

Easy English Times

November/December 2015
Learning Activities

ANSWER KEY

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

1. John Boehner announced he would RESIGN. Paul Ryan was ELECTED speaker of the House. (p. 1)
2. Will there be El Niño WEATHER this winter? (p. 1)
3. Veterans Day originated as 'Armistice Day' on NOV. 11, 1919. (p. 1)
4. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is the biggest and brightest festival in INDIA. (p. 4)
5. Thanksgiving is the OLDEST of American celebrations. (p. 4)
6. One Hanukkah tradition involves lighting CANDLES. (p. 4)
7. Kwanzaa is observed from DEC. 26 to JAN 1. (p. 4)
8. Chuck Bingaman gives advice about what to do if you SEE A CAR ACCIDENT. (p. 5)
9. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not GONE AWAY. (p. 5)
10. A "Peanuts" movie was just released to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the COMIC STRIP. (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.

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| 1. soaked up ABSORBED, TOOK IN (p. 3) | 3. look forward to TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SOMETHING ENJOYABLE IN THE FUTURE (p.6) |
| 2. was over CONCLUDED (p. 3) | 4. screwed up IN A STATE OF DIFFICULTY (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 OCT. 30, 2015.
2. Paul Ryan was the REPUBLICAN candidate for vice president in 2012 when MITT ROMNEY 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 PACIFIC OCEAN with a global impact on weather PATTERNS.
2. The name "El Niño" was used because the El Niño conditions often arrived around CHRISTMAS.

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 TOO MUCH OF our time.
2. The writer also says that smartphones can DISTRACT us from our thoughts, feelings and ideas.

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

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

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

Crossword puzzle answers

Across: 1. faded 3. soaked 5. pleasure 6. cool 8. offshore 9. wisdom 10. wrecked 12. injured
13. outgoing 15. naughty

Down: 2. dish 3. stuttering 4. crashed 6. crowded 7. pout 11. chasing 14. blame