



Oh! My News

Volume 3 (For All Levels)



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President Hu Jin Tao visits Barack Obama

Chinese President Hu Jintao has arrived in the United States for a three-day state visit.

His aim is to boost China-U.S. ties and expand trade relations.

After being welcomed by President Barack Obama, he gave a speech on the White House lawn, saying:

“I have come to the United States to increase mutual trust, enhance friendship, deepen cooperation and push forward the positive, cooperative and comprehensive China-U.S. relationship for the 21st century.”

The two leaders have a lot to talk about.

Besides exploring ways to increase trade and investment between their nations, they will also discuss the situation on the Korean Peninsula and human rights.

Mr Hu acknowledged that "a lot still needs to be done in China in terms of human rights".

President Hu Jintao's visit to Washington is seen as a significant political event in China.

The country's newspapers were full of pictures of the two presidents shaking hands at the White House. They said the visit, including the state dinner on Tuesday night, was an acknowledgment of China's rise to global economic and political power in the past decade. Beijing residents were also enthusiastic about the visit.

In an interview with the Associated Press news agency, office worker Sun Bin said: "China and the U.S. aren't enemies. They're countries that need to work together. China needs the U.S. for its development and the U.S. needs China's development." Another resident said: "A lot of people are still getting used to China becoming big and powerful. That's why this visit is important."



Comprehension Check up



- What do you know about Hu JinTao ?
- What do you know about Barack Obama ?
- How are Barack Obama and Hu Jintao different ?
- What do you think China will be 50 years from now ?
- What are the similarities and differences between China and the US ?

LESSON 2.

China protects its language from English



Chinese authorities have taken steps to protect its language from the increasing use of English and other languages.

The People's Daily Online website says, "with economic and social development, foreign languages are increasingly being used in all types of publications in China, including in newspapers, books, e-books and on the Internet".

China's General Administration of Press and Publication (GAPP) said the invasion of English words and abbreviations in Chinese texts is "abusing the language". Its website stated English has, "severely damaged the standard and purity of the Chinese language and disrupted the harmonious and healthy language and cultural environment, causing negative social impacts".

Officials from GAPP issued clear guidelines on how all Chinese publishers must act saying : "It is banned to mix at will foreign language phrases such as English words or abbreviations with Chinese publications, creating words of vague meaning that are not exactly Chinese."

This means abbreviations and acronyms that are currently widely used in Chinese publications, such as WTO, GDP and even IBM, must now be replaced with their Chinese

equivalents. One editor at a Beijing publishing house said the translations would be time-consuming and confusing. He said:"I wonder how many people understand "*guoji shangyejigi gong si*". when IBM is instantly recognizable."

SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>



Comprehension Check up



T/F- Read the article. Guess if below are true(T) or false (F)

- Company names like IBM do not need to be translated into Chinese.
- China has acted to stop English being used in its own language.
- A government department said English words abuse Chinese.
- The department said the purity of Chinese has not been affected.
- The department said there was no social impact of the use of English.

Vocabulary:

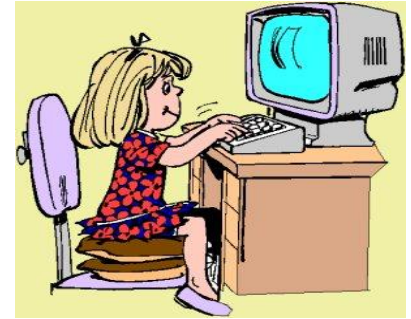
- **Authority**- the power to determine; a power or right delegated or given
Ex: Mr. Kim has the authority to grant the permission.
- **Vague**- not clearly or explicitly stated or expressed.
Ex: The date of his birth is vague.
- **Abbreviation**- a shortened or contracted form of a word or phrase, used to represent the whole.
Ex: Dr. for Doctor; lb for pound; US for United States.
- **guidelines**- any guide or indication of a future course of action.
Ex: These are the guidelines on the government's future policy.

Lesson 3.

The word “Dear” disappearing in e-mails.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) has raised an issue of letter-writing etiquette many older people have long been aware of -- the disappearance of the opening word “Dear” in e-mails. WSJ reporter Dionne Searcy said times have changed regarding this traditional greeting.

She wrote how Abraham Lincoln started an 1863 letter, “My dear General.” President Lincoln also started letters to Mrs. Lincoln, “Dear Wife.” Ms Searcy compared this to a recent e-mail to reporters from Giselle Barry, a spokeswoman for a U.S. politician, that started “Hey, folks.” Searcy says the use of “Dear” is going the way of sealing wax and the handwritten letter. Ms Barry believes people are no longer using it because it is too intimate.



The WSJ quotes business etiquette expert Lydia Ramsey who believes people who do not start e-mails with “Dear” will “lack polish”. She says: “It sets the tone for that business relationship, and it shows respect. Email is so impersonal it needs all the help it can get.

” Jean Broke-Smith, an etiquette teacher agrees. She writes on the BBC website:

“We're losing the art of letter writing. E-mails are becoming like texts -everyone is abbreviating. If we don't get a handle on it, future generations won't be able to spell at all.” English teacher Katie Craig offers the following advice: “The rule is, address your reader as you would in the context with which you are replacing the e-mail.” The same goes for the minefield of signing off a mail.

SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>

Comprehension Check



- Do you ever worry about how to start or finish an e-mail or letter?
- Does it matter if the word “Dear” disappears from letters?
- Is it really a sign of intimacy to start a letter with “Dear”?
- Which is better in an e-mail, “Hey, folks,” “Dear” or “Hi”?
- Does it matter that everyone is abbreviating? Isn’t that a sign of the normal development of language and communication?

Lesson 4

Violence erupts across Egypt



▪ Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians are continuing their angry protests against the rule of President Hosni Mubarak. Al Jazeera news said the unrest could be the biggest pro-democracy demonstrations in Egyptian history. Riot police are out in force and fighting protestors with their batons and tear gas. One young woman is reported to have been killed after being struck on the head by a tear-gas canister. In Suez, demonstrators took over the main police station and freed protestors jailed in the past 48 hours. The police have lost control of the city. Forty thousand people in Mansoura, north of Cairo, are reported to have raided and destroyed the ruling party's headquarters. Similar scenes are happening all over the country.



▪ Egypt's leaders have done their best to stop people communicating with each other. At midnight, The government shut down Egypt's internet. Authorities are refusing entry to Arab and non-Arab journalist at Egypt 's international airport and the police are also trying to stop journalists at Egypt's filming the unrest. They smashed CNN cameras and shut down Al Jazeera's television broadcasts in Egypt of the protest. Opposition leader Mohamed El-Baradei is trapped in mosque surrounded by the riot police. UN Secretary -General Ban Ki-moon has called on Egypt's leaders to listen to their people. Egyptians are calling for regime change and are carrying banners that say, "We hate you Mubarak".

