AJEEP

English through Current Events

A multi-skills practice module

Instructor / Producer: Kelly Robart

English through current events

This module features six practice lessons for English language learners at an intermediate or high-intermediate level. They are intended for self-study, but can also be used in a classroom setting. The lessons should take about one hour each to complete.

The main goals of the module are to improve listening ability in English and to learn vocabulary related to current news stories. You will also have the opportunity to practice writing, speaking and some grammar.

Each lesson is based on a real news story and has the following components

- short audio podcast
- comprehension exercises
- vocabulary exercises
- writing and discussion activities
- transcript
- answer key

The podcasts can be found on YouTube, on Kelly Robart's channel.

If you have any questions or would like to submit a writing or speaking assignment for feedback, please contact Kelly Robart at kelly.robart@comcast.net

Humans of New York

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- Have you heard of Humans of New York?
- Have you ever been photographed by a stranger?
- If a stranger asked to take your photograph would you let them?
- How do you feel about taking photographs of strangers?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. Later, you can find the words underlined in the transcript.

Blog	A website that is updated regularly, and usually written in an informal style
Social Media	Websites that allow people to share ideas and information via text, photos and video. Some examples are Facebook, YouTube and Flickr.
Everyday vs. every day	Everyday is a one-word adjective and means ordinary or common. Every day is two words: an adjective and a noun. It means each day. Note the differences in the following examples. *You shouldn't wear everyday clothes to the party; you should wear something special. We learned some everyday expressions, like "How's it going?" and "What's up?" in our English class. He walks to work every day. We practice English every day.*
Trading company	Company that helps people and businesses buy and sell, but does not own anything itself.
Lay off	To end someone's employment usually due to a slowing down in the company. Commonly used in both active and passive voices. Active voice: *The company had to lay off 100 people in December.* Passive voice*: He was laid off last month.*

Listening for main idea

Listen to the podcast and summarize the main idea in two or three sentences.

_____

_____

Listening for details

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. Who is Brandon Stanton?

   _____

2. Where did Stanton learn photography?

   _____

3. If you visit the Humans of New York blog, what will you find there?

   _____

4. How many followers does the Humans of New York blog have?

   _____

   _____

5. What did Stanton do before he started his photography project?

   _____

6. What was Stanton's original goal for his photo project?

   _____

7. How did Stanton's blog change as time went on?

   _____

8. How many people does Stanton photograph each day?

   _____

9. Does anyone help Stanton with the blog?

   _____

10. What books has Stanton published?

    _____

11. Have Stanton's books been popular? Explain.

    _____

12. What has happened in other parts of the world as a result of Humans of New York?

    _____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with the correct definition on the right. Look at the transcript at the end of this unit to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. *self-taught*
2. *launch*
3. *set out*
4. *initially*
5. *eventually*
6. *incorporate*
7. *integral*
8. *compile*
9. *inspire*

a) *in the end*
b) *to make someone want to do something, especially something creative*
c) *to start something*
d) *essential; necessary for something to be complete*
e) *learned by oneself, without formal education*
f) *phrasal verb meaning to begin*
g) *to include something with something else that already exists*
h) *at first; in the beginning*
i) *to put together*

Gap Fill

Listen to the audio and fill in the blanks with the words you hear. Many blanks will have more than one word.

Brandon Stanton is a self-taught photographer who launched the 1)_____ Humans of New York blog in 2010.

The blog, which features portraits and stories of 2)_____ that Stanton meets on the street of New York City, has over 10 million followers on social media.

Brandon Stanton studied history at the University of Georgia and worked for two years at a Chicago 3)_____ before getting laid off. After the lay-off, he decided to spend more time doing what he really loved – photography.

Stanton moved to New York, started photographing 4)_____ and discovered that he liked photographing people. He thought that it would be interesting to photograph 5) _____ in New York, a city of almost 8.5 million.

He set out with the goal of photographing 10,000 New Yorkers. Initially, he was just interested in 6) _____, but eventually, he started talking with people and hearing their stories. He began incorporating quotes and short stories

from the people he photographed on his blog. Stanton now considers this to be 7)_____ of his project.

Stanton walks every day and tries to photograph five or six people each day. He now has two assistants who work for him and help him post his photos and stories online.

Stanton has compiled many of the photographs 8)_____, which was published in 2013. As of February 15, *Humans of New York* had been on the New York Times bestseller list for 30 weeks. In 2014, Stanton followed with *Little Humans of New York*, 9)_____ children from the Humans of New York blog.

Humans of New York has 10)_____ hundreds of similar blogs around the world, a few of which are Humans of Tokyo, Humans of Rome, Humans of Tehran and Humans of Cairo University.

Discussion Questions

Depending on your situation, do one or more of the following.

a. *Record your answers and send me an audio file.*
b. *Discuss the questions in a small group and then share your answers with your class.*
c. *Write the answers to one or more questions and send them to me.*

1. What do you think of Brandon Stanton and his blog?
2. Are there similar blogs in Afghanistan? Have you seen *Humans of Kabul*? What is your opinion of it?
3. How popular is social media in Afghanistan and what is it used for?
4. Do you think there should be limitations on what is allowed for content on social media? Who should monitor that – the government, social media providers or Internet companies?
5. What sort of online limitations or censorship is there in Afghanistan?

Choose the right word

Circle the correct word.

Brandon Stanton is a self-taught photographer who **1 (launched / has launched)** the highly successful Humans of New York blog in 2010.

The blog, which **2 (is featuring /features)** portraits and stories of everyday people that Stanton meets on the street of New York City, has over 10 million followers **3(at / on)** social media.

Brandon Stanton **4 (studied / was studying)** history at the University of Georgia and **5 (worked / was working)** for two years at a Chicago trading company before getting laid off. After the lay-off, he decided to spend more time doing what he really loved – photography.

Stanton moved to New York, started photographing on the streets and discovered that he liked photographing people. He thought that it would be interesting to photograph as many people as possible in New York, a city of almost 8.5 million.

He set out with the goal of photographing 10,000 New Yorkers. Initially, he was just **6 (interesting / interested)** in getting pictures, but eventually, he started talking with people and hearing their stories. He began incorporating quotes and short stories form the people he photographed on his blog, and Stanton now considers this to be an integral part of his project.

Stanton walks every day and tries to photograph five or six people each day. He now has two assistants who work for him and help him **7 (post/ posting)** his photos and stories online.

Stanton has compiled many of his photographs in a book, which was published in 2013. As of February 15, Humans of New York **8 (has been / had been)** on the New York Times bestseller list for 30 weeks. In 2014, Stanton **9(followed / has followed)** with Little Humans of New York, a book that features children from the Humans of New York blog.

Humans of New York **10 (has inspired / is inspiring)** hundreds of similar blogs around the world, a few of which are Humans of Tokyo, Humans of Rome, Humans of Tehran and Humans of Cairo University.

Pronunciation – Shadow Reading

After you've listened to the audio a couple of times, go back and listen with the transcript, paying attention to pronunciation. You should mark words that receive a lot of stress and those that have an unusual pronunciation for you. If possible, you could also mark which words are connected together when spoken. Next, listen to the audio and read it out loud along with the speaker. This type of practice, called shadow reading, is a good way for you to practice your pronunciation. When you speak at the same time as a native speaker, it helps you use similar rhythm and intonation as the native speaker. Finally, record yourself reading the transcript out loud and then listen to the original. If possible have a native speaker listen to your audio. Feel free to send me your audio if you want some feedback.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases on the left with the correct phrase on the right to make a complete sentence.

