

## World 15: Astronomical Clock (Czech Republic)



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### Exercise 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions (Vocabulary and Expressions)

**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

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Vocabulary and Expressions	Example
<b>spire</b> (spire)	Cathedrals are famous for their tall and pointy <b>spires</b> .
<b>gargoyle</b> (gargoyle)	Old castles had statues of <b>gargoyles</b> as their protectors.
<b>tone down</b> (tone down)	Can you please <b>tone down</b> your voice? I can hear you very well.
<b>behold</b> (behold)	<b>Behold</b> , the shooting star!
<b>analyze</b> (analyze)	He <b>analyzed</b> the samples and didn't find anything unusual.
<b>prejudice</b> (prejudice)	She reached the decision governed by her <b>prejudices</b> .
<b>vanity</b> (vanity)	<b>Vanity</b> is not a very good trait.
<b>greed</b> (greed )	I don't like <b>greedy</b> people. I think sharing is very important.
<b>infidel</b> (infidel )	<b>Infidels</b> were captured and enslaved because of differences in belief.
<b>retaliation</b> (retaliation)	I told him that <b>retaliation</b> is not the answer, but he wouldn't listen.

## Exercise 2 | Dialogue (Dialogue)

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**Directions:** Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

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*Raul went to Prague to visit his friend Tereza, who is studying acting there.*

*The two of them are walking down the streets of The Old Town.*

**Raul** : These buildings are so beautiful, it feels like they all came out of a fairy tale. And the cathedrals with their tall **spires** are just mesmerizing. Hey, I saw some pictures of Prague Castle's **gargoyles**. Can you take me there?

**Tereza** : **Tone down** the enthusiasm, Raul. (chuckle) You've just come here; we have plenty of time to visit everything. First, I want to show you something amazing. (*dramatic voice*) **Behold**, the most beautiful clock in the world, the Prague Astronomical Clock, my town's pride!

**Raul** : Oh, wow! It looks amazing. But it seems complicated. How do you tell time?

**Tereza** : You tell time by looking at the Roman numerals. The other pointers are connected to the ancient times, astronomy and astrology.

**Raul** : Right, right. I can see the positions of the Sun and the Moon, there are Zodiac signs... and I would need to **analyze** the rest in more detail. But the figures are interesting. What do they stand for?

**Tereza** : Well, these represent common **prejudices** during the period the clock was built. There are **Vanity, Greed, Death, and Infidel**, and these figures move at the strike of every hour. Bellow, we have The Astronomer, Chronicler, Philosopher, and an Angel.

**Raul** : It must be very interesting to see them move. Can we stick here for a few more minutes and check it out? And while we wait, can you share some legends about it? There must be some.

**Tereza** : Of course there are. It was believed that the maker of the clock was blinded by the Czech Council so that he could never make anything more beautiful. As a **retaliation**, he threw himself in the clock's mechanism, committing suicide and stopping the clock for a whole year.

**Raul** : Wow! That's grim. I'm glad that it's just a legend... Oh, oh, it's noon, the show's starting.

### Exercise 3 | Filling in the Blanks (Filling in the Blanks)

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**Directions:** Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences.

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1. Please \_\_\_\_\_ your guitar. I can't hear any other instrument.
2. Don't let your \_\_\_\_\_ make you judge people before getting to know them.
3. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ the blood sample first, and then I'll be able to tell you more.
4. He managed to take everything for himself and escape. I can't believe how \_\_\_\_\_ he is.
5. The cathedral has at least ten really high and pointy \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ were placed on buildings to serve as protectors.
7. We were wronged and no one paid for that, so I think it is time for \_\_\_\_\_.
8. She is beautiful and smart. The only shame is that her main trait is \_\_\_\_\_.

spire	gargoyle	tone down	analyze
prejudice	vanity	greed	retaliation

## Exercise 4 | Conversation Questions (Conversation Questions)

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**Directions:** Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions.

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1. Have you ever been to Prague, if not, would you like to? Why, why not?
2. What is your town's pride?
3. Do you have any legends that are connected to your city, or country? Can you share some?
4. What do you know about Czech Republic?
5. What are Czech people most known for?