Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

1. If two cities _____________, they combine to form a bigger city. (para 1)
2. _____________ is the process by which towns and cities grow bigger and more and more people go to live in them. (para 3)
3. _____________ is the process of moving to another place or country. (para 5)
4. _____________ means relating to the countryside, or in the countryside. (para 5)
5. _____________ means relating to towns or cities, or happening there. (para 5)
6. _____________ is a part of a city that starts to spread into the countryside in a way that is ugly and not carefully planned. (para 5)
7. _____________ is angry or violent behaviour by people who are protesting against something. (para 7)
8. _____________ means the conditions and processes that relate to people’s health, especially the systems that supply water and deal with human waste. (para 8)
9. _____________ is the policy of keeping people from different groups, especially different races, separate from each other. (para 9)
10. A _____________ is an area of a city where people of a particular type live, usually in poor conditions. (para 9)

Find the information

Find the following information as quickly as possible.

1. Where is the largest mega-city in the world?
2. How many people live there?
3. What percentage of the world’s population will live in cities by the year 2050?
4. How many cities account for half the world’s wealth?
5. Which city is the least equal city in the world?
6. What percentage of American households earn more than 72 times the average income of the poorest 20% of the population?
World’s biggest cities merging into ‘mega-regions’

UN report: World’s biggest cities merging into ‘mega-regions’

John Vidal, environment editor
22 March, 2010

1 According to a major new UN report, the largest cities in the world, known as ‘mega-cities’, are merging to form huge ‘mega-regions’ which may stretch hundreds of kilometres across countries and be home to more than 100 million people. The phenomenon of the so-called ‘endless city’ could be one of the most significant developments – and problems – in the way people live and economies grow in the next 50 years, says the report.

2 The largest of these mega-regions, says the report, is the Hong Kong-Shenzhen-Guangzhou region in China, which is home to about 120 million people. Other mega-regions have formed in Japan and Brazil and are developing in India, West Africa and elsewhere. The trend helped the world pass a tipping point in the last year, with more than half the world’s people now living in cities.

3 The UN said that urbanization is now unstoppable. Anna Tibaijuka, outgoing director of UN-Habitat, said, “Just over half the world now lives in cities but by 2050, over 70% of the world will live in cities. By then, only 14% of people in rich countries will live outside cities, and 33% in poor countries.”

4 The development of mega-regions is regarded as generally positive, said the report’s co-author, Eduardo Lopez Moreno. “Mega-regions, rather than countries, are now creating wealth. Research shows that the world’s largest 40 mega-regions cover only a very small part of the habitable surface of our planet and are home to fewer than 18% of the world’s population but account for 66% of all economic activity and about 85% of technological and scientific innovation,” said Moreno. “The top 25 cities in the world account for more than half of the world’s wealth,” he added. “And the five largest cities in India and China now account for 50% of those countries’ wealth.”

5 The migration to cities, while making economic sense, has an effect on the rural economy too. “Most of the wealth in rural areas already comes from people in urban areas sending money back,” Moreno said. The growth of mega-regions and cities is also leading to unprecedented urban sprawl, new slums, unbalanced development and income inequalities, as more and more people move to smaller towns or cities near bigger cities.

6 “Cities like Los Angeles grew 45% in numbers between 1975 and 1990, but tripled their surface area in the same time. This sprawl is now increasingly happening in developing countries as real estate developers promote the image of a ‘world-class lifestyle’ outside the traditional city,” say the authors. Urban sprawl, they say, is wasteful, it adds to transport costs, increases energy consumption, requires more resources and destroys farmland.

7 “As cities become more unequal, there is a greater risk that economic differences will result in social and political tension. Urban unrest in unequal cities is likely. The cities that are the most successful are generally those that are reducing inequalities,” said Moreno.

8 In a sample survey of world cities, the UN found the most unequal were in South Africa. Johannesburg was the least equal in the world, only a little ahead of East London, Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Latin American, Asian and African cities were generally more equal, but mainly because they were uniformly poor, with a high level of slums and poor sanitation. Some of the most equal cities were found to be Dhaka and Chittagong in Bangladesh.

9 The US is one of the most unequal societies with cities like New York, Chicago and Washington less equal than places like Brazzaville in Congo-Brazzaville, Managua in Nicaragua and Davao City in the Philippines. “The marginalization and segregation of specific groups in the US creates a city within a city. The richest 1% of households now earn more than 72 times the average income of the poorest 20% of the population. In the ‘other America’, poor black families live...
World’s biggest cities merging into ‘mega-regions’

Level 2 • Intermediate

together in ghettos, lacking access to quality education, work and political power,” says the report.

© Guardian News & Media 2010
First published in The Guardian, 22/03/10

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text? Correct any false statements.

1. More than half the world’s population now lives in cities.
2. By 2050, 86% of people in rich countries will live in cities.
3. The process of urbanization can be stopped.
4. The world’s largest 40 mega-regions cover most of the habitable surface of the planet.
5. Fifty per cent of the wealth of China and India is produced by their five biggest cities.
6. Cities in the US are more equal than cities in poor countries like Bangladesh and Congo-Brazzaville.

4 Find the word

Look in the text and find the following words and phrases. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

1. a two-word noun meaning the critical point in an evolving situation that leads to a new and irreversible situation (para 2)
2. an adjective meaning possible to live in (para 4)
3. a noun meaning new ideas and methods (para 4)
4. an adjective meaning never having happened or existed before (para 5)
5. a noun meaning a poor area of a city where houses are in a very poor condition (para 5)
6. an adverb meaning more and more over a period of time (para 6)
7. an adverb meaning to the same degree everywhere (para 8)
8. a noun meaning the process of preventing people from having power or influence (para 9)

5 Two-word expressions

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make two-word expressions from the text.

1. mega- a. income
2. urban b. area
3. surface c. region
4. energy d. sprawl
5. social e. consumption
6. average f. tension
World’s biggest cities merging into ‘mega-regions’

Level 2 • Intermediate

6 Word building

Complete the opposites of these words using prefixes. Check your answers in the text.

1. equal  ___equal
2. equality  ___equality
3. balanced  ___balanced

What are the adjectival forms of these nouns?

4. tradition  _______________
5. economy  _______________
6. significance  _______________

7 Discussion

Would you like to live in a mega-city or mega-region? Why? Why not?
World’s biggest cities merging into ‘mega-regions’

1 Key words
1. merge
2. urbanization
3. migration
4. rural
5. urban
6. sprawl
7. unrest
8. sanitation
9. segregation
10. ghetto

4 Find the word
1. tipping point
2. habitable
3. innovation
4. unprecedented
5. slum
6. increasingly
7. uniformly
8. marginalization

2 Find the information
1. China
2. about 120 million
3. over 70%
4. 25
5. Johannesburg
6. 1%

5 Two-word expressions
1. c
2. d
3. b
4. e
5. f
6. a

3 Comprehension check
1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. F

6 Word building
1. unequal
2. inequality
3. unbalanced
4. traditional
5. economic
6. significant
Galápagos giant tortoise saved from extinction by breeding programme

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Warmer

Write as many things as you can about goats and giant tortoises during a three-minute brainstorming session.

2 Key words

Write the key words from the article next to their definitions. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>plodded</th>
<th>breeding</th>
<th>threat</th>
<th>ecosystem</th>
<th>offspring</th>
<th>thriving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hatchlings</td>
<td>species</td>
<td>reproduce</td>
<td>marksmen</td>
<td>cull</td>
<td>evolution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. the process of mating and producing young animals ___________________ (title)
2. a plant or animal group whose members all have similar general features and are able to produce young plants or animals together __________________ (para 1)
3. animals that have recently emerged from eggs ___________________________ (para 2)
4. very successful __________________ (para 2)
5. all the plants and animals in a particular area, considered as a system with parts that depend on one another ________________ (para 6)
6. the scientific theory that says that types of plant and animal change gradually over long periods of time ________________ (para 7)
7. very common or strongly established in a place or situation ________________ (para 8)
8. to kill animals deliberately, especially in order to stop the population from becoming too large ________________ (para 9)
9. people who are skilful at shooting ________________ (para 9)
10. a situation or an activity that could cause harm or danger ________________ (para 10)
11. to have babies ________________ (para 11)
12. the baby or babies of an animal ________________ (para 12)
13. simple past form of a verb meaning to walk with slow heavy steps ________________ (para 12)
Galápagos giant tortoise saved from extinction by breeding programme

Rory Carroll, Latin America correspondent
27 June, 2010

1 Scientists have successfully reintroduced giant tortoises to a Galápagos island where the species was once very close to extinction. This has raised conservation hopes for the rest of the archipelago.

