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

Mark Zuckerberg Launches Book Club

Pre-listening

Discussion questions

- Have you ever belonged to a book club or a reading club?
- Do you make New Year's resolutions? What resolutions did you make this year?

Vocabulary

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

reception	Welcome or acceptance that something or someone receives. *The government's environmental proposal was met with mild reception.*
different kettle of fish	"Kettle of fish" is a general term that means approximately, "situation." We say something is a "different kettle of fish" to mean that one thing is completely different from another. *The new trade agreement is a completely different kettle of fish.*
consumer demand	A measure of consumers' desire for a particular product or service. *Consumer demand for cell phones remains high in Afghanistan.*
the fact remains	Expression used to emphasize that something is still true and important even though other points may have been raised. Yes, *we have recently hired two new professors, but the fact remains that we still don't have enough faculty to teach the numbers of students enrolled in the program.*

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 Mark Zuckerberg?

   _____

2. What goal did he set for himself in 2015?

   _____

3. How many people have joined Zuckerberg's "A Year in Books"?

   _____

4. How many people participated in the online discussion of the first book?"

   _____

5. What is a possible reason for the low participation rate?

   _____

   _____

6. Though the first book did not enjoy huge success on Zuckerberg's book club, it did have success elsewhere. Explain.

   _____

7. Who was Oprah Winfrey and why are people comparing Zuckerberg to her?

   _____

   _____

8. How did Winfrey work with publishers?

   _____

   _____

   _____

9. Why do some people think that Zuckerberg's book club will not have the same results for book sales as Winfrey's?

   _____

   _____

10. How many followers does Zuckerberg have?

    _____

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 (n.)*	a) *to start or introduce something new, like a product or a campaign.*
2. *launch (v.)*	b) *possibility*
3. *ambitious (adj.)*	c) *show*
4. *exception (n.)*	d) *very large*
5. *mild (v.)*	e) *something or someone that is different from others*
6. *instantaneously (adv.)*	f) *delay in time between to related events*
7. *time lag (n.)*	g) *happening immediately, with no delay*
8. *pundit (n.)*	h) *expert who gives opinions to the public*
9. *indicate (v.)*	i) *showing a strong desire to succeed; can also mean difficult to achieve*
10. *enormous (adj.)*	j) *person who establishes a company, organization, etc.*
11. *potential (n.)*	k) *not strong*

Gap Fill

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

Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, has launched what may be the biggest book club ever.

Like many people, Zuckerberg enjoys making 1) _____ at the beginning of each year, and 2015 was no exception. His goal is to read one book every two weeks.

To that end, on January 2, Zuckerberg launched "A Year in Books" on Facebook and invited his 2) _____to join him. About 250,000 have joined so far. Zuckerberg's Facebook page says he plans to read books that emphasize learning about new cultures, beliefs, histories and technologies. The first book on his list was *The End of Power*, by Moses Naim. So far, 3) _____ has been met with only mild response. Zuckerberg invited his members to join him in

4) _____ question and answer about the book, but only 137 people showed up. Some say this is because of the way Facebook notifications appear on people's Facebook feed. Unlike Twitter, Facebook feed does not appear 5) _____, but can sometimes take two or more hours to show up. It's hard to have an active question and answer session with this type of 6) _____.

Though the question and answer session may have been a disappointment for the book club, it was not a disappointment for the author or the 7) _____. After *The End of Power* was publicly announced for Zuckerberg's book club, it moved to the top 10 position on Amazon, where it had 8) _____ been ranked at #45, 140.

Some pundits have compared Zuckerberg's book club to that of Oprah Winfrey's. Winfrey hosted one of America's most popular 9) _____and began featuring a book discussion section on her television show in 1996. Books that were chosen for her show were sold at bookstores with a sticker on them 10) _____ they were part of the Oprah Winfrey Book club. Those books enjoyed 11) _____ compared to other books.

While some people think Zuckerberg's book club has the 12) _____ to do the same for book sales as Oprah's book club did, others disagree, saying it is a different kettle of fish. Oprah worked with publishers to make sure they knew 13) _____ what books would be on her list. That gave publishers plenty of time to print extra books to meet 14)_____. Zuckerberg is not working with publishers in the same way, at least not yet.

Zuckerberg's book club may or may not be like Oprah Winfrey's, but 15) _____ that Zuckerberg is extremely well-known and has 30 million followers on Facebook. That's sure to create some 16) _____ around the books he chooses.

If you'd like to join Mark Zuckerberg's book club, you can do so by going the Facebook page called A Year of Books.

Discussion or writing

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. *Are there any kinds of reading clubs that are popular in Afghanistan? Explain.*
2. *If you were to start a book or reading club, what books / readings would you include on your list and why?*

Word Choice

Circle the correct word.

Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, has launched what may be the biggest book club ever.

Like many people, Zuckerberg enjoys making ambitious goals **1 (in / at)** the beginning of each year, and 2015 was no exception. His goal is to read one book every two weeks.

To that end, on January 2, Zuckerberg launched "A Year in Books" on Facebook and invited his followers to join him. About 250,000 **2 (joined / have joined)** so far.

Zuckerberg's Facebook page says he plans to read books that emphasize learning about new cultures, beliefs, histories and technologies. The first book on his list was *The End of Power*, by Moses Naim. So far, **3 (its / it's)** reception **4 (has been met / was met)** with only mild response. Zuckerberg invited his members to join him in an online question and answer about the book, but only 137 people showed up. Some say this is because of the way Facebook notifications appear on people's Facebook feed. Unlike Twitter, Facebook feed does not appear instantaneously, but can sometimes take two or more hours to show up. It's hard to have an active question and answer session with this type of time lag.

Though the question and answer session may have been a disappointment for the book club, it was not a disappointment for the author or the book's publisher. After *The End of Power* was publicly **5 (announcing / announced)** for Zuckerberg's book club, it moved to the top 10 position on Amazon, where it had previously been ranked at #45, 140.

Some pundits have compared Zuckerberg's book club to that of Oprah Winfrey's. Winfrey hosted one of America's most popular talk shows and **6 (began / has begun)** featuring a book discussion section on her television show in 1996. Books that were chosen **7 (at / for)** her show were sold at bookstores with a sticker on them indicating they were part of the Oprah Winfrey Book club. Those books enjoyed enormous sales compared to other books.

While some people **8 (think / are thinking**) Zuckerberg's book club has the potential to do the same for book sales as Oprah's book club did, others disagree, **9 (they say / saying)** it is a different kettle of fish. Oprah worked with publishers to make sure they knew ahead of time what books **10 (will be / would be)** on her list. That gave publishers plenty of time to print extra books **11 (to meet / for meeting)** consumer demand. Zuckerberg is not working with publishers in the same way, at least not yet.

Zuckerberg's book club may or may not be like Oprah Winfrey's, but the fact remains that Zuckerberg is extremely well-known and has 30 million followers **12 (in / on)** Facebook. That's sure to create some extra interest around the books he chooses.

If **13 (you like / you'd like)** to join Mark Zuckerberg's book club, you can do so by going the Facebook page called *A Year of Books*.

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>
Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook launched a book club in January of 2015. Although the club has many members, participation rate is not very high so far. Some people expect that the book club will be good for book sales.

