

The Brida Journal

Email : daily@brida.eu

www.journal.brida.eu

Week 43/2020

The journal for learners of English, by learners of English

Have Ubuntu and be Hakuna Matata

Monica, in Dublin, is an artist.

This story started sometime in July or August when I saw the following advertisement in a Dublin listing:

“We launched a new product: Fancy Balloon Dresses. It is suitable for all occasions: parties, weddings, hen parties, birthdays, big events, grand openings, celebrations, proms, fashion, shop windows, launching products. Balloon decorations also available. “

followed by the contact details.

And then the pictures. Wow! A wearable dress, beautifully designed for a ball, made completely from balloons. I was stunned by the beauty, attention to detail and the fact, that this dress was on a mannequin, meaning, a woman could actually wear it! Imagine, coming to a party wearing a dress made from balloons. And it is not worn over your normal clothes! The balloon dress is it! Paris haute couture? Eat your hat! Milan? Go to Dublin! New York? You have even more Irish heritage!

I put the listing into the future file and started to think. This was an opportunity not to pass. But how would a person react, when somebody from France wants to take the balloon idea, and use it for educational purposes, embedded in some obscure project? I wrote an email, and after overcoming the initial reservations, we talked via WhatsApp video. By now, it was approaching the end of September.

Monica is a teacher, an artist and a person with unbounding creativity, an entertainer. Born in Romania, she and her family found themselves with an exceptionally talented son and few opportunities to encourage and develop this talent at home. She and her husband rolled the dice and in the early 2000s they ended up living in Dublin. Their son went to university and did his master's in music. Music being a financially challenging occupation, he decided to do a second master's in computer science.

Monica somehow managed to continue her teaching with special needs children, (children with disabilities), who need extra support. She had done this in Romania, but of course, in Romanian. The English had to be polished and, as anybody knows, setting up life in a different country, even within the EU, is not that easy. But a positive and fun attitude certainly helps.

We all have seen people make funny animals out of balloons. Tie several balloons together, and bingo, you have a tiger or a clown. Cute! But there is more!

Monica continued to explain to me that a balloon is not a balloon. Aside from your standard balloons which you can buy in a toy shop or arts & crafts stores, there are special balloons. Balloons come in different sizes, thicknesses, and lengths. Not to mention colours. But then, as Monica showed me, balloons also come as multi-chambered objects. I saw a balloon with five different chambers. Play with that and a lot becomes possible.

When we spoke, she had started making another dress. I was allowed a glimpse of it. I saw lots of little balloons, blown and tied together in a cylindrical form. Being a night owl, it was being created with Rossini playing in the background.

Where did the idea for dresses come from? During the Spring lockdown, an opportunity presented itself whilst doing an online marketing course. Well, why not? Carpe Diem.

How does one order a dress? Well, that would really be fun! Monica would love for you to fly her out to your home so that you could have a personalized fitting. The cost may be one thing, the current times another, but the wow effect? Priceless!

Where does the creativity come from? A recent post on her Instagram page is revealing:

"... I decided I have to see Lion King, the latest version, as my school kids kept talking about for some reason and wanted to hear the song Hakuna Matata, over and over again every time I asked them to choose something..."

I haven't seen this movie until yesterday.

As I was watching, my mind started to wander...All of a sudden, I stopped the movie and the image frozen on the screen stared at me. I stared back. I took my drawing kit, long left on a shelf and I draw THIS. In 10 minutes.

It was sooo relaxing. ,,

The picture is the profile of a very proud lion.

Having imagination, the right mixture of inspiration and most importantly, the ability to see and feel, beyond the end of one's nose and to combine all that, is not so difficult, as Monica explains:

It is very interesting, how a piece of music, a painting, a paragraph from a book or images and sounds come to one's mind as a muse. Cinderella's Ball Gown was an idea that came from an opera by Rossini. I listened to it last weekend and I just wanted to do something special. I hope you like it.

Art, education and having Ubuntu (humanity & sharing) and being Hakuna Matata (do not worry) is always possible. Even in this current climate, which is far from inviting. In the darkest of nights, there are always stars you can look up to.

You can admire Monica's spirit and work on the following social media channels.

Website : www.showtimeart.com

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/magic.balloons.art.entertaining>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/party_dublin/ &
<https://www.instagram.com/showtimeartmona/>

It is well worth a look – and, ladies, if you still need something for Christmas or New Year – do not let a pandemic stop you! Ring her before somebody else books.

Do not be surprised if she rides to you on her Harley Davidson. The one made from balloons of course!