2 A survey of Española, the southernmost island, confirmed last week that an effort to reintroduce giant tortoise hatchlings has produced a thriving, reproducing population of more than 1,500 animals. The project aims to turn the clock back to before human beings almost wiped out a species that helped to inspire Charles Darwin’s theories on evolution and natural selection. “It’s a great end to a sad story,” said Johannah Barry, president of Galápagos Conservancy, a Virginia-based organization which partly funded the study.

3 Preliminary results of the survey, conducted over ten days by 24 wardens from the Galápagos national park authority, found that albatross, cactus and woody vegetation had also partly recovered, restoring the island to something similar to what Darwin saw two centuries ago.

4 Giant tortoises (Geochelone hoodensis), whose population had dropped to about 15 in the 1970s, are once again a common sight on the island, said Washington Tapia, a park official who led the survey, which used electronic devices to track the animals. “During the expedition we found nests, recently hatched tortoises, and adults born on Española, which indicates that the tortoise population is doing well.”

5 The population now numbers between 1,500 and 2,000, said Linda Cayot, a scientific adviser to Galápagos Conservancy. The original population was thought to number up to 5,000 before becoming a source of fresh meat for passing sailors.

6 The project’s success has helped a plan to “re-tortoise” another island, Pinta, with the same species in the hope of recreating a “pre-human” balanced ecosystem. The rocky, volcanic islands, 600 miles west of mainland Ecuador, are a Unesco world natural heritage site and home to dozens of species found nowhere else.

7 “It’s completely amazing, one of the few places where you can actually see evolution happening in real time,” said Henry Nicholls, ambassador for the Galápagos Conservation Trust. He welcomed the recovery of Española’s giant tortoise population. “They are an important species, which captures the public imagination.”

8 For much of the 20th century the archipelago was a symbol of human destruction. After sailors ran out of tortoises to eat, they introduced goats to several islands. The handful of goats multiplied into thousands, then tens of thousands. They stripped vegetation and made the islands uninhabitable for the few remaining tortoises and other endemic species.

9 Authorities decided to cull the invaders in the 1970s with teams of marksmen, but some goats survived, bred and made the problem even worse until the 1990s, when helicopters, dogs and radio tracking devices were used.

10 The threat to the islands’ endemic species meant there was little protest over the goat slaughter. “There was little public outrage because it was seen that the tortoises were at risk,” said Barry. Scientists moved 15 giant tortoises — among the last survivors of the species — from their ruined Española habitat to a captive breeding programme. As the goats were killed, young tortoises from the breeding programme were reintroduced to the island.

11 “Tortoises have begun to play their role as ecosystem engineers,” said Tapia, leader of the island survey. “We can say with certainty that the ecological perfection of Española is being re-established.” A similar plan to repopulate Pinta, on the northern end of the archipelago, is now underway. However, the only surviving Pinta tortoise is Lonesome George, who has failed to reproduce despite decades in a captive breeding programme.
Galápagos giant tortoise saved from extinction by breeding programme

Level 2 • Intermediate

12 Rather than wait to see if George produces offspring over the next few decades, scientists have decided to introduce Española tortoises – the closest genetic match to their Pinta cousins – to the island. The first 39 plodded on to their new home in May. “There is continuing work on all of the islands and the tortoise populations continue to grow. Eventually, we hope to see healthy populations on most of the islands,” said Cayot.

Nicholls, author of a book on Lonesome George, said the Galápagos’s most famous bachelor may yet become a father. “There have been so many surprises with George’s story I wouldn’t rule it out. And time is on his side.”

© Guardian News & Media 2010
First published in The Observer, 27/07/2010

Española is an island between Pinta and Galápagos.

1. Thirty to 40 years ago, fewer than 20 tortoises lived on Española.
2. The Galápagos Conservancy is partly funding a survey which aims to cull the goats on Española.
3. A captive breeding programme has increased the numbers of giant tortoises on Española a hundredfold.
4. The tortoises almost became extinct because marksmen shot them for food.
5. Sailors brought goats to the island so that they would have a source of food when they next landed there.
6. The goats stripped the island of its accessible vegetation leaving nothing for the tortoises.
7. Lonesome George’s offspring are now repopulating the island of Pinta.

Comprehension check

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F) according to the article? Rewrite any that are false.

1. Española is an island between Pinta and Galápagos.
2. Thirty to 40 years ago, fewer than 20 tortoises lived on Española.
3. The Galápagos Conservancy is partly funding a survey which aims to cull the goats on Española.
4. A captive breeding programme has increased the numbers of giant tortoises on Española a hundredfold.
5. The tortoises almost became extinct because marksmen shot them for food.
6. Sailors brought goats to the island so that they would have a source of food when they next landed there.
7. The goats stripped the island of its accessible vegetation leaving nothing for the tortoises.
8. Lonesome George’s offspring are now repopulating the island of Pinta.

Word stress

Write the words into the table according to their stress patterns. Then use the words to talk about the article.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>archipelago</th>
<th>uninhabitable</th>
<th>vegetation</th>
<th>authorities</th>
<th>volcanic</th>
<th>Galápagos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>extinction</td>
<td>organization</td>
<td>invaders</td>
<td>devices</td>
<td>evolution</td>
<td>population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ooOoo
archipelago

ooOo

oOo

oooOo

ooOooo
Galápagos giant tortoise saved from extinction by breeding programme

Level 2 • Intermediate

5 Discussion

Would you like to help save the giant tortoises from extinction?
If yes, what could you do to help?
If no, why not?

6 Webquest

Search the internet for further information about one of the following:

- giant tortoises
- Lonesome George
- Española island
- Galápagos archipelago
- Galápagos Conservancy

Make an information poster and present it to your class. Include images and interesting facts as well as your own thoughts and impressions.
Galápagos giant tortoise saved from extinction by breeding programme

**Level 2 • Intermediate**

### KEY

#### 2 Key words

1. breeding
2. species
3. hatchlings
4. thriving
5. ecosystem
6. evolution
7. endemic
8. cull
9. marksmen
10. threat
11. reproduce
12. offspring
13. plodded

#### 4 Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ooOoo archipelago</th>
<th>ooOo vegetation evolution population</th>
<th>oOoo authorities Galápagos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oOo volcanic extinction invaders devices</td>
<td>oooOo organization</td>
<td>ooOooo uninhabitable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. F
6. T
7. T
8. F
Living in the moment really does make people happier

Level 2 • Intermediate

1. **Key words**

   Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

   - wellbeing
   - distracted
   - daydream
   - reminisce
   - random
   - focused
   - benefit
   - miserable
   - volunteer

   1. If you are ______________________, you can’t concentrate on something. (subtitle)
   2. If you ______________________, you spend time thinking about something pleasant, especially when you should be doing something more serious. (subtitle)
   3. If something happens ______________________, it happens regularly and in the same way. (subtitle)
   4. A person’s ______________________ is the satisfactory state that they should be in, especially as regards their health and security. (para 1)
   5. A ______________________ is an advantage you get from a situation. (para 2)
   6. A ______________________ is someone who offers to do something without being forced or paid to do it. (para 2)
   7. If you are ______________________, you are concentrating on a particular aim and you are not wasting time or energy on other things. (para 2)
   8. If you ______________________, you talk or think about enjoyable experiences in your past. (para 3)
   9. If you feel ______________________, you feel extremely unhappy or uncomfortable. (para 3)
   10. If something is ______________________, it is chosen or it happens without any particular method, order or purpose. (para 5)

2. **Find the information**

   Look in the text and find the information as quickly as possible.

   1. How much time do people spend thinking about something other than what they are actually doing?
   2. Where was the study carried out?
   3. How many volunteers took part in the study conducted by the university?
   4. What percentage of the time were participants thinking about something else while they were performing the most interesting tasks?
   5. How many activities were on the list the participants selected from?
   6. How many people have signed up for the happiness study?
Living in the moment really does make people happier

Psychologists have found that people are distracted from the task they are performing nearly half of the time, and this daydreaming consistently makes them less happy.

Ian Sample
11 November, 2010

1 People find happiness by living for the present moment, particularly if it involves having sex, according to a major study into mental wellbeing. But the study also found that people spend nearly half their time (46.7%) thinking about something other than what they are actually doing.

2 Many philosophical and religious traditions highlight the benefits of living for the moment, but until now there has not been much scientific evidence to support this. Psychologists at Harvard University collected information on the daily activities, thoughts and feelings of 2,250 volunteers to find out how often they were focused on what they were doing, and what made them most happy. They found that people were happiest when having sex, exercising or in conversation, and least happy when working, resting or using a home computer. They also found that subjects’ minds were wandering nearly half of the time and that this consistently made them less happy.

