

Young and Foolish

When she was young she made a lot of mistakes. It was understandable because she was so ambitious: in fact she was trying to do something nobody had ever done before. Now, after so many years, she has it down pat, especially in Europe. But we all have our stories from the early days: this is mine.

My husband Mark and I were riding our bikes in Czechia. In Prague we heard nothing but English, but out in the Czech countryside they only spoke Czech. We caught a train from Brno and bought tickets at the station. But when the conductor appeared it turned out we hadn't paid enough. He was an honest man and determined to explain the extra supplement. So she joined us: Google Translate in Czech. But she had two problems. Her phone reception kept dropping out, and her Czech vocabulary was limited, especially when it came to idiom.

So whatever it was the train conductor was trying to tell us, she translated it like this: 'Every one an ant must pull.' And that's all we ever found out!