by just plucking the strings, which is completely different from the complexity of playing a violin, viola, or a cello with a bow.

The top string of the guitar, the one that carries the melody most of the time, is tuned to an E above middle C, and that exact same note exists in four other places on the guitar. It's the same note and the same note name, but the quality and the sound differ on each string. On the guitar, all notes that can be played in different places have different sound quality and they combine differently with other notes. That's our palette – it's what we use to paint music on our instrument. (7) _____ (GUITAR) talk a lot about creating (8) _____ (VARIETY) tones.

The guitar can produce sounds that are bright, tinny, thin, rich, sweet, harsh, and so on. These qualities are not just the result of string choice. The way the guitarist plucks the string, such as the angle of the fingernail and the (9) _____ (STRONG) of the finger movements, matters too.

The guitar player also has to decide how long each note will last. If left to itself, the note will die away, but sometimes performers will stop a note from resonating at a certain point. How the notes fade away, as well as various (10) _____ (SILENT) within a piece, can be part of the beauty of a performance.

Adapted from Ogden, C. (2025, November 28). *In the hands of a great musician, the gloriously simple guitar can create the most complex works of art: Here's how.* Aeon. <https://aeon.co/essays/how-to-paint-with-sound-by-a-virtuoso-classical-guitarist>

1 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2A – úlohy**G R A M M A R**

Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. Then circle the correct option on the following page.

I love (1) ___ in the summer, when rhythms (2) ___ more relaxed and the guilt of taking (3) ___ break less heavy. But I also love napping in the winter, when it (4) ___ cold outside, and burying myself under a warm blanket makes me feel like I'm hibernating. No matter the season, when (5) ___ in bed, I enjoy the feeling of my body relaxing, (6) ___ for the moment when odd images start (7) ___ somewhere in that space between my closed lids and my eyes. I love falling asleep without worrying about the next item on my to-do list. I'm not a sound sleeper, nor (8) ___ someone who falls asleep easily at night, but napping (9) ___ easily and sweetly. I treasure the days (10) ___ I can nap.

Yet our culture prizes efficiency and productivity, often seeing sleep as a waste of time. 'Tech bros' regularly work more than 70 hours a week and aim (11) ___ their sleep time as much as possible. As one CEO of a cost-cutting firm told the news site Business Insider this year: 'While a 120-hour workweek isn't a practical solution for most, the principle behind it resonates. Companies (12) ___ efficiency and cost management (13) ___ those that are (14) ___ bureaucratic.' This approach is mirrored in a trend in the tech industry: a number of years ago, tech companies such as Apple and Google started introducing nap time for their workers. However, this approach was less a gesture of care than a response to exhaustion. It provided 'recharging time' (15) ___ improve creativity and last the long hours required for work. Workers in less high-paying careers, (16) ___ need to work multiple jobs, rarely have time to nap. For years the US defence research agency DARPA (17) ___ pharmaceutical companies and researchers to reduce sleep deprivation, with the long-term goal of operating without (18) ___ need for sleep. That could be a dream.

For now, sleep remains necessary (19) ___ humans. We spend around a third of our lives sleeping. It is scientifically proven that getting seven to eight hours a night, on average, is necessary. Working for a long time with little to no sleep (20) ___ psychological and physical harm, resulting in depression or brain degeneration. But can the value of sleeping be reduced to its health benefits? Years ago, one of my philosophy professors declared that sleeping (21) ___ a waste of time, and that, if there (22) ___ a pill that could make us skip sleeping, he would take it in a heartbeat. I responded: 'But I love sleeping!' He replied that what I loved must be the rest that sleep brings, but how could I love sleeping itself? We are unconscious when we sleep, after all.

I've turned over that question in my mind ever since. When I was nursing my children, I was so exhausted I (23) ___ taken that magical pill without second thought. Sleep felt like a luxury I'd never (24) ___ again. Once they began sleeping through the night, I (25) ___ to the pleasure of it. Or did I? If I'm unconscious, (26) ___ anything at all? And if not, does that make sleep worthless? I've come to believe the opposite: sleep has a value that reaches far beyond health.

Here is one of my fondest childhood memories. My mother is calling me to bed, which she (27) ___ with newly bought linen. I am beyond excited because of their design – bright lilac flowers with emerald-green leaves. I breathe in the scent of the fresh laundry and as I lie in the tightly tucked bed, I (28) ___ with pleasure at the texture of the ironed cotton. I can now close my eyes in the dark room, feeling safe and loved. Sadly, no one makes my bed for me anymore, (29) ___ I still enjoy the moments in which my body touches the bed and I smell a lavender scent that I spray in my bedroom to imitate my childhood experience. Recently, I (30) ___ a bedtime yoga practice: I always do the same poses, welcoming the muscle relaxation. Toward the end of it, when I notice a familiar sleepiness, I turn off my phone, take off my glasses, put in ear plugs, turn off the light, and slide under the covers.