3 The researchers concluded that reminiscing, thinking ahead and daydreaming make people more miserable, even when they are thinking about something pleasant. Even the most interesting tasks did not keep people’s full attention. Participants in the study said they were thinking about something else at least 30% of the time while performing these tasks, except when they were having sex, when they were concentrating around 90% of the time.

4 “Human beings have a unique ability to focus on things that aren’t happening right now. That allows them to reflect on the past and learn from it; it allows them to think about and plan for the future; and it also allows them to imagine things that might never happen,” said Matthew Killingsworth, the lead researcher. “At the same time, it seems that human beings often use this ability in ways that are not productive, and it can also make us unhappy,” he added.

5 Killingsworth and Daniel Gilbert, author of the 2006 book Stumbling on Happiness, developed a web application for the iPhone that contacted participants at random times while they were awake. When they received a message, the participants had to respond with information about what they were doing, by selecting from a list of 22 activities, such as doing housework, shopping or watching TV. They then graded their happiness on a scale from zero to 100, and said whether they were focused, or daydreaming about something positive, negative or neutral.

6 The results showed that happiness was more affected by how often people thought about something else than by the activity they were doing at the time. The researchers say they’re confident that being distracted was the cause of unhappiness, rather than the other way round.

7 The authors write in the Science journal: “A human mind is a wandering mind and a wandering mind is an unhappy mind. The ability to think about what is not happening right now can have an emotional cost." When he was asked why people seemed to be particularly focused during sex, Killingsworth said: “If you received a message while you were having sex it probably wouldn’t be a good idea to take out your iPhone. Sex is one of the few activities that require our full attention.”

8 More than 5,000 people have signed up for the happiness study and the researchers hope to attract more participants so they can look more accurately at mental wellbeing in different geographical regions and between the sexes. “We hope to get a lot of new participants from all over the world and to answer questions we’ve not really been able to ask before, because we’ve never had this kind of data on people’s experiences,” Killingsworth said.

© Guardian News & Media 2010
First published in The Guardian, 11/11/10
Living in the moment really does make people happier

Level 2 • Intermediate

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?
1. Scientific evidence has always supported the benefits of living for the moment.
2. Thinking about the past and planning for the future makes people happier.
3. Only humans have the ability to focus on things that aren’t happening right now.
4. Participants in the study were contacted at regular intervals during the day.
5. If your mind wanders a lot, it is likely that you will be unhappy.
6. The researchers want to study mental wellbeing in different geographical regions.

4 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns and noun phrases in the right-hand column according __________ a new study
1. focused __________ what they were doing
2. participate __________ a study
3. reflect __________ the past
4. learn __________ the past
5. select __________ a list

Scientific evidence has always supported the benefits of living for the moment.
Thinking about the past and planning for the future makes people happier.
Only humans have the ability to focus on things that aren’t happening right now.
Participants in the study were contacted at regular intervals during the day.
If your mind wanders a lot, it is likely that you will be unhappy.
The researchers want to study mental wellbeing in different geographical regions.

5 Words followed by prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using prepositions. Then check your answers in the text.
1. according __________ a new study
2. focused __________ what they were doing
3. participate __________ a study
4. reflect __________ the past
5. learn __________ the past
6. select __________ a list

6 Word-building

Complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>noun</th>
<th>adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>participate</td>
<td>(person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>research</td>
<td>(person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>apply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>confidence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>emotion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Discussion

Do you often daydream? When and why?
Living in the moment really does make people happier

Level 2 • Intermediate

KEY

1 Key words
1. distracted
2. daydream
3. consistently
4. wellbeing
5. benefit
6. volunteer
7. focused
8. reminisce
9. miserable
10. random

4 Verb + noun collocations
1. d
2. f
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. e

5 Words followed by prepositions
1. to
2. on
3. in
4. on
5. from
6. from

6 Word-building
1. participant
2. researcher
3. application
4. geographical
5. confident
6. emotional

2 Find the information
1. 46.7% (nearly half their time)
2. Harvard University
3. 2,250
4. 30%
5. 22
6. 5,000

3 Comprehension check
1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
The night-walkers of Uganda

Level 1 • Intermediate

1 Key Words

Fill the gaps using these words from the text.

toddler         rags        warden        thug        rebellion
abduction        beat        aid agency        damage        alcoholism

1. An _____________ is an organization that helps people affected by wars or natural disasters.
2. A _____________ is a violent criminal.
3. A _____________ is a very young child who is learning to walk.
4. A _____________ is someone whose job is to be responsible for a place and check that rules are obeyed.
5. An _____________ is the act of taking someone way from their home or family using force.
6. If something causes _____________, there is strong opposition to it.
7. To _____________ someone is to hit a person violently several times.
8. To _____________ something is to break it or spoil it.
9. _____________ are clothes that are old, torn and dirty.
10. _____________ is a medical condition that makes it difficult for people to control the amount of drinks such as wine or beer that they drink.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. What country is Mary Aciro from?
2. Where is this country?
3. What is the LRA?
4. When did children start going into towns?
5. Approximately how many children spend the nights in towns?
6. What problem has existed in Mary’s country for 19 years?

The night-walkers of Uganda

Mary Aciro has spent the day gathering grass to feed the cattle, weeding the vegetables and helping her mother cook dinner over a fire: the life of any African girl in any African village. But before the sun sets, Mary leaves the family’s tiny mud hut and walks down a sandy track into the nearest town. The adults in the town of Lacor in northern Uganda are going home for dinner on buses. Mary and hundreds of other children are going the other way. They are dressed in rags and flip-flops; some carry sacks or rolled-up blankets on their shoulders. They are on the way to the night shelters, which are guarded by government troops.

In any other country, a 14-year-old girl leaving her home and an anxious mother for the night would cause rebellion. Here, it is necessary to survive. “We fear the rebels, we fear thugs and robbers who come at night to disturb us,” says Mary as she walks.
On a continent with many wars, the war in this region is particularly bad. It is Africa’s longest civil war, and perhaps the only conflict in history in which children are both the main victims and the main attackers. Mary and the other children walk to safety every night because they fear, with good reason, abduction by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a religious rebel group that uses children as soldiers, porters and sexual slaves. The LRA attacks the villagers at night, killing adults and forcing children to beat their parents before taking them away to camps deep in the bush.

Mary’s 15-year-old brother, Geoffrey, was abducted by the rebels. He was held for three months. “They made him carry heavy things, beat him at times, gave him no food,” says their mother, Agnes. Geoffrey only escaped when a government helicopter attacked the rebel camp he was in. Mary’s neighbour, a girl named Florence, was abducted too. She spent three years with the rebels: she was forced into sexual slavery and became pregnant.

In 2002, desperate parents in northern Uganda began sending their children—about 40,000 of them—into nearby towns at night. Aid agencies built shelters to give them somewhere safe to go, and it’s one of these that Mary is going to. Mary lives near the town, but some of the other children walk for hours to reach safety. When she reaches the shelter, it is already full of children of all ages. The shelter is made up of concrete buildings and giant white canvas tents.

Lillian Apiyo, 14, is already inside. “I come here for protection,” she says. “I always get new friends from here. There is nowhere to stay at home.” The children walk through the gates looking sad, but a party atmosphere soon develops. A dozen or so children begin dancing. At other shelters, they sing songs that cheer them up. The children are not given anything to eat. The shelters are busy enough as it is, and if food were provided, they would be even busier.

Adult wardens patrol with torches, stopping occasional fights and checking on children who look scared or upset. “When I am here, I feel I am somebody,” says Gabriel Oloya. “When I am at home, I’m always upset. Here, I forget my worries.” Gabriel, 15, is responsible for the four younger brothers who walk with him to the shelter. “My parents are dead, killed by the rebels,” he says.

Childhood is short in rural Africa, but it is even shorter in this society damaged by the war. The children who come to the shelters are in need of affection. Many of them live with their extended family because their parents were murdered by the rebels.

In the shelter the wardens keep boys and girls apart, but outside its gates young couples are alone in the semi-darkness. This sort of thing worries Mary’s mother. “We can’t follow our children up to the shelter,” Agnes says. “Sometimes a girl says she has gone there, but she has gone to a boyfriend, and she becomes pregnant and leaves school.” But then there is more to worry about than teenage boys. The tribes of northern Uganda were once farmers who kept cattle and grew maize. But 19 years of war have destroyed everything: almost the entire population of the north, 1.5 million people, now live in crowded temporary shelters on the outskirts of towns. There is alcoholism and violence, and the horror of war is part of everyday life.

