A compilation of newsTicker 1 articles with Exercises

FEBRUARY 2006
HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY MOZART
The world celebrates 4

BECKHAM STICKS WITH MADRID
Happy with Real 6

‘RACE QUEEN’ SPEEDS AHEAD
On her way to the F1 8

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
‘Don’t litter!’ 10

SNACK ATTACK
Super sizing the Super Bowl 12

HOLLYWOOD PI SPYS
Charged with „bugging“ Stallone 14

BRITNEY RUNS FROM PAPARAZZI
Leaves baby unbelted 16

RARE COIN FOUND
Displayed at British museum 18

UN GIVES THUMB’S UP
Green games in Turin 20
ADVENTURER DOES IT AGAIN
Steve Fosset breaks new record 22

MONEY IS NOT THE ANSWER
Doesn‘t buy happiness 24

VALENTINE’S WEDDINGS IN NY
’I do‘ on the Empire State Building 26

BRAZIL PROTECTS THE AMAZON
Designates areas for conservation 28

IRAQ WAR VETERANS
Heading for Congress 30
The world celebrated the 250th anniversary of one of the most beloved composers ever.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on January 17, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. He was talented right from the start. At the age of five, Mozart was already adept at playing the keyboard and composing his own music. By the time he was 35, he had toured the European courts and composed 630 works including his masterpieces „The Marriage of Figaro“, „The Magic Flute“ and „Don Giovanni".

Mozart’s music sounded from all corners of the world, with concerts in Sydney, Beijing, Tokyo, Berlin, Paris, Prague, London and Vienna.

Austria offered concerts as well as Mozart merchandise, hoping to cash in on his popularity by attracting money spending tourists.
Complete the sentences below using your own words.

1. When Mozart was little he....
2. During Mozart’s birthday celebration....
3. Besides concerts, Austria.....
4. As a young man Mozart....
BECKHAM STICKS WITH MADRID
Happy with Real

England skipper David Beckham insists he will continue his career with Real Madrid and comments on his life in Spain.

Even though Beckham will continue being captain of the England team, he plans on spending the rest of his career with Real Madrid. „I would like to stay here even after my career is over.“

Beckham spoke about leaving England and adapting to a new team and country. „It was hard to leave your home because you leave a zone of comfort, he explained. „When I arrived in Madrid... I had to prove that I am good, a quite normal person. To be with new players and in a new club it allows you to discover to what extent you are good. I had to adapt to a different style.“
Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

1. What makes Beckham a good or poor football player?

2. Is there anything in the article that shows that Beckham had difficulties adjusting to his new life in Spain?

3. In your opinion who is the best player on the Real Madrid team and why?
‘RACE QUEEN’ SPEEDS AHEAD
On her way to the F1

Japanese driver and former “race queen“ Keiko Ihara will compete in her second season in the British Formula Three circuit. She is determined to make her mark and move on to the Formula One.

Ihara became interested in driving after working as a ‘race queen‘, and began her career in 1999. So far the determined Ihara’s curriculum is not too shabby. She finished in the top 10 in 6 of her 22 races at last year’s Formula Three and this year, she vows to take the podium, which could be her ticket to the coveted Formula One.

She doesn’t plan on racing for the next 20 years, but she will continue until she accomplishes her goal, which “is F1, to repay those who have supported me,” said Ihara.
Fill in the blanks below with the correct form of the verb.

Japanese driver and former “race queen” Keiko Ihara will compete in her second season in the British Formula Three circuit. She __________ (to be) determined to __________ (to make) her mark and move on to the Formula One.

Ihara __________ (to become) interested in driving after working as a ‘race queen’, and __________ (to begin) her career in 1999. So far the determined Ihara’s curriculum is not too shabby. She __________ ____) (to finish) in the top 10 in 6 of her 22 races at last year’s Formula Three and this year, she __________ (to vow) to take the podium, which could be her ticket to the coveted Formula One.

She doesn’t plan on racing for the next 20 years, but she will continue until she __________ (to accomplish) her goal, which “is F1, to repay those who have supported me,” said Ihara.
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

„Don‘t litter!“

A romantic sailor cast a message in a bottle off the New York coast. Five months later he was surprised to receive a response all the way from across the Atlantic Ocean. Rather than a cheerful reply, the message scolded him for littering.

Captain Harvey Bennett of Long Island threw five bottles with messages into the sea last August hoping they would reach far shores. When he received a package from Britain, he thought his wish had come true.

Instead he found a bitter letter from a Mr. Bigglesworth of Britain saying he had found the bottles strewn on the beach and strongly reprimanded Bennet for littering.

Bennett, 55, a self-confessed serial message-in-a-bottle sender, said it was the first time he had ever received an angry response.
Exercise

Read the article and complete the activities.