Adapted from Protasi, S. (2025, December 4). *Sleep is not just a physical need but a delicious pleasure*. Aeon. <https://aeon.co/essays/sleep-is-not-just-a-physical-need-but-a-delicious-pleasure>

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2A – úlohy**G R A M M A R – continued**

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. A) to have napped | B) napping | C) nap | D) have a nap |
| 2. A) are | B) were | C) have been | D) are being |
| 3. A) the | B) a | C) one | D) any |
| 4. A) will be | B) has been | C) is | D) would be |
| 5. A) lie | B) I am lie | C) to lie | D) lying |
| 6. A) and wait | B) waiting | C) to wait | D) having waited |
| 7. A) forming | B) to be form | C) have formed | D) form |
| 8. A) I am | B) am I | C) I be | D) will I |
| 9. A) is come | B) has come | C) comes | D) came |
| 10. A) who | B) why | C) what | D) on which |
| 11. A) reduce | B) reducing | C) to reduce | D) to reducing |
| 12. A) which prioritising | B) that prioritise | C) who prioritised | D) prioritised |
| 13. A) will always outperform | B) always will outperform | | |
| C) will outperform always | D) will always outperforming | | |
| 14. A) much | B) many | C) more | D) most |
| 15. A) for | B) in order | C) to | D) so that |
| 16. A) what | B) whose | C) which | D) who |
| 17. A) supported | B) has supported | C) have supported | D) support |
| 18. A) some | B) a | C) <i>no article</i> | D) any |
| 19. A) to | B) by | C) for | D) of |
| 20. A) will cause | B) must cause | C) may cause | D) would cause |
| 21. A) has been | B) will be | C) were | D) was |
| 22. A) was/were | B) is | C) had been | D) will be |
| 23. A) will have | B) would have | C) would | D) had |
| 24. A) tasting | B) to taste | C) taste | D) tasted |
| 25. A) returned | B) was returning | C) have returned | D) had return |
| 26. A) I am really enjoying | B) am I really enjoying | | |
| C) I really am enjoying | D) am I enjoying really | | |
| 27. A) makes | B) is making | C) was made | D) has made |
| 28. A) had smiled | B) have smiled | C) smile | D) smiled |
| 29. A) because | B) since | C) but | D) when |
| 30. A) am starting | B) was starting | C) had started | D) have started |

0.5 point/correct answer**Total: _____ / 15 pts**

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2A – úlohy

READING COMPREHENSION

A Holiday Pantomime

One of the most popular forms of holiday entertainment in the United Kingdom is the pantomime, a comedic theatrical performance often based on nursery rhymes or folk tales. For a lot of people, Christmas hasn't well and truly arrived until you've gathered a group of friends and family into an old theatre and giggled through a nonsensical remake of an old nursery rhyme. (1) _____ Theatre historian Walter James MacQueen-Pope remembers being a kid and having the ultimate threat dangled overhead: behave, or no panto for you.

But it wasn't regarded simply as children's entertainment. An 1868 stage version of *Humpty Dumpty* was a hit in the United States, earning \$1,406,000 in New York on its first tour. The success inspired the creation of multiple sequels. And by the World War II-era peak of pantomime theatre, nearly three hundred pantomimes were performed each season throughout Great Britain.

So, what is pantomime, and how did it become so popular around the holidays? (2) _____ Professor and critic Charles Kaplan argues that pantomime is a mixture of nursery rhyme and fairy tale, with such ingredients as commedia dell'arte figures, sentimental ballads, satirical references, elaborate stage sets, leggy young women playing juvenile leads, and male comics playing old ladies, all in plots that disregard logic.

Contemporary theatrical scholars generally date the origins of pantomime to the early eighteenth century, specifically 1723. (3) _____ Early pantomime theatre generally combined two parts: first, a play; and second, a drama featuring four stock characters borrowed from *commedia dell'arte*: Harlequin; his lady love, Columbine; a grumpy antagonist named Pantaloon; and his assistant, the Clown.

Moving into the nineteenth century, a few things happened to set pantomime on its modern path. For starters, audiences liked the spoken-drama portion of the evening so much that it began to overtake the "Harlequinade" dumb show. (4) _____ Moreover, the Theatres Act of 1843 removed restrictions on performance, including a rule that spoken drama could not be performed without royal permission.