<u>Listening for detail</u>
1. The founder of Facebook
2. To read one book every two weeks
3. about 250,000
4. 137
5. Facebook feeds have a time lag and this makes it difficult to have an active question and answer session
6. On Amazon it moved from number 45,140 to the top 10 position.

7. She was one of the US's most popular talk show host. She had a book club that was very successful and helped increase sales of books that were featured on her show.
8. She told them what books she was going to feature on her show for her book club. This gave the publishers enough time to print extra books to meet the demand.
9. Because he is not working with publishers in the same way that Winfrey did
10. 30 million

Vocabulary

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

Gap Fill

1. ambitious goals
2. followers
3. its reception
4. an online
5. instantaneously
6. time lag
7. book's publisher
8. previously
9. talk shows
10. indicating
11. enormous sales
12. potential
13. ahead of time
14. consumer demand
15. the fact remains
16. extra interest

Word Choice

1. at
2. have joined
3. its
4. has been met
5. announced
6. began
7. for
8. think
9. saying
10. would be
11. to meet
12. on
13. you'd like

Transcript

Mark Zuckerberg, **1) founder** of Facebook, has **2) launched** what may be the biggest book club ever.

Like many people, Zuckerberg enjoys making **3) ambitious** goals at the beginning of each year, and 2015 was no **4) exception**. His goal is to read one book every two weeks.

To that end, on January 2, Zuckerberg launched "A Year in Books" on Facebook and invited his followers to join him. About 250,000 have joined so far.

Zuckerberg's Facebook page says he plans to read books that emphasize learning about new cultures, beliefs, histories and technologies. The first book on his list was *The End of Power*, by Moses Naim. So far, its reception has been met with only **5) mild** response. Zuckerberg invited his members to join him in an online question and answer about the book, but only 137 people showed up. Some say this is because of the way Facebook notifications appear on people's Facebook feed. Unlike Twitter, Facebook feed does not appear **6) instantaneously**, but can sometimes take two or more hours to show up. It's hard to have an active question and answer session with this type of **7) time lag**.

Though the question and answer session may have been a disappointment for the book club, it was not a disappointment for the author or the book's publisher. After *The End of Power* was publicly announced for Zuckerberg's book club, it moved to the top 10 position on Amazon, where it had previously been ranked at #45, 140.

Some **8) pundits** have compared Zuckerberg's book club to that of Oprah Winfrey's. Winfrey hosted one of America's most popular talk shows and began featuring a book discussion section on her television show in 1996. Books that were chosen for her show were sold at bookstores with a sticker on them **9) indicating** they were part of the Oprah Winfrey Book club. Those books enjoyed **10) enormous** sales compared to other books.

While some people think Zuckerberg's book club has the **11) potential** to do the same for book sales as Oprah's book club did, others disagree, saying it is a different kettle of fish. Oprah worked with publishers to make sure they knew ahead of time what books would be on her list. That gave publishers plenty of time to print extra books to meet consumer demand. Zuckerberg is not working with publishers in the same way, at least not yet.

Zuckerberg's book club may or may not be like Oprah Winfrey's, but the fact remains that Zuckerberg is extremely well known and has 30 million followers on Facebook. That's sure to create some extra interest around the books he chooses.

If you'd like to join Mark Zuckerberg's book club, you can do so by going the Facebook page called *A Year of Books*.

India Launches Campaign to End Discrimination against Female Children

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- Why do you think there is a preference for male children in some cultures?
- What is a dowry?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a dowry?

Vocabulary

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

feticide	The killing of a fetus. *The rate of female feticide is high in India*.
dowry	Money or property that a bride or bride's family brings to the marriage, or sometimes pays to the groom's family. *It is often difficult for families with an average income to provide a dowry for their daughters.*
launch	To start or introduce something new, like a product or a campaign. *Apple will launch a new iPhone in 2016.*
tax deduction	An amount that you can subtract from your taxable income. For example, money that you donate to a charitable organization is usually not taxed. It is a tax deduction.
brand ambassador	A marketing term that means someone who is hired to promote the services, product or message of a company or an organization. The person becomes the "face" of the brand. *The famous soccer player, Pele, is the global brand ambassador for Subway Restaurants.*

Listening for main idea

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

_____

_____

_____

Listening for details

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. What are the goals of Prime Minister Modi's new campaign?

   _____

2. Why have boys been traditionally preferred in India?

   _____

3. Why do some people think that girls are a burden?

   _____

4. What did Modi mean by the statement, "We cannot be counted as citizens of the 21st century?"

   _____

   _____

5. How many female fetuses are aborted each day in India?

   _____

6. For what reason did Modi probably launch the national campaign in Haryana State?

   _____

7. How will the campaign be carried out?

   _____

8. Explain the financial incentives that are part of the campaign.

   _____

   _____

   _____

9. Which celebrity is the brand ambassador for the campaign?

   _____

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. *foster (v.)*	a) *to prohibit; to not allow*
2. *favor (v.)*	b) *to think about something again, with the possibility of changing one's opinion*
3. *burden (n.)*	c) *prefer*
4. *ban (v.)*	d) *a responsibility or duty that causes difficulties*
5. *enforce (v.)*	e) *money that a bank pays regularly to people who have their accounts with the bank*
6. *estimate (v.)*	f) *to make people obey – usually laws*
7. *reconsider (v.)*	g) *to calculate a number that is not exact, but close to exact*
8. *promote (v.)*	h) *something that motivates people to do something*
9. *incentive (n.)*	i) *to give publicity to something to increase public awareness*
10. *interest (n.)*	j) *to encourage to develop*

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 Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new campaign called, "Save the Daughter, Teach the Daughter."

The campaign aims to foster more positive attitudes towards female children, to stop the practice of 1) _____ and to improve attendance of girls in school.

Traditionally boys have been favored in India. Since it is boys who will get paid work, they are able to help their parents 2)_____ when they get older. Girls, however, are sometimes considered a burden because parents must provide 3)_____ in order for girls to get married.

Modi criticized both the attitude of people towards girls and 4)_____ the practice of female feticide, saying, "We cannot be counted as citizens of the 21st century."

Though there are laws in place that ban female feticide in India, they are not 5)_____. It's been estimated that 2000 female fetuses are aborted each day in India. The northern state of Haryana, where Modi 6)_____ the campaign, has a particularly low female to male birth ratio – only 879 girls are born for every 1000 boys. Ratios as low as 775 to 1000 have been calculated for some districts.

Though the 7) _____ was launched in Haryana State, Prime Minister Modi wants all of India to reconsider its attitude towards women. 72 vans will travel throughout the country 8)_____ of the female feticide issue and promoting safety and education for female children. Bans on female feticide will be more strictly enforced.

The campaign has a 9)_____ as well. Parents can open bank accounts for daughters 10 years old and younger. The money in the account will receive higher interest than most accounts and is eligible for 10)_____. The girl can remove the money when she is 21, or if she is at least 18 years old and getting married.

The Hindi film star, Madhuri Dixit, is the 11) _____ of the campaign.

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. Does the dowry system cause difficulties for families in Afghanistan?
2. Is there any movement away from the dowry system? If so, by whom?

