

Easy English Times

"A world of information for English language learners"

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July 2011 Learning Activities

I. A quick look at the contents--find the answers.

1. As this newspaper went to press, there was major flooding in _____.
2. Leon Panetta was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to be the new _____.
3. Uncle Sam is a symbol for _____.
4. In the MyPlate image for healthy eating, half of the plate consists of _____.
5. A picnic can be defined as an excursion at which a meal is eaten _____.
6. The Cabinet is an advisory body made up of the _____.
7. "Over There" was one of the most famous songs of _____.
8. "Yankee Doodle" became the most important song of the _____.
9. The movie "While You Were Sleeping" is a _____ starring Sandra Bullock.
10. Every time Tiffany Chou does mental calculations, it makes her brain _____ and _____.

II. Vocabulary quiz: Match the definitions to the phrases in the sentences on the left.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ___ 1 He just plays chess for fun on the Internet. . | a. free themselves from some things |
| ___ 2. We should get used to the idea. | b. ridiculing, teasing |
| ___ 3. They want to get rid of some unneeded items. | c. become familiar with |
| ___ 4. Her disease does not get in the way | d. for enjoyment or pleasure |
| ___ 5. He was making fun of their appearance. . | e. hinder, interfere, obstruct |

III. More careful reading--find these answers:

A. From "Severe weather across the country" pages 1 and 2

1. What threatened towns in Arizona?
2. What is the acronym (short form) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency?
3. Who visited Nebraska in June to have a look at flood damage?

B. "Panetta is confirmed as Secretary of Defense" page 1

1. Where is Leon Panetta from?
2. What job did Panetta have immediately before becoming Secretary of Defense?
3. Recently President Obama described plans to reduce the number of _____ in Afghanistan.

C. From "MyPlate helps us make healthy choices" page 4

1. One of the messages that comes with the new symbol is "Enjoy your food, but eat _____."
2. The USDA website says to choose food products with _____ sodium content.
3. Besides meat and fish, what are other sources of protein?

D. From "Getting rid of stuff" page 8

1. When people have a yard sale, they are selling items that are no longer _____.
2. When someone dies and the family wants to get rid of items, they have an _____.
3. If you don't want to sell your used items, you can _____ them to a charity group.