1. Write your own “message in a bottle”. When you finish, exchange letters with a partner.

2. Now write a response to your partner’s letter and send it back.

3. How did your partner react to your message?
SNACK ATTACK
Super sizing the Super Bowl

Americans enjoyed their annual snack attack while watching Sunday’s Super Bowl showdown, ingesting a whopping 27 billion calories and 1.8 billion grams of fat.

The US Calorie Control Council was concerned about the health of American football fans. They urged fans to consider fat free potato chips and dips made from salsas or other reduced fat ingredients.

In spite of numerous health warnings, some of the snacks on the game menu included 11.2 million pounds (five million kilograms) of potato chips, 8.2 million pounds (3.7 million kilograms) of tortilla chips and 4.3 million pounds (2.9 million kilograms) of pretzels. Other favorites were tasty popcorn and nuts.

The average fan put away around 1,200 calories and 50 grams of fat, which didn’t include drinks or meals.
Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Americans like to snack on....?

2. What can the average fan do?

3. The Calorie Control Council suggests....?

4. What big sports events do you follow? Do people get together to watch games in your country? What happens when there is a major game? What do people do? What are the typical snacks?
A private investigator formerly employed by Hollywood stars has been charged with tapping the phones of famous actors, including Sylvester Stallone, authorities said.

Anthony Pellicano, 61, former employee of Michael Jackson and Elizabeth Taylor, was charged with federal racketeering. Authorities accused Pellicano of paying police officers thousands of dollars in exchange for confidential information and for placing wire taps on the phones of people who he was privately investigating.

The ex-private eye, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment. Federal prosecutors accused Pellicano of bugging the phones of „Rocky“ star Stallone, veteran actor Keith Carradine and former producer Aaron Russo.

He was also accused of spying on journalists from the Los Angeles Times, New York Times and local television station KTLA.
Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Define the following words: tapping, racketeering, arraignment, spying.

2. If you were a private investigator who would you most like to investigate and why?

3. Write five questions you would like to have answered in your investigation. Can you find any of the answers to them?
BRITNEY RUNS FROM PAPARAZZI
Leaves baby unbelted

Photographs taken by US media show pop star Britney Spears driving around with her baby in her lap, instead of a car seat.

In one of the pictures, Spears is at the wheel driving her large SUV with her five-month old son sitting on her lap. According to the law, children must be placed and safely buckled into a car seat. The singer claims she was trying to get away from the paparazzi that were harassing her incessantly and she didn't have time to strap in her son.

Other Hollywood stars have complained of similar incidents in recent months. In response, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, himself formerly a top movie star, agreed to toughen laws regarding people who aggressively take photographs or recordings.
Read the article and answer the statements with either True or False. Make all false statements true.

1. Spears believes in passenger safety first.
2. The Paparazzi is respectful of the stars’ personal lives.
3. The governor of California used to be a movie star.
4. The law allows babies 6 months and under to ride in the arms of an adult.
5. Arnold Schwarzenegger refuses to make the laws tougher on aggressive reporters.
A 1,200-year-old gold coin with the face of an English king will be displayed at the British Museum in London.

The London institution bought the artifact for nearly 358,000 pounds (521,500 euros, 623,100 dollars), making it the most expensive British coin ever purchased.

The coin depicts Anglo Saxon king Coenwulf of Mercia. Coenwulf ruled from 796 to 821 and was the most powerful ruler in Britain.

A lucky metal detector buff found the coin close to the River Ivel in Bedfordshire in 2001. When the owner put the coin up for sale, the British government gathered together donations to purchase it. The museum now owns six of the eight gold coins from the same Saxon period.
Check out the British Museum’s website and answer the following questions:

www.british-museum.ac.uk

- What is the special exhibit currently offered?
- How much does it cost to get in?
- When is the museum open?
- What can you do while you are there?
- What is the most interesting thing you found at the website?
The UN Environmental Program (UNEP) gave a thumb’s up to the ‘green’ winter Olympics in Turin.

The agency said it was pleased with the cooperation from organizers in helping to make the competitions and other events environmentally friendly. UNEP chief Klaus Toepfer said that their relationship with the Torino Organizing Committee had been very productive, but would soon come to an end when the games begin.

The Turin organizers took steps to protect the environment by providing renewable energy schemes, waste recycling and by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, which are a major cause of climate change.

During the games the UNEP and its members will participate in a ‘green dinner’ on February 16th which celebrates the Kyoto Protocol’s first anniversary.
Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Are you following the Winter Olympic Games? What are your favorite categories? Explain why they appeal to you.

2. Use the expressions “thumb’s up” and “green” in a sentence. What do they mean?

3. Why is it important for the games to be environmentally friendly?
US adventurer Steve Fossett has broken his newest record, flying around the world. This amazing voyager has spent the last 20 years setting new world records in sailing, floating, and flying.

