



# EASY ENGLISH TIMES

"A world of information for English language learners"

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October 2009

## Learning Activities

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

1. Who took delivery of a new ship on August 21? p. 1
2. Who did Governor Deval Patrick choose as interim senator to replace Senator Ted Kennedy? p. 1
3. How many states were reporting widespread influenza activity at the end of September? p. 1
4. Besides Mexico and Central America, where are the Days of the Dead now becoming events? p. 1
5. Where have drugs that were flushed down the toilet been found? p. 2
6. What are a significant percentage of breast cancer cases caused by? p. 2
7. Who is the Commander in Chief of the United States? p. 5
8. What do we call the leaders of America's military services? p. 5
9. What happened to Ron Kovic in the Vietnam War? p. 5
10. How many years did Senator Ted Kennedy serve in the U.S. Senate? p. 6

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

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ___ 1. He keeps to himself..  | a. I will pay for it.           |
| ___ 2. There was never a moment to spare.                           | b. throw away                   |
| ___ 3. Lunch is on me.  | c. started going along the path |
| ___ 5. You can keep track of your friends' activities on "Twitter." | d. avoids others                |
| ___ 6. The cowboys hit the trail.                                   | e. extra time                   |
| ___ 7. How do we get rid of old medicines?                          | f. get information about        |

### III. More careful reading--find these answers:

#### A. "New U.S. Navy ship contains special steel" pages 1 and 5

1. Where did they get the steel that they used in the bow of the ship?
2. Where was ship built?
3. What kind of celebration is scheduled for November 2?

#### B. From "Halloween and Days of the Dead" pages 1 and 3

1. According to Manuel Merjil, what is Halloween like?
2. Who were the Celts afraid of?
3. Who are the spirits in the Days of the Dead tradition?

#### C. From "The Janitor" page 2

1. What does the janitor say every night when Graydon Miller nods goodbye to him?
2. What did George do in Belgium? Who was the boss?
3. What do you think is Graydon Miller's second job?

#### D. From "Health care debate" page 6

1. Who was a champion for health care reform? What was he concerned about?
2. What do supporters of Obama's health care reform believe?
3. What are some people afraid of? And why are they worried?