3. Modi's campaign has enlisted the help of a film star. Do you think this is a good idea? Do you know of any other causes that celebrities have helped promote?
4. What do you think of Modi's campaign? Which parts do you think will be successful?

Choose the right word

Circle the correct word.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi **1 (launched / has launched)** a new campaign called, "Save the Daughter, Teach the Daughter."

The campaign aims to foster more positive attitudes towards female children, to stop the practice of female feticide and to improve attendance of girls in school.

Traditionally boys have been favored in India. Since it is boys who will get paid work, they are able to help their parents **2(financial / financially)** when they get older. Girls, however, are sometimes considered a burden because parents must **3(to provide / provide**) dowries in order for girls to get married.

Modi criticized both the attitude of people towards girls and **4(on / in)** particular the practice of female feticide, saying, "We cannot be counted as citizens of the 21st century."

Though there are laws in place which ban female feticide in India, they are not always enforced. It's been estimated that 2000 female fetuses are aborted each day in India. The northern state of Haryana, 5**(that / where)** Modi launched the campaign, has a particularly low female to male birth ratio – only 879 girls are born for **6(any / every)** 1000 boys. Ratios as low as 775 to 1000 have been calculated for some districts.

Though the campaign was launched in Haryana State, Prime Minister Modi wants all of India to reconsider **7(its / it's)** attitude towards women. 72 vans will travel throughout the country raising awareness of the female feticide issue and promoting safety and education for female children. Bans on female feticide will be more **8(stricter / strictly)** enforced.

The campaign has a financial incentive **9(as well / in addition).** Parents can open bank accounts for daughters 10 years old and younger. The money in the account will receive higher interest than most accounts and is eligible for tax deductions. The girl can remove the money when she is 21, or if she is **10(the least / at least**) 18 years old and getting married.

The Hindi film star, Madhuri Dixit, is the brand ambassador of the campaign.

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

The Prime Minister of India has launched a campaign that aims to encourage more positive attitudes towards girls, to decrease the rate of female feticide and to improve education for girls.

Listening for Details

1. Encourage more positive attitudes towards girls, to decrease the rate of female feticide and to improve education for girls.
2. They are able to get jobs and thus can help support their parents.
3. Because their parents must pay a dowry when a girl gets married and often, women don't work.
4. He feels that their attitude toward women and the practice of female feticide does not reflect a contemporary attitude.
5. 2000
6. Because they have a very low ration of female to male births, which means the practice of female feticide is common there.
7. 72 vans will travel throughout India, promoting and implementing the program. Also the laws against female feticide will be more strongly enforced.
8. Parents of girls 10 and under, can open bank accounts for their daughters. The money in the account receives a high interest rate and can be used as a tax deduction.
9. Hindi film star, Madhuri Dixit

Vocabulary

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

Gap Fill

1. female feticide
2. financially
3. dowries
4. in particular
5. always enforced
6. launched
7. campaign
8. raising awareness
9. financial incentives
10. tax deductions
11. brand ambassador

Choose the correct word

1. has launched
2. financially
3. provide
4. in
5. where
6. every
7. its
8. strictly
9. as well
10. at least

Transcript

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new campaign called, "Save the Daughter, Teach the Daughter."

The campaign aims to **1) foster** more positive attitudes towards female children, to stop the practice of female feticide and to improve attendance of girls in school.

Traditionally boys have been **2) favored** in India. Since it is boys who will get paid work, they are able to help their parents financially when they get older. Girls, however, are sometimes considered a **3) burden** because parents must provide dowries in order for girls to get married.

Modi criticized both the attitude of people towards girls and in particular the practice of female feticide, saying, "We cannot be counted as citizens of the 21st century."

Though there are laws in place which **4) ban** female feticide in India, they are not always **5) enforced**. It's been **6) estimated** that 2000 female fetuses are aborted each day in India. The northern state of Haryana, where Modi launched the campaign, has a particularly low female to male birth ratio – only 879 girls are born for every 1000 boys. Ratios as low as 775 to 1000 have been calculated for some districts.

Though the campaign was launched in Haryana State, Prime Minister Modi wants all of India to **7) reconsider** its attitude towards women. 72 vans will travel throughout the country raising awareness of the female feticide issue and **8)promoting** safety and education for female children. Bans on female feticide will be more strictly enforced.

The campaign has a financial **9) incentive** as well. Parents can open bank accounts for daughters 10 years old and younger. The money in the account will receive higher **10) interest** than most accounts and is eligible for tax deductions. The girl can remove the money when she is 21 or if she is at least 18 years old and getting married.

The Hindi film star, Madhuri Dixit, is the brand ambassador of the campaign.

For Better Focus, Take a Walk at Lunch

Pre-listening

Warm-up questions

- Do you enjoy walking? How often do you walk?
- Do you participate in any sports?
- Do you do any kind of physical activity (walking, running, yoga, etc.) during your workday? If so, what kind?
- What do you do to increase your concentration at work?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. You can find them underlined in the transcript at the end of this unit.

Bone density	Medical term that refers to the amount of bone minerals (like calcium). As people age, especially women, their bone density decreases and they are more susceptible to breaking their bones. Some exercises, like walking and running are known to increase bone density.
Benefits	Advantages or good points gained from something. *There are several benefits to speaking more than one language. Walking has several health benefits.*
Aerobic fitness	The ability of the heart, blood and lungs to use oxygen. Some exercises that improve aerobic fitness are walking, running and swimming.
Bode	To be a sign for the future; to be a sign that something (good or bad) will happen. *The meeting of the two presidents bodes well for both countries. Those dark clouds do not bode well for our picnic*.

Listening for main idea

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

_____

_____

_____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with their definitions on the right. Look at the transcript to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. *long-term*
2. *tonic*
3. *composer*
4. *immediate*
5. *proof*
6. *concentration*
7. *noticeable*
8. *enthusiastic*
9. *focus (n.)*
10. *advocate (v.)*
11. *productivity*
12. *mood*
13. *implement*
14. *persuade*
15. *proliferation*

a. *to publicly recommend or support something*
b. *a person's emotional state*
c. *a rapid increase in the number of something*
d. *happening instantly, without delay*
e. *easily seen or noticed; significant*
f. *to put a plan into action*
g. *showing a lot of interest and excitement*
h. *lasting for a long time*
i. *a person who writes music*
j. *to encourage someone to believe or do something*
k. *something which is good for health or well-being*
l. *evidence that shows the truth of something*
m. *the act of giving your complete attention to a single activity*
n. *a measure of the effectiveness of a machine, a factory or a person at work*
o. *to give close attention to something*

Listening for Detail

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. What are some of the benefits of walking?

   _____

2. Who are some famous historical figures that are famous for walking?

   _____

3. In the past, most studies on walking focused on what kind of health benefits?

   _____

4. What does the new study in the Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports show?

   _____

5. How many people participated in the study?

   _____

6. Who were the participants?

   _____

7. Briefly describe the study.

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

8. What were the results of the study? (relating to two main areas of health)

   _____

   _____

9. Did this study reveal any information about productivity in the work place?

   _____

   _____

10. Why might this study be good news for people who want to have healthier workplaces?

    _____

    _____

Gap Fill

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

The medical community has known for some time that 1) _____ is good for health. Increased bone density, weight control, and improved heart health are just some of the 2) _____ benefits of regular walking.

