



# newsLetter

A compilation  
of newsTicker articles  
with Exercises

February 2007

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2007-02-02

## DREAM JOBS

*Most U.S. workers don't have them*

The majority of Americans don't have their dream job, according to a recent survey.

The survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive on behalf of CareerBuilder.com among 6,169 full-time workers.



Results showed that only 12 percent of people said that salary was the most important factor of their dream job. Thirty-nine percent said having fun was key and 17 percent said making a difference with others was at the top of their list.

Professions of people who work at their dream jobs included police and firefighters, teachers, real estate professionals and engineers.

Among major U.S. cities, workers in Boston had the highest incidence of feeling they had their dream jobs, at 37 percent, followed by Sacramento at 26 percent and San Francisco at 23 percent.

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. What would you like to be when you are older?  
What is most important to you, money, fun or social status?
2. What characteristics or qualities does a person need to have in order to do this job?
3. What kind of training or schooling do you need?  
What do you need to do to prepare yourself for this job?

2007-02-07

## NEW ORLEANS

### *Lures tourists with humor*

New Orleans has turned to humor in an attempt to boost tourism and its economy.

A year and a half after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, tourism and city officials are hoping to pull in more tourists as it gears up for this year's Mardi Gras festival.



*Tourists walk on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter neighborhood of New Orleans*

Humorous ads for the city aquarium announce, "This is the only part of New Orleans that is still underwater". Another ad shows a chef kissing a fish, along with the message, "New Orleans is open -- to just about anything."

An increase in crime is also affecting New Orleans' tourism industry. Mayor Ray Nagin is working hard to battle crime. He has ordered more foot patrols and the installation of crime cameras in various parts of the city.

## Exercise

Do some research on your own about New Orleans and find out the following information.

1. What is the Mardi Gras festival like? When is it and what goes on during the festival?
2. Does the city have any historical sites to visit? What are they?
3. When is the best time to visit New Orleans? How much does a hotel room cost there?
4. What kind of food is typical in New Orleans?

2007-02-08

## CANADA IS CONCERNED

### *Caribou population plunging*

Canada's caribou population is diminishing at an alarming rate according to wildlife specialists.

Herds of caribou of the Canadian Northwest Territories have diminished by 40 to 86 percent in the last 10 years. Experts blame the climate change, varying insect levels, the amount of food available and the number of predators.



*A caribou head sits in the dirt in Iqaluit*

Caribou is an essential source of food and fur for the local aboriginals, and their way of life is becoming threatened as the numbers of caribou continue to decrease.

Politicians, wildlife officials and aboriginals attended a four-day summit on the caribou herds in Inuvik, in the Mackenzie River Delta, to discuss ways to increase the herds. Possible solutions include limiting hunting and human access to the herds and increasing calf production.

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Describe some of the physical differences between a caribou, a deer and a moose.
2. What do caribou eat? What is their preferred habitat? Name some of their predators.
3. How do experts explain the decline in number of caribou?

2007-02-09

## SCORSESE

*Wins top Directors Guild award*

Director Martin Scorsese could be on his way to winning an Oscar after being named Directors Guild of America's best film director for 2007.

Scorsese's gangster thriller "The Departed" won him the DGA's award, which is usually a precursor to taking home the Oscar. Fifty-one out of fifty-seven DGA winners have gone on to win best director and/or best picture Oscars.



*Director Scorsese smiles at the 59th annual Directors Guild of America Awards in Los Angeles*

"The Departed" was made by Warner Bros, a division of Time Warner Inc., and it has grossed more than any other film Scorsese has made.

The director beat Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu, the director of "Babel," Bill Condon ("Dreamgirls"), Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris (co-directors of "Little Miss Sunshine") and Stephen Frears ("The Queen") for the award.

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the activities.

1. Who is your favorite director and why? What movies has he directed?
2. In your opinion, what characteristics does it take to be an exceptional director?
3. What three questions would you like to ask your favorite director?
4. Do you think Scorsese deserves an Oscar award for best director?

2007-02-12

## NEW YEAR WORKOUTS

### *Pushing through the pain*

The holidays are over and people are trying to get back in shape as they fulfill their New Years' resolutions with aggressive workout sessions.



*British Military Fitness*

For those who want to get fit and stay fit, the British Military Fitness (BMF) program may just be the answer. The program offers daily, hour-long sessions of hardcore calisthenics and running in Battersea Park. Instructors bark orders at participants just as if they were in the military.

January and early February is the busiest time of year for the fitness industry. People are very interested in losing those extra pounds after the holidays and are motivated to exercise.

The supermarkets, recently packed to the rafters with chocolates, drinks and other fatty Christmas delights, now offer advice on how to live a healthier life.

# Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Did you make any health or fitness resolutions for 2007? If so what were they? Are you working towards your goals?
2. In what ways do you try to stay fit? What kind of exercise or sports do you enjoy doing? How do you feel after you exercise?
3. Name some advantages and disadvantages to joining a regimented exercise program like the one in the article.