Comprehension Check



T/F- Read the article. Guess if below are true(T) or false (F)

- Tens of thousands of Egyptians are protesting in the streets.
- Riot police have so far held back and not used tear gas.
- Police in the city of Suez no longer have control of their police station.
- Egypt's government tried but failed to shut the country's Internet.
- An opposition leader is surrounded by police in a mosque.

Vocabulary:

▪ **Demonstration-**

the act or circumstance of proving or being proved conclusively, as by reasoning or a show of evidence

Ex. *They sent a check as a demonstration of their concern.*

▪ **Regime -** a mode or system of rule or government.

Ex. *The Filipinos suffered under the new regime.*

▪ **Mosque -** a Muslim temple or place of public worship; A Muslim house of worship.

Ex. *Is there any mosque around here ?*

▪ **Protest-** an expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent, often in opposition to something a person is powerless to prevent or avoid.

Ex. *a protest against increased taxation.*

Lesson 5

Disney company targeting newborn

The Walt Disney Company is venturing into a new and untapped market - newborns. It already has a dominant presence in every other area of childhood, but now wants to start making money from babies. It has released a new product called Disney Baby. Sales agents have been visiting new mothers in maternity hospitals offering a baby suit in exchange for signing up to e-mails from DisneyBaby.com. Disney's new campaign is attracting criticism. Jeff McIntyre, director of the group Children Now, said: "This is taking advantage of families at an extremely vulnerable time." New mother Elizabeth Carter said: "It surprised me that Disney was in there promoting something right as the baby was born, but we figured as new parents we weren't in a position to turn free things down," she said.

Disney CEO Robert Iger believes his company is offering a fantastic product saying: "If ever there was an opportunity for a trusted brand to enter a market and provide a better product and experience, it's this. "He added: It's about making something easier and providing [mothers] with a personalized, high-quality product". Iger estimates the North American newborn baby market alone to be worth \$36.3 billion a year. Other world markets will offer significantly more. Disney's last venture to sell products for babies did not prove to be wholly successful. In 2009, the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood forced Disney to acknowledge that its Baby Einstein products did not turn babies into geniuses. The company ended up offering Baby Einstein refunds.



SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>

Comprehension Check



- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Disney'?
- What three adjectives would you use to describe Disney?
- Do you agree with what Jeff McIntyre said?
- Do you think it's OK for Disney to tap into the market for newborns?
- What do you think of Disney movies?

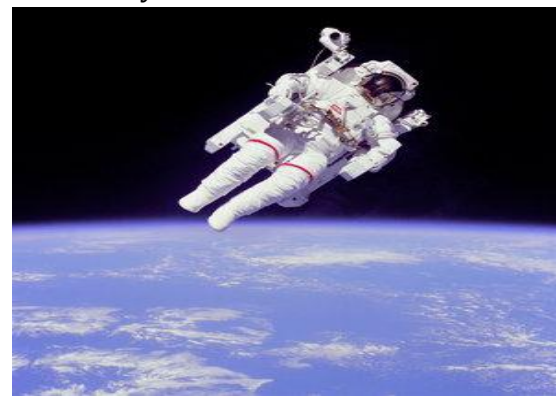
One way ticket to Mars mission



NASA is looking for people to go to Mars, and never come back. This appealing career is for people who want a permanent change of scenery and planet. It is part of an ambitious new project to colonize Mars called the Hundred Years Starship. Settlers would travel to the Red Planet and live there forever. NASA says it would be too expensive to bring humans back to Earth. The space agency can afford, however, to send supplies to the astronaut pioneers. NASA has started the project with a modest \$1.6 million, but hopes to attract investment from space-loving billionaires.

Google founder Larry Page told NASA he'd be interested if they could get the cost of a one-way ticket down from \$10 billion to \$2 billion.

The journey to Mars could take just four months. Settling on the planet would be extremely hazardous, especially the freezing temperatures and carbon dioxide atmosphere. Many scientists think colonizing space is essential. Stephen Hawking believes we must move to other planets to survive as a species. He said: "Once we spread out into space and establish independent colonies, our future should be safe." Dirk Schulze-Makuch and Paul Davies call it a "desirable goal" and part of our desire to explore saying: "It would require not only major international cooperation, but a return to the exploration spirit and risk-taking [character] of the great period of Earth exploration, from Columbus to Amundsen."



Comprehension Check



T/F- Read the article. Guess if below are true(T) or false (F)

- Mars is so dangerous because of the extreme heat
- Stephen Hawking believes there is no reason at all to live on Mars.
- Google founder Larry Page wants to be the first man on Mars.
- NASA said it did not have enough money for a return ticket to Mars.
- Other scientists suggest colonizing other planets is an attractive aim.

Vocabulary:

- **NASA** - (Astronautics) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- **Ambitious**- having a strong desire for success or achievement
ex. Their goal was extraordinarily ambitious.
- **Pioneer**- a person who is among those who first enter or settle a region, thus opening it for occupation and development by others.
Ex. They are the surgeons who pioneered organ transplants.
- **hazardous**- involving risk or danger; full of risk
Ex. Skydiving is a hazardous sport.

Lesson 2

Google Testing Self-Driving Car



Google is testing a car it believes is the future of motoring. The internet giant has been testing the car that drives itself for several months. It has driven along thousands of miles of public roads in California. The car is guided by sensors, lasers and video cameras. A Google spokesperson explained to concerned motorists that the car has never been driven “unmanned,” and had test drivers, just in case things went wrong. The tech company says its vehicles are still “very much at the experimental stage”. Google’s interest in artificial intelligence is a sign that it wants to branch out beyond the web. It is an extension of its Street View project, in which millions of streets have been photographed and put online.

Google’s blog said the company’s entry into the world of automotive technology is part of its plans to make the world a better place. “Larry [Page] and Sergey [Brin] founded Google because they wanted to help solve really big problems using technology,” it wrote. The post continued: “One of the big problems we’re working on today is car safety and efficiency. Our goal is to help prevent traffic accidents, free up people’s time and reduce carbon emissions by fundamentally changing car use.” Google CEO Eric Schmidt said last month that it was unfortunate that cars were invented before computers: “Your car should drive itself; it’s amazing to me that we let humans drive cars,” he told reporters.

SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>

Comprehension Check



- What do you think is the future of motoring?
- Do you think it's OK that these cars are being tested on public roads?
- How is road safety in your country?
- What problems might there be with computers driving cars?
- What are the world's big problems?

Lesson 3

Twitter helps Stop California Suicide



Hollywood actress Demi Moore has used Twitter to stop a woman committing suicide. The suicidal woman, known only by her Twitter username "Sandieguy", sent Demi Moore a tweet. Her Twitter message outlined how she intended to take her own life. She wrote: "Getting a knife, a big one that is sharp. Going to cut my arm down the whole arm so it doesn't waste time. Goodbye. Gonna kill myself now." Moore saw the message on her Twitter page and immediately posted

the reply: "I hope you are joking". Some of the 370,000 subscribers to Moore's page also sprung into action. They looked at Sandieguy's profile to find her location. They alerted police in San Jose, California, who found her and took her to get medical help.