Could there really be anything else?

Privas is a great place to have a base for other day trips. Valence is a mere 40 km northwest, whilst nougat lovers will be in clover when they drive to Montélimar, which is slightly closer, but in the opposite direction. Only 37km southeast separate you from heavenly, sweet indulgence.

Down from the Alps, in the Rhône Valley, at the door of the Ardèche mountains, is a place, like so many here in France, that will sweep you up and carry you away. And we didn't even mention food and restaurants.

Enjoy!

	<p>I will buy your vinyl record collection.</p> <hr/>
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Collector looking for classical and jazz record collections.

New or sealed classical records highly desired.

European, Japanese, and American pressings from the 60's and 70's preferred.

I buy small or large collections and pay real prices....no collection is too large.

Please email me with a little bit about your collection or photos if possible.

Collector@brida.eu



Marrons Glacées

Ingredients

1 kg chestnuts
1.5 kg sugar

1.5 l water
1 vanilla pod

Method

Incise the chestnuts in the widest direction with a sharp knife or cutter so as to notch the two skins but not the flesh of the fruit, passing through the pointed part and the lighter part at the base of the chestnuts.

Plunge them into a bowl of cold water. After 5 minutes take 10 chestnuts, place them in a pan of cold water and bring to the boil for 2 to 3 minutes, at this time the skins almost detach themselves.

Peel the chestnuts and repeat the operation until exhausted. This is the most difficult part because chestnuts tend to break and you get burnt, but courage is worth it.

Place the chestnuts in a pan of cold water and bring to a low boil for 15 minutes (the chestnuts must be cooked but not too much, otherwise they will purée).

At the end of cooking, throw the chestnuts into a bowl of very cold water to firm them up.

In a pressure cooker preferably, put the water and sugar. Put on medium heat, when the sugar has become transparent increase the heat.

As soon as the syrup boils, add the vanilla bean split in two. Let it boil for 3 minutes and plunge the chestnuts into the basket of the casserole dish, this will protect them from shocks.

Allow to boil again and leave to simmer for 1 min. Turn off the heat and leave to cool as is for 24 hours.

The next day, drain the chestnuts and bring the syrup to the boil for 3 to 4 minutes, then plunge the basket of chestnuts and leave to simmer for 3 minutes. Repeat the operation on the third and fourth day.

Finally, remove the cooled chestnuts and place them on baking paper in the open air to dry.



Our special offers for this week.

Seabass Filets
€ 32.35 per Kilo.