1. Brandon Stanton is a self-taught photographer who
2. Brandon Stanton studied history at the University of Georgia and worked
3. He thought that it would be interesting to photograph
4. He began incorporating quotes and short stories
5. Stanton walks every day and tries to
6. He now has two assistants who
7. Stanton has compiled many of the photographs into a book, which
8. Humans of New York

a. has inspired hundreds of similar blogs around the world.
b. was published in 2013.
c. work for him and help him post his photos and stories online.
d. from the people he photographed on his blog.
e. launched the highly successful Humans of New York blog in 2010.
f. photograph five or six people each day.
g. for two years at a Chicago trading company before getting laid off.
h. as many people as possible in New York, a city of almost 8.5 million

Answers

Listening for Main Idea

Brandon Stanton is the creator of the blog, *Humans of New York.* The blog features photographs and short stories of everyday people who live in New York. It is very popular and has over 10 million followers.

Listening for Details

1. The creator of *Humans of New York*.
2. He taught himself.
3. Photo portraits with quotes and short stories of everyday people in NY.
4. Over 10 million
5. He worked at a trading company in Chicago for two years.
6. To photograph 10,000 people.
7. He started talking to people and decided to use their quotes and stories with their photos. He now thinks this is a very important part of the blog.
8. 5 or 6
9. He has 2 assistants who help him upload his photos and text online.

10. *Humans of New York / Little Humans of New York*
11. Yes. As of Feb. 15, *Humans of New York* had been on the NY Times bestseller list for 30 weeks.
12. Many similar blogs have been created all around the world.

Vocabulary

1. e
2. c
3. f
4. h
5. a
6. g
7. d
8. i
9. b

Gap Fill

1. highly successful
2. everyday people
3. trading company
4. on the streets
5. as many people as possible
6. getting pictures
7. an integral part
8. in a book
9. a book that features
10. inspired

Choose the correct word

1. launched
2. features
3. on
4. studied
5. worked
6. interested
7. post
8. had
9. followed
10. has inspired

Phrase Match

1. e
2. g
3. h
4. d
5. f
6. c
7. b
8. a

Transcript

Brandon Stanton is a **1)self-taught** photographer who **2)launched** the highly successful Humans of New York blog in 2010.

The blog, which features portraits and stories of everyday people that Stanton meets on the street of New York City, has over 10 million followers on social media.

Brandon Stanton studied history at the University of Georgia and worked for two years at a Chicago trading company before getting laid off. After the lay-off, he decided to spend more time doing what he really loved – photography.

Stanton moved to New York, started photographing on the streets and discovered that he liked photographing people. He thought that it would be interesting to photograph as many people as possible in New York, a city of almost 8.5 million.

He **3)set out** with the goal of photographing 10,000 New Yorkers. **4)Initially**, he was just interested in getting pictures, but **5)eventually**, he started talking with people and hearing their stories. He began **6)incorporating** quotes and short stories form the people he photographed on his blog, and Stanton now considers this to be an **7)integral** part of his project.

Stanton walks every day and tries to photograph five or six people each day. He now has two assistants who work for him and help him post his photos and stories online.

Stanton has **8)compiled** many of the photographs in a book, which was published in 2013. As of February 15, Humans of New York had been on the New York Times bestseller list for 30 weeks. In 2014, Stanton followed with Little Humans of New York, a book that features children from the Humans of New York blog.

Humans of New York has **9)inspired** hundreds of similar blogs around the world, a few of which are Humans of Tokyo, Humans of Rome, Humans of Tehran and Humans of Cairo University.

Jewelry Heist in Coventry, England

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- Have there been any recent robberies in your city?
- What things do robbers usually steal?
- What is the punishment for theft?

Vocabulary

You should familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. Later, you can find the words underlined in the transcript.

Heist (n.)	A robbery
Break into	To enter a place with force, usually with the aim of commiting a crime, like burglary. *The robbers broke into the bank by driving their car through the glass window*.
Go off	Phrasal verb which means to make a sound or noise. Used when describing alarms mostly. *The store alarm went off when the robbers broke in.* Note that the word off in this case does not mean that the alarm stopped working; it means it made the sound that it is supposed to make. Can also use for alarm clocks. *I forgot to reset my alarm clock and it went off at 2 a.m!*
Commit	To do; to carry out. When talking about crimes we say, "He committed a crime," or "He committed murder." In English we don't use do or make when speaking of crimes
Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	Television / video system used for security purposes.
Forensic	Relating to scientific methods used for investigating crimes.

Listening for main idea

Listen to the podcast and summarize the main idea in two or three sentences.

_____

_____

_____

Listening for details

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. What did thieves steal from the jewelry store in coventry?

   _____

2. How did they get into the store?

   _____

3. How did they get the jewelry?

   _____

4. Why did the thieves leave the store?

   _____

5. How did they get away from the store?

   _____

6. Why are police optimistic that they will find the criminals?

   _____

   _____

7. What time did the crime take place?

   _____

8. What efforts are being made now to solve the case?

   _____

   _____

   _____

9. How many people live in Coventry?

   _____

10. Where is Coventry?

    _____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with the correct definition on the right. Look at the transcript at the end of this unit to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. *thief*
2. *axe*
3. *display case*
4. *optimistic*
5. *surveillance camera*
6. *footage*
7. *detective*
8. *scrutinize*
9. *abandoned*
10. *evidence*

a) *to look very closely at something*
b) *having a positive view about the future*
c) *something that helps prove something is true or not true*
d) *unedited video or film*
e) *a person who takes something that does not belong to him.*
f) *left behind by the owner*
g) *a member of law enforcement who investigates crimes*
h) *a container that has a glass top (and sometimes sides) so that people can see what is inside.*
i) *a tool with a large and thick blade used for chopping wood*
j) *security camera used to record people's actions in order to detect crime.*

Gap Fill

Listen to the audio and fill in the blanks with the words you hear. Many blanks will have more than one word.

A group of thieves has stolen thousands of pounds worth of Indian gold jewelry from a 1)_____ in Coventry, England.

The thieves 2)_____ the store by driving a Mercedes car through the front window. Then, they entered the store carrying axes, which they used to 3) _____ the display cases.

The robbers managed to fill several large bags with jewelry before the store alarm 4)_____ and smoke filled the store. Unable to see, they 5)_____ and got away in a different car than the one they had driven through the store window.

Even though the robbers were masked and wearing dark clothing when they committed the crime, police 6)_____ that they will find the

thieves. The entire robbery was caught on the jewelry store's video surveillance camera, and police also have plenty of closed circuit television (CCTV) 7)_____ from neighborhood cameras.

The crime took place during the 8)_____, around 5:30 p.m. and several witnesses were in the area at that time. One man was threatened by the criminals as he walked past the jewelry store.

Detectives are interviewing 9) _____ and looking through neighborhood CCTV footage. Forensic experts are scrutinizing the store and the abandoned Mercedes, hoping to find evidence that will lead them to the thieves.

Coventry is a city 10) _____ located in central England, about 150 km north of London.

Phrase Match

Match the phrase on the left with the correct phrase on the right.

1. The thieves broke into the store by
2. Then, they entered the store carrying axes,
3. The robbers managed to fill several large bags with jewelry before
4. The crime took place during
5. One man was threatened by
6. Detectives are interviewing dozens of witnesses and
7. Coventry is a city of about 320,000 located in

a. central England, about 150 km northwest of London.
b. the store alarm went off and smoke filled the store.
c. which they used to smash through the display cases.
d. the criminals as he walked past the jewelry store.
e. looking through neighborhood CCTV footage
f. driving a Mercedes car through the front window.
g. the evening rush hour, around 5:30 p.m.

Discussion Questions

Depending on your situation, do one or more of the following.

a. *Record your answers and send me an audio file.*

b. Discuss the questions in a small group and then share your answers with your class.
c. Write the answers to one or more questions and send them to me.