San Jose Police Department Public Information Officer Jermaine Thomas told America's ABC news network how Twitter helped in saving the woman's life. He said he could see many uses for Twitter in helping the police in the future. He told ABC: "This Twitter concept is so new. This is the first time it's led us to what could have been a very real crime. [Twitter] could be yet another tool to find out what's going on out there." Demi Moore was very thankful her social networking

site helped save a life. She posted a message to say thank you, which read: "Thanks everyone for reaching out to the San Jose PD...I am inspired by the enormous response of humanity...Through the collective efforts here, action was taken to provide help."

SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>

Comprehension Check



T/F- Read the article. Guess if below are true(T) or false (F)

- A Hollywood actress saved someone's life using the website Twitter.
- A Twitter message is known as a tweet.
- The woman who planned to commit suicide used her real name online.
- Moore said she was inspired by how everyone worked together to help.
- A policeman told the BBC about how Twitter saved someone's life

Vocabulary:

▪ **inspired** -to fill with an animating, quickening, or exalting influence.

Ex. His courage inspired his followers.

▪ **suicide**- The act or an instance of intentionally killing oneself.

Ex. It is professional suicide to involve oneself in illegal practices.

▪ **Social networking**- the use of a website to connect with people who share personal or professional interests, place of origin, education at a particular school, etc.

Ex. Facebook, Myspace, Cyworld. twitter

Lesson 4

China closes 1250 sites for a healthier web



The Chinese government has shut down around 1,250 Internet sites that contain pornographic material. It is the latest effort by China to crack down on immoral content. In addition to the crackdown, authorities have arrested 41 people involved in putting pornography online. The deputy director of China's Internet Affairs Bureau, Liu Zhengrong, said the focus of the government's actions is to create a safer environment for children who use the Internet. Liu told reporters: "The campaign is aimed at creating a healthy Internet environment for all young people and making the Internet in China safer and more reliable." Liu outlined the difficulties ahead, saying: "Our biggest challenge is that the Internet is still growing.... We are facing a long-term, complex and huge task."



In China it is illegal to distribute pornographic material. The Xinhua news agency reports that in the past three weeks the government has received more than 18,000 complaints about inappropriate content. Officials have also warned China's most popular sites, including Google and Baidu, to do more to block pornographic material from their searches in China. The task of censoring sites in China seems to be an uphill battle. China has the largest online community in the world. There are almost 300 million users in China and this number is growing rapidly, at the rate of a quarter of a million a day. There are also 20,000 new sites uploaded to the Web every week. Many people fear the crackdown might also aim to censor news sites such as the BBC and Voice of America.

SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>

Comprehension Check



- What do you think about pornography online?
- What should governments do to protect children from online dangers?
- What punishment should people get for putting pornographic material online?
- What are the laws concerning pornography in your country?
- What is healthy about the Internet?

Lesson 5

3D Plasma TV vs. 3D LCD LED TV



One of the main differences between the two which will also have an impact on 3D TV viewing is processing speed. LCD technology has come a long way in attempting to increase processing time (refresh rate) with Hz rates improvements to 120Hz, 240Hz, and now some claim 480Hz (this is a manipulated specification and not true 480Hz. By contrast plasma TV technology has never had an issue with motion blur, and side to side jerky panning and therefore never really had to advertise such superiority since it was the first technology to market in larger size televisions. Now with increased marketing efforts of LCD manufacturers to remove the stigma of slow refresh rates by touting these ever increasing Hz rate figures, plasma technology manufacturers have taken a stab at refresh rate times by somewhat measuring speed of processing; calling it "sub field drive," or "sub field motion technology." Both of the major manufacturers with these specifications put a number on processing speed of 600Hz.



Why does this matter with 3D TV viewing? For the simple reason that LCD TVs will typically not be able to show 3D content in full HDTV 1080p. Through some light math and experimentation, our best estimates come in at about 600 lines of effective resolution capability for a 120Hz LCD HDTV, and 700 to 800 lines of effective resolution for a true 240Hz LCD TV. Plasma technology has the speed to delivery the full 1080 lines of resolution to each eye.

<http://www.plasmatvbuyingguide.com/3dtv/plasma-3d-vs-lcd-3d.html>

Comprehension Check



- What is Hz ?
- What is the type of TV do you have ?
- How much time you spend in watching TV ?
- Do you prefer PLASMA TV or LCD LED TV ?
- What is the difference between PLASMA TV and LED TV ?

Unit 3- ISSUES–LESSON 1.

Heavy texting – new social problem

Teenagers who send more than 120 text messages a day are more likely to have sex, drink, use drugs, and get into fights, a new study has found. The Research from the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, found there was a strong link between “hyper-texting” and “risky behavior”. Lead researcher Dr Scott Frank said one of the causes of excessive messaging could be poor parenting: “If parents are monitoring their kids' texting and social networking, they're probably monitoring other activities as well, he said. Dr Frank’s research was based on questionnaires taken by 4,200 students at 20 high schools in the U.S. state of Ohio. Frank's study is the first to look at the link between texting and social problems.

The report reveals some interesting statistics. It found that one in five students was a hyper-texter and about one in nine was a hyper-networker (someone who spends three or more hours a day on social networking websites). Both these activities seemed more common among girls, minorities, children whose parents are not so well educated, and kids from single-parent homes. The findings that should worry parents are the things hyper-texting kids do. The study found hyper-texters have more sex than “normal” texters, have been in fights, binge drink, and take drugs. One teenager, Jason McCoy, 19, said the statistics made sense: “Kids who text a lot are arranging dates and parties with their friends. Dates and parties mean drinking and meeting people. Of course kids will do things,” he said.

SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>



Comprehension Check



- How important is texting to you?
- What do you usually text about?
- Do you think you are / could be a hyper-texter?
- Why do you think texting is more common among girls, minorities, etc?
- Would you be worried about this research if you were a parent?

Lesson 2.

Smashing kids loses their IQ



New research shows that smacking, or spanking children can affect their intelligence. Researchers from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Maryland, USA, say spanking can lower a child's IQ. The research team studied hundreds of American children as they grew up. They found the more a child was spanked, the lower their IQ was compared with other kids. Lead researcher Murray Straus advised parents not to hit their children as a form of punishment. He warned parents to look for other ways of disciplining children if they want their child to be bright: "All parents want smart children...This research shows that avoiding spanking and correcting misbehavior in other ways can help

that happen," he said.

