



newsLetter

A compilation of newsTicker 1 articles
with Exercises

May 2006

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2006-05-01

EARTH DAY

Bush promotes alternative cars

President George W. Bush is promoting alternative technology that reduces US dependence on foreign oil. On Earth Day, he spoke in favor of hydrogen-fueled cars.

Oil prices hit record highs recently with gas prices in some locations reaching three dollars a gallon. Bush said that he knew Americans were suffering and would face a tough summer driving season.

Bush visited the California Fuel Cell Partnership, a group of auto makers, energy companies and government agencies, that supports the sale of hydrogen-fueled cars. These cars are more efficient than gas-powered cars and emit no pollution.

After the visit, Bush commented that he strongly believes that „hydrogen is the fuel of the future,“ and not just a silly dream.



US President George Bush boards Air Force One

Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. What is Earth Day and why is it celebrated?
2. What kind of contribution could you make on Earth Day?
3. What is so great about hydrogen-fueled cars?

Exercise

Read the article and write questions for each answer below.

1. To quarantine and isolate people.
2. Personal details.
3. An expert in infectious diseases.
4. People who may be ill from the bird flu.

2006-05-03

CANADIAN THEATER OPTIONS

Ponder golf and fashion

Canadian movie theater owners are trying to figure out what they can offer apart from movies. Due to a decrease in box office sales, owners will get together at ShowCanada to brainstorm on how to stay afloat.



Movie theater

Last year, box office sales dropped by 7%, causing much concern in the movie industry, and especially among theater owners. As a result, they need to look into alternative ways of drawing people to the theaters.

Over 800 theater owners will meet in Victoria, B.C. for their annual convention, ShowCanada. Adina Lebo, executive director of the Motion Picture Theater Associations of Canada, suggests adding golf and bowling to theater services. Brad LaDouceur from Cineplex Entertainment will discuss the benefits of fashion shows and sporting-event screenings as other possibilities.

Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think the movie industry is selling fewer tickets at the box office? What are some possible reasons?
2. Brainstorm with a partner and come up with at least three different ways movie theaters can be used. Compare ideas with the class.
3. What kinds of movies have the best turnout? Drama, comedy, family, etc? Explain.

2006-05-04

BEACH RIGHTS BATTLE

Seal pups win over kids

Officials have roped off a local beach in San Diego, hoping to keep people from disturbing the harbour seals' breeding area.

Over 200 seals won a 10-year battle between those who want to protect California's top seal-spotting places and local residents who want to use the protected cove that was originally built as a kids swimming area.



Harbour seals at La Jolla

Last week, after the City Council ruled in favor of protecting the area for seals, officials put the barrier up. Their decision came after many complaints were made that local residents were harassing the seals during their breeding season.

A wildlife biologist said that seals are very sensitive to noise and movement. If frightened, they would abandon their pups and leave the area indefinitely.

Exercise

Read the article and answer the following statements with either True or False.

1. Residents are happy that the seals have come to breed on their beach.
2. Officials have built a wall to give the seals privacy.
3. The seals have taken over the children's swimming area.
4. People are very careful not to bother the seals.
5. City Council decided the residents should have their beach.

2006-05-05

CELEBRITY BIOGRAPHER

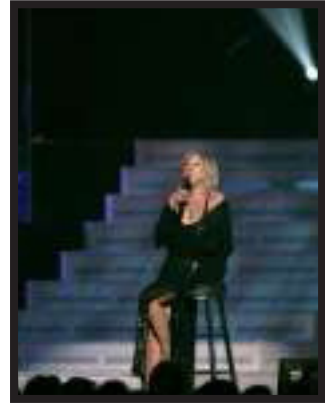
Takes aim at Barbra Streisand

Christopher Anderson, a famed celebrity biography writer has written his latest book titled, „Barbra“.

Anderson has written books on other famous people including, Jack and Jackie, Charles and Diana, Bill and Hillary, Hepburn and Tracy and even George and Laura.

His biography on Streisand includes stories from her school days, old newspaper clips and many juicy tidbits on her personal relationships with Britain's Prince Charles, Dodi al Fayed, Warren Beatty and Richard Gere. It even hints at a relationship with former US president Bill Clinton.

Streisand has not commented directly to the press about the book, but has expressed her anger on her website. „This stereotypic image bears little resemblance to me or anything about me. Maybe it's finally time for an authorized biography,“ she declared.



Barbra Steisand performs during the Andre Agassi Grand Slam

Exercise

Read the article and complete the activity.

1. Pretend you are a journalist. You have the opportunity to interview anyone you want. Who would it be and why?
2. Work in pairs. Your partner will be the person you chose to interview. Ask "the celebrity" five prepared questions. Your partner can be creative with the answers. When you finish, trade roles. Have fun!