1. Do you know of any infamous heists in Afghanistan? Describe what happened.
2. Does your campus use surveillance cameras? Do you know where they are?
3. Do you think a greater use of surveillance cameras in public areas would help prevent some crimes? Explain.
4. Is it possible to have too many surveillance cameras? In other words, where should there be limits?

Word Choice

Circle the correct word.

A group of thieves has stolen thousands of pounds worth of Indian gold jewelry from a jewelry store in Coventry, England.

The thieves **1(have broke / broke)** into the store by driving a Mercedes car through the front window. Then, they **2(have entered / entered)** the store carrying axes, which they **3(have used / used)** to smash through the display cases.

The robbers managed **4(filling / to fill)** several large bags with jewelry before the store alarm went off and smoke **5(filled / was filling)** the store. Unable to see, the burglars fled the store and got away in a different car than the one they **6(had driven / drove)** through the store window.

Even though the robbers were masked and wearing dark clothing when they committed the crime, police are optimistic that they **7(will / are finding)** the thieves. The entire robbery was caught **8(on / in)** the jewelry store's video surveillance camera, and police also have plenty of closed circuit television (CCTV) footage from neighborhood cameras.

The crime took place **9(during / on)** the evening rush hour, around 5:30 p.m., and several witnesses were **10(in / at)** the area **11(in / at)** that time. One man was threatened by the criminals as he walked past the jewelry store.

Detectives are interviewing dozens of witnesses and looking through neighborhood CCTV footage. Forensic experts are scrutinizing the store and the abandoned Mercedes, hoping to find evidence that **12 (leads / will lead)** them to the thieves.

Coventry is a city of about 320,000 located in central England, about 150 km northwest of London.

Pronunciation – Shadow Reading

After you've listened to the audio a couple of times, go back and listen with the transcript, paying attention to pronunciation. You should mark words that receive a lot of stress and those that have an unusual pronunciation for you. If possible, you could also mark which words are connected together when spoken. Next, listen to the audio and read it out loud along with the speaker. This type of practice, called shadow reading, is a good way for you to practice your pronunciation. When you speak at the same time as a native speaker, it helps you use similar rhythm and intonation as the native speaker. Finally, record yourself reading the transcript out loud and then listen to the original. If possible have a native speaker listen to your audio. Feel free to send me your audio if you want some feedback.

Answers

Listening for Main Idea

A jewelry store was robbed in Coventry, England. The thieves drove a car through the front window and stole several thousand pounds worth of Indian gold jewelry. The case is still under investigation.

Listening for Details

1. Indian gold jewelry
2. They drove a car through the front window.
3. They used axes to break display cases, where the jewelry was.
4. The alarm went off and smoke filled the store.
5. They left in a car.
6. They have lots of surveillance footage from the store and the neighborhood. The crime happened at a busy time and there were lots of witnesses in the area.
7. Evening rush hour, around 5:30.
8. Police are interviewing witnesses and looking through CCTV footage. Forensics experts are inspecting the store and the car.
9. 320,000
10. In central England, about 150 km NW of London.

Vocabulary

1. e
2. i
3. h
4. b
5. j
6. d
7. g
8. a
9. f
10. c

Gap Fill

1. jewelry store
2. broke into
3. smash through
4. went off
5. fled the store
6. are optimistic
7. footage
8. evening rush hour
9. dozens of witnesses
10. of 320,000

Phrase Match

1. f
2. c
3. b
4. g
5. d
6. e
7. a

Choose the correct word

1. broke
2. entered
3. used
4. to fill
5. filled
6. had driven
7. will
8. on
9. during
10. in
11. at
12. will lead

Transcript

A group of thieves has stolen thousands of pounds worth of Indian gold jewelry from a jewelry store in Coventry, England.

The **1)thieves** broke into the store by driving a Mercedes car through the front window. Then, they entered the store carrying **2)axes**, which they used to smash through the display cases.

The robbers managed to fill several large bags with jewelry before the store alarm went off and smoke filled the store. Unable to see, they fled the store and got away in a different car than the one they had driven through the store window.

Even though the robbers were masked and wearing dark clothing when they committed the crime, police are **4)optimistic** that they will find the thieves. The entire robbery was caught on the jewelry store's video **5)surveillance camera**, and police also have plenty of closed circuit television (CCTV) **6)footage** from neighborhood cameras.

The crime took place during the evening rush hour, around 5:30 p.m. and several witnesses were in the area at that time. One man was threatened by the criminals as he walked past the jewelry store.

7)Detectives are interviewing dozens of witnesses and looking through neighborhood CCTV footage. Forensic experts are **8)scrutinizing** the store and the **9)abandoned** Mercedes, hoping to find **10)evidence** that will lead them to the thieves.

Coventry is a city of about 320,000 located in central England, about 150 km northwest of London.

King of Saudi Arabia Dies

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- What do you think of when you hear the word, "king?"
- Who is the current king of Saudi Arabia?
- What do you know about the royal family of Saudi Arabia?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. Later, you can find the words underlined in the transcript.

Pneumonia	A common infection that occurs in the lungs. People frequently get pneumonia after a cold or the flu. Most people recover from pneumonia, but it can be dangerous for children and elderly people. When pronouncing the word, the "P" is silent. The word sounds like nuh-moan-ya.
De facto	In fact, in reality, but not by law. It is often used when people assume the responsibilities of a position that is not theirs. *Ever since his father's illness, he has become the de facto president of the company. While the dean is away, Professor Guerrazzi will be the de facto dean.*
Stroke (n.)	*A loss of blood supply to the brain. People who experience a stroke often have difficulty speaking or have numbness on one side of their body.*
Legacy	Amount of money that someone leaves to a person or an organization when they die. It can also mean a situation that a person was responsible for creating and leaving behind, either positive or negative. *The president left behind a legacy of corruption and poor management. The police chief leaves a legacy of improved race relations and lower crime rate in the city.*

Listening for main idea

Listen to the podcast and summarize the main idea in two or three sentences.

_____

_____

Listening for details

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. When did King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia die?

   _____

2. What did he die from?

   _____

3. When was King Abdullah's reign?

   _____

4. Who was King Fahd and when was his reign?

   _____

5. Why was King Abdullah Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler since about 1995?

   _____

6. Who was King Abdullah's father?

   _____

7. What positions did King Abdullah hold before he became king?

   _____

   _____

8. What is the Saudi Arabia National Guard?

   _____

9. What do critics say about King Abdullah's rule?

   _____

   _____

10. What notable things did King Abdullah do for Saudi Arabia, according to the podcast?

    _____

    _____

11. Who is the current king of Saudi Arabia and how is he related to the former king??

    _____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with the correct definition on the right. Look at the transcript at the end of this unit to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. *pass away*
2. *bout*
3. *reign*
4. *accede*
5. *successor*
6. *throne*
7. *reform*
8. *intact*
9. *half-brother*
10. *deceased*
11. *prior*

a) *to assume the role of a particular position, often a high-ranking one, like king or president*
b) *the special chair for a king or queen; also used to mean royal position of king or queen*
c) *polite way of saying "die" when referring to people*
d) *before*
e) *an action (law or program) that is intended to change things and make them better*
f) *dead*
g) *the person who will get a particular job or position next*
h) *to rule as a king or queen*
i) *a brother who only shares one parent with their sibling*
j) *a period of time (often used when talking about time someone has bad health.)*
k) *complete and undamaged*

Gap Fill

Listen to the audio and fill in the blanks with the words you hear. Many blanks will have more than one word.

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia 1) _____ on January 23, 2015 at the age of 90.

The king's death came after a bout of pneumonia. He had been in the hospital since December 31.

King Abdullah officially became king in 2005, but had been Saudi Arabia's

2) _____since at least 1995. His brother, King Fahd, who reigned from 1982 – 2005 had health problems and in 1995, suffered a stroke.

