

Easy English Times

"A world of information for English language learners"

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November/December 2015 Learning Activities

I. A quick look at the contents -- find the answers to these easy questions.

1. John Boehner announced he would _____. Paul Ryan was _____ speaker of the House. (p. 1)
2. Will there be El Niño _____ this winter? (p. 1)
3. Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on _____. (p. 1)
4. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is the biggest and brightest festival in _____. (p. 4)
5. Thanksgiving is the _____ of American celebrations. (p. 4)
6. One Hanukkah tradition involves lighting _____. (p. 4)
7. Kwanzaa is observed from _____ to _____. (p. 4)
8. Chuck Bingham gives advice about what to do if you _____. (p. 5)
9. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not _____. (p. 5)
10. A "Peanuts" movie was just released to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the _____. (p. 8)

II. Exercise based on phrases found in VOCABULARY HELP: Find the meanings of these phrases.

Optional: Write original sentences using the phrases. Show them to your teacher.

1. soaked up _____ (p. 3)
2. was over _____ (p. 3)
3. look forward to _____ (p. 6)
4. screwed up _____ (p. 8)

III. More careful reading -- find the answers to these questions.

A. From "Speaker of the House of Representatives is an important position" (pages 1 and 6)

1. John Boehner was speaker of the House from Jan. 5, 2011 to _____, _____.
2. Paul Ryan was the _____ candidate for vice president in 2012 when _____ ran for president.

B. From "El Niño weather ahead? What will winter bring?" (pages 1 and 3)

1. El Niño is a climate cycle in the _____ with a global impact on weather _____.
2. The name "El Niño" was used because the El Niño conditions often arrived around _____.

C. From "Smartphones: Good or bad? What do you think?" (page 2)

1. One of the disadvantages of smartphones is that we let them take _____ our time.
2. The writer also says that smartphones can _____ us from our thoughts, feelings and ideas.

D. From "What to do if you see a car accident" (page 5)

1. You are not _____ by law to stop or do anything else. But good persons _____ what they _____.
2. Give the police what _____ you can to help them do their job.

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

Writing suggestions: The deadline for the January, 2016 issue is December 17. Send stories about the importance of art in your life. Also tell us about any New Year's resolutions you may have. Send us your opinion about the use of smartphones. Write about your families, hobbies, pets, hometowns or countries, etc.

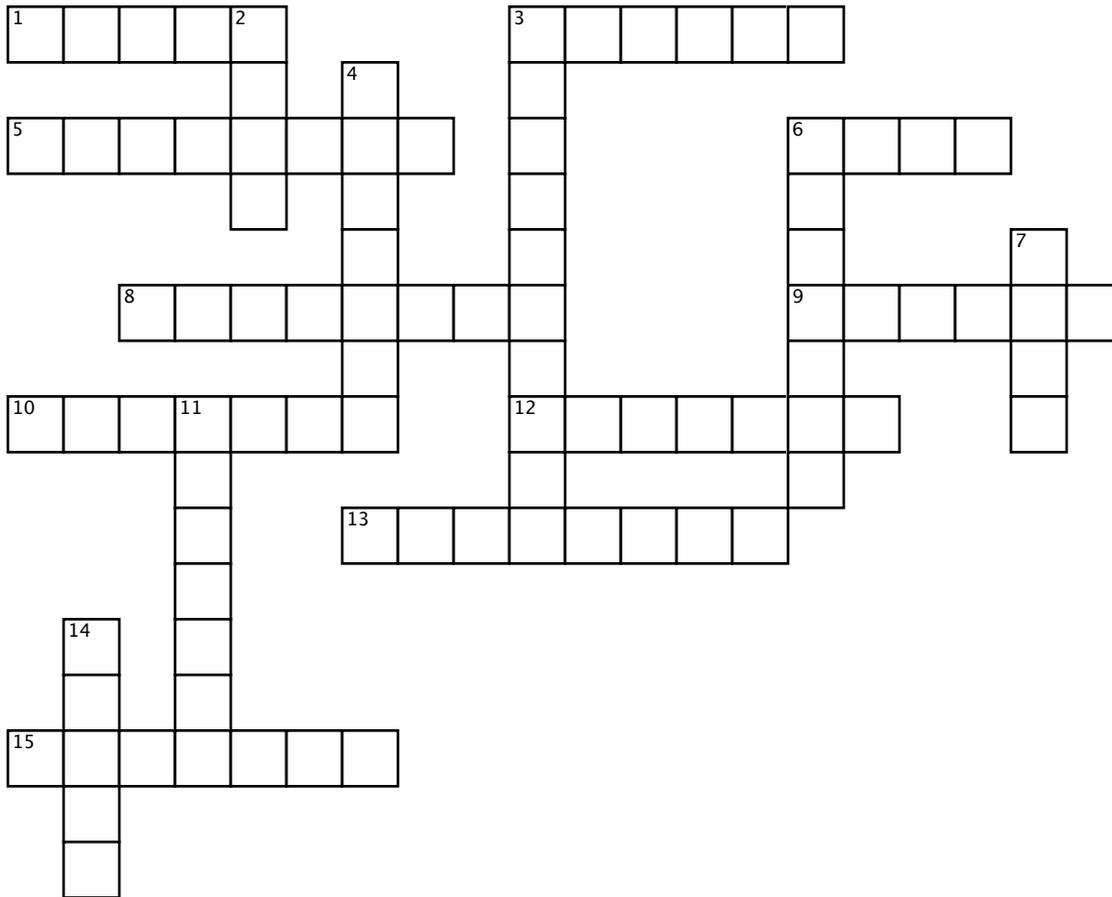
Crossword puzzle answers in alphabetical order: chasing, blame, cool, crashed, crowded, dish, faded, injured, naughty, offshore, outgoing, pleasure, pout, soaked, stuttering, wisdom, wrecked

See our website www.easyenglishtimes.com for the Answer Key

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Easy English Times Crossword Puzzle November/December 2015

All words are from
VOCABULARY HELP



Across

1. His hope _____. It disappeared gradually.
3. He got completely wet in the downpour. He got _____.
5. Do you find cooking a chore or a _____? Is it an activity that is pleasant and enjoyable for you?
6. In informal English, _____ means 'very good'.
8. The Pacific Ocean's warmest surface waters sit _____ of northwestern South America. They are away from the shoreline.
9. His teacher had a lot of humility and _____. He had knowledge and understanding.
10. Her car was _____ in the crash. It was ruined. She couldn't drive it anymore.
12. Fortunately, no one was _____ in the accident. No one was hurt.
13. Nancy Pelosi was the _____ speaker of the House in 2011. She had to leave her post when the Republicans won a majority in the House.
15. A _____ child behaves badly or does not do what he or she is told.

Down

2. Do you have a favorite _____? Do you have a favorite type of cooked food?
3. The little boy suffered with _____. He had a problem with speaking in which he repeated words or pauses.
4. Two cars hit each other violently. They _____.
6. The restaurant was _____. It was full of people.
7. If you _____, you stick out your lips usually as a way of showing that you are annoyed.
11. Boehner said that he spent his whole life _____ the American Dream. He was hurrying quickly after it.
14. When you want to say that you are not responsible for something bad that happened, you can say, "Don't _____ me!"