

12/11/2017 (#30 this year)

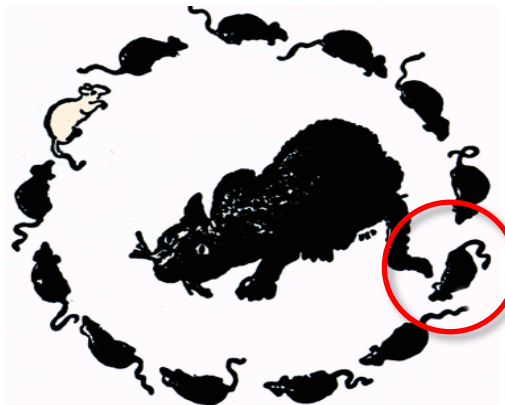
We've had a lot of snow recently. I've bought snow tires for my bicycle this year, so I can just about keep cycling, although, this kind of soft snow is lethal¹. It is nice to be guaranteed² a white Christmas. In the UK, probably only one Christmas in ten is white. You can bet³ every year on whether it will be a white Christmas or not. Right now the odds of⁴ a white Christmas in the UK are 6 to 1. That means, if I bet 10,000 yen, I would win 60,000 yen back. Of course, it also means that the bookmakers⁵ don't think it is very likely.

Something Interesting (Jerusalem⁶)

1. Jerusalem was founded⁷ in 1900BC and was called Rusalim. However, it's possible that there was a settlement⁸ there in 7000BC.
2. Jerusalem is a holy city⁹ for of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
3. Jerusalem was captured¹⁰ by the Ottoman Empire in about 1000. Over the next two centuries there were many Christian crusades¹¹ to take back the Holy Land. These ultimately¹² failed.
4. In 1917, the Ottoman Empire¹³ collapsed and Britain took control of the area. This lasted until 1947, when it was partitioned¹⁴ by the UN.
5. In the 1948 Israeli-Arab war, Israel took East Jerusalem. In 1967, in the six days war, they took West Jerusalem from Jordan.
6. Jerusalem is 760m high and in a very dry area, so water supply¹⁵ is a problem.



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

Hallelujah practice has been moved to Friday. There is a talk by a Canadian called Chris Paul on Monday. Christmas preparation starts on Friday afternoon. Have fun.

Trump Recognizes Jerusalem as Capital

Last week, Donald Trump announced that America would move its embassy¹⁶ Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The move will take about three years to complete. In announcing this, Trump said he was recognizing¹⁷ that Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel. The Israeli government is there, the Prime Minister's house is there, and so it is the capital city.



This has caused outrage¹⁸ around the world. Jerusalem may be the capital of Israel, but many other countries don't see it that way. Israel was created after World War 2 from land mostly taken from Palestine. The idea was to make separate Arabic and Jewish states, and also to give Jewish people a homeland after all of the terrible things that happened to them during the Second World War.

The original Israel, created in 1947, didn't include Jerusalem. In 1967 Israel fought and occupied¹⁹ Jerusalem. The UN recognizes it as a city under hostile occupation²⁰. Many US presidents have realized that recognizing Jerusalem would have many negative consequences²¹, but Donald Trump has never let negative consequences stop him doing something.

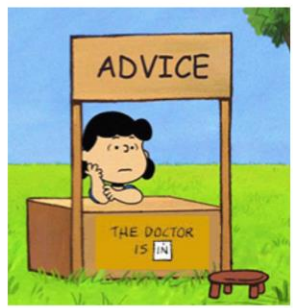


1.Lethal 致死の 2.Guaranteed 絶対なる 3.Bet お金かける 4.Odds of〜の確率 5.Bookmaker スポーツ競技の賭博の胴元 6.Jerusalem イェルサレム 7.Founded〜な根拠に基づいた 8.Settlement 植民地 9.Holy city 聖都・エルサレム。ユダヤ教徒、イスラム教徒、キリスト教徒の聖地 10.Capture 占領しました 11.Crusade 十字軍に加わる 12.Ultimately 最後に 13.Ottoman Empire オスマン帝国、トルコ帝国◆14世紀〜1922年。ビザンティン帝国滅亡後、東南ヨーロッパ、トルコ、アラビアを席捲 14.Partitioned 分割した 15.Water supply 給水 16.Embassy 大使館 17.Recognize 認める 18.Outrage 激怒 19.Occupy 占領する 20.Hostile occupation 敵占領 21.Negative consequence 不定的な結果

★ English News Page 2 ★

Hello everyone! How were your tests? I hope you are satisfied with your scores. Now that tests are finished, we can focus on Christmas! Are you excited? Good luck practicing for the Hallelujah chorus. It'll be great! - Krystal

★ Dear Krystal ★



Do you have questions about English? Do you need some advice about a problem in your life? If so, **put your questions in the pink envelope near the English Board on the 2nd floor. Write "Dear Krystal" on your question.** Anything is ok, and you can remain anonymous.