And it's no news that walking is good for the mind. Many people walk to clear their thoughts, and famous thinkers 3) _____ have used walking

as a tonic. The Greek philosopher, Aristotle gave his lectures while walking; composers Tchaikovsky and Beethoven went for daily walks; and the 4)_____, Charles Darwin is known to have walked whatever the weather.

Studies in the past focused on the long-term health benefits of walking, but a new study published in the *Scandanavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports* shows there are 5) _____ of walking as well. The study gives scientific proof to what walkers have known all along: walking clears the mind and improves 6) _____.

The study followed a group of 52 people in England who walked on their lunch hour at work. The volunteers, most of whom were middle-aged women, walked for 30 minutes, three times a week. On several days, 7) _____ were asked questions about how they felt. The questions were asked on days that they walked and days they did not walk. The responses were 8) _____. On days that participants walked, they reported feeling less tense and more relaxed, more enthusiastic and having more focus. All participants showed improvement in their aerobic fitness after 10 weeks of walking.

The study may bode well for those who want to 9) _____ healthier workplaces. Though this study did not directly measure productivity of the participants, other studies have linked 10) _____ to mood. When people are enthusiastic and focused, they perform better at work.

Some claim the study is no news; we've known 11) _____ that walking is good for us. However, what we now have is scientific proof and that may make a difference when trying to get management to 12) _____ health policies for the workplace.

Telling the boss that walking was good for Aristotle isn't likely to persuade management to start a health program for staff. But if management has proof that workers perform better when they get some exercise at lunch, then we may begin to see a 13) _____ of walking clubs at work.

Discussion or writing

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. Does your workplace have a fitness facility? If so, do you use it? Why or why not?
2. How do you stay healthy?
3. Do you feel your job interferes with your health? How so?
4. Do you think lunch hour walking clubs would be popular where you work? Why or why not?
5. Do women in Afghanistan face particular challenges for staying physically fit? How could those challenges be met?

Word Choice

Circle the correct word.

The medical community **1 (has / have)** known for some time that daily walking is good for health. Increased bone density, weight control, and improved heart health are just some of the long-term benefits of regular walking.

And it's no news that walking is good for the mind. Many people walk **2 (for clearing / to clear)** their thoughts, and famous thinkers throughout the ages have used walking as a tonic. The Greek philosopher, Aristotle gave his lectures while walking; composers Tchaikovsky and Beethoven **3 (took / went)** for daily walks; and the scientist, Charles Darwin is known to have walked whatever the weather.

Studies in the past focused on the long-term health benefits of walking, but a new study **4 (has published / published)** in the *Scandanavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports* shows there are immediate benefits of walking as well. The study **5(gives / is giving)** scientific proof to what walkers have known all along: walking clears the mind and improves concentration.

The study followed a group of 52 people in England who **6 (walked / were walking)** on their lunch hour at work. The volunteers, most of whom were middle-aged women, **7 (walked / were walking)** for 30 minutes three times a week. On several days, participants were asked questions about how they felt. The questions were asked on days that they walked and days they did not walk. The responses were **8(noticeable / noticeably)** different. On days that participants walked, they reported feeling less tense and more relaxed, more enthusiastic and having more focus. All participants **9 (showed / have shown)** improvement in their aerobic fitness after 10 weeks of walking.

The study may bode well for those who want to advocate healthier workplaces. Though this study did not directly measure productivity of the participants, other studies **10 (have linked / linked)** increased productivity to mood. When people are enthusiastic and focused, they **11 (perform / will perform)** better at work.

Some claim the study is no news; we've known all along that walking is good for us.

However, what we now have is scientific proof and that may make a difference when trying to get management to implement health policies for the work place.

12 (Tell / Telling) the boss that walking was good for Aristotle isn't likely to persuade management to start a health program for staff. But if management has proof that workers perform better when they get some exercise at lunch, then we may start seeing a proliferation of walking clubs at work.

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 new study published in the Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports shows that walking has an immediate effect on one's mood. Relaxation, enthusiasm and focus all increase.

Listening for detail

1. Increased bone density, weight control, improved heart health
2. Aristotle, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Charles Darwin
3. Long-term
4. There are immediate health benefits to walking
5. 52
6. Mostly middle-aged women
7. Participants walking for 30 minutes, three times a week. They were asked questions about how they felt on days that they walked and days they did not walk.
8. On days that the participants walked, they felt more relaxed, more enthusiastic and were able to concentrate better. In addition, after 10 weeks, all participants had improved aerobic fitness.
9. Not directly, but other studies have shown that improved mood is connected to improved productivity.
10. Because now there is scientific proof that walking / exercising can improve one's concentration. If people have better concentration, they can perform

better at work. The proof will make it easier to persuade managers to incorporate health policies at work.

Vocabulary

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

** Note -- *Concentration* and *focus* are very similar and sometimes interchangeable.

Gap Fill

1. daily walking
2. long-term
3. throughout the ages
4. scientist
5. immediate benefits
6. concentration
7. participants
8. noticeably different
9. advocate
10. increased productivity
11. all along
12. implement
13. proliferation

Word Choice

1. has
2. to clear
3. went
4. published
5. gives
6. walked
7. walked
8. noticeably
9. showed
10. have linked
11. perform
12. Telling

Transcript

The medical community has known for some time that daily walking is good for health. Increased bone density, weight control, and improved heart health are just some of the **1)long-term** benefits of regular walking.

And it's no news that walking is good for the mind. Many people walk to clear their thoughts, and famous thinkers throughout the ages have used walking as a **2) tonic**. The Greek philosopher, Aristotle gave his lectures while walking; **3) composers** Tchaikovsky and Beethoven went for daily walks; and the scientist, Charles Darwin is known to have walked whatever the weather.

Studies in the past focused on the long-term health benefits of walking, but a new study published in the *Scandanavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports* shows there are **4) immediate** benefits of walking as well. The study gives scientific **5)proof** to what walkers have known all along: walking clears the mind and improves **6) concentration**.

The study followed a group of 52 people in England who walked on their lunch hour at work. The volunteers, most of whom were middle-aged women, walked for 30 minutes three times a week. On several days, participants were asked questions about how they felt. The questions were asked on days that they walked and days they did not walk. The responses were **7) noticeably** different. On days that participants walked, they reported feeling less tense and more relaxed, more **8)enthusiastic** and having more **9) focus**. All participants showed improvement in their aerobic fitness after 10 weeks of walking.

The study may bode well for those who want to **10) advocate** healthier workplaces. Though this study did not directly measure **11) productivity** of the participants, other studies have linked increased productivity to **12) mood**. When people are enthusiastic and focused, they perform better at work.

Some claim the study is no news; we've known all along that walking is good for us. However, what we now have is scientific proof and that may make a difference when trying to get management to **13) implement** health policies for the work place.

Telling the boss that walking was good for Aristotle isn't likely to **14) persuade** management to start a health program for staff. But if management has proof that workers perform better when they get some exercise at lunch, then we may begin to see a **15) proliferation** of walking clubs at work.

