

## January 2015 Learning Activities

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

1. POPE Francis encouraged the talks with letters to President Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro. (p.1)
2. Obama said he was ending what he called an OUTDATED policy of isolating Cuba. (p.1)
3. This policy has FAILED to achieve change there (in Cuba). (p.1)
4. Here in the U.S., we have access to WATER and take it for granted. (p.1)
5. Only comprehensive immigration LEGISLATION can provide those solutions. (p.2)
6. Many people make New Year's resolutions about their HEALTH. (p.3)
7. Naty Riveros has always liked to DANCE. (p.3)
8. Sierra College is a COMMUNITY college in Northern California. (p.5.)
9. New Year's Day is a FAMILY holiday for many Russians. (p.5)
10. Danny Tran's dog is named JACK. (p.7)

### II. Exercise based on phrases found in VOCABULARY HELP: Find the meaning of these phrases. Optional: write a sentence using each phrase.

take for granted FAIL TO APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF SOMETHING  
long-lasting EXISTING FOR A LONG TIME

on his own BY HIMSELF

on the other hand A PHRASE TO INTRODUCE AN ALTERNATE VIEW

rush hour A TIME WHEN TRAFFIC IS HEAVY

end up TO FINALLY COME TO A PARTICULAR PLACE OR POSITION

### III. More careful reading—find these answers

- A. "Our readers write from Simi Valley, Water issues" (p.1)
  1. ALGERIA is one country that has a big drinking water crisis.
  2. Here in the U.S. we have ACCESS to water and take it for granted.
- B. From "A Healthy New Year" (p.3)
  1. These people are doing yoga OUTDOORS in the FRESH AIR.
  2. They put their yoga mats on the GRASS.
- C. From "My dog" (p.7)
  1. My dog is sad when he walks without his favorite TOY BONES.

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

**V. Writing suggestions:** The deadline for the February issue is Jan. 20. You could write about love and friendship, your citizenship experience, your goals, your pet or any other topic of general interest. In this issue the Ebola fighters and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were called heroes. Who is your hero? E-mail writing to easyenglish@aol.com. It is best to submit shorter stories (300 words or less) so we can publish more, different student writing.

**VI. Crossword puzzle answers in alphabetical order:** behave, bipartisan, clear, commute, discuss, entirely, fair, grumbled, intended, kicks, overcooked (ACROSS 2. fair, 5. overcooked, 9. intended, 11. commute. DOWN 1. grumbled, 3. behave, 4. bipartisan, 6. entirely, 7. clear, 8. discuss, 10. kicks)