The hope of returning to a normal life is slowly disappearing. This is a culture with few written records. When their parents are gone, the children’s link with their villages will be lost. Who will tell the children the boundaries of farmland or the distance to the nearest stream? “For me, the worst thing that may happen here is a situation where there is no war, but everybody stays in the camps,” says Father Carlos Rodriguez Soto, a Roman Catholic priest who has spent 18 years in Uganda.
The wardens wake up the children before the sun rises. After a prayer and a wash, some children roll their blankets on to their shoulders and the older ones gather up younger brothers and sisters. They walk out of the gates on to the road. By 9 am the sun will burn, but now it is gentle. It is a good time to walk home.

3 Comprehension check

Choose TWO correct answers to complete each sentence:

1. In northern Uganda 40,000 children
   a. spend the night in shelters built by aid agencies.
   b. leave their homes at the age of 14.
   c. are afraid of being captured by the rebels.

2. The LRA is a rebel group that
   a. captures children to use them as slaves.
   b. attacks villages and murders people at night.
   c. takes adults away to camps in the bush.

3. The shelters
   a. provide children with food.
   b. are a safe place for children to stay.
   c. are guarded by government troops.

4. The war in Uganda has lasted so long that
   a. it has completely destroyed society.
   b. there is little hope of returning to a normal life.
   c. people will have to stay in camps forever.

4 Vocabulary 1 Descriptions

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to form descriptions from the text.

1. a mud   a. building
2. a sandy   b. tent
3. a concrete   c. hut
4. a canvas   d. shelter
5. an extended   e. track
6. a crowded   f. family
The night-walkers of Uganda

Level 1 • Intermediate

5 Vocabulary 2  Word building

Complete the table. Check your answers in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun (person)</th>
<th>Noun (thing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. governor</td>
<td>_____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. rebel</td>
<td>_____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. abductor</td>
<td>_____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. slave</td>
<td>_____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. child</td>
<td>_____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. farmer</td>
<td>_____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Vocabulary 3  Find the wrong word

Cross out the word or phrase that CAN’T complete the sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. The children are dressed in rags / torches / flip-flops.
2. Some children carry tracks / sacks / blankets.
3. Villagers fear wardens / thugs / rebels.
4. The rebels use children as soldiers / slaves / victims.
5. Shelters are safe / desperate / crowded.
6. Some children are full / scared / upset.
7. Children need alcoholism / affection / protection.
8. In northern Uganda, the society is damaged / destroyed / murdered by war.

7 Discussion

Of all the problems in Uganda, which do you think is the most serious of all? Why? What could be done to help solve it?
The night-walkers of Uganda

Level 1 • Intermediate

KEY

1 Key Words
1. aid agency
2. thug
3. toddler
4. warden
5. abduction
6. rebellion
7. beat
8. damage
9. Rags
10. Alcoholism

2 Find the information
1. Uganda
2. in Africa
3. the Lord's Resistance Army / a rebel group
4. in 2002
5. 40,000
6. a (civil) war

3 Comprehension check
1. a, c; 2. a, b; 3. b, c; 4. a, b

4 Vocabulary 1 Descriptions
1. c; 2. e; 3. a; 4. b; 5. f; 6. d

5 Vocabulary 2 Word building
1. government
2. rebellion
3. abduction
4. slavery
5. childhood
6. farmland

6 Vocabulary 3 Find the wrong word
1. torches
2. tracks
3. wardens
4. victims
5. desperate
6. full
7. alcoholism
8. murdered
No strawberries and cream for fruit pickers

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Pre-reading 1 Discussion

1. Have you ever had a job like picking fruit? Was it hard work? Did you enjoy it?

2. Look at the headline. What do you think the article will be about?

2 Pre-reading 2 Key Words

See if you can guess the meaning of these words from the text by matching them with the definitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a polytunnel</th>
<th>a walking frame</th>
<th>to complain</th>
<th>to cheer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a protest</td>
<td>a strike</td>
<td>a contract</td>
<td>a migrant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ________________ is to say that you are not satisfied with something.
2. ________________ is a metal support that helps old or disabled people to move.
3. ________________ is a strong disagreement.
4. ________________ is to shout loudly to show that you are happy about something or somebody.
5. ________________ is a long, transparent polythene cover to protect growing plants, tall enough for people to work inside.
6. ________________ is an agreement in writing, about work or business.
7. ________________ is someone who moves to another country to work or live.
8. ________________ is when the workers all stop work to show the management that they are not happy about their working conditions.

Now read the text quickly to check the words, and to see if your answer to question 1 2 was right.

No strawberries and cream for fruit pickers

1 Val Salisbury walked down her road in the English countryside and went into a giant plastic polytunnel. Inside, lots of people from eastern Europe were picking strawberries. The workers were surprised to see a 69-year-old Englishwoman using a walking frame come in. But when she started pulling the strawberry plants out of the ground, they began to understand that she was angry with the company they worked for.

2 Mrs Salisbury herself was surprised when the east Europeans clapped and cheered her act of protest against S&A Davies, Europe’s largest strawberry grower. By the time the farm manager had arrived, Mrs Salisbury was very popular. Popular, not just with the local people who don’t want large areas of farmland covered in plastic, but also with the workers from all over eastern Europe who pick fruit for British supermarkets.

3 “I felt so much better after my protest,” said Mrs Salisbury last weekend. “We don’t need these strawberries and these polytunnels in Herefordshire”.

© Macmillan Publishers Ltd 2006
Downloaded from the News Lessons section in www.onestopenglish.com
Every year, at the beginning of summer, at least 5,000 people from eastern Europe arrive in Herefordshire and Worcestershire to pick fruit. This year, two villages, with more than 1,700 people in each, have been built there. Each one has about 400 caravans, football pitches, internet cafes and even saunas. Most local people welcome the fruit-pickers, but some are afraid that the fruit company is treating the migrant workers unfairly to make money out of them. Last weekend, 50 people working in the tunnels were interviewed, and many seemed as angry as Mrs Salisbury. Those who could speak English complained about their conditions, and thought the company was making too much money from their stay.

“In Lithuania I earn 200 pounds a month,” said a policeman from Vilnius. “I thought I could earn more here. It looks like I am not going to. It cost more than I thought to get here; it costs more to live.”

“None of us like strawberry picking,” said a Ukrainian student. “Today I have earned 23 pounds. But I must pay 35 pounds a week to live in a box with three other people. Perhaps I earn 150 pounds in a week, but when I have paid for food, accommodation, tax, everything, maybe I have 70 pounds for a six days. It’s not good”.

“The money is bad,” said a waiter from the Czech Republic. “We waited days to have work. Last year we heard there was a strike here; perhaps there will be one this year, too. It is like a prison. I have been given a yellow card already. One more and I am sent home.”

The Guardian has seen the contracts S&A Davies gives the east Europeans. The rules and conditions are hard. The workers have to pay £26.25 a week to live four or five in one room. They must pay £3 a week for toilets and waste collection, £2.25 for electricity, and £2.75 for leisure facilities, including a TV set, football pitch and disco. For £30, they can get medical and translation advice.

The contracts say that pickers can lose their jobs for eating a single strawberry, for stopping work, for going to the toilet at the side of the field, or for smoking indoors. If their rooms are not “clean and tidy”, the workers can be asked to leave. If they want to invite a visitor to the camp, they must ask permission two days in advance. “I have never been anywhere like this,” said a Ukrainian housewife. The company said they promised to pay pickers £5.05 an hour when there was work, and extra money if they picked more than a set amount of strawberries. But they said that they could not promise full-time work for everyone at the start of the strawberry season, or in bad weather. “When 3,500 people arrive, it’s hard to give everyone work at the same time. We reduced the cost of accommodation to £10 when it was raining, two weeks ago,” said Graham Neal, a manager with S&A Davies.

Mr Neal blamed agents in east European countries for sending the wrong kind of workers. “Under the old system, where fixed numbers of students came to do farm work, we could go to an east European university and get excellent people. Now the government says that we must take anyone from the EU. Some countries... have sent over their unemployed drunks,” he said.

The strange but sad thing is that the east Europeans cannot even afford to buy the fruit they pick. “Yes, we like strawberries but we cannot pay for them,” said a Ukrainian who was buying cheap white bread and margarine in the local supermarket. “The next time you eat one, just think of us in the tunnels.”
No strawberries and cream for fruit pickers

Level 2 • Intermediate

3 Reading for Information

Find the numbers (they are all in paragraphs 4-8).