Plummeting Oil Prices

Pre-listening

Discussion questions

- Do you know what the average price of gas is in your city?
- To what extent has the recent drop in oil prices affected the cost of gas where you live?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. You can find them underlined in the transcript at the end of this unit.

Brent crude oil	A type of oil that is found in the North Sea. More than half of the world's traded oil is Brent crude.
Benchmark	Something used as a standard against which other similar items are measured. Brent crude oil is used as a benchmark for oil prices.
Shale	A type of rock
Fracking	A process of extracting natural oil and gas from shale by injecting high-pressured water and chemicals.

Listening for main idea

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

_____

_____

_____

Listening for Detail

Listen to the podcast again and answer the following questions.

1. What was the price of Brent crude in mid-January?

   _____

2. Why has world supply of oil increased?

   _____

3. Why has world demand of oil decreased?

_____

4. What is OPEC's current position on oil production?

_____

5. Which countries of OPEC want to decrease oil production?

_____

6. Why do they want to decrease it?

_____

7. Which country members of OPEC do not want to decrease oil production?

_____

8. Who does the low price of oil benefit?

_____

9. Who could suffer because of lower prices?

_____

10. How low do analysts think the price of oil will go?

_____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with their definitions on the right. Look at the transcript to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. *extraction*
2. *drill*
3. *fuel-efficient*
4. *stabilize*
5. *rely*
6. *revenue*
7. *undoubtedly*
8. *economic sanctions*
9. *earnings*
10. *financial reserves*
11. *withstand*

a. *certainly*
b. *the act of removing something from its surroundings*
c. *money received for services or income on financial investments*
d. *to produce a hole in something with a tool*
e. *capacity to use fuel in a way that is not wasteful*
f. *trade restrictions placed on a country*
g. *to be able to deal with a difficult situation*
h. *to depend on*
i. *money paid to or earned by a company or organization*
j. *trade restrictions placed on a country to try to force a political change*
k. *extra money that a company or government has access to*
l. *to stop changing*

Gap Fill

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

Oil prices around the world continue to fall, reaching their lowest since 2009.

As of mid-January, Brent crude oil, which is an international pricing 1)_____, was selling for $46 a barrel. Just six months previously, in June of 2014, Brent crude sold for over $100 a barrel.

The drop in oil prices is the result of an 2) _____ and a decrease in demand. On the supply side of the equation, both the United States and Canada have increased their recent oil production, largely through a new kind of technology called fracking. This type of oil and gas 3)_____ allows oil companies to drill deep into shale formations, where they can access reserves that were previously unavailable to them.

While North America continues to increase oil production, weakening economies in Europe and Asia have led to a 4)_____. China and Japan, which are the world's 2nd and 3rd largest oil consumers, have seen recent declines in their economies. Some analysts claim that an increase in the number of fuel-efficient cars has also 5)_____to the decrease in oil demand.

The result of lower prices is good news for gasoline consumers in many countries. In Canada and the US, a gallon of gas costs about $1.50 less than it did in June of 2014. As well, some analysts predict an improvement in the 6)_____ if lower oil prices remain in effect.

Lower gas prices do not bring good news for everyone, however. The economies of countries that rely heavily on oil as a source of 7)_____ will undoubtedly suffer. Iran, which is currently experiencing economic sanctions, may face further difficulties if its earnings from oil decrease. Venezuela and Russia will also be hard hit. Wealthy oil producers, like Saudi Arabia, have plenty of financial reserves to 8) _____ a lower price in oil, at least for some time.

In November, The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) held a meeting to discuss 9)_____ regarding oil prices. Nigeria, Iran and Venezuela tried to persuade other member to reduce OPEC's oil production in order to 10)_____ prices. OPEC voted against such a move. Saudi

Arabia's oil minister, Ali al-Naimi, says Saudi Arabia will not decrease production, but will wait it out, claiming the oil market will stabilize eventually.

Analysts predict that the price of oil will continue to drop to 11)_____ before it begins to stabilize in the middle of 2015. If you have any plans to take a long driving vacation, now might be the time to do so.

Discussion or writing

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. Venezuela and Iran want to limit oil production so that the prices will stabilize. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries will not agree to do this. What could be some possible reasons for this?
2. Discuss oil and gas resource development in Afghanistan.
3. Discuss the decline in oil prices and its effect on Afghanistan.
4. Write five good questions about the recent decline in world oil prices.

Word Choice

Circle the correct word.

Oil prices around the world continue to fall, reaching their lowest **1 (from / since)** 2009.

As of mid-January, Brent crude oil, which is an international pricing benchmark, was selling for $46 a barrel. Just six months previously, in June of 2014, Brent crude sold for over $100 a barrel.

The drop **2 (of / in)** oil prices **3 (is / are)** the result of an increase in supply and a decrease in demand. On the supply side of the equation, both the United States and Canada **4 (has / have)** increased their recent oil production, largely through a new kind of technology called fracking. This type of oil and gas extraction **5 (allows / allow)** oil companies to drill deep into shale formations, where they can access reserves that were previously unavailable to them.

While North America continues to increase oil production, weakening economies in Europe and Asia have led to a lower demand. China and Japan, which are the world's 2nd and 3rd largest oil consumers, have seen recent declines in their economies. Some analysts claim that an increase in the number **6 (in / of)** fuel-efficient cars **7(has / have)** also contributed to the decrease in oil demand.

The result of lower prices **8 (is / are)** good news for gasoline consumers in many countries. In Canada and the US, a gallon of gas costs about $1.50 less than it did in June of 2014. As well, some analysts predict an improvement in the overall global economy if lower oil prices remain in effect.

Lower gas prices do not bring good news for everyone, however. The economies of countries that rely heavily on oil as a source of export revenue will undoubtedly suffer. Iran, which is currently experiencing economic sanctions, may face further difficulties if **9 (it's / its)** earnings from oil decrease. Venezuela and Russia will also be hard hit. Wealthy oil producers, like Saudi Arabia, have plenty of financial reserves to withstand a lower price in oil, at least for some time.

In November, The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) held a meeting to discuss possible actions regarding oil prices. Nigeria, Iran and Venezuela tried to persuade other members to reduce OPEC's oil production in order to stabilize prices. OPEC voted against such a move. Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Ali al-Naimi, says Saudi Arabia will not decrease production, but will wait it out, claiming the oil market **10 (stabilizes / will stabilize)** eventually.

Analysts predict that the price of oil will continue to drop to $40 a barrel before it **11(will begin / begins)** to stabilize **12(on / in)** the middle of 2015. If you have any plans **13 (to take / for taking)** a long driving vacation, now might be the time to do so.

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

The price of oil is falling and is expected to fall until mid-2015. The podcast discusses reasons for and impact of the decline in oil prices.

Listening for detail

1. $46 / barrel

2. US and Canada have increased production of oil, especially by introducing fracking
3. Weakening economies in Asia and Europe, increase in number of fuel-efficient vehicles.
4. They will continue to produce oil at same rate, will not reduce amount to stabilize prices.
5. Nigeria, Venezuela and Iran
6. To stabilize prices
7. Saudi Arabia
8. Gasoline consumers in some countries – Canada and the US, for example
9. Countries that rely heavily on oil as a source of revenue – Iran and Russia
10. $40/barrel

Vocabulary

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

Gap Fill

1. benchmark
2. increase in supply
3. extraction
4. lower demand
5. contributed
6. overall global economy
7. revenue
8. withstand
9. possible actions
10. stabilize
11. $40 a barrel

Word Choice

1. since
2. in
3. is
4. have
5. allows
6. of
7. has
8. is
9. its
10. will stabilize
11. begins
12. to take

Transcript

Oil prices around the world continue to fall, reaching their lowest since 2009.