Marinated Tandoori
Style King Prawns
150 grams. €3.75

Coconut Milk
400 ml, €1.50

Carrot & Coriander Soup
400 gr, €1.15

Frozen Treacle Tart
2 x 150 gr. €3.90

Frozen Garlic Bread
Twin Pack
350 gr. €1.99

Turmeric Defence Drink
60 ml. €0.58

Dry Vermouth .
75 cl. €11.50

Antiseptic Healing
Cream
125 gr. €2.99

Bayonet LED 4W
Candle lightbulb €3.99

Organic Fairtrade Bananas
6 per Pack. €1.59

Organic Broccoli
approx. 300 gr €1.99

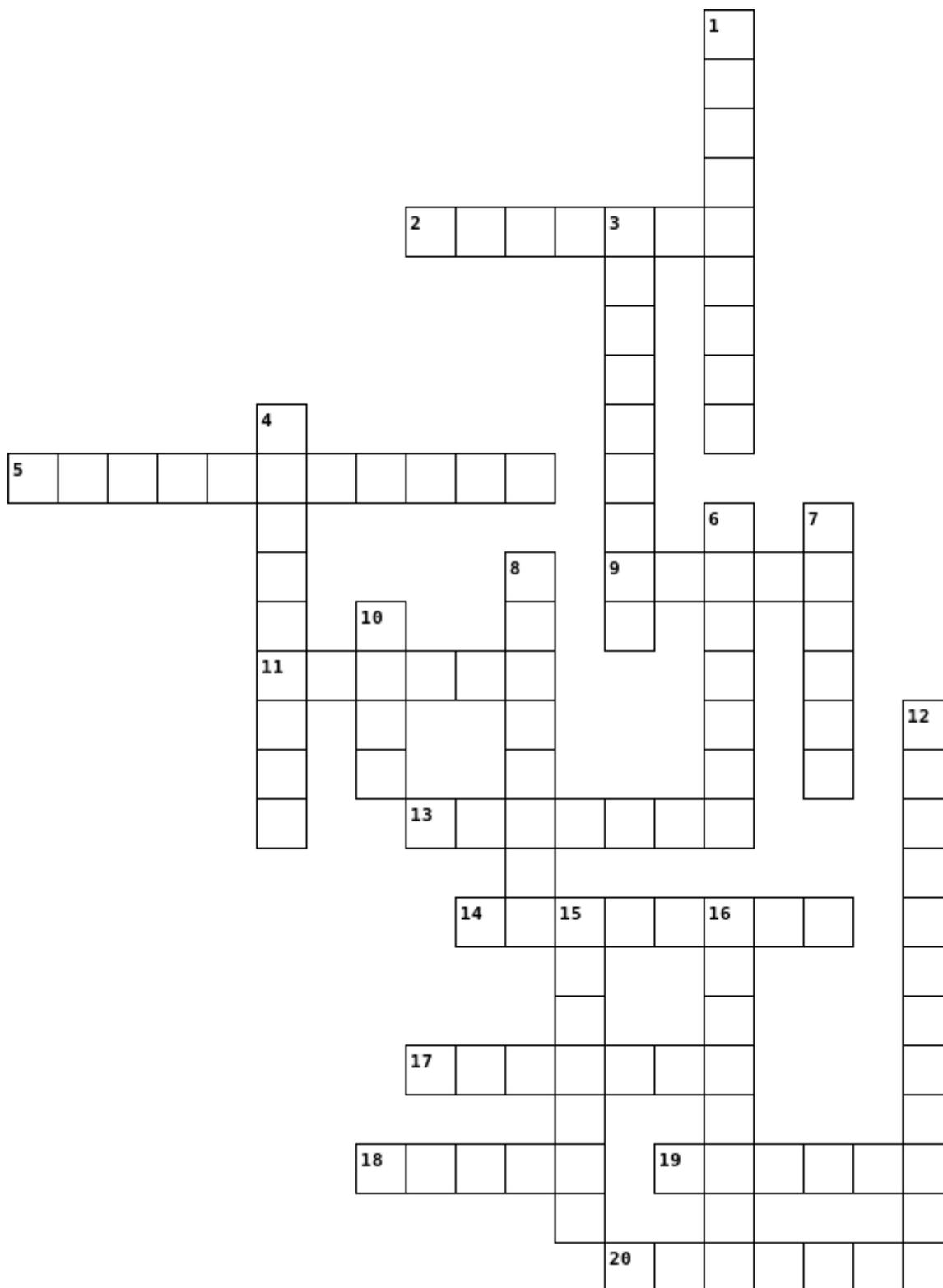
Dates
200 gr, €3.19

Sugar free dark chocolate
75 gr €1.75

Washbag,
medium size, €18.99

Offers while stocks last. Valid from October 19, 2020 to October 24, 2020.

Brida Gymnastics - Vocabulary



Across

2. a brief look at something
5. population of a region
9. when a long activity is divided into shorter activities
11. you cross it to reach the other side
13. one hundred
14. a uniform and simpler way of fulfilling processes
17. object fillable with air which children love
18. a cutting utensil
19. a spice, best eaten in company to avoid unpleasant odours
20. tomorrow and after that

Down

1. a person who systematically amasses something
3. something that money cannot buy
4. glass object radiating brightness when switched on
6. large or important entrance, often in nature
7. a disk before cassettes and CDs
8. roasted and then eaten, often at Christmas markets
10. large African cat
12. historical period symbolising rebirth
15. a workshop, usually used by artists
16. when there is more than enough of something

Solution 42.20**Across**

4. umbrella
7. night
8. stranger
9. cheeseburger
11. disco
15. miserable
17. resort
18. declaration
20. impressive

Down

1. toothbrush
2. berth
3. passport
5. interview
6. jam
10. enthusiastic
12. oak
13. stakeholders
14. trail
16. Station
19. awake

Play Brida, Learn English

Improve your English with the Brida Journal

All the texts come with lessons. Whilst the Journal is free of charge, the lessons do come with a low fee to cover the cost of my time and work.

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a journal
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by learners of English.

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The Brida Journal is an educational tool with the purpose of helping learners to improve their knowledge of English. Educators wishing to participate in the programme should contact me via email.

Third Party Inspirational Sources

classifieds: gumtree.ie or gumtree.co.uk,
the supermarket: various supermarket websites in the United Kingdom
weather: bbc.co.uk/weather, (the city is Perpignan, France)
Chez Brigitte: olivemagazine.com or similar publications
The garden: Wenia Field's Gardening, published 1973 by Octopus Books.