Question 1:

Dear Krystal,

I'm having a hard time studying for English listening tests. I study grammar and vocabulary, but I can never catch what is being said. What should I do?

Answer:

I understand that it's difficult to study for listening tests. It's because you are surrounded by Japanese. To improve your English listening skills, you have to surround yourself with English as much as possible. Watch English movies and TV shows. Listen to English songs. Spend more time speaking English in class and in the English Lounge. The more you listen to English, the easier it will become to catch what is being said. Good luck!

Question 2:

Dear Krystal,

I love singing but hate studying. I want to be a singer when I grow up, but my parents are pressuring me to study hard to get into a good university and get a job at a good company. It's so frustrating! What should I do?

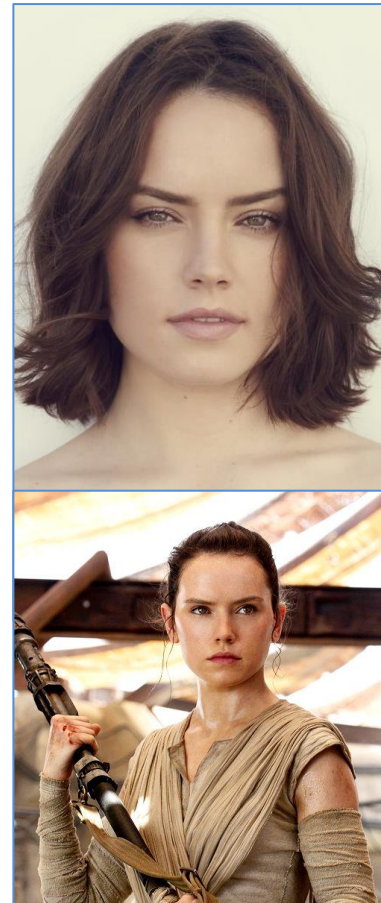
Answer:

It's great to have a dream. However, as a student, right now your priority should be studying. Don't worry, because you can continue improving your singing skills in your free time. But, if you want your parents to support your dream, you have to prove to them that you can be a good student first. Nothing is more valuable than a good education.



★ Celebrity Profile ★

Daisy Ridley is an English actress. She was born on April 10, 1992 (same birthday as Krystal!) in London, England. She has two older sisters. She began her acting career by appearing in minor television roles and short films before being cast in the lead role of Rey in the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy, appearing in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017). At the time of her casting in the new *Star Wars* movies, she was an unknown actress. Before the film's release in December 2015, she appeared at the launch of a set of *Star Wars* postage stamps issued by the UK postal service Royal Mail, with her character Rey featuring on a stamp along with the droid BB-8. With international revenues of over \$2 billion, *The Force Awakens* was a major box-office hit and the highest-grossing film of 2015. After an early screening of the film, Brian Viner of the Daily Mail called Ridley the "real star of the show", adding that her performance as Rey should "send her career into orbit." Her performance received critical acclaim, with Richard Roeper describing her portrayal as "a breakout performance". Also in 2017, Ridley appeared in *Murder on the Orient Express*, based on Agatha Christie's detective novel of the same name.



2 Corinthians 9:15

At Christmas time we normally think about what kinds of gifts we want to receive. But just remember that as Christians, God has already given us the greatest gift of all, which is his son, Jesus Christ. Jesus's love for us is so wonderful that it cannot be put into words. It is an "indescribable gift" which we feel in our hearts. With Jesus's love in our hearts, we don't need material possessions!

New words: satisfied 満足した focus on 集中する catch 聞き取れる surround 囲む pressure 圧力をかけて無理やりさせる frustrating いらいらする priority 優先 valuable 貴重な unknown 知られていない revenue 収入 highest-grossing 最高利益の orbit 軌道 critical acclaim 批評家の絶賛 indescribable 表現できない material possessions 財産