Last week, 61-year old Fossett set his most impressive record yet for the longest solo, non-stop, non-refueled flight, in terms of distance. Despite problems along the way, including a gas leak, strong wind shifts, ruptured tires and a faulty electrical system, Fossett triumphed.

Some of his other accomplishments include, swimming the English Channel, racing in the Ironman Triathlon and participating in the grueling 1,165 mile (1,887-kilometer) Iditarod Dogsled Race across Alaska.

Fossett has never liked to be in the media spotlight. Recently, however, he decided to write about his achievements, hoping to inspire a new generation of adventurers.
Exercise

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Name three accomplishments Steve Fossett has achieved.

2. Which do you think was the most difficult and why?

3. Which of Fossett’s adventures appeals to you most? Explain.

4. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done? Share your story with the class.
MONEY IS NOT THE ANSWER

Doesn’t buy happiness

A recent study proved that money doesn’t buy happiness. Australian researchers found that people in economically thriving cities are some of the most miserable in the country, while those who live in poorer areas are more satisfied with their lives.

Researcher Liz Eckerman said that money does not buy happiness and that it was very clear among the 23,000 people she had interviewed. The findings show that the happiest areas of Australia had various things in common, a lower population, more elderly people, more women, more married couples and less income inequality.

The survey studied a person’s satisfaction with their standard of living, health, relationships, life achievement, safety, community connection and future security. People in areas with a higher cost of living and larger populations were less satisfied.
Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Do you agree that money can’t buy happiness? Explain.

2. What things make you happy? How could you be happier?

3. How satisfied are you with your standard of living, health, relationships, life achievements, safety, community connection and future security? Are these things important to you at this time? How could you improve them?
Fourteen couples from Britain, Germany, and the United States said "I do" atop the Empire State Building on Valentine's Day, swelling the exclusive ranks of those married on the New York landmark.

All 14 were winners of an annual competition which draws a huge number of participants from around the world who are looking to put a unique stamp on their wedding day. The ceremonies – each one lasting 30 minutes – were held Tuesday morning in the skyscraper's 80th floor Sky Lobby and included a champagne toast and a visit to the observatory on the 86th floor.

As well as foreigners like Kerstin Weber and Torsten Schulz of Germany, the couples include lovebirds from across the United States, from Texas to Massachusetts.

To join the building’s wedding club, couples must write – before November the previous year – explaining why they want to get married there. The winners are chosen on the basis of originality and style.

At 1,454 feet (443 meters), the Empire State is the tallest skyscraper in New York City, following the destruction of the World Trade Center's twin towers in the September 11, 2001 attacks.
Read the article and complete the activities.

1. Where would you like to get married? What would be your perfect place? Describe it.

2. Write a letter requesting to have your wedding ceremony at the Empire State Building in New York. Make your letter original and full of style. Read the letters in class and select the top three candidates. Have fun!
Brazil is taking action to protect its rainforests. The government has recently designated a large area in the Amazon that will be environmentally protected.

The Amazon National Park in Para now has a 64,000-square-kilometer addition that includes seven new conservation areas. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva signed a decree which created the zone in front of environmental groups.

A road project in the Amazon caused an astounding 500 percent increase in deforestation, violence and expulsion of the native peoples. Greenpeace, the international environmental group, stepped in to help protect the area and work to get support from the government.

Now they have Brazil's president behind them to help in their fight to protect and preserve the precious rainforests of the Amazon.
Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Find out more about the Amazon by answering these questions:
- describe the characteristics of a rainforest.
- what kinds of plants thrive there?
- what kinds of animals are native to the rainforest?
- where are other rainforests located in the world?
IRAQ WAR VETERANS

Heading for Congress

Iraq war veterans are on their way to Congress. They hope to win seats and gain control by pushing out President George W. Bush’s Republican Party.

There are about 12 candidates running in the midterm election who fought in the Iraq War. One strong contender for the Democratic Party is Asian-American helicopter pilot Ladda “Tammy” Duckworth, who was severely injured when she was shot down in 2004. She hopes to become the next Democratic Representative for the state of Illinois.

The “Band of Brothers“ group, which assists Democratic veterans running for elective office, boasted on its website “All over America, veterans are running for Congress as Democrats. They’ve been there, they know the story, and it’s time to let them speak.“

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Look at the sentences below and make the necessary corrections. (Hint: look for spelling, grammatical or content errors.

1. Duckworth, a retired helicopter, are a strong Republican contender.

2. Vietnam war veterans is campaning for a position in Congress.

3. The “Band of Brothers” encouraging veterans from all under America to run for the Republican Party.

4. In 2004 Duckworth helicopter is shot down and she was hurt.