2007-02-14

## HARRY POTTER

### *The spell ends*

Author J.K. Rowling has completed writing the last book of the Harry Potter series and is having mixed emotions about it.



*JK Rowling*

“Even while I’m mourning, though, I feel an incredible sense of achievement,” Rowling wrote on [www.jkrowling.com](http://www.jkrowling.com).

Rowling isn’t giving any details about Potter’s fate in the seventh and final book “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows”. Instead, she assures her fans they will not be disappointed and will have plenty to discuss about the book’s ending.

Some die-hard fans are having difficulty accepting that the series will soon end. Rawlings suggests they keep discussing the books on the message boards on her website.

The series has sold an estimated 325 million copies world-wide and has a huge influence on the financial results of their U.S. and British publishers.

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the activities.

1. Have you read the Harry Potter books or seen the movies? Which one was your favorite and why?
2. What do you think will happen in the seventh book? What would you like to see happen in the story?
3. Who is your favorite and least favorite character in the Harry Potter series? Explain.

2007-02-16

## GLOBAL WARMING PRIZE

*Virgin's Branson offers \$25 million*

Virgin Airline tycoon Richard Branson is offering a \$25 million prize for anyone who can invent a way to eliminate greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.



*Airline tycoon Richard Branson throws a globe in the air as former vice-president Al Gore watches in central London*

The winner will have to come up with a way of removing one billion tons of carbon gases a year from the atmosphere for 10 years -- with \$5 million of the prize being paid at the start and the remaining \$20 million at the end.

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, British ex-diplomat Crispin Tickell and Branson will serve as panel judges. All are determined to triumph in their battle against global warming.

Gore said "We are now facing a planetary emergency. This is an initiative to stimulate someone to do something that no one knows how to do."

## Exercise

Listen to or read the article and answer the following statements with either True or False. Make all statements true.

Microsoft tycoon is offering a prize to the campaign against hunger.

2. The prize money will be awarded all at once to the winner.

3. Former Vice President Gore is a strong environmental activist.

4. The winner will invent a way of eliminating strong exhaust pollutants from cars.

2007-02-20

## HARDY MEN

*Cruise, Stiller take on Boys*

Tom Cruise and Ben Stiller will star in “Hardy Men”, a comedy based on the teen detectives from the Hardy Boys series.

The original TV series “The Hardy Boys” was based on a popular book series written by various ghost writers under the pen name Franklin W. Dixon. The stories told the adventures of how two brothers, Frank and Joe Hardy, helped their father, a private detective, solve crimes.

The Hollywood version will show the Hardy Boys as grown up men who have been estranged for many years until they reunite to solve a mystery.

This is not the first time Cruise and Stiller have teamed up. They previously shot a behind-the-scenes spoof of “Mission: Impossible II” for the MTV Movie Awards.



*Actors Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes leave a restaurant with their daughter Suri in Rome*

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the following activities.

1. Name three titles from "The Hardy Boys" book series.
2. What other popular movies has Ben Stiller starred in?
3. What roles does Tom Cruise usually portray? Give examples. Is this a typical role for him? Explain.

2007-02-21

## BRITAIN WORST PLACE FOR KIDS

*U.N. reports*

According to a children's organization, Britain is the worst country in the industrialized world to be a child.



*Children*

The United Nations Children's Fund looked at various factors to measure the quality of life among children in economically advanced nations. The indicators included poverty and deprivation, happiness, relationships, bad behavior, and health and safety.

Results showed that overall, British children are the poorest and most neglected. British scores indicated that the country was behind on important issues including poverty, deprivation, happiness, relationships and bad behavior. However, Britain did score higher in children's health and safety.

The study also found there is no consistent data to support the notion that a country's wealth determines a child's quality of life.

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the following activities.

1. Describe the area where you have grown up. Is it a good place for kids? What does the community have to offer for kids? What does it lack?
2. Where would be your ideal place to grow up? What would it offer? Describe the terrain, the climate, the size, etc. Share your ideas with the rest of the class.
3. Rate your own quality of life based on the criteria below.

2007-02-22

## ANNE FRANK

*Family sought U.S. visa*

Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank, who documented her family's trials when they hid from the Nazis, tried to leave Europe and escape to the U.S. before going into hiding.

A letter was recently found that showed Frank had indeed tried to get his family out of Holland and far away from the Nazi occupation. Frank wrote to a friend who lived in New York, and asked for \$5,000 to help cover costs for a U.S. visa for his family. But the money was ultimately not needed because the visa was not granted.



*Anne Frank*

Unfortunately, Otto Frank decided to try to escape just as the Nazis were making it more difficult to leave, and the United States was making it more difficult to enter.

## Exercise

Find out more about Anne Frank by answering the following questions:

1. When was Anne Frank born? Where did she grow up?
2. What do her diaries talk about? Give some examples.
3. What happened to her and her family?