1. How many foreign workers come to the strawberry farms every year? ____
2. How much does the policeman earn at home? ____
3. How much does the student earn each week? ____
4. How much rent does she pay? ____
5. How many people share her room? ____
6. How much does it cost to see the doctor? ____

4 Vocabulary 1 Find the word

Find words in the article that match the definitions. Use the paragraph numbers (in brackets) to help you.

1. _________________ Hit their hands together, many times, to show that they think something is good (2)
2. _________________ A sign or warning (used in football) that you have done something wrong (7)
3. _________________ _______________ Things you can use to help you enjoy your free time (8)
4. _________________ Made (it) less (9)
5. _________________ Says or thinks that somebody is responsible for something bad (10)
6. _________________ _______________ People who have no work, and drink too much alcohol (10)
7. _________________ To have enough money to buy something (11)

5 Vocabulary 2 Collocation

See if you can remember the missing propositions. Use the paragraph numbers (in brackets) to help you.

1. angry ____________ somebody (1)
2. work ____________ somebody (1)
3. complain ____________ something (4)
4. pay ____________ something (6, 8 and 10)
5. ____________ advance (9)
6. ____________ the same time (9)
7. the cost ____________ something (9)
8. blame somebody ____________ something (10)

Now quickly read the article to check.
No strawberries and cream for fruit pickers

Level 2  Intermediate

6 Word order

Put the words in these sentences in the right order:

1. could / thought / more / I / much / earn / here / I / money

2. never / anywhere / have / this / like / been / I

3. strawberries / them / like / pay / but / cannot / we / for / we

4. time / you / the / one / eat / next

5. of / think / us / tunnels / just / the / in

Now read the text quickly to check.

7 Discussion

Do you think Mrs Salisbury was right to pull up the strawberry plants? Why / why not?
No strawberries and cream for fruit pickers

Level 2 • Intermediate

Key:

2. Pre-reading 2: Key words:
1. to complain
2. a walking frame
3. a protest
4. to cheer.
5. A polytunnel
6. a contract
7. a migrant
8. a strike

6. Word Order
1. I thought I could earn much more money here.
2. I have never been anywhere like this.
3. We like strawberries but we cannot pay for them.
4. The next time you eat one …
5. Just think of us in the polytunnels.

3. Reading for Information:
1. 5,000
2. £200
3. £150
4. £35 a week
5. 4
6. £30

(£ is the symbol for British pounds – GBP)

4. Vocabulary 1 – Find the Word
1. to clap
2. a yellow card
3. leisure facilities
4. to reduce
5. to blame somebody
6. unemployed drunks
7. to afford

5. Vocabulary 2 – Collocation:
1. with
2. for
3. about
4. for
5. in
6. at
7. of
8. for
Brought to book: Kabul author guilty of ‘betraying’ a nation

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>sue</th>
<th>defamation</th>
<th>damages</th>
<th>humiliated</th>
<th>inconsistent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ________________ is the offence of writing or saying something bad about someone that is not true and makes people have a bad opinion of them. (para 1)
2. A ________________ person fails to give care or attention and this may cause harm or damage. (para 1)
3. If you feel ________________, you feel very embarrassed and ashamed. (para 1)
4. The money that a court orders you to pay someone because you have harmed them or their property is called ________________. (para 2)
5. If you ________________ someone, you make a legal claim against them, usually to get money from them because they have done something bad to you. (para 3)
6. If you ________________ , you formally ask a court of law or similar authority to change its decision. (para 5)
7. ________________ means very large in amount or degree. (para 6)
8. A ________________ is an official document that tells someone to do something or stop doing something. (para 8)
9. An ________________ is something that does not match something else. (para 9)
10. If you ________________, a secret, you let it become known. (para 9)

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. How much does the author have to pay in damages?
2. How long did the author live with the bookseller’s family?
3. How much could she and her publishers have to pay in damages to other family members?
4. How much will the author and the book’s publisher have to pay in legal fees?
5. When did the author contact Rais to ask if she could live with his family?
6. Where does the bookseller’s first wife live now?
Brought to book: Kabul author guilty of ‘betraying’ a nation

Amelia Hill
27 July, 2010

1 The author of the best-selling book The Bookseller of Kabul has been found guilty of defamation and “negligent journalistic practices” after losing a case brought by a woman who claimed the book painted an untruthful picture of her that left her feeling humiliated.

2 Legal experts say the ruling by a district court in Norway will transform the way in which western journalists and authors write about people from poor countries. Åsne Seierstad was ordered to pay more than £26,000 in damages to Suraia Rais, the second wife of bookseller Shah Muhammad Rais, with whose family the Norwegian writer lived for five months while researching her book.

3 This story may not be over yet. The other members of the Rais family have also said how angry they are about a book they say is an insult not just to them but to the whole Afghan culture. Now that Suraia’s case has been accepted by the Norwegian judge, seven other members of the family have announced that they too will sue the author. Shah Muhammad Rais, his first wife, his mother, his two sons and his two daughters have already prepared their cases with the same lawyer who won the case for Suraia. Seierstad and her publishers could find themselves back in court in two to three months’ time, facing further claims of up to £250,000.

4 “Suraia’s success is a green light to the other members of my family,” said Rais. “The penalties that my mother and my first wife will ask for will be higher than those demanded by my second wife because the defamation against them was much greater. “The money is not important to us, though,” added Rais. “Seierstad has offered us lots of money to settle the case out of court. She even offered to write a second book containing the truth about our family and about Afghanistan but we turned all those offers down. We want this book to be discredited in public in a court of law because it is the honour of the Afghanistan people it has insulted.”

5 Seierstad and her Norwegian publisher, Cappelen Damm, have also been told they must pay legal fees, expected to be at least £63,000. Seierstad has said that she intends to appeal. Her lawyer has said the case could end up in the European Court of Human Rights.

6 All this comes from a book that was a massive international success. In 2002, Seierstad contacted Rais and asked if she could live with his family in Kabul. She wanted, she said, to write a book about Afghan culture and the story of one family’s experience of surviving the tragedy of civil war.

7 The author was, said Rais, treated as an honoured guest and taken to social gatherings and private family ceremonies. “We trusted her,” he said. “We didn’t ask for any contract. We didn’t even ask to see her book before it was published. She was a VIP. The only thing I asked her to do was to open her eyes to my family and friends, and give a clear and clean picture of Afghan culture,” he said. “There is so much told about our culture that is wrong. I wanted her to show the truth.”

8 Instead, Seierstad wrote a thinly-veiled story of a family that, according to the book’s preface, was “based on true incidents I have participated in or stories I have been told”. This claim, Suraia said in her writ, was a lie. Instead, 31 members of the Rais family and their neighbours say the author misrepresented their lives. They say they have been insulted and, in some cases, left feeling humiliated.

9 The writ refers to inconsistencies in the book. But worse for Seierstad’s reputation as a journalist, it gives examples of passages where she revealed secrets about the family’s sex lives and “forbidden loves” – sometimes using their real names and, in one case, an actual address. This behaviour is so prohibited in Afghan culture that several family members were forced to emigrate: Rais’s first wife now lives in Canada with three of her children. Several other family members moved to Pakistan.

10 Seierstad has not commented on the case but her publisher in London, Time Warner, has promised its support. However, Per Danielson, the Rais’s lawyer, says the case is a very
Brought to book: Kabul author guilty of ‘betraying’ a nation

Level 2 • Intermediate

important one for the publishing world.

If Åsne does appeal, this case could go on for another five years but the Rais family has shown through its determination so far, that they are not going to let the matter drop. “This case will definitely be the start of a new, international trend because it proves that people can be sued across borders. It shows that even a poor person from Afghanistan can stand up and pursue a court case in a different country,” Danielson said.

© Guardian News & Media 2010
First published in The Guardian, 27/07/10

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?
1. Mr Rais says that the only reason they have sued the author is for money.
2. The author has offered to write a second book about the family.
3. The book has only been a best-seller in Norway.
4. The family asked to see a copy of the book before it was published.
5. The author said the book was based on true incidents she had participated in or stories she had been told.
6. The case could continue for several years.