2006-05-08

FEMALE ASTRONAUT LEAVES NASA

First woman shuttle commander

The first woman to command a US spaceship, Eileen Collins, is leaving NASA to pursue other interests.

Collins, who participated in four space shuttle missions, has decided to spend more time with her family and dedicate herself to other activities. She said she would be taking wonderful memories with her from her job as an astronaut.



Astronaut

Collins began as an Air Force pilot and later joined NASA where she became an astronaut. She was the first woman shuttle pilot and commander of a US space ship. She will retire from her career with NASA at 49 years old.

Her last mission was surely her most memorable. Collins commanded the July 2005 Discovery flight, which was the first shuttle mission since the Columbia accident in 2003.

Exercise

Listen to the article and answer the following questions.

1. How many times has Collins traveled in space?
2. Why is she leaving NASA?
3. What has Collins accomplished in her career?
4. Why was her last mission a memorable one?

2006-05-09

US MOTHERS

Earn huge ,theoretical' salary

A recent study said that if a stay-at-home mother was paid for all her work, she would earn a salary of \$134,121 per year.



baby

A mother who works outside the home, in addition to her mothering duties, would earn an extra \$85,876 according to Waltham, Massachusetts-based compensation experts Salary.com.

In figuring out the projected salaries, the survey calculated the corresponding incomes for the 10 jobs that respondents reported make up a mother's role. The jobs include housekeeper, day-care teacher, cook, computer operator, laundry machine operator, janitor, facilities manager, van driver, chief executive and psychologist.

Stay-at-home moms said they work around 91.6 hours a week, while employed moms average 44 hours at work and another 49.8 hours at home per week.

Exercise

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What does your mother do all day? Does she work outside the home? What kinds of chores does she do at home?
2. Give examples of how your mother performs tasks from the jobs listed below.
3. Do you think that stay-at-home mothers should be paid for their household duties? Why or why not?

2006-05-10

RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD

Bill Gates wishes it weren't true

Microsoft's Bill Gates wishes he weren't the richest man in the world.

The corporate leader in charge of the world's largest software maker is also one of the biggest philanthropists. Even though he continuously makes the headlines, he shies away from publicity and doesn't like all the attention he gets for being so wealthy.



Bill Gates

I wish I wasn't. There is nothing „good that comes out of that,“ said Gates.

In an interview with CNBC, Gates said that he learned some very valuable lessons from Warren Buffett, a billionaire investor. Gates said Buffett has a „very refreshing, simple way of looking at things“ and he admires that. The most important lesson from Buffett was the importance of keeping one's integrity.

Exercise

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why do you think Gates doesn't like being wealthy?
2. How would you live your life if you had as much money as Bill Gates? Would you be a philanthropist too? Explain.
3. What is integrity and why is it so important?

2006-05-11

NEW TWIST ON 'BIG BROTHER'

Wonka style

Big Brother“ is going to „hide golden tickets in KitKat bars. Those who find the tickets will get a chance to appear on the hit reality show.

One hundred golden tickets will be placed in the bars that will be distributed to 40,000 retail stores. The competition will begin on May 18th and end on June 2nd. The winners will participate in a live TV broadcast and one of them will be chosen to be a contestant on „Big Brother“.

Producers of the show got the idea for their latest stunt from „Charlie and the Chocolate Factory“, where Willy Wonka placed golden tickets in his Wonka bars. The lucky winners got a tour of the famed chocolate factory while learning some valuable lessons.



A KitKat chocolate bar

Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Do you watch "Big Brother"? What's it about? Give a short description of the show.
2. Would you like to be a participant on this reality show? Explain why you would or wouldn't make a good contestant.
3. What is your favorite reality show and why? Why do you think they are such a big hit?

2006-05-15

STUNTMAN-DAVID BLAINE

Fails to break underwater record

Stuntman David Blaine did not break the world record for holding his breath underwater.

Blaine lasted 7 minutes and 8 seconds underwater without breathing, but he missed beating the current record of 8 minutes and 58 seconds by nearly 2 minutes. Blaine fell unconscious and had to be rescued by divers who were standing ready nearby.

Before the stunt, Blaine attached 150 pounds of chains to his body. He managed to free himself from the chains attached to his wrists before he was rescued.

Blaine's physician advised him not to attempt the escape. He warned Blaine that he could suffer a blackout, a heart attack or a stroke. Although tired, Blaine did not suffer any brain damage from the lack of oxygen.



David Blaine is given oxygen after his unsuccessful attempt at record for holding his breath underwater in New York

Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. How do you think Blaine trains for his stunts?
2. Why didn't Blaine break the world record?
3. Name some personality traits that you need in order to perform these stunts.
4. What stunt would you like to see Baine do? Explain.

