

SUPPORT GROUP	TEACHER	SYNOPSIS	1st SESSION
Reading and discussion	Eva Čoupková	A module not only for bookworms - during our several sessions I would like to read critically and discuss a text of our common choice in English – be it a novel, a short story, an essay, or a poem – and try to interpret and analyse it employing the basic theoretical tools. These include, depending on the nature of the narrative, the differences between story and narration, point of view, use of figurative language, gender and genre aspects of the text, questions of originality and value, and so on. Before the first session you may think of a text that would be interesting for you, giving me your suggestions and reasons for your choice. You can use the web page http://www.goodreads.com/ for reference.	10/3/2014 at 9:30 am, room J1, PŘF Kotlářská 2
Vocabulary builder	Martina Šindelářová - Skupeňová	This support group is designed to help students to expand their Academic English vocabulary. The focus of this group is practical, aiming at students' individual needs. Participants will be introduced to some useful vocabulary learning strategies and tools, including the usage of language corpora. Students will develop their individual as well as interactive group word lists. They will also be involved in a series of recycling, revision and feedback activities. At the end of the group work, participants will know how to develop and maintain their vocabulary knowledge.	12/3/2014 at 5:30pm room M..., Komenského nám. 2
Case studies	Štěpánka Bilová	Are you interested in exciting cases from your field of study? In this support group you will choose a contemporary or recent case and then you will report the information, in both written and oral forms, to others. The group will meet twice. During the first session you will develop the strategies and prepare the guidelines and in the second session everybody will briefly report on their cases and submit their written work. Apart from practicing the language skills (mainly reading, speaking, writing), you will work on your research and communication skills.	24/3/2014 at 9:35am, room 211 at PrF, Veveří 70
English of the business world	Jiřina Hrbáčková	Students are welcome to follow media coverage of major current development in business, economy, politics or culture according to their field of interest or study and report shortly on a regular basis to peers in the group via an online platform of their choice. English online sources should serve as a basis for discussions and mini presentations during the meeting sessions which might also be used as an opportunity to discuss pressing or interesting topics. Any comments or online discussions preceding the sessions are welcome and appreciated. Ideally, the support group would enhance our understanding of major current events and develop linguistic competences of reading, listening, writing and speaking. Any details of the content of the group are left at the discretion of its prospective members.	20/3/2014 at 4:30pm in Language Lab.

Re: Plaintiff vs. Defendant in Courtroom Drama	Barbora Chovancová	This module could consist of two parts - in the first one I would introduce to you (or "shower" you with) different types of legal drama series - dealing with civil/criminal law /alternative dispute resolutions - both old and new. Then you would go out and do your own research. Finally we would meet for a "pooling session" where you would share your ideas, findings, favourite bits of movies or any other outcomes of your research.	17/3/2014 at 9:35am, room 211 at PrF, Veveří 70
Soft skills	Eva Trumpešová - Rudolfová	SOFT SKILLS – EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND HOW TO SURVIVE IN A WORLD FULL OF ... PEOPLE Motivation, self-motivation, empathy, intuition, trust, cooperation, multiple intelligences, self-reflection, self-presentation, personal swot analysis, recognizing and managing emotions, handling relationships, working in a team, communicating well ... You name it, we can work on it. In personal as well as in working lives, we need to be able to get along with people. We need to have good inter-personal and intra-personal skills as it makes things much easier. This course is a place where you can gain or enhance or practice them, depending on what you need. I believe that every individuals bringing in his or her experience will enrich the classes with new perspectives, new ideas...	7/3/2014 at 9:30am in Language Lab.
Presentation skills	Lenka Zouhar Ludvíková	Sooner or later you are all going to give a presentation and it might be in English. Let's try a few presentations in this support group. All of you are going to perform at least 3times, presenting different topics. You will be learning from your and other people's mistakes, you will be giving feedback to one another and you will become better presenters for exams to come, for conferences to go to, for your future careers.	2/4/2014 at 5:30pm, Language lab.
Academic discussions	Lenka Zouhar Ludvíková	In sessions of this support group we are going to explore the mechanisms and principles of academic discussions and much more. After the first meeting we will decide which topics are the most attractive and controversial for us so that we can then prepare for the real academic discussions ourselves. You are going to learn useful language tools and phrases, you are going to study and prepare materials for our discussions and you will hopefully enjoy the whole experience.	19/3/2014 at 5:30 pm, Language lab.
Journalling	Martina Nosková	We will explore the exciting sphere of personal journal writing. Whether you choose to read published journals of famous writers, books on journalling or get inspired in the virtual world, whether you decide to try writing personal accounts of your everyday life or compose your life into poems and little haiku snippets, you will realize that apart from thinking, reading and writing for the course, you also think, read, write, and, above all, live your life more mindfully than ever. You will create your own version of this course as well as you create you own life.	19/3/2014 at 10:20 am, Language lab.