As of mid-January, Brent crude oil, which is an international pricing benchmark, was selling for $46 a barrel. Just six months previously, in June of 2014, Brent crude sold for over $100 a barrel.

The drop in oil prices is the result of an increase in supply and a decrease in demand. On the supply side of the equation, both the United States and Canada have increased their recent oil production, largely through a new kind of technology called fracking. This type of oil and gas extraction allows oil companies to drill deep into shale formations, where they can access reserves that were previously unavailable to them.

While North America continues to increase oil production, weakening economies in Europe and Asia have led to a lower demand. China and Japan, which are the world's 2nd and 3rd largest oil consumers, have seen recent declines in their economies. Some analysts claim that an increase in the number of fuel-efficient cars has also contributed to the decrease in oil demand.

The result of lower prices is good news for gasoline consumers in many countries. In Canada and the US, a gallon of gas costs about $1.50 less than it did in June of 2014. As well, some analysts predict an improvement in the overall global economy if lower oil prices remain in effect.

Lower gas prices do not bring good news for everyone, however. The economies of countries that rely heavily on oil as a source of export revenue will undoubtedly suffer. Iran, which is currently experiencing economic sanctions, may face further difficulties if its earnings from oil decrease. Venezuela and Russia will also be hard hit. Wealthy oil producers, like Saudi Arabia, have plenty of financial reserves to withstand a lower price in oil, at least for some time.

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Analysts predict that the price of oil will continue to drop to $40 a barrel before it begins to stabilize in the middle of 2015. If you have any plans to take a long driving vacation, now might be the time to do so.

Measles Outbreak in California

Pre-Listening

Warm-up questions

- What do you know about the measles?
- Do you know anyone who has had the measles?
- Has there been an outbreak of measles near where you live?

Vocabulary

Familiarize yourself with the following terms before listening to the podcast. You will find the words underlined in the transcript at the end of this unit.

Infectious	Capable of being passed from person to person by germs that enter the body. *The flu is an infectious disease.*
Rash	Red spots on the skin that are caused by an illness. *People with measles develop a rash that can last for five days.*
Pneumonia	A disease that affects the lungs and makes it difficult to breath. *After a bad cold, the elderly woman developed pneumonia.*
Encephalitis	A swelling of the brain, caused by illness. *A rare, but serious complication of measles is encephalitis.*
Claim the life	To cause to die. *The recent tornado claimed the lives of 10 people.*

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 as many times as you need to and answer the following questions.

1. How many confirmed measles cases are associated with Disneyland?

   _____

2. When was the measles vaccination introduced to the US?

_____

3. What is a Personal Belief Exemption form?

_____

4. How many California patients in the recent outbreak had not been vaccinated?

_____

5. How does measles spread?

_____

6. What are the symptoms of measles?

_____

_____

7. What are some possible complications when a person gets measles?

_____

8. Why are infants under the age of 12 months at particular risk for contracting measles?

_____

9. How many people died annually before the measles vaccination became available?

_____

10. What is the Measles and Rubella Initiative?

_____

_____

11. What is the goal of the public awareness program in California?

_____

Vocabulary

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

1. *outbreak*
2. *confirm*
3. *exemption*
4. *airborne*
5. *contagious*
6. *symptoms*
7. *joint effort*
8. *pool (verb)*
9. *under way (underway)*

a) *to combine something*
b) *to state that something is true or accurate*
c) *freedom from being required to do something that others are required to do*
d) *easily spread from person to person*
e) *something done cooperatively by several people or organizations*
f) *happening now; in progress*
g) *changes in the body that are associated with a particular disease*
h) *moving through the air*
i) *a sudden increase in the number of people who have a particular disease.*

Gap Fill

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

The number of measles patients continues to rise in California, despite vaccinations being 1) _____.

The current outbreak, which is numbered at 59 confirmed cases, is centered in Disneyland and Disneyland's California Adventure Park. Cases have also been reported in Utah, Washington State, Colorado, Oregon and Mexico.

The measles vaccine was introduced in the US in 1963, and schools now require all students to be vaccinated when they begin 2)_____. However, in California, parents can sign a Personal Belief Exemption (PBE) form, which allows them to not get their children vaccinated. The recent outbreak in California happened in an area where there is a 3)_____ of PBEs (Personal Belief Exemptions). Of the 34 California patients, 28 had not been vaccinated.

Measles is a highly infectious, airborne disease. When a person infected with measles breathes, coughs, or sneezes, the virus enters the air, where it can remain for 4)_____. According to the Centers for Disease Control, almost everyone who has not been vaccinated will get measles if they are exposed to the virus. Where there are large groups of people gathered together, such as the situation at Disneyland, the disease is 5) _____.

Measles begins with a high fever and is followed by symptoms similar to those of a cold – runny nose, cough and red eyes. A red rash that lasts 5-6 days appears on the face, and eventually spreads over the entire body. 6)_____ that can result from the measles are pneumonia, encephalitis, deafness, blindness, and death.

Those at highest risk of getting measles and its complications are children under the age of five. At 7)_____ are infants under the age of 12 months since they are too young to be vaccinated. Pregnant women are also at risk.

Before the measles vaccination was introduced, the disease killed an 8)_____2-6 million people each year.

Since the 1980s, global measles deaths have dropped tremendously, but some countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa still see large 9)_____, where measles claims the lives of many, especially children.

A joint effort called the Measles and Rubella Initiative has been in place for 10)_____ to try to solve this problem. The WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the US Centers for Disease Control and the United Nations Foundation have 11)_____ to try to improve vaccination rates in 47 targeted countries.

In California, a public awareness effort is underway to try to 12) _____ all parents to vaccinate their children.

Discussion or writing

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 know about the current situation with measles in Afghanistan?
2. Afghanistan was one of the target countries in the Measles and Rubella Initiative that was mentioned in the podcast. Do you know about its impact in Afghanistan?
3. What are some of the particular challenges that Afghanistan faces in implementing vaccination programs?
4. Some schools in California have recently stated that they require everyone to be vaccinated. They will no longer allow Personal Belief Exemptions. Do you agree or disagree with this policy? Explain.

Word Choice

Circle the correct word. See the transcript for the correct answers.

The number of measles patients continues to rise in California, despite vaccinations being widely available.

The current outbreak, which is numbered at 59 confirmed cases, is centered **1 (in / on)** Disneyland and Disneyland's California Adventure Park. Cases have also been reported in Utah, Washington State, Colorado, Oregon and Mexico.

The measles vaccine **2 (were / was)** introduced to the US in 1963, and schools now require all students to be vaccinated when they begin kindergarten. However, in California, parents can sign a Personal Belief Exemption (PBE) form, which allows them to not get their children vaccinated. The recent outbreak **3 (in / on)** California happened in an area where there is a high reported incidence of PBEs (Personal Belief Exemptions). Of the 34 California patients, 28 had not been vaccinated.