2006-05-16

US UNDERESTIMATES OBESITY

Problem is greater than indicated

Conflicting data on the scale of obesity varies according to US state and national surveys.

Researchers have found that while collecting data of obesity rates, respondents of state telephone surveys tend to underestimate their weight and height, making the data inaccurate. In national surveys, however, participants receive medical exams where they are weighed and measured in person, eliminating inaccurate estimates.



Obesity

The inconsistency between national- and state-level obesity estimates comes from differences in how the data are collected.

Dr. Majid Ezzati of the Harvard School of Public Health said that because public health policies and programs aimed at fighting obesity are carried out at the state level, it is very important to have accurate data so that the neediest states receive the necessary aide.

Exercise

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why is it so important to have accurate data on obesity?
2. How does obesity affect people's health in a negative way?
3. As a class, discuss some possible reasons for the increase in obesity.

2006-05-17

ALLIGATOR ATTACK

Florida jogger dies near canal

An alligator attacked and killed a Florida woman while she went for a run along the canal.

Relatives of the victim said that Yovy Suarez Jimenez had gone jogging during the evening along a bicycle path near the canal. The next day, construction workers found her dismembered body floating in the water and notified the authorities.



Florida canal

The medical examiner in charge of the autopsy, Dr. Joshua Perper, said the alligator had amputated both of her arms and bit her leg and her back. The reptile then dragged her body into the water where she was found. Perper said she had died quickly.

Although alligator attacks are rare, authorities said Suarez Jimenez's death was the 18th fatal attack in Florida since the 1940s.

Exercise

Read the article and answer the following statements with either True or False. Make all false statements true.

1. Suarez Jimenez drowned in a Florida canal.
2. An alligator attacked a woman as she was crossing a foot bridge.
3. The medical examiner said the woman suffered a slow, painful death.
4. Suarez Jimenez was found in the canal.
5. Alligator attacks are fairly common in Florida.

2006-05-18

COPPER VALUE INCREASES

Mint warns no melting

The value of copper is on the rise and some may see a profitable future in it. The Royal Mint has warned people against melting down the 1p and 2p copper coins for the metal.



Royal Mint Employee

The growing economies of China and India are pushing copper prices to \$9,000 per ton. That makes the metal in the coins almost double their face value.

The Royal Mint, in charge of making and distributing the coins, said there are 6.33 billion 2p coins in circulation and added that defacing the coins would be a serious offense.

All the 1p and 2p coins made before September 1992 are 97 percent copper. The coins after that date are made of copper-plated steel.

Exercise

Listen to the article and answer the following questions.

1. What coins contain the most copper?
2. What warning did the Royal Mint give?
3. How much is copper worth?
4. What does the Royal Mint do?
5. What are the newer coins made of?

2006-05-19

ANIMAL TESTING

Blair pledges support

British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced he would sign a petition that supports animal testing for medical research.



PM Blair

Blair said he feels it is very important for people to take a stand against the small group of extremists that campaign against animal testing. He added that these groups pose a threat to the advancement of medical research in Britain.

Over 14,000 people have already signed the People's Petition, launched by the Coalition for Medical Progress, a group of drug companies, medical bodies, scientists and charities.

Blair's support comes after a harrowing week of harassment from animal rights activists. The activists threatened drug companies' shareholders and desecrated the grave of a woman who provided animals for medical research.

Exercise

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Do you think animal testing is fair to animals? Why or why not?
2. List three circumstances that animal testing should be allowed. Explain.
3. List three circumstances where animal testing should not be allowed. Explain.
4. Who should be able to decide whether animal testing is allowed? The people, the government, the courts, who?

2006-05-22

ART FAKER'S TALE

Hollywood eyes story

The story of amateur painter John Myatt makes for a good story and Hollywood is interested.

Myatt fooled the art world by selling his counterfeit paintings of Monet and Picasso to collectors worldwide. Eventually he was caught and jailed, but upon his release, made a comeback by selling his „authentic copies“ of great artists.



Monet's "Oatfields" by John Myatt

The detective who arrested Myatt and the lawyers at his trial were so impressed by his work that they commissioned paintings from him. Now, Hollywood producers Jay Weston and Fred Levinson have bought the rights to tell the tale of what the London police once called „the biggest art fraud of the 20th century.“

Myatt will provide all the paintings for the film and is thrilled with his turn of luck.

Exercise

Read the article and complete the following activities.

1. Look at the picture. Describe the painting, the colors, the scenery and the mood. How does it make you feel when you look at it?
2. Who was Picasso? Write down five facts about Pablo Picasso and share them with the class.
3. Who was Monet? What art style is he famous for? Name one of his famous paintings.