King Abdullah was born on August 1, 1924 in Riyadh. He was the 13th son of the 3) _____ King Abdulaziz. King Abdullah grew up in the royal palaces and held many government positions before acceding 4)_____. In 1961, he became mayor of Mecca, and the following year he was made 5)_____ of the Saudi Arabia National Guard. This army is mainly responsible for protecting the royal family. In 1982 Abdullah became Crown Prince, the second highest position in the kingdom and 6)_____.

Critics disagree as to the effectiveness of King Abdullah's rule. Some say he made 7)_____ in the kingdom, while others claim he was concerned mostly with keeping the royal family's power intact.

Part of King Abdullah's 8) _____ will likely be in the areas of education and international relations. The king established a scholarship program that has sent thousands of young Saudis 9)_____ to receive university education. Under King Abdullah's leadership, Saudi Arabia joined the World Trade Organization.

The new king of Saudi Arabia is 79-year old Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He is the half-brother of the 10) _____King Abdullah. King Salman had been the Crown Prince since 2012 and 11) _____ was the Governor of Riyadh Province for almost 50 years.

Discussion Questions

Depending on your situation, do one or more of the following.

a. *Record your answers and send me an audio file.*
b. *Discuss the questions in a small group and then share your answers with your class.*
c. *Write the answers to one or more questions and send them to me.*

1. *Briefly discuss what you know about the last king of Afghanistan.*
2. *Discuss relations between Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan.*
3. *What are the disadvantages of rule by monarchy in modern times? Are there any advantages?*

Word Choice

Circle the correct word.

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia **1 (has passed away /passed away)** on January 23, 2015 at the age of 90.

The king's death came after a bout of pneumonia. He **2 (has been / had been)** in the hospital since December 31.

King Abdullah officially became king in 2005, but **3 (has been / had been)** Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler since at least 1995. His brother, King Fahd, who reigned from 1982 – 2005 had health problems and in 1995, **4(has suffered / suffered)** a stroke.

King Abdullah was born on August 1, 1924 in Riyadh. He was the 13th son of the former King Abdulaziz. King Abdullah **5(was growing up / grew up)** in the royal palaces and **6(was holding / held)** many government positions before acceding to the role of king. In 1961, he became mayor of Mecca, and the following year he was made commander of the Saudi Arabia National Guard. This army is mainly responsible for protecting the royal family. In 1982, Abdullah became Crown Prince, the second highest position in the kingdom and successor to the throne.

Critics **7(are disagreeing / disagree)** as to the effectiveness of King Abdullah's rule. Some say he made important reforms in the kingdom, while others claim he was concerned mostly with keeping the royal family's power intact.

Part of King Abdullah's lasting legacy will likely be in the areas of education and international relations. The king **8(had established / established)** a scholarship program that has sent thousands of young Saudis abroad to receive university education. Under King Abdullah's **9(leader / leadership),** Saudi Arabia joined the World Trade Organization.

The new king of Saudi Arabia is 79-year old Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He is the half-brother of the deceased King Abdullah. King Salman **10 (had been / has been)** the Crown Prince since 2012 and prior to that was the Governor of Riyadh Province for almost 50 years.

Pronunciation – Shadow Reading

After you've listened to the audio a couple of times, go back and listen with the transcript, paying attention to pronunciation. You should mark words that receive a lot of stress and those that have an unusual pronunciation for you. If possible, you could also mark which words are connected together when spoken. Next, listen to the audio and read it out loud along with the speaker. This type of practice, called shadow reading, is a good way for you to practice your pronunciation. When you

speak at the same time as a native speaker, it helps you use similar rhythm and intonation as the native speaker. Finally, record yourself reading the transcript out loud and then listen to the original. If possible have a native speaker listen to your audio. Feel free to send me your audio if you want some feedback.

Answers

Listening for Main Idea

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia died recently. His half-brother, Salman, is now king.

Listening for Details

1. January 23, 2015
2. Pneumonia
3. 2005-2015
4. King Fahd was a brother of King Abdullah and was king from 1982-2005.
5. Because his brother had poor health and in 1995 he had a stroke.
6. King Abdulaziz
7. Mayor of Mecca, Commander of the Saudi Arabia National Guard, Crown Prince
8. Army that protects the royal family.
9. They disagree. Some say he made good reforms while others say he was mostly interested in protecting his family's power.
10. He established educational scholarships for students to study abroad and he was responsible for Saudi Arabia joining the World Trade Organization.
11. King Salman, King Abdullah's half-brother.

Vocabulary

1. C
2. J
3. H
4. A
5. G
6. b
7. e
8. k
9. i
10. f
11. d

Gap Fill

1. passed away
2. de facto ruler
3. former
4. to the role of the king
5. commander
6. successor to the throne
7. important reforms
8. lasting legacy
9. abroad
10. deceased
11. prior to that

Word Choice

1. passed away
2. had been
3. had been
4. suffered
5. grew up
6. held
7. disagree
8. established
9. leadership
10. had been

Transcript

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia **1)passed away** on January 23, 2015 at the age of 90.

The king's death came after a **2)bout** of pneumonia. He had been in the hospital since December 31.

King Abdullah officially became king in 2005, but had been Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler since at least 1995. His brother, King Fahd, who **3)reigned** from 1982 – 2005 had health problems and in 1995, suffered a stroke.

King Abdullah was born on August 1, 1924 in Riyadh. He was the 13th son of the former King Abdulaziz. King Abdullah grew up in the royal palaces and held many government positions before **4)acceding** to the role of king. In 1961, he became mayor of Mecca, and the following year he was made Commander of the Saudi Arabia National Guard. This army is mainly responsible for protecting the royal family. In 1982 Abdullah became Crown Prince, the second highest position in the kingdom and **5)successor** to the **6)throne**.

Critics disagree as to the effectiveness of King Abdullah's rule. Some say he made important **7)reforms** in the kingdom, while others claim he was concerned mostly with keeping the royal family's power **8)intact**.

Part of King Abdullah's lasting legacy will likely be in the areas of education and international relations. The king established a scholarship program that has sent thousands of young Saudis abroad to receive university education. Under King Abdullah's leadership, Saudi Arabia joined the World Trade Organization.

The new king of Saudi Arabia is 79-year old Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He is the **9)half-brother** of the **10)deceased** King Abdullah. King Salman had been the Crown Prince since 2012 and **11)prior** to that was the Governor of Riyadh Province for almost 50 years.

13 Year-old Boy Founds Company in Santa Clara, California

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- What do you know about the Braille system?
- Are children capable of coming up with ideas that can be helpful to society?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. Later, you can find the words underlined in the transcript.

Braille	A system for reading that is used by blind and visually impaired people. It uses a series of raised dots that can be felt with the fingers.
Seed money	Money that is used in the early stages of a new business or project.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer; the top-ranking person in a company.
Intel	One of the world's largest manufacturers of semiconductor chips used in the computer industry.

Listening for main idea

Listen to the podcast and summarize the main idea in two or three sentences.

_____

_____

_____

Listening for details

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. How old is Shubham Banerjee?