### IV. Writing Suggestions

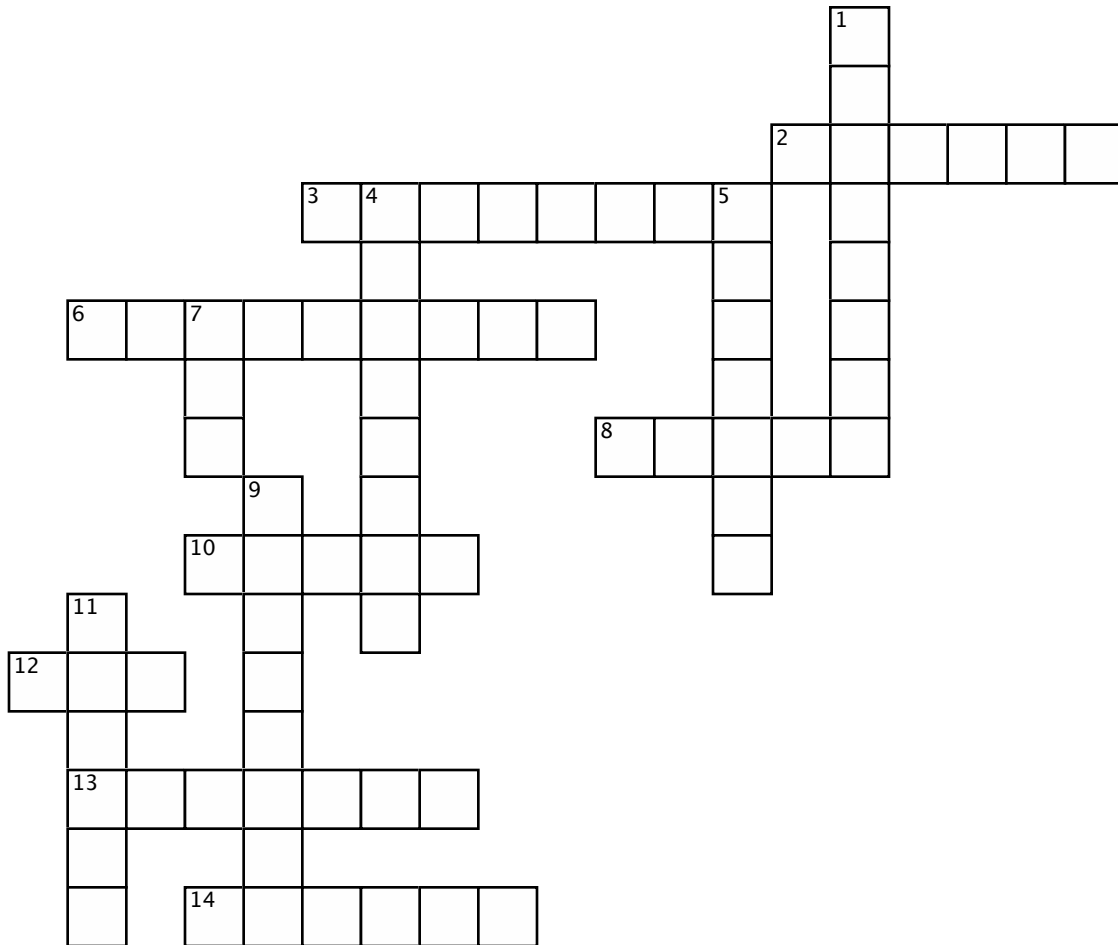
1. Topics for November/December: my favorite teacher, my favorite celebrity, a beautiful place in America, memorable gifts (Deadline 10/30) The Nov/Dec issue will come out after 11/9.
2. Topics for any issue: sports, my job, my hometown/country, my story, my pet, a favorite book or movie, favorite school subjects

Crossword Puzzle answers in alphabetical order: activist, assertive, bow, cattle, cautious, debate, flexible, flush, fought, gambler, mills, prairies, saddles, shy

# Easy English Times Crossword Puzzle

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All words are from VOCABULARY HELP



### Across

2. The cowboys had to take care of large herds of \_\_\_\_\_. They had to take care of a lot of cows and bulls.
3. Sometimes it is better to be \_\_\_\_\_ rather than daring. It is better to be careful than to take risks.
6. Do you know any \_\_\_\_\_ people? These are people who are bold, confident, and aggressive.
8. Johnny Appleseed got seeds for his apple trees from the cider \_\_\_\_\_. He got them from the factories where the apples were made into cider.
10. To save water, some people don't \_\_\_\_\_ the toilet every time they use it. They don't press the handle.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the new ship, USS New York, contains seven and a half tons of steel from the World Trade Center. The front of the ship is made from that steel.
13. Do you know anyone who is a \_\_\_\_\_? The person likes to play games of chance, usually for money.
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ about health care reform is about if and how to change it. People are discussing their different views and ideas about this topic.

### Down

1. In the early days of America, there were lots of \_\_\_\_\_ in the midwest. There were large areas of flat or slightly hilly grassland with tall grasses and few trees.
4. Ron Kovic is an anti-war \_\_\_\_\_. He works to promote the causes of peace and non-violence.
5. The cowboys used their \_\_\_\_\_ for pillows. They put their heads on the seats they used when riding their horses.
7. Sometimes little children are \_\_\_\_\_ around strangers. They don't like to talk to them.
9. People who are \_\_\_\_\_ are usually easier to get along with. They are able to change easily in response to new situations.
11. Veterans Day is a national holiday to honor those who have \_\_\_\_\_ in America's wars. They have been in battles and wars to defend our country.