Theatre managers jumped on the chance to offer entertainment that could draw revenue from children of all ages. It took well-worn stories such as *Mother Goose*, *Aladdin*, and *Puss in Boots* and mashed them up with playful commentary and audience participation. (5) _____

Pantomimes and other theatre plays of the era showed kids as innocent babes, but also as quasi-cartoon characters who did not suffer harm. The popular image of idealized childhood was a shorthand for innocence, joy, and pushing responsibility aside. Adults, via pantomime theatre with its silly themes and nursery archetypes, could receive permission to become innocent as well.

Adapted from Golden Kellem, B. (2024, December 18). *A Holiday Pantomime*. JSTOR Daily. <https://daily.jstor.org/a-holiday-pantomime/>

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2A – úlohy**READING COMPREHENSION – continued**

A. Read the article *A Holiday Pantomime* and decide which of the sentences (A)–(E) best fits into each of the numbered gaps (1)–(5) in the article. Write the correct letter in the blank chart provided below. There are three extra sentences.

- a) Some smaller towns could not afford grand theatres, so they simply converted village halls into makeshift performance spaces.
- b) Children could enjoy the show, and their parents as well.
- c) Yet for all the glitter, noise, and chaos, the basic pattern of a pantomime has changed very little over the centuries.
- d) Theatres listened and dropped the latter, and the “Harlequinade” actors gradually moved over to circus entertainment.
- e) According to John O’Brien, London’s patent houses (theatres licensed for spoken-word performances) “staged competing pantomimes on the Faust legend that became the hits of the 1723–24 season.”
- f) This was also a time when childhood itself was beginning to gain a new identity.
- g) Pantomime as a genre is more than its simple dictionary definition would suggest.
- h) But once upon a time, pantomime (or “panto,” for short) wasn’t just a choice among many types of Christmas entertainment—it was the most common one in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as across the pond in America.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

B. Read the text and for questions 1 to 5, circle the correct answer.

- 1. What childhood memory does theatre historian Walter James MacQueen-Pope recall?**
 - A) Staying up late to rehearse pantomimes
 - B) Collecting tickets at the theatre door
 - C) Acting as the Clown in a school production
 - D) Being told that misbehaviour would mean no pantomime
- 2. Theatrical scholars generally date the origins of pantomime to:**
 - A) The late sixteenth century
 - B) The early eighteenth century
 - C) The Victorian era
 - D) The early twentieth century
- 3. Why did theatre managers “jump on the chance” created by the Theatres Act?**
 - A) To offer shows that could earn money from children of all ages
 - B) To stage more serious political drama for adults only
 - C) To reduce production costs by shortening performances
 - D) To replace pantomimes with opera and ballet
- 4. What point is illustrated by the success of *Humpty Dumpty* in the United States?**
 - A) Pantomime quickly lost popularity outside Britain
 - B) Pantomime could be a major commercial success beyond children’s audiences
 - C) Pantomime was respected mainly by theatre critics
 - D) Pantomime was always performed in small, local theatres
- 5. What does the text suggest about the relationship between theatre, childhood, and adulthood in pantomime?**
 - A) Theatre keeps childhood and adulthood strictly separate
 - B) Theatre forces adults to behave more responsibly than children
 - C) Theatre uses the image of childhood to let adults temporarily experience a playful, responsibility-free world
 - D) Theatre eliminates the idea of childhood altogether

1 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2A – úlohy

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

You will listen to an interview with Lee “Faker” Sang-hyeok, a now-six-time world-champion pro gamer. Pay close attention and for each statement, decide whether it is true (T), false (F), or not stated in the text (NS). Circle the correct answer for each statement. You can score up to five points in this exercise.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. T / F / NS | The interview was arranged with Inven Global and was considered rare because it lasted for an hour. |
| 2. T / F / NS | These days he usually practices for about 6–8 hours per day. |
| 3. T / F / NS | The text claims his first motivation was fame from TV appearances. |
| 4. T / F / NS | After several championships, money stopped being a major motivator for him. |
| 5. T / F / NS | Faker says his competitive drive comes mostly from his personality. |
| 6. T / F / NS | He believes he was lucky and that joining a great team helped him. |
| 7. T / F / NS | Faker is now in his twenties. |
| 8. T / F / NS | The text confirms that prize money is again his primary motivation today. |
| 9. T / F / NS | We can conclude that motivation, and not only practice-hours, helps him maintain his high level of performance. |
| 10. T / F / NS | The text states that Faker plans to retire after exactly one more championship. |

0.5 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 5 pts

Autorka: Mgr. Zuzana Sucháňová, PhD.

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – okresné kolo 2025/2026

Vydal: NIVAM – Národný inštitút vzdelávania a mládeže, Bratislava 2026