   _____

2. What is does his company do?

   _____

3. How much do Braille printers usually cost?

   _____

4. Why did Banerjee decide to make a new printer?

   _____

   _____

5. What did Banerjee make his printer from?

   _____

6. About how much did his printer cost to make?

   _____

7. What is Banerjee's family involvement with his company?

   _____

   _____

8. Why did Intel give Banerjee's company some funding?

   _____

9. What is the White House Maker Faire?

   _____

   _____

10. Are Banerjee and his parents the only people who work at Braigo Labs?

    _____

11. What are Braigo Labs' goals for this year?

    _____

    _____

12. Why is Banerjee offering his printer design for free?

    _____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with the correct definition on the right. Look at the transcript at the end of this unit to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. founder
2. unattainable
3. alternative
4. hardware store
5. attempt (n.)
6. prototype
7. chip
8. innovative
9. undisclosed
10. promote
11. entrepreneurship

a) an act of trying to achieve something
b) short for microchip, used in computers to store memory and for processing data
c) the process of starting a business, usually by an individual
d) using new ideas and methods; original
e) something available as another choice
f) a person who establishes a company or organization
g) unreachable or impossible to get
h) store that sells items used for home repairs and improvements such as electrical supplies, nails, paint, etc.
i) to help something develop
j) the very first model of an object that someone is making
k) not public information; secret

Gap Fill

Listen to the audio and fill in the blanks with the words you hear. Many blanks will have more than one word.

Shubham Banerjee is just 13 years old, but he already has
1)_____.

He is the founder of Braigo Labs, a company that is developing a new, cheaper,
2)_____.

Banerjee became interested in printers when he did some research on how blind people 3)_____ He discovered that Braille printers cost about $2000, and that 90% of the world's blind people live in developing countries. Realizing this high price makes printers 4)_____ for most people in the world, Banerjee decided to do something about it.

For his school science project, Banerjee developed an alternative Braille printer. He used a Lego robotics kit that cost $349 and purchased 5)_____ at a hardware store that cost around $5. After several attempts and many late nights, Banerjee succeeded in making his printer work.

His parents then decided to help him 6)_____ a company and gave him some seed money. Banerjee's mother is the CEO, his father is a board member, and Banerjee himself is founder.

The Braigo prototype used an Intel chip for its software. Intel was impressed with Banarjee's 7)_____ of its chip and has invested an undisclosed amount in Braigo Labs.

In just one year, Banerjee has received lots of recognition and numerous awards, including 8)_____ to participate at the White House Maker Faire. The first ever Maker Faire was hosted by President Obama, and is part of Obama's action plan to 9)_____ manufacturing, innovation and entrepreneurship. Banerjee was one of just 100 people invited to showcase their 10)_____.

Banerjee is now back in school, and his company employs engineers and scientists. The company hopes to have a model available this summer for blind organizations to test. Then, 11)_____, it will release a model on the consumer market later this year.

And true to Banerjee's motivation of greater accessibility, he has promised to make his printer design available 12)_____.

Discussion Questions

Depending on your situation, do one or more of the following.

a. *Record your answers and send me an audio file.*
b. *Discuss the questions in a small group and then share your answers with your class.*
c. *Write the answers to one or more questions and send them to me.*

1. What do you think of Shubham Banerjee and his new printer?
2. Do you know of any businesses that make a product whose role it is to help people? Discuss.
3. How important is it for governments to encourage and support innovation?
4. Are there any programs that you know of in Afghanistan that encourage and support innovation? Discuss.

5. What do you think of Banerjee offering his design for free? Many companies protect their designs with patents. Do you think a company can still make a profit if it offers some of their ideas and designs for free?

Word Choice

Circle the correct word.

Shubham Banerjee is just 13 years old, but he already has his own company.

He is the founder of Braigo Labs, a company that is developing a new, cheaper, Braille printer.

Banerjee **1 (has become / became)** interested in the printers when he did some research on how blind people read and write. He discovered that Braille printers cost about $2000, and that 90% of the world's blind people **2 (live / are living)** in developing countries. Realizing this high price makes printers unattainable for most people in the world, Banerjee decided to do something about it.

For his school science project, Banerjee developed an alternative Braille printer. He used a Lego robotics kit that cost $349 and purchased a few small parts **3 (at / in)** a hardware store that cost around $5. After several attempts and many late nights, Banerjee succeeded **4 (in making / to make)** his printer work.

His parents then decided to help him set up a company and gave him some seed money. Banerjee's mother is the CEO, his father is a board member, and Banerjee himself is founder.

The Braigo prototype uses an Intel chip for its software. Intel was **5 (impressive / impressed)** with Banarjee's innovative use of **6 (its / it's)** chip and has invested an undisclosed amount **7 (in / on)** his company.

In just one year, Banerjee has received lots of recognition and numerous awards, including an invitation **8 (to participate / for participating)** at the White House Maker Faire. The first ever Maker Faire was hosted by President Obama, and is part of Obama's action plan to promote and support manufacturing, innovation and entrepreneurship. Banerjee was one of just 100 people invited to showcase their innovations.

Banerjee is back in school, and his company now **9 (employs / is employing)** engineers and scientists. The company hopes to have a model available this summer for blind organizations to test. Then, if all goes **10 (good / well),** it will release a model on the consumer market later this year.

And true to Banerjee's motivation of greater accessibility, he has promised to make his printer design available free of charge.

Pronunciation – Shadow Reading

After you've listened to the audio a couple of times, go back and listen with the transcript, paying attention to pronunciation. You should mark words that receive a lot of stress and those that have an unusual pronunciation for you. If possible, you could also mark which words are connected together when spoken. Next, listen to the audio and read it out loud along with the speaker. This type of practice, called shadow reading, is a good way for you to practice your pronunciation. When you speak at the same time as a native speaker, it helps you use similar rhythm and intonation as the native speaker. Finally, record yourself reading the transcript out loud and then listen to the original. If possible have a native speaker listen to your audio. Feel free to send me your audio if you want some feedback.

Answers

Listening for Main Idea

A 13-year old boy has developed a Braille printer that is substantially cheaper than previous models. He created the printer using Lego parts.

Listening for Details

1. 13 years old
2. makes a Braille printer at a much cheaper price than other printers on the market
3. $2000
4. because he thought the cost was too expensive for most people
5. Legos, small hardware parts and an Intel microchip
6. About $350
7. Mother is CEO; father is board member
8. Because they were impressed with his innovative use of their microchip
9. A faire where people showcase their innovations. It is part of Obama's initiative to encourage and support manufacturing, innovation and entrepreneurship.
10. No; they have also hired engineers and scientists
11. Make a model for blind organizations and have a model ready for the consumer market.
12. Because his motivation was to provide blind people with more affordable printers. If someone wants to make their own, they can use his design.

Vocabulary

1. f
2. g
3. e
4. h
5. a
6. j
7. b
8. d
9. k
10. i
11. c

Gap Fill

1. his own company
2. Braille printer
3. read and write
4. unattainable
5. a few small parts
6. if all goes well
7. set up
8. innovative use
9. an invitation
10. encourage and support
11. innovations
12. free of charge

Word Choice

1. became
2. live
3. at
4. in making
5. impressive
6. its
7. in
8. to participate
9. employs
10. well

Transcript

Shubham Banerjee is just 13 years old, but he already has his own company.

Banerjee is the **1)founder** of Braigo Labs, a company that is developing a new, cheaper, Braille printer.

Banerjee became interested in Braille printers when he did some research on how blind people read and write. He discovered that Braille printers cost about $2000, and that 90% of the world's blind people live in developing countries. Realizing this high price tag makes printers **2)unattainable** for most people in the world, Banerjee decided to do something about it.

For his school science project, Banerjee developed an **3)alternative** Braille printer. He used a Lego robotics kit that cost $349 and purchased a few small parts at a **4)hardware store** that cost around $5. After several **5)attempts** and many late nights, Banerjee succeeded in making his printer work.

His parents then decided to help him set up a company and gave him some seed money. Banerjee's mother is the CEO, his father is a board member, and Banerjee himself is founder.

The Braigo **6)prototype** used an Intel **7)chip** for its software. Intel was impressed with Banerjee's **8)innovative** use of its chip and has invested an **9)undisclosed** amount in Braigo Labs.

In just one year, Banerjee has received lots of recognition and numerous awards, including an invitation to participate at the White House Maker Faire. The first ever Maker Faire was hosted by President Obama, and is part of Obama's action plan to **10)promote** and support manufacturing, innovation and **11)entrepreneurship**. Banerjee was one of just 100 people invited to participate.