Spanking children has been a hot issue over the years. It was the traditional way for a parent to punish a child. However, it has fallen out of favour with modern parents. Child behaviour experts warn smacking a child does a lot more harm than good. They say it can leave emotional as well as physical scars. Mr. Straus explains why a child could suffer emotionally: "Contrary to what everyone believes, being hit by parents is a traumatic experience...We know from lots of research that traumatic stresses [negatively] affects the brain." Straus says trying to explain to a child why their behaviour is wrong could provide learning opportunities. The child has to think and use his or her own logic to decide for themselves what's right and what's wrong.

Comprehension Check



T/F- Read the article. Guess if below are true(T) or false (F)

- A research team studied different kids from all over the world.
- Hitting children can make them less intelligent.
- Spanking was quite common many years ago.
- An expert on children says spanking is more damaging than beneficial.
- Explaining why things are wrong can actually help his or her IQ.

Vocabulary:

▪ **Spanking**- the act of slapping on the buttocks; to strike (a person, usually a child) with the open hand, a slipper, etc., especially on the buttocks, as in punishment.

Ex. he gave the brat a good spanking“

▪ **Traumatic**- a powerful shock that may have long-lasting effects

Ex. A few experiences are more traumatic than losing a child.

▪ **Misbehaviour/misbehavior**- improper, inappropriate, or bad behavior

Ex. The Colonel misbehavior was rampant

Lesson 3.

Blue Light to Stop Tokyo Train Suicides



Train companies in Tokyo are taking action to reduce the number of people jumping in front of trains. They are fitting blue lights on station platforms to try and create a more calming atmosphere. The East Japan Railway Company has invested almost \$170,000 to install the lights in all of the 29 stations on the capital's busy Yamanote Line. There has been an alarming rise in the number of people committing suicide at train stations. A total of 68 people threw themselves under trains in the year up to March. This compares with 42 suicides in the same period a year earlier. In 2008, Japan had nearly 2,000 suicides by jumping in front of a train; around six percent of all suicides nationwide. Suicides have risen sharply in the past decade due to poor economic conditions.

No one knows if the blue lights will work. There is no evidence to show that blue light reduces suicidal feelings. Keihan Railway spokesman Osamu Okawa stated: "We thought we had to do something to save lives. We know there is no scientific proof that blue lights deter suicides, but if blue has a soothing effect on the mind, we want to try it to save lives." The Associated Press news agency reports on a Japanese therapist called Mizuki Takahashi. She explained her reasons why the blue lights might be a good idea: "We associate the colour with the sky and the sea. It has a calming effect on agitated people, or people obsessed with one particular thing, which in this case is committing suicide," she said. Other companies are watching this experiment with interest.

Comprehension Check



T/F- Read the article. Guess if below are true(T) or false (F)

- A blue light can detect if people are going to take their own lives.
- A railway in Japan has put blue lights in all of its stations.
- More people threw themselves under Tokyo trains this year than last.
- Many scientific reports prove blue light reduces suicidal feelings.
- A therapist said blue light does not calm people who feel suicidal.

▪SOURCE: <http://breakingnewsenglish.com>

Vocabulary:

- **reduce-**
to bring down to a smaller extent, size, amount, number,
Ex. Anna reduce your daily fat intake.
- **Evidence-**
that which tends to prove or disprove something; ground for belief; proof.
Ex. The broken window was evidence that a burglary had taken place
- **Therapist-** a person trained in the use of physical methods, as exercises, heat treatments, etc., in treating or rehabilitating the sick or wounded or helping patients overcome physical defects.

Lesson 4

Cut-and-paste essays a problem in schools



A survey by Britain's Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) has revealed that British teachers believe online plagiarism (copying work from the Internet) is a serious problem. Estimates are that over a quarter of students' work includes writing that was cut-and-pasted directly from a website. ATL general-secretary Dr Mary Bousted said: "Teachers are struggling under a mountain of cut-and-pasting to spot....plagiarism." One shocked teacher explained she had work "so blatantly cut-and-pasted that it still contained adverts from the Web page!" Dr Bousted added that putting so much emphasis on passing tests meant students were not learning. "Unsurprisingly, pupils are using all the means available to push up their coursework marks, often at the expense of any real understanding of the subjects they are studying," she said.

To tackle this issue, many high schools are trying out software that can easily spot plagiarized work. The Turnitin programme is used by universities across the world. Teachers can highlight a block of text they believe was copied and the software searches the Internet to see if it is already online. William Murray, a Turnitin spokesman, said the Internet made it easy for students to cheat. He pointed to the hundreds of sites that offer sample essays and essay-writing services. He added that students often do not know they are cheating when they copy-and-paste from the Web. This view is supported by teacher Diana Barker, who said: "I think the majority of students who engage in plagiarism do it more out of ignorance than the desire to cheat." Dr Bousted noted that: "Pupils are the real losers because they lack the skills they appear to have."

Comprehension Check



- Have you ever cheated?
- What do you understand about the word 'plagiarism'?
- Do you think websites that have sample essays are useful to find examples of good model answers?
- What punishment should students receive for plagiarism?
- Do you think pupils are the real losers if they cheat and then pass all their exams?

U.K. Students in University Fees Protest



Tens of thousands of students across the U.K. took part in protests on Wednesday against their government's increase in tuition fees. They were speaking out against the three-fold rise in the prices universities can charge, and voicing their opposition to the scrapping of benefits that will harm poor students. The nationwide protest was organized by the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC). High school and university students, teachers and lecturers took to the streets to demonstrate. Around 10,000 protestors rallied in London, where there were arrests after ugly clashes left a police officer with a broken arm. The protests were largely trouble-free, unlike those two weeks earlier which the ruling Conservative Party headquarters was attacked. Britain's ruling coalition government have made many cuts to university education, while at the same time allowing universities to increase tuition fees from \$5,624 a year to \$14,400.



They say these measures are necessary to reduce the country's budget deficit. Most of the public fury is directed at the junior coalition partner, the Liberal Democrats, whose election pledge earlier this year was to abolish tuition and maintain transport benefits for students from low-income families. Their leader has done a total U-turn and broken these promises. Until the late 1990s, British students did not need to pay tuition, and many poorer students received weekly living allowances from the government. Many protestors believe this will kill opportunities for the poor. They carried banners saying: "R.I.P. My Degree."

Comprehension Check



- What springs to mind when you hear the word ‘university’?
- How important are universities?
- What would society be like without universities?
- Do you think universities should be free?
- Are fee-paying universities better quality than that are free?
- Where are the world’s best universities?