4 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.
1. an adjective meaning not honest or true (para 1)
2. a noun meaning something that seems to show a lack of respect for someone (para 3)
3. a three-word expression meaning official approval for something to be done (para 4)
4. a six-word expression meaning to end a legal disagreement without asking a court to decide (para 4)
5. a verb meaning to harm someone or something’s reputation (para 4)
6. an acronym meaning very important person (para 7)
7. a two-word expression meaning done in a way that makes it very easy to recognize what the true situation really is (para 8)
8. a four-word expression meaning to stop talking about or pursuing something (para 11)

5 Two-word expressions

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.
1. district a. gathering
2. legal b. rights
3. human c. case
4. civil d. court
5. social e. war
6. court f. fees
6 Word-building

Complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>succeed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>behave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defame</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insult</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Discussion

Would you like to read this book? Why? Why not?
KEY

1 Key words
1. defamation
2. negligent
3. humiliated
4. damages
5. sue
6. appeal
7. massive
8. writ
9. inconsistency
10. reveal

4 Find the word
1. untruthful
2. insult
3. a green light
4. settle the case out of court
5. discredit
6. VIP
7. thinly-veiled
8. let the matter drop

2 Find the information
1. more than £26,000
2. five months
3. up to £250,000
4. at least £63,000
5. 2002
6. Canada

5 Two-word expressions
1. d
2. f
3. b
4. e
5. a
6. c

3 Comprehension check
1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. T

6 Word-building
1. success
2. behaviour
3. defamation
4. gathering
5. support
6. insult
Gang mayhem grips LA

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Key words

Fill the gaps using key words from the text.

backfires | bury | to ruin | a crackdown | a gang | summit | turf | unprecedented | impoverished | to mourn

1. ____________ is a group of young people who spend time together and often cause trouble.

2. When you ____________ a person, you put his or her dead body in the ground.

3. ____________ is to feel sad because someone has died.

4. ____________ is an area that a group considers to be their own.

5. ____________ is a strong action taken by the authority to stop a particular activity.

6. When leaders hold a ____________, they have a meeting or series of meetings.

7. If something is ____________, then it has never happened or existed before.

8. If a plan ____________ then it has the opposite effect you intended.

9. If you are ____________ then you have little or no money.

10. ____________ something is to destroy or seriously damage it.

2 Read quickly

Skim the text and choose the correct answer.

1. a) Father Boyle buried Jonathan Hurtado.
   b) Father Boyle killed Jonathan Hurtado.

2. a) In LA there is a new race war between Hispanic gangs and white gangs.
   b) In LA there is a new race war between Hispanic gangs and black gangs.

3. a) Cheryl Green was killed by police.
   b) Cheryl Green was killed by gang members.

4. a) There were less gang-related crimes last year than the year before.
   b) There were more gang-related crimes last year than the year before.

5. a) The gangs have published a list of the worst gangs.
   b) The police has published a list of the worst gangs.

6. a) Homeboy Industries helps young people leave gangs.
   b) Homeboy Industries helps young people join gangs.
Gang mayhem grips LA

Paul Harris
March 18, 2007

1 Father Greg Boyle keeps a count of the young gang members he has buried. Number 151 was Jonathan Hurtado, 18 – fresh out of jail. Now the Jesuit mourns him. “The day he got out I found him a job. He never missed a day. He was doing really well,” Boyle says.

2 But Hurtado made a mistake: he went back to his old neighbourhood. While sitting in a park, Hurtado was approached by a man on a bike who said to him: “Hey, homie, what’s up?” He then shot Hurtado four times.

3 Boyle’s Los Angeles is a world away from the glamorous Hollywood hills, Malibu beaches and Sunset Strip – the city that David Beckham and Posh Spice will soon make their home.

4 Boyle’s Los Angeles is where an estimated 120,000 gang members across five counties battle over turf, pride and drugs. It is a city of violence as a new race war escalates between new Hispanic gangs and older black groups. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who has referred to his city as “the gang capital of America”, has launched a crackdown on the new threat.

5 The latest front is Harbor Gateway, a nest of streets between malls and office blocks. It was here, just before Christmas, that Cheryl Green, a 14-year-old black girl, died. As she stood on a corner talking with friends, two Hispanic members of the neighbourhood’s notorious 204th Street gang walked up and opened fire, killing Green and wounding three others. Traditionally, the outside view of LA gangs has been of black youths but Hispanic gangs are rising and spreading across America.

6 Last year there were 269 gang-related killings in LA. Gang-related crime leaped 15.7 per cent last year, as most other types of crime fell. Hate crimes against black people have gone up.

7 Green’s death made the public aware of the gang war between ‘brown and black’. Next week a summit will be held called the Black and Brown Strategy Meeting which aims to head off a race war. “All of the signs are there that a racial war is going to explode in this city,” says Khalid Shah, director of Stop the Violence, one of the groups organizing the meeting. “You are looking at an event which could not only paralyze an entire city but an entire state,” he warns.

8 Green’s death sparked Villaraigosa’s crackdown. The police took the unprecedented step of publishing a list of the 11 worst gangs, including 204th Street. They promised to go after them with police, FBI agents and injunctions to prevent members meeting. But Angelenos have seen it all before. The city’s history is full of anti-gang initiatives.

9 Publishing the ‘hit list’ could backfire. “Putting out a list was a bad idea. Groups that don’t make the list will want to be on it. They don’t exactly think rationally,” said Alex Alonso, a gang historian.

10 Yet there is hope. Alfonso ‘Chino’ Visuet, 23, was sucked into the gang life as a teenager. There was the lure of excitement and riches, the push of a difficult home life. “People who join a gang are always running away from something. They flee to the gang,” Visuet says.

11 Visuet now works for Father Boyle’s Homeboy Industries, a project that helps people leave gang life. It provides jobs, an education, pays to have gang tattoos removed and gives counselling. It aims to remove the circumstances that lead to crime: poverty, abuse and unemployment. It is staffed almost entirely by former gang members and has created a bakery, a silk-screen printers and a restaurant.

12 It worked for Visuet. He starts college this autumn and wants to be a probation officer. “I was on the edge of doing something that would ruin my life, either by doing violence or having it done to me. That’s over now,” he says.
Visuet despairs at the conflict. “A brown gang member now just sees a black gang member. What they don’t see is how that person comes from the same place they do. They might have a mother who is an alcoholic as well or a father who beats on them. They have the same story,” he says.

LA is a city of two worlds – Hollywood and gangs. On a two-lane highway that goes through the middle of Harbor Gateway, a few hundred yards from where Cheryl Green was shot, there is a billboard for a new TV show called Sons of Hollywood. It shows three rich young men against a backdrop of palm trees. It claims to be a ‘reality’ show, but for most of the impoverished, racially torn citizens it is nothing more than a fantasy.

Comprehension check

Find information in the text and write short answers to the questions.

1. What was Jonathan Hurtado’s mistake?
2. How are Boyle’s Los Angeles and the Beckhams’ Los Angeles different?
3. How is the view of LA gangs changing?
4. What are two consequences of Cheryl Green’s killing?
5. Why do some people think the hit list is a bad idea?
6. Why do people join gangs, according to Visuet?
7. What does Homebody Industries do to help ex-gang members?
8. What is Sons of Hollywood?

Vocabulary 1: Expressions

Order the words in italics to make expressions.

1. count of keep to something = to remember or record a number as it changes over time
2. make home your to somewhere = to live somewhere
3. there all the are signs = something is sure to happen in the future
4. they seen all it before have = they are used to it
5. doing edge the on of something = about to do something
6. fantasy nothing a than more = not real
Gang mayhem grips LA

Level 2 • Intermediate

5 Vocabulary 2: War vocabulary

Find words relating to war and conflict in the paragraphs. The first letter has been given.

1. s__________ (Paragraph 2) 7. k__________ (Paragraph 5)
2. b__________ (Paragraph 4) 8. w__________ (Paragraph 5)
3. w__________ (Paragraph 4) 9. v__________ (Paragraph 11)
4. t__________ (Paragraph 4) 10. c__________ (Paragraph 13)
5. f__________ (Paragraph 5) 11. b__________ (Paragraph 13)
6. o__________ f __________ (Paragraph 5)

6 Vocabulary 3: Phrasal verbs into nouns

Look at the following example from the text.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who has referred to his city as “the gang capital of America”, has launched a crackdown on the new threat.

The noun crackdown comes from the phrasal verb to crack down.

Complete the sentences with nouns made from the following phrasal verbs.

black out blow up stop over hand out clean up lay off

1. On our flight to London we had a two-hour ___________ in Frankfurt.
2. The family had several candles in the house in case of a ___________.
3. The company was losing money and there were many ___________.
4. He’s forty and he still lives on ___________ from his parents.
5. On the wall is a big ___________ of a photo of a football player.
6. After the oil spill, the government launched a large ___________ operation.