IV. Writing Suggestions:

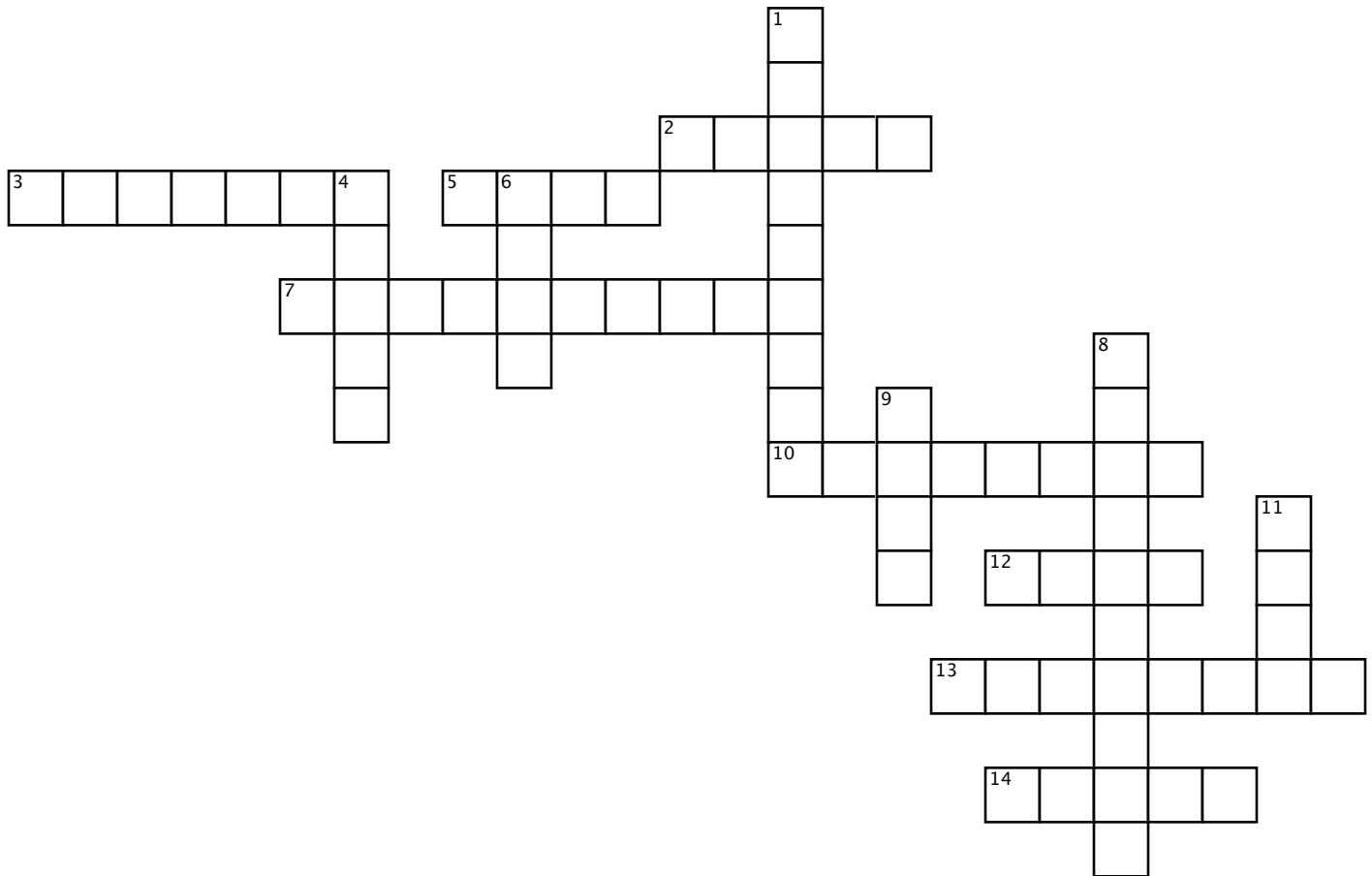
For the August/September issue, please send stories about going back to school. You can also send stories about music, your hidden talent, your traditions, books, movies, sports, your life, your country, your hometown, your job, or the place where you live now. **The deadline for the next issue is August 10.**

Crossword puzzle answers in alphabetical order: colt, determined, dirt, droughts, fool, harvested, hesitant, guidelines, lean, over, stray, steps, stuff, useless,

Crossword Puzzle

July 2011

All words are from Vocabulary Help



Across

2. Are there any _____ cats in your neighborhood? Are there any cats who are lost and don't have a home?
3. 'One man's trash is another man's treasure' means that what is _____ to one person might be valuable to another.
5. In the Yankee Doodle song, the word 'doodle' was an English word that meant _____. It referred to a person who is not sensible and who lacks good judgment.
7. The MyPlate image presents new ideas for healthy eating. These new _____ are easy to understand.
10. There are severe _____ in Texas this summer. It is a time of little or no rainfall.
12. The little red hen was scratching around in the _____. She was making marks in the soil with her claws.
13. People who are learning a new language are often _____ to speak it. They do not speak quickly because they are uncertain, embarrassed or worried.
14. In Nebraska the owners of a nuclear plant are taking appropriate _____ to protect against danger. They are taking necessary actions to get something done.

Down

1. The wheat was ready to be _____. It was ready to be picked.
4. Is there any _____ in your house or garage that you want to get rid of? Do you have things you don't need or use anymore?
6. The song says, "We won't come back 'til it's _____ over there." It means we won't come back until it is finished.
8. In the film 'Secretariat' we learn that Penny Chenery is a _____ woman. She has a strong will who works hard to make her horse a champion.
9. A young male horse is called a _____.
11. For healthy eating, if meat is part of your diet it should be _____. It should have little fat.