Oroville Dam Might Be Saved

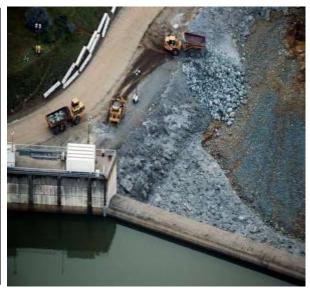
For the past month there has been extremely heavy rain in Northern California and rivers and lakes are flooding. Just above the town of Oroville, California, there is the Oroville dam, which holds back Lake Oroville. Over the past week 188,000 people have been evacuated¹⁵ from the town because there was the fear that¹⁶ the dam would fail and flood the town.





The water rushed²³ down a hill and weakened the dam. Experts didn't know if the dam would fail and, just to be safe, the local government ordered the evacuation of everybody in the area. While they were evacuating, dam workers used other spillways to drain²⁴ 2.5 million liters of water a second from the dam, and other workers dropped rocks in the lake to strengthen the dam. Now, the townspeople can return. However, more rain is forecast.

The levels of water in the lake were extremely high and it was at 151% of its capacity¹⁷. Dams are designed to¹⁸ cope¹⁹ in situations like this and they have a spillway²⁰, which releases excess²¹ water into rivers in a controlled fashion²². The problem with the Oroville dam is that it is too much water and a giant hole opened up in the middle of the spillway.



1.Wonder 考える 2.Dam ダム 3.Relocate 引っ越される 4.Generate electricity 電気を発生する 5.Failure 決壊 6.1 in 2000 year storm2000 年に一回の嵐 7.A year's worth of1 年分の~8.Sweep~を 通過する 9.Livelihood 生計 10.Displace 住む場所を失う 11.Reservoir 貯め池 12.Organic matter 有 機物 13.Rot 腐る 14.Remove 取り除く 15.Evacuate 非難する 16.Fear that~の恐れがある 17.Capacity 最大限の 18.Designed to~するように作られている 19.Cope 決壊しない 20.Spillway 放水路 21.Excess 超過量 22.Controlled fashion 調整された方法 23.Rush 早く 24.Drain はける

be about the calendar and why our year is as it is. Come along if you're interested. Something You Don't Know (Dams²)

We had the entrance exams last weekend. I always like looking at the students and

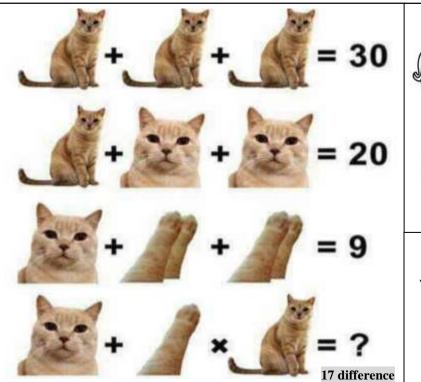
wondering¹ which ones I will teach. I have a very bad memory though, so I usually can't remember.

And you all had a four-day weekend. That must have been fun for you. I always think the week is the

wrong way around. We should work on Saturday and Sunday and then have a holiday from Monday

to Friday. If you are interested in dates and days of the week, this Wednesday's English lecture will

- 1. The tallest dam is the Jinping-I Dam in China. It is 305m high.
- 2. The Three Gorges Dam, also in China, is the most expensive ever built. It cost \$28 billion. 1 million people had to be relocated³, but the dam can generate 10% of China's electricity⁴.
- 3. The biggest dam failure⁵ was also in China. In 1975, Typhoon Nina, a 1 in 2000 year storm⁶, hit China. A year's worth of⁷ rain fell in 24 hours. The lake waters rose and Banqiao Dam failed. A wave of water 7m high and 10km long swept⁸ through the valley. Over 200,000 people were killed.
- 4. Dams are not always good. There are 50,000 large dams worldwide. They change the course of rivers, kill fish and destroy people's livelihoods⁹. 80 million people have been displaced¹⁰ because of dams. The reservoirs¹¹ contain 3 times the water in all the earth's rivers and organic matter¹² rotting¹³ in them causes 4% of global warming. Dams are expensive to build and have to be removed¹⁴ when they are old.





HOITHON

308

2/21/2017 (#38 this year)

Announcements

Monday, yesterday, was a holiday. Today, Tuesday, at lunchtime, all class leaders have a meeting. On Thursday, the third grade have demonstration classes. And that's it. Have a great week.