Banerjee is now back in school, and his company employs engineers and scientists. The company hopes to have a model available this summer for blind organizations to test. Then, if all goes well, it will release a model on the consumer market later this year.

And true to Banerjee's motivation of greater accessibility, he has promised to make his printer design available free of charge.

Barbara Stegemann and The 7 Virtues

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- What do you know about perfume making?
- Does Afghanistan grow any crops that are used in making perfumes?
- Have you heard of The 7 Virtues company?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. Later, you can find the words underlined in the transcript.

Atlantic Canada	The eastern part of Canada; the provinces of Canada that are next to the Atlantic Ocean.
Fragrance	A pleasant smell.
Distiller	A person who distills. To distill is to use a chemical process to separate liquids into their different parts. Distilling is used in many industries. It is used in industrial chemistry, fossil fuel industry, alcohol production and perfume production.
Essential oils	Oils that are produced by distilling. The oils have a very concentrated fragrance of their original source. For example, rose oil is made from distilling thousands of rose petals and produces an oil that has a strong rose scent. Essential oils are used in perfume manufacturing.
Economic empowerment	The act of helping make someone have the ability to improve their economic situation. Empowerment is about giving people the ability to do things for themselves, not doing it for them.

Listening for main idea

Listen to the podcast and summarize the main idea in two or three sentences.

_____

_____

_____

Listening for details

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. What is The 7 Virtues and where is it located?

   _____

2. What is unusual about The 7 Virtues?

   _____

3. From which countries has Stegemann sourced her essential oils?

   _____

4. What is Stegemann's educational background?

   _____

5. What did Stegemann do before she launched The 7 Virtues?

   _____

6. Describe the early stages of Stegemann's perfume company.

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

7. Explain Stegemann's views on charity.

   _____

   _____

8. What does Stegemann say about buying legal crops?

   _____

   _____

9. What are the names of the two perfumes that are sourced from Afghanistan?

   _____

10. Name one award that Stegemann has received.

    _____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with the correct definition on the right. Look at the transcript at the end of this unit to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. *source (v.)*
2. *prior*
3. *launch*
4. *entrepreneur*
5. *sell out*
6. *batch*
7. *secure*
8. *expand*
9. *philanthropic*
10. *charity*
11. *fair price*
12. *alternative*
13. *select (adj.)*

a) *a different choice*
b) *giving funds for humanitarian purposes*
c) *a group of products that are made at the same time*
d) *before*
e) *to sell all of a product that you have*
f) *a small number, carefully chosen*
g) *to obtain form a particular source*
h) *the act of giving help such as food and money to people who need it.*
i) *a person who runs a business and usually takes some risk to make a profit.*
j) *a price that is fair to both the buyer and the seller*
k) *to start something, especially a new business or product*
l) *obtain; get*
m) *to make bigger*

Gap Fill

Listen to the audio and fill in the blanks with the words you hear. Many blanks will have more than one word.

Barbara Stegemann runs The 7 Virtues, a small perfume company based in Atlantic Canada.

What's unusual about this company besides Stegemann herself, is that she sources the 1)_____ used in her perfumes from countries that many companies wouldn't think of doing business with. Stegemann buys her essential oils from countries that are 2)_____ from war or natural disasters.

The 7 Virtues has 5 perfumes in its line whose essential oils are from Afghanistan, Haiti, Israel, Iran and Rwanda.

Stegemann was born in Montreal, Canada and 3)_____ sociology and journalism from the University of King's College in Halifax, Canada. Prior to

launching her fragrance company, Stegemann had her own public relations company and published a book for female entrepreneurs.

Stegemann launched her fragrance company in 2010 4)_____ to get a loan from the bank. Instead, she used $2000 from her credit card to purchase 5)_____ from a distiller in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. From that purchase, she made 1000 bottles of perfume. She offered her perfume for sale on International Women's Day and sold the bottles 6)_____. She sold out of that first batch and she was then able to secure funding to expand her business.

Stegeman insists her company is not a philanthropic one, that she doesn't believe in charity, but rather 7)_____. She believes that businesses and consumers can play a role in helping countries rebuild by paying fair price for their products. Stegeman says, "Each time we purchase essential oils distilled from legal crops we are doing our part to provide 8)_____ to the illegal poppy crop."

Stegemann has 9)_____ sourced from Afghanistan: Afghanistan Orange Blossom, which is the first fragrance she produced, and another called the Noble Rose.

Stegemann has won 10)_____ including an Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Atlantic Canada, and a Woman Innovators Award from the US State Department.

Her perfumes are for sale on The 7 Virtues website and at 11)_____ in Canada, the US, and Europe.

Discussion Questions

Depending on your situation, do one or more of the following.

a. *Record your answers and send me an audio file.*
b. *Discuss the questions in a small group and then share your answers with your class.*
c. *Write the answers to one or more questions and send them to me.*

1. What do you think of Stegemann's statement that she believes in economic empowerment rather than charity?
2. What do you think of Stegemann's company?
3. Do you think Stegemann's company could be a role model for other companies? How so?
4. What are some crops that farms are being encouraged to grow instead of poppies? Have they been successful? Why or why not?

Choose the right word

Circle the correct word.

Barbara Stegemann runs The 7 Virtues, a small perfume company based in Atlantic Canada.

What's unusual about this company besides Stegemann herself, is that she sources the essential oils **1(used / using)** in her perfumes from countries that many companies wouldn't think of doing business with. Stegemann **2(buys / is buying)** her essential oils from countries that (rebuild /are rebuilding) from war or natural disasters.

The 7 Virtues has 5 perfumes in its line whose essential oils are from Afghanistan, Haiti, Israel, Iran and Rwanda.

Stegemann was born in Montreal, Canada and has degrees in sociology and journalism from the University of King's College in Halifax, Canada. Prior to launching her fragrance company, Stegemann **3(was having / had)** her own public relations company and **4(was publishing / published)** a book for female entrepreneurs.

Stegemann launched her fragrance company in 2010 without being able to get a loan from the bank. Instead, she used $2000 from her credit card to purchase orange blossom oils from a distiller in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. From that purchase, she made 1000 bottles of perfume. She **5(was offering / offered)** her perfume for sale on International Women's Day and sold the bottles from her garage. She sold out of that first batch and she was then able to secure funding to **6(expand / expansion)** her business.

Stegeman insists her company is not a **7(philanthropic / philanthropy)** one, that she doesn't believe in charity, but rather **8(economic / economy)** empowerment. She believes that businesses and consumers can play a role in helping countries rebuild by paying fair price for their products. Stegeman says, "Each time we purchase essential oils distilled from legal crops we are doing our part to provide alternatives to the illegal poppy crop."

Stegemann has two perfumes sourced from Afghanistan: Afghanistan Orange Blossom, **9(which / that)** is the first fragrance she produced, and another called the Noble Rose.

Stegemann has **10(won / been winning)** several awards including an Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Atlantic Canada, and a Woman Innovators Award from the US State Department.

Her perfumes are for sale on The 7 Virtues website and at select stores in Canada, the US, and Europe.

Pronunciation – Shadow Reading

After you've listened to the audio a couple of times, go back and listen with the transcript, paying attention to pronunciation. You should mark words that receive a lot of stress and those that have an unusual pronunciation for you. If possible, you could also mark which words are connected together when spoken. Next, listen to the audio and read it out loud along with the speaker. This type of practice, called shadow reading, is a good way for you to practice your pronunciation. When you speak at the same time as a native speaker, it helps you use similar rhythm and intonation as the native speaker. Finally, record yourself reading the transcript out loud and then listen to the original. If possible have a native speaker listen to your audio. Feel free to send me your audio if you want some feedback.