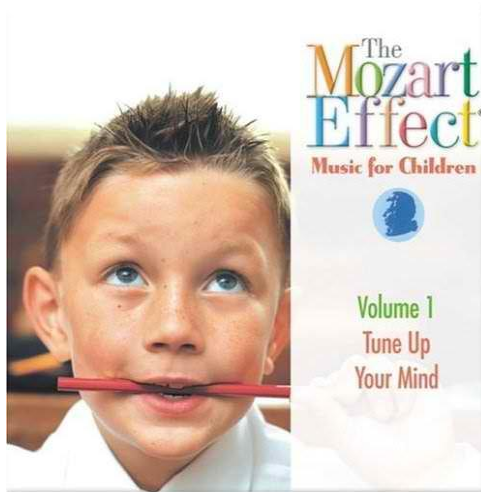
LESSON 2

Misbehaving Students Punished with Mozart



A school in England is using classical music to cut down on students' bad behaviour. The head teacher Brian Walker at the West Park School in Derby runs two-hour detention sessions after school on Fridays. He forces his students to listen to Mozart and other classical music. He also makes them copy his favorite poems and they have to watch educational videos. Mr. Walker says his main aim is to stop noisy pupils spoiling lessons for well-behaved students who want to study. He said the students staying behind are "not the smokers, the truants or the people who are late... It's those who have slowed the learning process in class for everyone". Mr. Walker explained this was unacceptable "because it is robbing the rest of opportunities".

Brian Walker believes the detention reminds students that education is something to value. "It helps them see they are part of something bigger that will enhance their life chances," he said. The head teacher thinks students actually learn from being kept behind after school: "Hopefully, I open their ears to an experience they don't normally have and...don't want to have again, so it's both educational and acts as a deterrent." Music has had success elsewhere in reducing bad behaviour. In 2004, it reduced crime on London's subway by 25 per cent. Researchers from a Belfast university found it helped stop elephants misbehaving. However, one West Park student called Kieran said: "An hour of Mr. Walker's music is a real killer."



Comprehension Check



T/F- Read the article. Guess if below are true(T) or false (F)

A. Mozart was a bad student at school and was punished a lot. T/F

B. A teacher forced students to write poetry and listen to classical music. T/F

C. Students received detention for smoking and skipping class. T/F

D. A head teacher was worried good students were losing studying time. T/F

E. The head teacher believes his method helps students value education. T/F

Vocabulary:

▪ **DETAINED:** to keep under restraint or in custody.
e.g: Detained without trial in the UK were still free to leave the country.

▪ **SPOIL:** to damage severely or harm (something especially with reference to its excellence)
e.g: Spoil the enjoyment of reading it.

▪ **TRUANTS:** a student who stays away from school without permission.
e.g: Truants at secondary schools said they truanted because they were bored with school.

▪ **DETERRENT:** deterring or tending to deter
e.g: Deterrent posture for Western Europe have given rise to two schools of thought.

LESSON 3:

Teacher on Trial for Attacking Student



Preschool Teacher Arrested

BREVARD COUNTY

▶ **Laura
Negron**



A teacher in England is on trial for attacking a teenage student with a metal dumbbell. Peter Harvey, 50, is facing charges of attempted murder for the attack, which took place in July, 2009. The student, who cannot be named for legal reasons, suffered a fractured skull and severe cuts to his face. The boy, then 14, was repeatedly hit on the head with the 3kg weight. He was left unconscious and rushed to hospital. Students who witnessed the attack said Harvey's anger seemed to give him extra power. They told the court that he was screaming, "die, die, die" as he was hitting the youngster. Harvey denies attempted murder but has admitted causing serious bodily harm. The case is a huge talking point among teachers and students in England.

The media reports the boy was a leading troublemaker in the class. He has a long record of disrupting lessons. The court heard the boy received a disciplinary warning nine times last year. Reports are he would try to make Mr. Harvey angry and then use his mobile phone to take videos of him. He then mailed the video around the school. The constant bad behaviour caused Harvey to take time off work with mental health problems. He told a colleague he wanted to harm someone. A counselor told him he was too passive and needed to let his anger out. The judge asked the boy whether he thought it was fun to try to make a teacher angry who had been off ill. The boy replied: "There was nothing funny about him."

Comprehension Check



SYNONYM MATCH

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. on trial | a. rejects |
| 2. suffered | b. saw |
| 3. witnessed | c. amusing |
| 4. denies | d. experienced |
| 5. huge | e. in the dock |
| 6. Troublemaker | f. Ring leader |
| 7. disrupting | g. enormous |

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Do you think being a teacher is easy or difficult?
- Would you like to be a teacher?
- Should the student receive some punishment?
- What do you think about this attack?
- What's the best form of discipline?

LESSON 4:

Asian Youth Forgetting How to Write



A new study commissioned by the China Daily Youth newspaper has found many young Chinese people are forgetting how to write traditional Chinese. Chinese schoolchildren grow up memorizing well over 3,000 different characters. However, the study shows they rarely need to write them by hand and are forgetting their shape. Instead, young people are using their phones and computers to write. On these, they type in a system called 'pinyin,' which is the sounds of the Chinese characters written on an English keyboard. A list then appears showing the corresponding character in Mandarin . The report said 83% of the 2,072 respondents have problems writing characters, while 43% said they only write when they need to sign something.

The problem is so big that there is a name for it: 'tibiwangzi,' which means "take pen, forget character". Chinese characters are the oldest writing system in the world in current use. They date back over 3,000 years. University student Li Hanwei, 21, said: "I can remember the shape, but I can't remember the strokes that you need to write it... It's a bit of a problem." The phenomenon is known as "character amnesia" and is also common in Japan, where Chinese characters are one of four different alphabets used in writing. Ayumi Kawamoto, 23, explained why she often forgot how to recall and write characters she learnt at school: "We rely too much on the conversion function on our phones and PCs."

Comprehension Check



TRUE OR FALSE

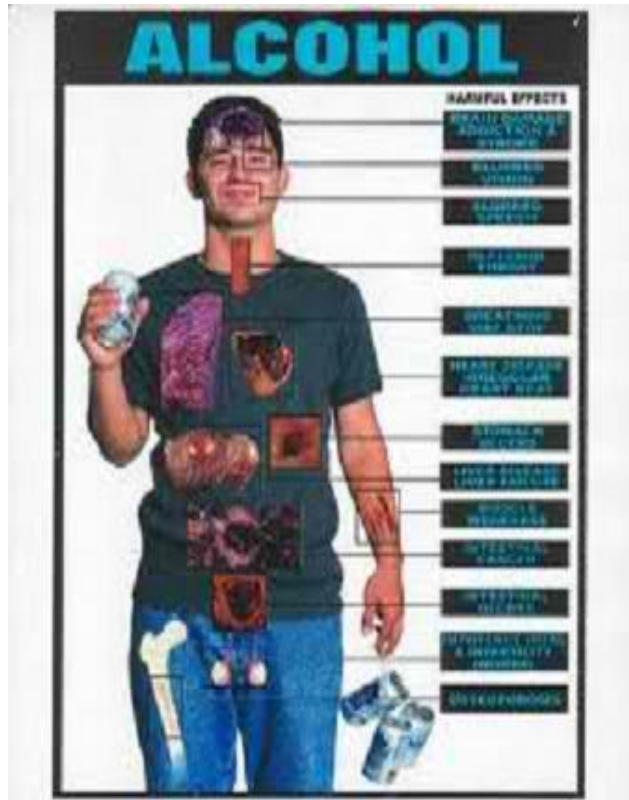
- a. A study found kids from Sri Lanka to China have poor writing ability. T / F
- b. Chinese children learn over 3,000 written characters at school. T/F
- c. Chinese people use English letters on keyboards to write Chinese T/F
- d. Over half of Chinese people only write when a signature is needed. T/F
- e. Sanskrit is the world's oldest writing system being used today. T/F