Measles is a highly infectious, airborne disease. When a person infected with measles breathes, coughs, or sneezes, the virus **4 (will enter / enters)** the air, where it can remain for up to two hours. According to the Centers for Disease Control, almost everyone who has not been vaccinated will get measles if they **5 (are exposed / will be exposed)** to the virus. Where there are large groups of people gathered together, such as the situation at Disneyland, the disease is highly contagious.

Measles begins with a high fever and **6 (is followed / is following)** by symptoms similar to those of a cold – runny nose, cough and red eyes. A red rash that lasts 5-6 days appears on the face, and eventually spreads over the entire body.

Complications that can **7 (result / resulting)** from the measles are pneumonia, encephalitis, deafness, blindness, and death.

Those at highest risk of getting the disease and **8 (its / it's)** complications are children under the age of five. At particular risk are infants under the age of 12 months because they are too young to be vaccinated. Pregnant women are also at risk.

Before the measles vaccination was introduced, the disease **9 (killed / was killing)** an estimated 2-6 million people each year.

Since the 1980s, global measles deaths **10 (dropped / have dropped)** tremendously, but some countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa still see large outbreaks, where measles claims the lives of many, especially children.

A joint effort called *The Measles and Rubella Initiative* has been in place for several years to try **11 (solving / to solve)** this problem. The WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the US Centers for Disease Control and the United Nations Foundation have pooled resources to try to improve vaccination rates in 47 targeted countries.

In California, a public awareness effort is under way to try to persuade all parents to vaccinate their children.

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>

Even though the measles vaccination has been available in the US for over 50 years, California is experiencing a measles outbreak. The article also briefly discusses the effort to reduce the incidence of measles worldwide.

<u>Listening for details</u>

1. 59

2. 1963
3. a form that parents can sigh if they do not want their children to get vaccinated
4. 28
5. Through the air – when infected people breathe, sneeze or cough
6. fever, cough, runny nose, rash that spreads over entire body
7. pneumonia, encephalitis, deafness, blindness, death
8. they are too young to be vaccinated
9. 2-6 million
10. a joint effort between several organizations to try to reduce the number of measles cases worldwide
11. to persuade all parents to have their children vaccinated

Vocabulary

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

Gap Fill

1. widely available
2. kindergarten
3. high reported incidence
4. up to two hours
5. highly contagious
6. complications
7. particular risk
8. estimated
9. outbreaks
10. under way
11. pooled resources
12. persuade

Choose the right word

1. in
2. was
3. in
4. enters
5. are exposed
6. is followed
7. result
8. its
9. killed
10. have dropped
11. solve

Transcript

The number of measles patients continues to rise in California, despite vaccinations being widely available.

The current **1) outbreak**, which is numbered at 59 **2) confirmed** cases, is centered in Disneyland and Disneyland's California Adventure Park. Cases have also been reported in Utah, Washington State, Colorado, Oregon and Mexico.

The measles vaccine was introduced to the US in 1963, and schools now require all students to be vaccinated when they begin kindergarten. However, in California,

parents can sign a Personal Belief **3)Exemption** (PBE) form, which allows them to not get their children vaccinated. The recent outbreak in California happened in an area where there is a high reported incidence of PBEs (Personal Belief Exemptions). Of the 34 California patients, 28 had not been vaccinated.

Measles is a highly infectious, **4) airborne** disease. When a person infected with measles breathes, coughs, or sneezes, the virus enters the air, where it can remain for up to two hours. According to the Centers for Disease Control, almost everyone who has not been vaccinated will get measles if they are exposed to the virus. Where there are large groups of people gathered together, such as the situation at Disneyland, the disease is highly **5) contagious**.

Measles begins with a high fever and is followed by **6) symptoms** similar to those of a cold – runny nose, cough and red eyes. A red rash that lasts 5-6 days appears on the face, and eventually spreads over the entire body. Complications that can result from the measles are pneumonia, encephalitis, deafness, blindness, and death.

Those at highest risk of getting the disease and its complications are children under the age of five. At particular risk are infants under the age of 12 months because they are too young to be vaccinated. Pregnant women are also at risk.

Before the measles vaccination was introduced, the disease killed an estimated 2-6 million people each year.

Since the 1980s, global measles deaths have dropped tremendously, but some countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa still see large outbreaks, where measles claims the lives of many, especially children.

A **7) joint** effort called the Measles and Rubella Initiative has been in place for several years to try to solve this problem. The WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the US Centers for Disease Control and the United Nations Foundation have **8) pooled** resources to try to improve vaccination rates in 47 targeted countries.

In California, a public awareness effort is **9) under way** to try to persuade all parents to vaccinate their children.

Man Nabbed for Smuggling iPhones

Pre-listening

Discussion Questions

- Which cell phones and smart phones are popular in Afghanistan?
- Are smart phones expensive in Afghanistan? Do you know what their cost is compared to an average salary?
- Is there an illegal market for smart phones?

Vocabulary

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

Shenzhen-Hong Kong border	A pedestrian border between Hong Kong and Mainland China.
To tip off	Phrasal verb meaning to give a hint or warning about something that is a secret. *The police received a phone call that tipped them off as to the location of the stolen car.*
Price tag	The piece of paper attached to an item for sale that tells how much it costs. Can also be used to simply mean, "price." *How much is this jacket? I can't find the price tag.*
Armor	Protective coverings made of metal, worn in the past by soldiers or warriors, to protect the body in battle. Soldiers in the middle ages often wore full body suits of armor.

Listening for main idea

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

Listening for Details

Listen to the podcast and answer the following questions.

1. Why did the customs officials first notice the smuggler?

   _____

2. How did the customs officials catch the smuggler?

   _____

3. Describe the "mobile-armor" technique of smuggling.

   _____

4. Why was the smuggler walking like a robot?

   _____

5. Where are iPhones manufactured?

   _____

6. Why is it difficult to purchase iPhones in Mainland China?

   _____

7. How much do iPhones cost in Mainland China and how does their cost compare to the average Chinese salary?

   _____

8. How many iPhones have officials confiscated in the past month at the Shenzhen – Hong Kong border?

   _____

9. What is the punishment in Hong Kong for smugglers caught with illegal goods?

   _____

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with their definitions on the right. Look at the transcript to help you understand how the words are used in context.

1. apprehend	*a. full of busy activity*
2. smuggle	*b. not many available*
3. gait	*c. to take something from someone, usually to enforce laws or as a form of punishment*
4. duct tape	

5. limited	*d. to arrest and take into custody*
6. bustling	*e. to move goods illegally into or out of a country*
7. confiscate	*f. a very strong tape used to repair household objects, originally made for plumbing*
	g. the way a person walks

Gap Fill

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

A Hong Kong man was apprehended while attempting to smuggle 94 iPhones into China.

Customs officials at the Shenzhen – Hong Kong border said what tipped them off was the 1) _____ gait of the smuggler. Walking stiffly, like a robot, the man appeared to be carrying something heavy. Officials checked his 2)_____, but found nothing unusual. However, when they asked the man to walk through a metal detector, the alarm sounded loudly and they soon discovered the reason for his 3)_____.