Answers

Listening for Main Idea

Barbara Stegemann runs the 7 Virtues, a perfume company that sources its essential oils from countries that are rebuilding.

Listening for Details

1. Perfume company in Atlantic Canada
2. They do business with companies/ people in countries that are rebuilding from war and disasters.
3. Afghanistan, Israel, Iran, Haiti, and Rwanda
4. Degrees in Sociology and Journalism
5. She had her own public relations company and published a book.
6. She could not get a bank loan so used her credit card to buy $2000 worth of orange blossom oils from a distiller in Jalalabad. She made 1000 bottles of perfume and sold them all. Her business was launched on International Women's Day.
7. She believes that economic empowerment is better than charity.
8. That by buying legal crops they are helping to provide alternatives to the farmers (alternatives to the illegal poppy crop).
9. Afghanistan Orange Blossom and the Noble Rose
10. Entrepreneur of the Year / Woman Innovators Award

Vocabulary

1. g
2. d
3. k
4. i
8. m
9. b
10. h
11. j

5. e
6. c
7. l
12. a
13. f

Gap Fill

1. essential oils
2. rebuilding
3. degrees in
4. without being able
5. orange blossom oils
6. from her garage
7. economic empowerment
8. alternatives
9. two perfumes
10. several awards
11. select stores

Choose the correct word

1. used
2. buys
3. had
4. published
5. offered
6. expand
7. philanthropic
8. economic
9. which
10. won

Transcript

Barbara Stegemann runs The 7 Virtues, a small perfume company based in Atlantic Canada.

What's unusual about this company besides Stegemann herself, is that she **1)sources** the essential oils used in her perfumes from countries that many companies wouldn't think of doing business with. Stegemann buys her essential oils from countries that are rebuilding from war or natural disasters.

The 7 Virtues has 5 perfumes in its line whose essential oils are from Afghanistan, Haiti, Israel, Iran and Rwanda.

Stegemann was born in Montreal, Canada and has degrees in sociology and journalism from the University of King's College in Halifax, Canada. **2) Prior** to launching her fragrance company, Stegemann had her own public relations company and published a self-help book for female **4)entrepreneurs**.

Stegemann **3)launched** her fragrance company in 2010 without being able to get a loan from the bank. Instead, she used $2000 from her credit card to purchase orange blossom oils from a distiller in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. From that purchase,

she made 1000 bottles of perfume. She offered her perfume for sale on International Women's Day and sold the bottles from her garage. She **5) sold out** of that first **6)batch** and she was then able to **7)secure** funding to **8)expand** her business.

Stegeman insists her company is not a **9)philanthropic** one, that she doesn't believe in **10)charity**, but rather economic empowerment. She believes that businesses and consumers can play a role in helping countries rebuild by paying **11)fair price** for their products. Stegeman says, "Each time we purchase essential oils distilled from legal crops we are doing our part to provide **12)alternatives** to the illegal poppy crop."

Stegemann has two perfumes sourced from Afghanistan: Afghanistan Orange Blossom, which is the first fragrance she produced, and another called the Noble Rose.

Stegemann has won several awards including an Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Atlantic Canada, and a Woman Innovators Award from the US State Department.

Her perfumes are for sale on The 7 Virtues website and at **13)select** stores in Canada, the US, and Europe.

Tigers Making a Comeback in India

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- What is the Endangered Species List?
- Are there animals in Afghanistan that are on the list? What do you know about them?
- What is the reason that animals become extinct or close to extinct?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. Later, you can find the words underlined in the transcript.

Habitat	The natural environment / area where an animal or plant normally lives
Conservation	The careful protection of something. Can be manmade, for example, paintings or historical artifacts. Can also be natural things like rivers, forests and animals.
Endangered Species List	A list of animals and plants that are close to becoming extinct. Endangered means to be in danger of something. So, in this case, it means to be in danger of becoming extinct.
Poach	To illegally hunt animals or catch fish
To be fuelled by something	To fuel something means to provide power to something, by coal, gas or electricity, for example. Figuratively, if you are fuelled *by* something, it means that thing gives you the energy or the power to do something. E.g. *His hard work is fuelled by his desire to provide for his family*. (He finds the energy to work hard because he is motivated to provide for his family.) *Poaching is fuelled by a huge demand of illegal tiger parts in China.* (The demand for illegal tiger parts gives power to poaching, helps it grow.)
Beef up	An idiom that means to increase, improve or strengthen something. *The company will beef up its production next month. We need to beef up the marketing deparment.*

Listening for main idea

Listen to the podcast and summarize the main idea in two or three sentences.

_____

_____

_____

Listening for details

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. What did the Indian Environment Minister announce?

   _____

2. India has what percentage of the world's wild tigers?

   _____

3. What was the world tiger population 100 years ago and what is it now?

   _____

4. What are some reasons for the decline in the tiger population?

   _____

   _____

5. What is the greatest threat to tiger survival?

   _____

6. When did tigers make the endangered species list?

   _____

7. Why is there a demand for tiger parts?

   _____

8. What is Project Tiger? When was it established?

   _____

   _____

   _____

9. What happened at Sariska Tiger Reserve that created a scandal?

   _____

10. How did officials respond to the scandal at Sariska Tiger Reserve?

    _____

    _____

_____

_____

11. Why do conservationists say we should not become complacent?

_____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with the correct definition on the right. Look at the transcript at the end of this unit to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. Decline	*a) to prohibit; to not allow*
2. Ultimately	*b) disappear*
3. Destruction	*c) to make happen*
4. Prey (n.)	*d) to watch an area by walking or travelling through it*
5. Proximity	*e) to follow; to happen as a result of something*
6. Ensue	*f) nearness*
7. Ban	*g) to become lower in number*
8. Reserve (n.)	*h) an animal that another animal kills to eat and survive*
9. Vanish	*i) something that makes people want to do something*
10. Trigger (v.)	*j) in the end*
11. Patrol (v.)	*k) to be satisfied with the situation and to not want to think about potential problems*
12. Incentive	
13. Complacent	*l) the act of damaging something badly, so that it can't be repaired.*
	m) a natural, protected area established for wild animals

Gap Fill

Listen to the audio and fill in the blanks with the words you hear. Many blanks will have more than one word.

Indian Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar, recently announced that India's tiger population has risen 30% over the past 3 years. Tigers in India now number 2226, whereas in 2010, the number was 1) _____ to be 1706.

That's good news for tigers worldwide as 70% of the world's tigers live in India. The

rest are dispersed mainly in China, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

100 years ago, the 2) _____ was estimated to be around 100,000. Now, that number is believed to be just 3200 worldwide.

The drastic decline in the tiger population can be attributed to a number of factors, which are ultimately linked to increasing human populations. As humans develop land for their own use, there is a 3) _____ of tiger habitat and a decrease in available prey for tigers. As well, when humans and tigers live in close proximity, conflict often ensues. Tigers may eat villagers' livestock, 4) _____ and attack people in the village. As a result, villagers often do not think positively of tigers and may work against conservation efforts.

And lastly, probably one of the 5) _____ to tigers is poaching.

Tigers have been on the endangered species list since 1987, but many continue to be killed each year. Poaching is fuelled by a large demand, especially in China, for tiger parts. Tiger organs and bones are used in 6) _____ Chinese medicine. A poacher can earn up to $50,000 for one tiger.

India has been trying to protect its tigers for some time now. In 1973, Indira Gandhi helped set up the national 7) _____ program called Project Tiger. Hunting was banned and reserves were set up throughout the country where tigers could live protected in their own 8) _____. India currently has 47 tiger reserves.

So if reserves have been in place since the 1970s, why has the population of tigers just recently increased? Managing wildlife populations and 9) _____ poachers is a complicated affair, but clearly something different took place that increased the numbers.