PHRASE MATCH

- 1. A new study commissioned A. the appears
- 2. well over B. to sign something
- 3. A list C. use
- 4. showing the corresponding D. then appears
- 5. they only write when they need E. 3,000
- 6. the oldest writing F. character in Mandarin
- 7. in current G. system in the world

LESSON 5

Kids Need Lessons on Alcohol Emergencies



A new study by the British Red Cross says British children between the ages of 11 and 16 need lessons in how to deal with alcohol-related emergencies. The report says one in seven teenagers has been in an emergency situation because a friend drank too much. The Red Cross has said children need to know what to do if their friend becomes unconscious due to drink, chokes, or gets injured in drunken fight. In the past three years, almost 7,500 under-15s ended up in hospital with conditions linked to alcohol. Many more should have gone to hospital but friends did not think, or were afraid to call an ambulance. Only ten percent of youngsters dialed the emergency services number 999 when their friends needed help. In most cases, friends did what they could and hoped for the best.

The Red Cross released its survey as part of its new campaign called "Life, Live It". The organization wants to teach young teenagers to deal with all kinds of emergencies but feels alcohol abuse is serious enough to highlight as an issue. The Red Cross report reveals that one in five teenagers gets drunk once every three months. It goes on to say that as many as one in three 14- to 16-year-old drink almost every weekend. The average amount of alcohol consumed is the equivalent of four large cans of beer. Red Cross spokesman Joe Mulligan said: "We need to ensure that every young person...has the ability and confidence to cope in a crisis." He added: "We are always looking for new and innovative way to reach young people."

Comprehension Check



TRUE OR FALSE:

- A. A British charity says children need lessons in how to drink alcohol. T/F
- b. Their report found that most teenagers drank too much alcohol. T/F
- c. Around 7,500 British teens went to hospital last year after drinking. T/F
- d. Only one in ten British teenagers called an ambulance to help friends.

PHRASE MATCH: Sometimes more than one choice is possible.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. how to deal with alcohol | a. The emergency services |
| 2. a friend drank | b. up in hospital |
| 3. 7,500 under-15s ended | c. too much |
| 4. Only ten per cent of youngsters | d. reach young people |
| 5. did what they could and hoped | e. related emergencies |
| 6. part of its | f. for the best |
| 7. It goes on | g. to say that |

Did Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez Kiss?



There is mass speculation in the world's media about whether teen heartthrob Justin Bieber and Disney starlet Selena Gomez embraced each other and kissed. A photo posted on a Justin Bieber fan blog shows the teenage couple in an embrace. They were supposedly photographed while on a private yacht off the coast of St. Lucia in the Caribbean. However, a spokesperson for Ms Gomez says the picture is a fake. Gomez, 18, has continually quashed rumors that he's in a relationship with 16-year-old Bieber. Speculation started a year ago and Gomez was quick to tell the press: "I feel like a big sister now, 'cause I want to protect him." She recently said Justin was simply one of her best friends.



The photo sparked a flurry of activity on the micro-blogging site Twitter. A lot of jealous and angry fans of Mr. Bieber posted some nasty and vicious comments. One comment read: "Roses are red, violets are blue, Selena Gomez if you break Justin Bieber's heart I'm gonna kill you." Other posts from more possessive Bieber fans were a lot worse. Curiously, there were no posts on Bieber's Twitter account from irate males protesting over his stealing Ms Gomez from their hearts. Mr Bieber gave the media very little to speculate about on his Twitter profile. He posted: "Chillin and happy. It's been a fun year with a lot of blessings. Some crazy rumors but so much love and memories."

Comprehension Check



PHRASE MATCH

COLUMN A

1. mass speculation in

2. They were supposedly

3. the picture is

4. she's in a relationship

5. I feel like a big

6. The photo sparked a flurry

7. A lot of jealous

COLUMN B

a. of activity

b. a fake

c. and angry fans

d. photographed

e. the world's media

f. blessings

g. with 16-year-old Bieber

TRUE OR FALSE

A. The only newspapers / TV channels reporting this story are American. T/F

B. Selena Gomez put a picture of her and Justin Bieber on her blog. T/F

C. Selena is two years older than Justin Bieber. T/F

D. Selena has protective, big-sisterly feelings towards Justin Bieber. T/F

E. Many Justin Bieber fans were angry at his supposed kiss with Selena. T/F

Lesson 2:

Hillary Clinton World's Most Admired Woman



The most admired woman in the world is Hillary Rodham Clinton, according to the annual USA Today-Gallup poll. America's Secretary of State scooped the award for the ninth year in a row. US President Barack Obama was the most admired man for the third straight year. Sarah Palin came in second place and Oprah Winfrey in third. Ms Clinton has been in the most admired woman top ten 15 times since 1992. She first appeared after husband Bill Clinton became president. President Barack Obama's wife Michelle came fourth in the recent poll. Unsurprisingly, only three non-American women made the top ten. These were Britain's Queen Elizabeth and former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, and Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.



The yearly survey asked people what man and woman, living anywhere in the world, the most admired. It is always dominated by Americans. It is surprising that President Obama still came top, considering his slump in his approval ratings and the poor state of the US economy. His lead has slipped compared to previous years. In 2008 he led the list with 32 per cent, in 2009 30 per cent and this year 22 per cent. The other top three place for men were taken by former US presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. The only non-American males in the poll were for South African president Nelson Mandela and Pope Benedict XVI. It would be interesting to see how the poll might change if it was given to citizens from all over the world.

Comprehension Check



PHRASE MATCH

COLUMN A B

1. according to the annual

2. for the ninth year

3. been in the most admired woman
top

4. only three non-American women

5. pro-democracy

6. It is always dominated

7. his slump in his poll
Gallup

COLUMN

a. over the world

b. ten 15 times

c. leader

d. in a row

e. to previous years

f. by Americans

g. USA Today-
Gallup

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'admired'?
- Who do you most admire?
- What do you think people admire about you?
- What do you think of Hillary Clinton being voted the world's most admired woman?
- What do you think of Barack Obama being voted the world's most admired man?
- What do you admire most about politicians?

