



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION  
Portugal

# NEWSLETTER

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## The National Public Speaking Competition 2017



**Thirty-five students from fourteen schools took part in this year's National Public Speaking Competition which took place on Sunday, March 26.**

**Despite the weather — wet, wet, wet — many people joined us at the British Council to witness a display of excellent public speaking skills by High School students from all over the country.**

Due to the large number of students participating in this year's NPSC, the morning's preliminary rounds had to take place in two separate rooms. The head adjudicators were Madalena Lobo Antunes (a very experienced member of ESU Portugal) and Walter Best (Chairman of ESU Portugal). They, together with the other adjudicators (most of them from the Sociedade de Debates Académicos de Lisboa), had a particularly difficult job selecting the Finalists this year, due to the high standard of the speeches.

After careful deliberation, the following thirteen speakers were chosen to go to the finals, which took place in the beautiful Conference Room:

- ◇ Carolina Appleton—Colégio Moderno, Lisbon;
- ◇ Katherine Patient— Oeiras International School;
- ◇ Margarida Salvado—Colégio Moderno, Lisbon;
- ◇ João Paulo Alves—British Council, Lisbon;
- ◇ Maria Carreira—Colégio Valsassina, Lisbon;
- ◇ Daniela Sofia Cardoso da Silva—Agrupamento de Escolas Francisco de Holanda, Guimarães;
- ◇ Paulo Freitas da Silva—Agrupamento de Escolas Francisco de Holanda, Guimarães;
- ◇ Margarida Rodrigues—Colégio Valsassina, Lisbon;
- ◇ Simone Santos—Escola Secundária Jácome Ratton, Tomar;
- ◇ Inês Pereirinha—Escola Secundária de Mação;
- ◇ Ricardo Ferreira—Escola Secundária Jácome Ratton, Tomar;
- ◇ Ana Carolina Marques—Escola Secundária de Mação;
- ◇ Joana Moura—Escola Secundária Dr Joaquim Gomes Ferreira Alves, Valadares, Vila Nova de Gaia.



The afternoon's panel of judges brought in Chris Barton (former Head of the Anglo-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce), Miguel Sousa Ferro (lawyer and assistant lecturer at the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon, and one of our first winners) and Walter Best (Chairman of ESU Portugal).

The proceedings unfolded, as always, under the watchful eye of David Evans (ESU Secretary) who announced the winners to a very attentive and appreciative audience.

The two runners-up were Carolina Appleton and Margarida Salvado.

The winner was Paulo Freitas da Silva, who will represent Portugal at next month's IPSC in London.



Our sincere thanks to Emanuel Carvalho, Director of the British Council, who kindly presented the prizes.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners and all the participants who treated the audience to a wonderful selection of speeches that were both inspiring and thought-provoking. Our most sincere thanks to all the teachers involved who gave so much of their time to help prepare the students to reach such high standards.

We wish Paulo Silva the best of luck in London and we look forward to seeing some of you again next year.



# English Idioms

Here are some more English idioms that include names of parts of the body and internal organs.

Go over these idioms with your conversation partner and practise using them in sentences.

**know something by heart** – have something memorized

He knows a dozen love poems by heart and can recite them without looking at the text.

**with all one's heart** — completely and utterly

He loved his girlfriend with all his heart and proposed marriage after just a few days.

**ask for someone's hand in marriage** — propose marriage (in a heartbeat — immediately)

When he asked for her hand in marriage, she accepted his proposal in a heartbeat.

**have cold feet** – lose your nerve or confidence

Although he loved his fiancée, he got cold feet and cancelled the wedding at the last minute.

**a pain in the neck** — a source of annoyance

After they broke up, she decided that he was a pain in the neck and vowed never to see him again.

**off the top of one's head** — without careful thought or investigation

Off the top of her head, she couldn't think of anyone else who had been treated so badly, but once she started talking to her friends, she learned that several of them had also been jilted at the altar.\*

**toe the line** — be obedient; follow the rules; do what is expected

She told her friends, "My next boyfriend had better toe the line if he wants me to take him seriously!"

\*jilted at the altar — rejected or spurned by a lover on one's wedding day

*With thanks to Karen Ruelle, editor of Here/There, the newsletter of the English-Speaking Union of the United States*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Coming together is the beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.

Henry Ford, U.S. industrialist (1863—1947)

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

How do you comfort a grammar fanatic?  
- There, they're, their.

in the *Daily Mail* newspaper

## Contacts

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