The smuggler used what is known as the "mobile-armor" technique of smuggling. He wrapped 94 phones in plastic and attached them to his body with duct tape. Mobile-armor is a 4)_____ technique for smuggling small electronics, but "Apple-man," as some citizens have called him, may have set the record for the 5)_____ of mobile phones used in this technique.

Though iPhones are manufactured in China and then shipped around the world, they are 6)_____ to purchase in Mainland China. Supply is often limited and the price is expensive. At roughly $900, the cost of an iPhone represents 7)_____ in China. In Hong Kong, the phones are more readily available and are cheaper – retailing at around $650.

The iPhone's 8)_____ and large price tag has made smuggling a bustling activity at the Shenzhen - Hong Kong border. In just the last month, officials claim to have 9)_____282 iPhones.

Smugglers caught in Hong Kong face a possible 7-year prison sentence and a large fine.

Collocations

Collocation refers to words that usually go together. For example, in English, you *make* a bed, *make* a mistake, and *make* an appointment, but you *do* your homework, *do* your hair, and *do* your taxes. If you exchange *make* for *do* in the above sentences, a native speaker will understand you, but you will not sound fluent. Learning collocations takes time and frequent exposure to the language through reading and listening. After you hear or see word combinations many, many times, their usage will become automatic for you, and you will sound more like a native speaker. You can find print dictionaries of collocations, but Oxford has a good online collocation dictionary. The Online Oxford Collocation Dictionary is written for intermediate and advanced students.

http://oxforddictionary.so8848.com

Here are some common adverb collocations used in this podcast. In the transcript, they are ***bold and in italics***.

Fairly common	In this case, fairly means to a high degree, but not extremely. An equivalent statement might be "It's pretty common." This is slightly lower than "very common." Other common collocations are: fairly easy, fairly expensive, and fairly straightforward.
Relatively difficult	The use of relatively here means something is difficult when compared to other similar things. So, if it's relatively difficult to purchase iPhones in China, this means it is more difficult to buy cell phones in China than it is in other countries. In the sentence, "Herat has a relatively low crime rate" the implied meaning is that when compared with other similar cities, Herat has a low crime rate. Other common collocations are: relatively easy, relatively simple, and relatively expensive.
Readily available	Readily means quickly and easily. If something is readily available this means theoretically, you should be able to go out at any moment and get it easily. Other common collocations are: readily absorbed, readily accessible, and readily identified.

Practice Exercise

Choose one of the following to complete the sentences below.

relatively inexpensive	fairly easy	readily available
readily accessible	relatively complicated	fairly easy
fairly popular	readily identified	

1. When driving your car, you should have your license and registration _____.
2. Getting a green card in the US is _____ for Afghan citizens.
3. Learning Italian is _____ if you know how to speak Spanish.
4. Getting a campus ID card is _____. You just go to the main administrative office, show some ID, and they will take your photo and give you your ID right then.
5. Saffron is _____ in Afghanistan.
6. Bicycling is a _____ sport in California.
7. Bus passes are _____ in San Jose.
8. The dove can be _____ by its cooing sound.

Word Choice

Circle the correct word.

A Hong Kong man was apprehended while **1 (attempted / attempting)** to smuggle 94 iPhones into China.

Customs officials **2(on / at)** the Shenzhen – Hong Kong border said what tipped them off was the unusual gait of the smuggler. Walking **3(stiffly / stiff)**, like a robot, the man appeared to be carrying something heavy. Officials **4(checked / were checking)** his two shopping bags, but found nothing unusual. However, when they **5(asked / were asking)** the man to walk through a metal detector, the alarm sounded loudly and they soon discovered the reason for his **6(stiffly / stiff)** gait.

The smuggler used what is known as the "mobile-armor" technique of smuggling. He wrapped 94 phones in plastic and attached them to his body with duct tape. Mobile-armor is a fairly common technique **7(with / for)** smuggling small electronics, but "Apple-man," as some citizens have called him, may have set the record for the highest number of mobile phones used **8(in / on)** this technique.

Though iPhones are manufactured in China and then shipped around the world, they are relatively difficult to purchase in Mainland China. Supply is often limited and **9(a / the)** price is expensive. At roughly $900, the cost of an iPhone represents 18% of the average salary in China. In Hong Kong, the phones are more readily available and are cheaper – retailing at around $650.

The iPhone's high demand and large price tag **10(has / have)** made electronics smuggling a bustling activity at the Shenzhen - Hong Kong border. In just the last month, officials claim to **11(confiscated / have confiscated)** 282 iPhones.

Smugglers caught in Hong Kong face a possible 7-year prison sentence and a large fine.

Discussion or writing

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. Have you heard of any unusual methods for smuggling goods? Describe them.
2. Compare and contrast the good points and bad points of cell phone usage.

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>Main Idea</u>
Answers will vary, but a possible answer might look like this.

A Hong Kong man tried to smuggle 94 iPhones into Mainland China by taping the phones to his body. Because he had so many phones attached to his body, he walked like a robot. This is what prompted the customs officials to have a closer look and eventually arrest him.

Listening for detail

1. He was walking stiffly, like a robot.
2. They made him walk through a metal detector, and the alarm rang.
3. Phones are taped all over the body.
4. Because he had 94 phones taped to his body and he could not bend his joints.
5. China
6. They are expensive and there are not a lot of them for sale.
7. They cost $900, which is around 18% of the average person's salary in China.
8. 282
9. Seven years in prison and a large fine.

Vocabulary

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

Gap Fill

1. unusual
2. two shopping bags
3. stiff gait
4. fairly common
5. highest number
6. relatively difficult
7. 18% of the average salary
8. high demand
9. confiscated

Collocations practice exercise

1. relatively inexpensive
2. fairly easy
3. readily available
4. readily accessible
5. fairly easy
6. relatively complicated
7. fairly popular
8. readily identified

Transcript

A Hong Kong man was **1) apprehended** while attempting to **2)smuggle** 94 iPhones into China.

Customs officials at the Shenzhen – Hong Kong border said what tipped them off was the unusual **3)gait** of the smuggler. The man appeared to be carrying something heavy, and was walking stiffly, like a robot. Officials checked his two shopping bags, but found nothing unusual. However, when they asked the man to

walk through a metal detector, the alarm sounded loudly, and they soon discovered the reason for his stiff gait.

The smuggler used what is known as the "mobile-armor" technique of smuggling. He had wrapped 94 phones in plastic and attached them to his body with **4)duct tape**. Mobile-armor is a ***fairly common*** technique for smuggling small electronics, but "Apple-man," as some citizens have called him, may have set the record for the highest number of mobile phones used in this technique.

Though iPhones are manufactured in China and then shipped around the world, they are ***relatively difficult*** to purchase in Mainland China. Supply is often **5) limited** and the price is expensive. At roughly $900, the cost of an iPhone represents 18% of the average salary in China. In Hong Kong, the phones are more ***readily available*** and are cheaper – retailing at around $650.

The iPhone's high demand and large price tag have made electronics smuggling a **6)bustling** activity at the Shenzhen - Hong Kong border. In just the last month, officials claim to have **7) confiscated** 282 iPhones.

Smugglers caught in Hong Kong face a possible 7-year prison sentence and a large fine.