Lesson 3:

Miley Cyrus Quits Twitter



Actress and singer Miley Cyrus has shocked her millions of fans by quitting Twitter. Cyrus deleted her Twitter account on October 8th. She was one of the most followed celebrities online. More than 1.1 million people followed her regular 140-character posts. Reports are that Miley turned her back on Twitter because her actor boyfriend Liam Hemsworth asked her to. Cyrus is not telling whether or not it is true she gave in to her boyfriend's demands. Hemsworth stars with Cyrus in the upcoming movie *The Last Song*. Gossip blogs are saying Miley wanted to switch off unwanted online attention and that she wanted a little more privacy in her life. Her fans and followers have already started a "Miley come back" campaign.



Miley Cyrus is one of America's biggest teenage stars. She is most famous for her *Hannah Montana* TV show and movies. Her departure from Twitter has split public attention. Her adoring fans desperately want her back. One fan uploaded a post that said: "She can't delete her Twitter –Twitter IS Miley Cyrus." Miley commented on how her boyfriend might have been the reason for quitting the micro-blogging site, saying: "FYI Liam doesn't have a Twitter and he wants me to delete mine with good reason." A lot of her fans believe she should have been stronger and not given in to her boyfriend's demands. Her on-screen persona *Hannah Montana* would never have been so weak-willed.



Comprehension Check



What do you think?

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'blog'?
- What do you think of teenage stars? Are they talented?
- What do you know about Miley Cyrus?
- Do you understand why so many people use Twitter?
- How far would you follow your favourite singer /actor / sports star?

Synonym Match: (Match the following synonyms from the article)

COLUMN A

1. quitting
2. deleted
3. regular
4. demands
5. attention
6. famous
7. split

COLUMN B

- A. requests
- B. really
- C. well-known
- D. canceled
- E. divided
- F. stopping
- G. role

Lesson4

'Witch' Link Denies JK Rowling Top US Award

Harry Potter author JK Rowling missed out on getting a top American honour because US politicians believed she had a link to witchcraft. Matt Latimer, a top speech writer for George W. Bush, has said in a new book that the world famous author was rejected for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This is the highest award given to any civilian in the USA. It recognizes people who have added a lot to world culture. The claims that Rowling was snubbed are in Mr. Latimer's new book, called 'Speechless: Tales of a White House Survivor'. In it, he criticizes top US officials for their "narrow thinking", that led to a decision not to honour JK Rowling. The Bush administration also decided not to award the medal to Senator Edward Kennedy, who died in August, 2009.



JK Rowling is the best selling author in the world. She has sold over 400 million books and has won numerous awards for her writing. She has a following of perhaps a billion fans worldwide. Her personal fortune is estimated to be around \$800 million. Before she struck upon the idea for Harry Potter, Rowling was a struggling teacher. She taught students in Portugal to learn English. Her life changed overnight with the success of her first novel. The recent news that George W. Bush officials believed Harry Potter encouraged witchcraft is not the first time she has upset American conservatives. In 2007, Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly attacked her for saying that the Harry Potter character Dumbledore was gay. He said she was trying to play with the minds of U.S. kids.



Comprehension Check-up



- What is witchcraft?
- What do you think of Harry Potter?
- Do you think reading Harry Potter will make kids turn to witchcraft?
- Would you like to be able to do magic?
- Why do you think Harry Potter is so popular?
- Do you have any favourite Harry Potter books or characters?

Lesson5:

P.Diddy Gives Son, 16, Luxury Sports Car

Some kids get a used car or a motorbike for their sixteenth birthday, if they're really lucky. Justin Dior Combs got a \$360,000 sports car. He's the son of legendary rap singer and producer Sean Combs, a.k.a. P Diddy. The car, a Maybach 57, is a super-expensive, ultra-luxurious version of a Mercedes Benz. It's one of the most expensive cars in the world. Justin's birthday party was just as lavish. His dad threw a party for him at one of New York's trendiest clubs. He also gave him \$10,000 in cash to spend around New York. Justin told UsMagazine.com that he was going to donate all of the cash to the Haiti earthquake relief. He did enjoy the party, telling reporters: "I'm just ecstatic right now. Words can't even describe how I feel".

Mr. Combs was later quizzed about the gifts on the American TV show 'Nightline'. The presenter, Martin Bashir, questioned whether it was a suitable present for a 16-year-old. Combs replied: "I think it's appropriate to give my kids whatever I want to." He seemed a little angry that he was asked this question and told the presenter: "I feel the way I raise my children, I don't have to explain to you or anyone else, 'cause nobody knows the way I raise my children." He added: "Nobody knows the lessons that I've taught my children to understand if they are mentally ready for that." Mr. Bashir asked if the presents give the wrong message about money P Diddy replied: "It wasn't about a lesson. It's what I wanted to do [for my son]."



Comprehension Check-up



What do you think?

- What's the best birthday present you've ever had?
- Do you prefer giving or receiving birthday presents?
- What did you get for your sixteenth birthday?

- What do you think Justin will get for his seventeenth birthday?

- What do you think of Justin for donating his money to victims of Haiti's earthquake?

- What words might describe how Justin felt?

Vocabulary:

- **lavish**: Characterized by or produced with extravagance and profusion:
E.g: **lavish** banquets were given in her honor.

- **ecstatic**: Being in a state of ecstasy; joyful or enraptured.
E.g: **ecstatic** to see their favorite band on stage

- **legendary**: Extremely well known; famous or renowned
e.g: **Legendary** guitarist Mickey Finn with the help of singer Chris Lynn.

- **suitable**: fitting; appropriate
e.g: Not all cases are considered **suitable** for a no win no fee agreement.

Spain Win 2010 FIFA World Cup Final



Spain's Andres Iniesta fired in a dramatic winner late in extra-time to make his country champions of the world. It was heartbreak for the Netherlands who lost their third World Cup final. The result was perhaps a victory for football. It was a largely bad-tempered match in which the referee awarded 14 yellow cards and one red. Spain tried to play their attractive one-touch football throughout the game. The Dutch seemed to be doing everything they could to stop them with non-stop fouls. They were very lucky not to have more players sent off. The Netherlands had their chances during the game but were denied by some outstanding goalkeeping from Spanish captain Iker Casillas. Spain kept trying to pass the ball and push forward and their positive play finally paid off four minutes before the end.



Iniesta's World-Cup-winning goal sparked mass celebrations among Spanish fans in Johannesburg and all over Spain. It was Spain's first ever triumph at the World Cup and only their second ever major trophy – the first came two years ago at the European Championships. Spain won the tournament scoring the fewest ever goals – putting the ball into the back of the net just eight times. That didn't matter to the crowds in the Spanish capital Madrid. One ecstatic fan Ferran Ramirez was crying for joy after seeing his country grab their late victory on one of the city's big screens. He told reporters: "This is the happiest night of my life. The happiest night in Spanish history. We finally showed the world how good we are." Teresa Lopez agreed, saying: "Spain are the ones who played total football. We are the new Brazil."