7 Discussion

What could be the causes of gang-related crime in a city like LA? Are there gang problems in your city?
Gang mayhem grips LA

Level 2 • Intermediate

KEY

1 Key words
1. a gang
2. bury
3. to mourn
4. turf
5. a crackdown
6. summit
7. unprecedented
8. backfires
9. impoverished
10. to ruin

2 Read quickly
1. a
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. b
6. a

3 Comprehension check
1. Returning to his old neighbourhood.
2. Boyle’s LA is full of violence and gangs, Beckham’s is glamorous and full of celebrities.
3. There are now more Hispanic gangs, not only young black gangs.
4. The public is aware of the race war and police have launched a crackdown.
5. Because other gangs will want to be on the list.
6. Because they are running away from something.
7. It provides education, counselling, tattoo-removal and jobs.
8. A reality TV show.

4 Vocabulary 1: Expressions
1. to keep a count of something
2. to make your home somewhere
3. all the signs are there
4. have seen it all before
5. on the edge of doing something
6. nothing more than a fantasy

5 Vocabulary 2: War vocabulary
1. shot
2. battle
3. war
4. threat
5. front
6. opening fire
7. killing
8. wounding
9. violence
10. conflict
11. beat

6 Vocabulary 3: Phrasal verbs into nouns
1. stopover
2. blackout
3. layoffs
4. handouts
5. blowup
6. cleanup
1 Key words

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

emigrate  migrant  people smuggler  skipper
compass  deportation  self-sufficient  mainland

1. A ____________ is a small instrument with a needle that always points to the north.
2. If you ____________ , you leave your country to live and work in another country.
3. A ____________ person is one who can provide everything for himself or herself without the help of other people.
4. A ____________ is a person who earns money by taking people illegally from one country to another.
5. A ____________ is a person who travels to another country to work.
6. ____________ is an informal word for the captain of a boat.
7. ____________ is the process of removing a person from a country and sending them home.
8. The ____________ is the large mass of land that forms the biggest part of a country but does not include any islands.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. Where is Mali? _______________
2. Where is Fuerteventura? _______________
3. What is the only crop grown in southwest Mali? _______________
4. What is the capital of Mali? _______________
5. What is the capital of Western Sahara? _______________
6. How much did the two migrants pay for the boat trip to Spain? _______________
It’s a long way from Mali to Madrid / Cécile Chambraud meets two African migrants whose journey to Europe has taken them five years

In a few hours one of them will be leaving for Valencia, the other for the province of Huelva, in Andalusia in the south of Spain. A friend, who has been in Spain for two years, told them they might find work on farms there. It will be the last stage of a five-year journey they made together, from the cotton fields of the poor West African country of Mali to the European mainland, after a boat trip from the coast of Western Sahara to Fuerteventura, in the Canary Islands.

Mady Tounkara, 25, and Yaouba Kone, 26, both come from villages near Kayes, in southwest Mali. Their families grow cotton and everyone helps - there are 10 children in the Tounkara family and 15 in Kone’s. Cotton is the only crop in the region and they cannot live on the $0.40 a kilo they get for selling it. They do not have enough money for all the children to get married. Three of Mady’s brothers and sisters are older than Mady, but only two have been able to start a family. When the rain failed and the crop was poor, Mady and Yaouba each travelled to the capital, Bamako, to try and find work, hoping to earn enough to buy food for the whole family. They met in Bamako and decided to emigrate to Europe together.

‘A lot of young people in Mali are considering emigration,’ says Mady. ‘We started out on May 15, 2001. I had 100,000 CFA francs ($180),’ recalls Yaouba. It wasn’t of course enough to pay for the journey to Europe. So the two men took the northern road, hoping to earn some more on the way. They worked in the fields of the Djanet oasis, in southeast Algeria, then returned to Mali. Then they tried Libya. From there they went to Morocco, stopping in Rabat and Casablanca, and finally ended up in El-Aaiun, the capital of Western Sahara, in March. Somehow they managed to save some money during the five years they were on the road.

‘I earned $1,800 in Algeria and Libya,’ says Yaouba. They had enough money to persuade a Moroccan in El-Aaiun to sell them two seats on a boat that was about to leave. ‘We paid $1,300 each. Apart from the boat’s skipper, there were 34 of us on board and we all paid the same,’ says Yaouba. Just before the boat left, the people smuggler made them take their clothes off, and searched them for mobile phones and hidden cash. ‘He felt everything, even the seams of our clothes,’ says Mady. ‘He found the $180 I had hidden in the heel of one of my shoes and the collar of my shirt.’ The smuggler also stole their clothes and shoes, leaving them just a pair of trousers and a T-shirt to protect them from the ocean wind.

After an 11-hour crossing, with just a compass to guide them, they reached Fuerteventura, the Canary island nearest to the African mainland and the most closely guarded island. The Spanish coastguards picked up the 34
passengers and took them to dry land, handing them over to the Red Cross, which gave them a check-up, a change of clothes and food.

Within 72 hours a court issued a deportation order. However, it is very difficult for the authorities to deport migrants because they do not usually carry any identity papers. While they were waiting to be deported, Mady and Yaouba were imprisoned by the local police (migrants may be held for up to 40 days). ‘We were well treated,’ they say. Then, on May 18, the police took the two men to the island’s airport and put them on a plane. ‘We had no idea where we were going,’ they recall. When the number of migrants reaching the Canary Islands started to rise, in 2000, the Spanish authorities started to transfer most of them to various parts of mainland Spain, particularly Madrid, Catalonia and Valencia. Mady and Yaouba were flown to Madrid and handed over to the Red Cross.

‘When they first arrive,’ says Nuria Baz, the head of the organisation’s immigration programme, ‘we interview them to find out what they need. If they know someone, and they usually do, we do our best to put them in contact. We give them meals, teach them Spanish, sometimes even how to read and write. We also help them find their way around. If necessary, we can put them up for three months. The most important thing is to make them self-sufficient.’ In 2005 the Madrid branch of the Red Cross handled 1,572 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. Without official papers Mady and Yaouba cannot work legally, but they are free. In a few hours they will be going their separate ways, eager to get on with their lives. The Red Cross gave them EUR60 each when they left.

The authorities have stopped boats carrying more than 7,500 sub-Saharan Africans off the coast of the Canary Islands since January. This has led the Spanish prime minister, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, to ask Europe and the African countries from which the migrants come, to help to solve the problem.

The European Union is responding by sending more patrol boats and planes to patrol the waters off the Canary Islands, while European money will help to build two temporary reception centres for deported migrants, in Mauritania and Senegal. Meanwhile Mr Zapatero has sent his secretary of state for foreign affairs on a tour of eight African countries to encourage them to take illegal immigrants back.
Decide whether these statements are TRUE or FALSE according to the text:

1. Mady and Yaouba left their country for political reasons. _____
2. It has taken 5 years for Mady and Yaouba to reach Spain. _____
3. The Spanish government wants illegal immigrants to go home. _____
4. The Red Cross believes the most important thing is for immigrants to earn money to support themselves. _____
5. The Spanish authorities cannot deport illegal immigrants because they have no identity papers. _____
6. Mady and Yaouba want to work in factories. _____
7. Migrants can stay with the Red Cross for up to six months. _____
8. Mady and Yaouba can work legally without official papers. _____

Match the verbs with the nouns:

1. find   a identity papers
2. issue   a family
3. grow   one's way around
4. start   d money
5. save   e work
6. carry   a problem
7. find   g an order
8. solve   cotton

Rearrange these words to make phrases from the text. Check your answers in the text:

1. year journey five a ______________________________
2. crossing eleven an hour ______________________________
3. seventy within hours two ______________________________
4. days up forty to ______________________________
5. way find around their ______________________________
6. boat before the left just ______________________________
Fill the gaps using words from the text that are based on the verb *migrate*:

1. Illegal ____________ is becoming a major problem in Spain.
2. Illegal ____________ are usually held in temporary centres.
3. Poor people often have to ____________ in order to earn money to feed their families.
4. Many ____________ travel for months to reach Europe.
5. The ____________ of people around the world has contributed greatly to ethnic diversity.