That something was the Sariska Tiger Reserve. In 2004, it was discovered that the reserve, which was supposed to have somewhere between 16 and 22 tigers, had none at all. They had simply 10) _____. This was a huge scandal that was widely reported in Indian media and beyond.

Officials responded by 11) _____ several areas of tiger conservation. They increased spending on management of the reserves, improved patrol within the reserves and offered money and sometimes land as incentives for villagers to move off reserves. Several poachers 12) _____ after an intensive search was carried out.

The results are promising, but we shouldn't get complacent, conservationists warn. As long as the lure of easy money exists, poachers will be on the lookout for new ways to get their tigers.

Discussion Questions

Depending on your situation, do one or more of the following.

a. *Record your answers and send me an audio file.*
b. *Discuss the questions in a small group and then share your answers with your class.*
c. *Write the answers to one or more questions and send them to me.*

1. Do you know of any endangered species in Afghanistan? What do you know about them?
2. Check the endangered species list online and search for the animals that are listed in Afghanistan? Are you familiar with any of them? What do you know about them?
3. Managing animal reserves can be complicated. There is often a conflict between human needs and animal needs. What are those needs and how do they conflict?
4. Is it possible to meet both human needs and animal needs? How would you manage those if you were in charge?

Choose the right word

Circle the correct word.

Indian Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar, recently announced that India's tiger population has risen 30% over the past 3 years. Tigers in India now number 2226, whereas in 2010, the number was estimated to be 1706.

That's good news for tigers worldwide since 70% of the world's tigers **1 (live / are living)** in India. The rest are dispersed mainly in China, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

100 years ago, the tiger population was estimated to be around 100,000. Now, that number is believed to be just 3200 worldwide.

The drastic decline **2 (in / on)** the tiger population can be attributed to a number of factors, which **3 (is / are)** ultimately linked to increasing human populations. As humans develop land for their own use, there is a destruction of tiger habitat and a decrease in available prey for tigers. As well, when humans and tigers **4 (live / are living)** in close proximity, conflict often ensues. Tigers may eat **5 (villager's / villagers')** livestock, destroy property and attack people in the village. As a result, villagers often do not think positively of tigers and may work against conservation efforts.

And lastly, probably one of the greatest threats to tigers is poaching.

Tigers **6 (have been / were)** on the endangered species list since 1987, but many continue to be killed each year. Poaching is fuelled by a large demand, especially in

China, for tiger parts. Tiger organs and bones are used in traditional Chinese medicine. A poacher can earn up to $50,000 for one tiger.

India has been trying to protect its tigers for some time now. In 1973, Indira Gandhi helped set up the national conservation program called Project Tiger. Hunting was banned and reserves were set up throughout the country where tigers could live protected in their own habitat. India currently has 47 tiger reserves.

So if reserves **7 (were / have been)** in place since the 1970s, why has the population of tigers just recently increased? Managing wildlife populations and controlling poachers is a complicated affair, but clearly something different took place that increased the numbers.

That something was the Sariska Tiger Reserve. In 2004, officials **8 (discovered / have discovered)** that the reserve, which was supposed to have somewhere between 16 and 22 tigers, had none at all. They had simply vanished. This was a huge scandal that was widely reported in Indian media and beyond.

Officials responded by beefing **9 (at / up)** several areas of tiger conservation. They increased spending on management of the reserves, improved patrol inside the reserves, and offered incentives (money and sometimes land) for villagers to move off reserves. Several poachers were arrested after an intensive search was carried **10) on / out**.

The results are promising, but we shouldn't get complacent, conservationists warn. As long as the lure of easy money exists, poachers will be on the lookout for new ways to get their tigers.

Pronunciation – Shadow Reading

After you've listened to the audio a couple of times, go back and listen with the transcript, paying attention to pronunciation. You should mark words that receive a lot of stress and those that have an unusual pronunciation for you. If possible, you could also mark which words are connected together when spoken. Next, listen to the audio and read it out loud along with the speaker. This type of practice, called shadow reading, is a good way for you to practice your pronunciation. When you speak at the same time as a native speaker, it helps you use similar rhythm and intonation as the native speaker. Finally, record yourself reading the transcript out loud and then listen to the original. If possible have a native speaker listen to your audio. Feel free to send me your audio if you want some feedback.

Answers

<u>Listening for Main Idea</u>
The population of wild tigers in India has increased 30%. This is due to a recent increase in conservation efforts.

Listening for Details

1. That India's tiger population had increased by 30% over the last three years.
2. 70%
3. Was 100,000; now 3200
4. Destruction of tiger habitat / decrease in prey / conflict with humans / poaching
5. Poaching
6. 1987
7. They are used in traditional Chinese medicine
8. National conservation program aimed at protecting tigers. Hunting was banned and reserves were set up for tigers to live in.
9. Its tigers disappeared
10. Increased funding for management of reserves / increased patrolling / incentives for villagers to move
11. Because there is still a demand for tiger parts, and poachers will find new ways to get their tigers.

Vocabulary

1. g
2. j
3. l
4. h
5. f
6. e
7. a
8. m
9. b
10. c
11. d
12. i
13. k

Gap Fill

1. estimated
2. tiger population
3. destruction
4. destroy property
5. greatest threats
6. traditional
7. conservation
8. habitat
9. controlling
10. vanished
11. beefing up
12. were arrested

Choose the correct word

1. live
2. in
3. are
4. live
5. villagers'
6. have been
7. have been
8. discovered
9. up
10. out

Transcript

Indian Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar, recently announced that India's tiger population has risen 30% over the past 3 years. Tigers in India now number 2226, whereas in 2010, the number was estimated to be 1706.

That's good news for tigers worldwide as 70% of the world's tigers live in India. The rest are dispersed mainly in China, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

100 years ago, the tiger population was estimated to be around 100,000. Now, that number is believed to be just 3200 worldwide.

The drastic **1)decline** in the tiger population can be attributed to a number of factors, which are **2)ultimately** linked to increasing human populations. As humans develop land for their own use, there is a **3)destruction** of tiger habitat and a decrease in available **4)prey** for tigers. As well, when humans and tigers live in close **5)proximity**, conflict often **6)ensues**. Tigers may eat villagers' livestock, destroy property and attack people in the village. As a result, villagers often do not think positively of tigers and may work against conservation efforts.

And lastly, probably one of the greatest threats to tigers is poaching.

Tigers have been on the endangered species list since 1987, but many continue to be killed each year. Poaching is fuelled by a large demand, especially in China, for tiger parts. Tiger organs and bones are used in traditional Chinese medicine. A poacher can earn up to $50,000 for one tiger.

India has been trying to protect its tigers for some time now. In 1973, Indira Gandhi helped set up the national conservation program called Project Tiger. Hunting was **7)banned** and **8)reserves** were set up throughout the country where tigers could live protected in their own habitat. India currently has 47 tiger reserves.

So if reserves have been in place since the 1970s, why has the population of tigers just recently increased? Managing wildlife populations and controlling poachers is a complicated affair, but clearly something different took place that increased the numbers.

That something was the Sariska Tiger Reserve. In 2004, it was discovered that the reserve, which was supposed to have somewhere between 16 and 22 tigers, had none at all. They had simply **9)vanished**. This was a huge scandal that was widely reported in Indian media and beyond.

Officials responded by beefing up several areas of tiger conservation. They increased spending on management of the reserves, improved **11)patrol** within the reserves and offered **12)incentives** (money and sometimes land) for villagers to move off reserves. Several poachers were arrested after an intensive search was carried out.

The results are promising, but we shouldn't get **13)complacent**, conservationists warn. As long as the lure of easy money exists, poachers will be on the lookout for new ways to get their tigers.