Comprehension Check-up



- Do you think the World Cup should be every two years?
- The 2022 World Cup could be in Australia, England, Qatar or Russia. Which nation would you choose, and why?
- Do you think South Africa were good World Cup hosts?
- What three adjectives would you use to describe the 2010 FIFA World Cup?
- Which is better, the FIFA World Cup or the Olympics? Why?

Lesson 2:

Fifa World Cup: South Korea 2 Greece 0

South Korea became the first team at the FIFA 2010 World Cup to take all three points. They beat a very disappointing Greece in Port Elizabeth. The Greeks had never won a game at the Finals. They had never even scored a goal. They kept both of these records in a 2-0 loss to the Koreans.

This was a very interesting match. South Korea outplayed and outclassed Greece for most of the 90 minutes. Their goalkeeper was pretty much a spectator –the Greek attack gave him very little to do. South Korea opened the scoring in the seventh minute when Lee Jung-soo had an easy tap-in at the back post. The second goal came in the 52nd minute. Park Ji-sung got hold of a poor back pass from a Greek defender to coolly slot the ball home.



Comprehension Check



CORRECT THE SPELLING

- South Korea became the first team at the FIFA 2010 World Cup to take all three **nostpi**. They beat a very disappointing Greece in Port Elizabeth. The Greeks had **ernev** won a game at the Finals. They had never even scored a goal. They kept both of these **srrodec** in a 2-0 loss to the Koreans. This was a very interesting **mhcat**. South Korea outplayed and outclassed Greece for most of the 90 minutes. Their goalkeeper was **tytper** much **apcatotres** – the Greek attack gave him very little to do. South Korea **deoemp** the **gsroinc** in the seventh minute when Lee Jung-soo had an easy tap-in at the **ackb** post. The second goal came in the 52nd minute. Park Ji-sung got hold of a poor back pass from a Greek defender to **lolyoc** slot the ball home.

Lesson 3:

Tiger Woods takes break to repair his life



The Tiger Woods saga continues following more details of his string of affairs. He has just announced on his website that he is “taking a hiatus from golf” and does not know when he will return. At the same time, his sponsors are pulling back from supporting him. They are worried his now less-than-squeaky-clean image will no longer help sell their products. The global management consulting company Accenture has removed some of its images of Woods from its website. Experts believe Accenture may find it difficult to keep its “Go on, be a Tiger” slogan following revelations about Woods’ many girlfriends.

It seems Nike, one of Woods’ biggest sponsors, is sticking with their man, for now Woods’ life and career turned upside down on November 27 when he had a minor car accident near his home. He needed hospital treatment for cuts to his face. Newspapers soon reported his wife chased the car and hit it with a golf club. The media followed this with speculation about a number of extramarital affairs Woods had. More than ten women are currently telling newspapers the story of their relationship with him. The golfing great said: “It may not be possible to repair the damage I’ve done, but I want to do my best to try...After much soul searching, I have decided to take an indefinite break from professional golf. I need to focus my attention on being a better husband, father and person.”



Comprehension Check-up



- What springs to mind when you hear the name ‘Tiger Woods’?
- Has your opinion of Tiger Woods changed?
- Do you think Tiger Woods’ supporters should stick with him?
- Why is the “Go on, be a Tiger” slogan not a good idea right now?
- How important are role models for young people?
- Do you think Tiger can repair the damage?

Lesson 4:

Original Basketball Rules Sell for Record

A little piece of basketball history was made yesterday. The original rulebook for basketball was sold at an auction for \$4.3 million. This is a record for any kind of sports memorabilia or history. The historic document outlined the rules of basketball in 1891. It was written by Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian. He drew up the sport's first 13 rules on two pages and signed them both. The buyers were David and Suzanne Booth, two avid basketball fans from Kansas, USA. The document was sold by Ian Naismith, 71, the grandson of Dr. James Naismith. He told reporters: "After expenses, about \$3.8 million will go into the Naismith International Basketball Foundation." He was clearly very proud of what his grandfather achieved, saying: "We gave the game to the world."

James Naismith originally wrote the rules to create a new winter sport for boys at a school in Massachusetts, where he was a physical education teacher. He had a two-week deadline to think of a new sport. He was more than a little surprised at how quickly his sport took off. He lived to see it introduced at the 1936 Olympics. His grandson expressed how jaded he had become at the game's commercialization. He told reporters: "I'm tired of all the lying. The game is about integrity, sportsmanship...The game now is being hurt by money. Nobody ever has enough." He frowned on current salaries in the sport, particularly with "coaches making \$5 million a year". The previous record for sports memorabilia was \$3 million for the baseball hit by Mark McGwire when he broke the single-season home run record in 1998.



Comprehension Check-up



What Does It Mean?

- *Auction*
- *Avid*
- *Commercialization*
- Memorabilia
- Jaded

What do you think?

- Are you surprised basketball isn't more popular worldwide?
- Do you know all the rules of basketball?
- What do you think of people who spend such money on memorabilia?
- What sports memorabilia would you really like to have?
- Would you like to be a top basketball player /sports person?
- Do you think USA will always be the world's best basketball nation?

Lesson 5:

China Aiming to 'Breed' Wimbledon Champ



China is attempting to become top in another sport by aiming for tennis. They already proved their strength as a sporting nation by topping the medals table at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Their new target is to produce tennis players good enough to be Wimbledon champions. They would also happily settle for the Australian, French and U.S. Opens. The Sky News TV channel from Britain reported on the efforts the Chinese are making to become a tennis superpower. If countries like Sweden, and more recently Serbia, can produce champs, then China have a great chance. They have the facilities and the determination to achieve their dream. China already has a role model for the younger tennis starlets to look up to. She is Zheng Jie who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals in 2008.



Sky News China correspondent Holly Williams visited the Xiannongtan School in Beijing. There, she saw children as young as six being trained to compete for sporting glory in the future. She spoke to the training manager Huang Hongjun about his training methods. Mr. Hongjun said: "We pick the students by testing the quality of their bodies. It's important we get it right, because if we choose incorrectly then they won't turn out to be champions." One of the future hopefuls of the school is 11-year-old Hao Huatian. He trains six days a week, has no school holidays and only sees his parents once a week. Williams reported: "He has already won a national championship, and displays extraordinary focus for a player of his age." His is definitely a name to watch for before the end of this decade.

Comprehension Check



TRUE OR FALSE:

- a. China is using DNA and genetics to create the perfect tennis player.T/F
- b. China wants to produce tennis players capable of winning major titles. T/F
- c. The buildings and tennis equipment available to China are poor.T/F
- d. A Chinese woman reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon in 2008.T/F
- e. Children start training for tennis glory in China from the age of six.T/F

Match the following synonyms from the article.

COLUMN A

1.Attempting

2.topping

3.Settle

4.Determination

5.role model

6.Correspondent

7. Glory

COLUMN B

a. fame

b. reporter

c. example

d. drive

e. accept

f. heading

g. topping



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