I. A quick look at the contents--find the answers.
1. Where was the memorial event for Nelson Mandela held? ____________________________  (p. 1)
2. What country is the new Pope from? ____________________________  (p. 1)
3. In the temporary agreement with Iran, the plan is to put Iran’s suspicious nuclear program __ _____.  (p. 1)
4. Gay marriage is now allowed in ____ states.  (p. 1)
5. Gun control advocates hope to see federal gun laws made ___________.  (p. 1)
6. How many citizenship questions do people over 65 with 20 years of residency have to study? _____  (p. 2)
7. Martin Luther King Jr. brought _______ and _________ to America.  (p. 2)
8. According to the Asian Lunar calendar, 2014 is the year of the __________.  (p. 3)
9. The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is now being ______________.  (p. 4)
10. How high was the fence at Friendship Park in 1971? ______________.  (p. 5, see caption)
11. How many miles does the border between the United States and Mexico extend? ___________  (p. 5)
12. Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play in ____________ __________ in the U.S.  (p. 7)
13. A report found that 85% of skateboarders are under the age of ______.  (p. 7)
14. Which two states will be hosting the 2014 Super Bowl? (p. 7) ___________ and ___________ 

II. Vocabulary quiz: Match the definitions to the phrases on the left.
___ 1. What is the best job you have had so far. a. succeeding, improving oneself
___ 2. The secret of getting ahead is getting started. b. in a different place
___ 3. You will probably end up somewhere else. c. up to now, until now

III. More careful reading--find these answers:
A. From "Worldwide tribute paid to Nelson Mandela"  (pages 1 and 3)
1. Mandela was the first _________ ___________ of South Africa. He served from _______ to _______.
2. In 1948 Afrikaner nationalists won a whites-only election and started a policy of ___________.
3. In 1985 the government offered to release Mandela if he would ___________ ___________.
B. From "Top stories of 2013"  (pages 1 and 4)
1. The new Pope took the name of _____ _______ in recognition of ___ ________ __ _________.
2. How many runners were participating in the Boston Marathon last year? ________________
3. According to news reports, Americans ______ _______ for health care than other industrialized countries.
C. From "A visit to the U.S. and Mexico border near San Diego"  (page 5)
1. In some places the border is only marked by a sign or a light _______________ barrier.
2. At the Tijuana border, drug cartels and violence ____________ with families desperate for a reunion.
3. At Friendship Park there is electronic _______________. In addition there are ________ tables, restrooms and a wonderful _______ of the ocean.

IV. What is your favorite photograph in this issue of Easy English Times? Why?

V. Writing suggestions: The deadline for the February 2014 issue is January 17. One of the topics for February is love and friendship. Which winter sports are your favorites? Also send stories about your favorite activities, your lives, your pets, your jobs, your special talents etc.

Crossword puzzle answers in alphabetical order: death, denied, dusty, fit, issues, lack, lately, longed, praise, smart, refuse, strengths, success, suspect, temper, tight

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Across
3. A person who is suspected of guilt is called a _________.
5. "Kick the bucket" is a casual way to refer to _________, the end of life.
6. Usually we have to work hard in order to have _________. We need to work to accomplish tasks and reach goals.
10. They didn't want to let others make decisions on important _________. on topics or matters of concern.
11. The child has a bad _________. He often yells and screams when he doesn't get what he wants.
12. At the border between Tijuana and California there is very ________ security. The security is firm, rigid and strict.
13. To express admiration and respect is to ________.
14. They wanted to become citizens very much. In fact, they ________ to become citizens.

Down
1. The drive to Friendship Park is long and _________. There is a lot of dirt on the road.
2. Please don't say 'no'. Please don't ________.
4. What are some of your _________? What are the activities at which you are skilled or talented?
7. Her children are very _________. They are intelligent and able to think well.
8. What have you been doing _________. What have you been doing recently?
9. The openings in the mesh fence are so small that your little finger cannot ________ through. Your finger cannot go through the hole in the fence.
14. Millions of people ________ health insurance. They are without it.
15. In the 1940s black South Africans were ________ basic rights. The white government refused to give them their rights.