

Worksheet 1: The tall poppy syndrome (2 pages)

Task 1: Read the “tall poppy” text in class. **Point out** what the “Australian of the Year Award” means. **Explain** why Australians don’t like “tall poppies”. **Discuss** if Germany has a “tall poppy syndrome” as well.

Australia – the tall poppy syndrome

On the one hand, Australia finds special people every year who are awarded the title of “Australian of the Year” for their excellence. Everyone can make suggestions and special committees select the candidates. This prize is very important and an incentive for people from all walks of life. On the other hand, the Australian community is well known for being very democratic and egalitarian. After all, the country started as a colony of convicts, and the descendants of former “criminals” are proud of the fact that they “made it” in the New World. That is why people become suspicious and even jealous of those who want to be better than others or show off. They are disliked if they promote themselves and appear to be like a tall poppy flower – which stands out and will quickly be chopped down to earth. This is called the “tall poppy syndrome”. It is considered to be bad manners. Some think this is a shame because a tall poppy is a product of nature and beautiful to look at. Things might change though, because nowadays Australia is a multicultural society with values and attitudes that are not equal but different. So who can say what is best?

Voc.: poppy – Mohnblume; to award – verleihen; excellence – herausragende Leistung; suggestion – Vorschlag; egalitarian – gleichberechtigt; convict – Strafgefangener; suspicious – misstrauisch

Task 2: As you might not know about all of these jobs look some up in your digital dictionary. In an inside-outside circle **match** jobs and qualities (they are mixed up here) and then decide how to become top in your job (aka a tall poppy).

job/profession	qualities	excellence
technician	competent	stronger
teacher		friendlier
train driver		cleaner
pilot		cleverer
stewardess		more competent
janitor		more experienced
baker		more cool-headed
mason		calmer
priest		more intelligent

Voc.: janitor – Hausmeister; mason – Maurer; aka – also known as

Focus on form

Comparisons

Playing football looks than it is. (hard)

Dancing is than it looks. (fast)

Acting is more than dancing. (difficult)

Learning is than you think. (easy)

Make 3 more sentences in the same style, using these adjectives:

Slow (slower), beautiful (more beautiful), elegant (more elegant). For reasons why there are 2 ways to make a comparison have a guess or turn to your teacher.

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Task 3: Who is who

There are different heroes in different countries. Match names and countries below (if in doubt, do some **research** first in your tandem): Willy Brandt – Mohamed Ali – John F. Kennedy – Mario Götze – Jerome Boateng – Nicole Kidman – Hugh Grant – Kylie Minogue – George W. Bush – Angela Merkel – Ilkay Gündogan – Kevin Rudd

United States of America	Germany	Australia
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Worksheet 2: Role models (2 pages)

Task 4: With a partner, fill in the blanks in the cloze text on the “West-Eastern Divan” and **compare** results in plenary.

Cloze

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

In his poem “West-Eastern Divan” (1) wrote “God has made the Orient! God has made the Occident! North and South his hands are holding, all the lands in (2) enfolding.” In 1999, Daniel (3) together with Edward Said (Palestinian scholar) (4) the West-Eastern Divan as a workshop for Israeli, Palestinian and Arab (5) in Weimar. Their aim: to replace ignorance with education, knowledge and (6). Within the workshop, individuals, who had only interacted with each other through the (7), found themselves living and working together as equals. The orchestra quickly became legendary winning many international prizes.

The West-Eastern Divan is almost (8). By bringing together Arab and Israeli musicians it overcomes the political divides in the (9). The young players realised the need for an (10) way to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (11) through music turned into a (12) and the orchestra won global (13). In 2005, the orchestra first performed in the Occupied Territories, in Ramallah. One young girl was reported to say to Daniel Barenboim that he was the first thing she had seen from Israel that was not a soldier or a (14).

Cloze: tank – audiences – model – Cooperation – alternative – Middle East – impossible – prism of war – understanding – musicians – founded – Barenboim – peace – Goethe

Voc.: West-Eastern Divan – Gedicht von Johann Wolfgang von Goethe “West-östlicher Divan” (1814–1827); to enfold – umfassen; founded – gründete; equal – Gleichheit; prism – Brennpunkt; Occupied Territories – von Israel besetzte Gebiete Palästinas; tank – Panzer

Task 5: Write a short profile about the career of Daniel Barenboim by connecting the items in the box and have it ready for task 6.

Daniel Barenboim was born in

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- Daniel Barenboim (1942 –)
- ▶ born in Buenos Aires in 1942
 - ▶ taught piano lessons only by his parents, debut in Argentina in 1950
 - ▶ moves to Israel
 - ▶ attends master conducting classes in Vienna
 - ▶ studies in Paris in the 1950s
 - ▶ invited by famous pianists (e.g. Rubinstein) to join them, performs in New York, Tel Aviv and Berlin in the 1960s
 - ▶ Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (1989 – 2006)
 - ▶ conducts West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in Palestine
 - ▶ leads Staatsoper Berlin
 - ▶ awarded German Federal Cross of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) by Joachim Gauck in 2013
 - ▶ receives Willy-Brandt-Prize
 - ▶ performs with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in Korean Demilitarized Zone
 - ▶ named one of “The World’s Greatest Leaders” by Fortune Magazine

Task 6: Check your understanding – choose the right ending for each sentence a, b or c:

Daniel Barenboim founded the ...

- a) Chicago Symphony Orchestra; b) Staatsoper Berlin; c) West-Eastern Divan

It quickly became a ...

- a) legendary orchestra; b) famous workshop; c) panel discussion

It overcomes the political divides in ...

- a) Israel; b) the Middle East; c) the USA

The young players realised the need for ...

- a) better performance; b) more instruments; c) an alternative

Cooperation through music turned into a ...

- a) model; b) problem; c) success

Worksheet 3: The story behind a name

Task 7: Your Australian exchange partner has to write a text for their school magazine about places to visit in Germany and has asked you to pass on some information about the story behind a building or street in your own area. Choose the name of a street, a school or an interesting building in your hometown and **research** the story behind the name giver and why s/he was chosen.

Scaffolding

How to proceed

Take a photo of the building and/or street name. Get some information (internet, local library) and write down your findings in a mind map or table about: the person's profile, why s/he should be remembered, when the street/building was named after her/him, what makes the street/building special.

Task 8: Write a first draft of your text and organise in paragraphs. Your text would have an introduction, a body and a conclusion.

Our school is named after (example: Ludwig Leichhardt) who

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I live in (example: Käthe Kollwitz Straße) which was named after

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Task 9: Hang up your text and photos in your classroom and, in a gallery walk*, view the different versions and vote on the outcomes (you have five points to award – do not include your own text, please!).