Academic Writing	Tristan Lee Libor Štěpánek	<p>This support group is designed to provide students with an opportunity to take their academic writing skills in English to a higher level, specifically in relation to their own discipline.</p> <p>The programme of this group is practice-oriented. Participants may get actively involved in a series of written individual, collaborative and peer-review tasks. Their texts may be analysed and discussed with a native speaker, an academic support professional. At the end of the group work, participants will be able to understand generic and specific features of academic texts; evaluate strengths and weaknesses of written work and know how to improve their individual writing style.</p>	5/3/2014 at 5:30pm, Language Lab.
Conversation	Šárka Roušavá	<p>At the first support group session, students will be provided with various e-learning language links focused on issues we agree on beforehand; these will include vocabulary, readings, comprehension questions, discussion topics, quizzes and videos. Between the support group sessions, students are encouraged to design group or individual projects on a theme of their choice. The topic is up to you, as well as the work strategy.</p> <p>Last term, this conversation module was labelled English for the Environment. It brought together English language learners and inspired them to discuss environmental issues. The topics ranged from activism, organic agriculture and eco-architecture to eco-business planning, fair-trade and urban planning. The support group will attempt to provide a forum of discussion for people who may find it difficult to express their opinions and concerns in English.</p>	
Working abroad	Eva Čoupková	<p>If you are interested in studying or working abroad, this is the right module for you to choose. We can consider advantages/disadvantages of working/studying abroad and discuss possible problems (adjustment, culture shock); or, we can practise the process of job application – select a genuine advert, then write a cover letters or a letter of motivation, and conduct a mock job/grant interview, including possible questions you might expect with suggestions for clever answers.</p>	31/3/2014 at 9:30 am, room J1, PŘF Kotlářská 2

Pronunciation	Eva Trumpešová - Rudolfová	<p>According to most recent research, the biggest percentage of all communication breakdowns happens due to wrong or unclear pronunciation. Have you ever been in a situation, where you had to repeat a word, what seemed like a thousand times, and nobody understood what you were saying? And when you finally spelled it, they went a-ha, you mean... – and pronounced the word, in exactly the same way you did? Have you ever wondered what a person with a very untypical accent was telling you, only to discover that they just swapped two vowels, and with this knowledge their English was perfectly understandable to you?</p> <p>In this support group we will most certainly listen and then, we can speak, we can sing, we might improve our guessing and intuition of what the others are saying..., simply, we will be doing whatever you personally need to do to improve your pronunciation, so that you feel at ease from now on, when using all the weird words like choir, ruthlessness, conscientious, thoroughly and many more...</p>	7/3/2014 at 12:30 in Language Lab.
Gastronomy	Eva Trumpešová - Rudolfová	<p>Do you want to discuss recipes, cuisines, ingredients, kitchen utensils and even life values... come and join us for the cooking support group or module - whatever you make it. I can offer guidance, mediation (recipes negotiating can turn tough), lots of knowledge and passion for cooking and baking.</p> <p>See you in aprons, soon.</p>	



SHOWERS	<i>teacher</i>
Book Club	Eva Čoupková
Film Club	Pavel Reich
Advanced Grammar Shower	Petra Trávníková
Intermediate Grammar Shower	Petra Trávníková
Critical thinking	Libor Štěpánek
Creative skills in lang. Learning	Libor Štěpánek
Art Shower	Martina Šindelářová Skupeňová

A shower not only for bookworms - in our single session I would like to discuss the literary work of art you like – be it an article, novel, poem, short story, drama – belonging to English or any other national literature; however, the discussion should be in English. We may choose one text and consider it from different angles - what you find important/interesting/strange/valuable/typical regarding the author/work/ period in which the work originated, suggesting further points for discussion. I would like to offer you five reading	
Students will be offered 5 films out of which they will have to agree on one and watch it individually before the session. During the session itself there will be a discussion about the film, followed by language excersises based on the film dialogues.	14/5/2014 at 8am, U36 at FSS
Everything you always wanted to know about grammar but were afraid to ask. You will choose what we will look at before the session itself and these problematic spots will be the subject matter of our shower. Preferably, we will deal with those grammar problems that are less “mainstream” and above the B2 level.	12/5/2014 at 10:50am in K33, Veveří 28
In this shower, we will concentrate on more basic areas in English grammar found problematic by the students themselves and identified prior to our session in a discussion thread in the IS. Consequently, we will deal with these areas both at the theoretical and practical level.	12/5/2014 at 9:10am in K21, Veveří 28
Everybody can become a subject to information overload or a complex mix of viewpoints. Critical thinking can help us understand which arguments are valid, which we should be persuaded by and which can lead us to making informed choices. This shower session aims to equip us with critical thinking skills and techniques. We may focus on critical thinking in both the academic and everyday context as an opportunity to enhance our own skills in critical thinking. The practice-oriented session can be organised around group and individual tasks, problem-solving, discussion and debate activities.	16/4/2014 at 5:30pm. Language Lab.
“There are many misconceptions about creativity. Creativity is not a separate faculty that some people have and others do not. It is a function of intelligence: it takes many forms, it draws from many different capacities and we all have different creative capabilities. Creativity is possible in any activity in which human intelligence is actively engaged.” (Robinson, Ken (2001): Out of our minds. Learning to be creative, p.111) Creativity can simply help us increase effectiveness of our language skills development. This shower session aims to equip us with creativity skills and techniques. It may address questions such as creative situations, creative personality, steps of creative process, and creativity barriers. The practice-oriented session can be organised around group and individual tasks, problem-solving, discussion and debate activities.	26/3/2014 at 5:30 pm, Language Lab.
Let us go to see and discus some interesting pieces of art. Together, we can visit one of Brno galleries or Masaryk university collection of contemporary sculptures. The shower will include a series of different activities and apart from speaking, it can focus on any language area you choose (vocabulary, writing, etc.).	4/3/2014 at 10am