**Discussion**

What is the solution to the problems that may be caused by thousands of people leaving Africa to try and reach Europe?
KEY

1 Key words

1 compass
2 emigrate
3 sel-sufficient
4 people smuggler
5 migrant
6 skipper
7 deportation
8 mainland

2 Find the information

1 West Africa
2 The Canary Islands
3 cotton
4 Bamako
5 El-Aaiun
6 $1,300 each ($2,600 in total)

3 Comprehension Check

1 F; 2 T; 3 T; 4 T; 5 T; 6 F; 7 F; 8 F

4 Vocabulary 1 Collocations

1 e (c); 2 g; 3 h; 4 b; 5 d; 6 a; 7 c (e), 8 f

5 Vocabulary 2 Chunks

1 a five-year journey
2 an eleven-hour crossing
3 within seventy-two hours
4 up to forty days
5 find their way around
6 just before the boat left

6 Vocabulary 3 Word families

1 immigration
2 immigrants
3 emigrate
4 migrants
5 migration
South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom for Nelson Mandela

Level 2 • Intermediate

1. Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

reconciliation euphoria bitter-sweet squalid warder

veteran astounded transition apartheid alarmed

1. A period of ____________ is the process of changing from one situation, form or state to another. (para 1)
2. ____________ was the political system that existed in the past in South Africa, in which only white people had political rights and power. (para 1)
3. If you are ____________, you are extremely surprised and shocked. (para 3)
4. If you feel ____________, you feel worried that something unpleasant or dangerous might happen. (para 3)
5. A ____________ is someone whose job is to guard prisoners in a prison. (para 3)
6. A ____________ occasion is one on which you feel happiness and sadness at the same time. (para 4)
7. ____________ is a feeling of great happiness that usually lasts for a short time only. (para 4)
8. A place that is ____________ is dirty and unpleasant. (para 5)
9. ____________ is a new and friendly relationship with someone you argued with or fought with. (para 6)
10. A ____________ is someone who was in the armed forces, especially during a war. (para 7)

2. Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. Who was the first black president of South Africa?
2. How long did Nelson Mandela spend in prison?
3. When was he released from prison?
4. Who is the current president of South Africa?
5. Which president announced the release of Nelson Mandela?
6. How many African countries have hosted the football World Cup?
South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom for Nelson Mandela

David Smith in Johannesburg
11 February, 2010

1 Thousands of people gathered near Cape Town in South Africa to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s release. It marked the moment that Mandela emerged after 27 years in prison, introducing a transition from apartheid to multiracial democracy and the beginning of his rise to become the country’s first black president.

2 Mandela himself was not present, but made a rare public appearance in parliament the same day to hear the fourth post-apartheid president, Jacob Zuma, deliver a state of the nation address. The prison where Mandela spent his last months in captivity was named a memorial site by South Africa’s National Heritage Council.

3 Mandela’s release followed years of political pressure against apartheid. President F. W. de Klerk signalled it was about to happen in a dramatic speech to parliament on 2 February, 1990. Nine days later, Mandela walked through the prison gates holding his wife Winnie’s hand with his right fist raised. A huge crowd was waiting for him. “I was astounded and a little bit alarmed,” he recalled later. “I truly had not expected such a scene. At most, I had imagined there would be several dozen people, mainly the warders and their families. But this proved to be only the beginning.” The Mandelas climbed into a silver Toyota Cressida and were driven to the centre of Cape Town to address a huge crowd outside city hall. Mandela pulled out his speech and realized he had forgotten his glasses, but Winnie gave him hers.

4 The 20th anniversary of South Africa’s equivalent of the fall of the Berlin Wall has started a debate on whether the promise of that great day has been fulfilled. Andrew Feinstein, a former African National Congress MP who resigned in protest over alleged government corruption, said, “My main feeling when I look at South Africa today is just how far we as the ANC and South Africa have fallen from the heady days of Mandela’s years in office. It was an inspiring example of occupying the moral high ground. That’s now gone and I suppose I look at it with a sense of sadness. This anniversary is bitter-sweet. When you look at the personal morality of the current leadership, the level of corruption, the delays in the provision of basic services, the euphoria of the victory over apartheid seems a long way away.”

5 Optimists say South Africa is a stable democracy with a strong liberal constitution, has the continent’s biggest economy, is about to become the first African nation to host the football World Cup and has seen an improvement in race relations that was unthinkable in the 80s. Pessimists argue it is the most unequal society in the world, with about one in four people unemployed, violent crime and political corruption common and the majority of black people living in squalid townships or settlements that are no different from two decades ago.

6 Professor Jonathan Jansen, the first black rector of the historically white Free State university, said, “We need a Mandela II to get us out of this moral crisis. Race relations are on a knife-edge. The modern state was founded on a spirit of reconciliation, but the longer the inequalities exist, the more desperate people become and the greater the risk of a crack in race relations.”

7 Some veterans of the struggle have a deep sense of disappointment. Professor Willie Esterhuyse, an Afrikaner academic who liaised between de Klerk’s government and the ANC before the end of apartheid, said, “Mandela captured the hopes of whites and blacks. But that hope did not really materialize because the problems were too big. The socioeconomic issues were just too awful to deal with in a 10- or 20-year timespan. When the management of these problems didn’t make the grade, they worsened.”

8 Esterhuyse added, “We should be thankful on this anniversary but I don’t think we should rejoice too much. There’s no way we can say it’s all wonderful songs. We can reflect on what we’ve achieved but then let’s see if we can fix the
South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom for Nelson Mandela

Level 2 • Intermediate

problems we’ve created, because we’ve created some really serious political problems.”

9 While Mandela has the status of almost a saint to most South Africans, Zuma is facing the biggest crisis of his presidency after being forced to apologize for an adulterous relationship in which he fathered his 20th child. But the fact that sex scandals dominate the news headlines suggests that the country is becoming increasingly like some other western countries.

10 Frans Cronje, deputy director of the South African Institute of Race Relations, said, “We’ve all realized to some extent that South Africa is in fact just another normal society. Its problems are increasingly normal. International attention has gone to other issues: the Middle East and, from time to time, other crises like Haiti. South Africans have been left to get on with it.”

© Guardian News & Media 2010
First published in The Guardian, 11/02/10

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. Nelson Mandela was released from prison on 11 February, 1990.
2. Nelson Mandela spoke to thousands of people in Cape Town on the 20th anniversary of his release from prison.
3. South Africa has the biggest economy in Africa.
4. About 40% of South Africans are unemployed.
5. Jacob Zuma has 20 children with his wife.
6. South Africa is a democracy.

4 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. a five-word expression meaning a speech describing the condition of the country and any new laws that may be passed (para 2)
2. an adjective meaning very exciting and making you feel you can achieve anything you want (para 4)
3. an adjective meaning making you feel enthusiastic or excited about something (para 4)
4. a noun meaning dishonest or illegal behaviour by people in positions of power when they accept money in exchange for doing things for someone (para 4)
5. an adjective meaning impossible to imagine (para 5)
6. a four-word expression meaning in a situation where success and failure are equally likely (para 6)
7. an adjective meaning very worried and angry because you do not know how to deal with an unpleasant situation (para 6)
8. a verb meaning to provide a means of communication between two groups (para 7)
South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom for Nelson Mandela

Level 2 • Intermediate

5 Adjective + noun collocations

Match the adjectives in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column to make phrases from the text.

1. moral
2. personal
3. basic
4. stable
5. violent
6. public

a. crime
b. appearance
c. high ground
d. services
e. democracy
f. morality

6 Word building

Complete the table using words from the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. appear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. lead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. provide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. settle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. reconcile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. disappoint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Discussion

Is Nelson Mandela a hero? Why? Why not?
South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom for Nelson Mandela

Level 2 • Intermediate

**KEY**

**1 Key words**

1. transition
2. apartheid
3. astounded
4. alarmed
5. warden
6. bitter-sweet
7. euphoria
8. squalid
9. reconciliation
10. veteran

**2 Find the information**

1. Nelson Mandela
2. 27 years
3. February 1990
4. Jacob Zuma
5. F. W. de Klerk
6. None (South Africa will be the first in June 2010)

**3 Comprehension check**

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. F
6. T

**4 Find the word**

1. state of the nation address
2. heady
3. inspiring
4. corruption
5. unthinkable
6. on a knife-edge
7. desperate
8. liaise

**5 Adjective + noun collocations**

1. c
2. f
3. d
4. e
5. a
6. b

**6 Word building**

1. appearance
2. leadership
3. provision
4. settlement
5. reconciliation
6. disappointment
Online fraudster

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Key words

Read the definitions of these key words and answer the questions.

1. Fraud is a crime of obtaining money from someone or tricking them. What is a fraudster?

2. If you go on a drinking spree you drink a lot in a short amount of time. What is a spending spree?

3. Many payment systems use microchips and personal identification numbers (PINs). What is a chip and pin security system?

4. The majority of British people have a mortgage on their house, which can take them over twenty years to pay back to the bank. What is a mortgage?

5. An employee is a person who is employed. A divorcee is a person who is divorced. What is an interviewee?

6. Credit card companies and online shops are trying to protect customers against scams. Is a scam an honest or dishonest way of making money?

What do you think the article will be about?

2 What do you think?

Read the headline. Tick the words you think will appear in the article.

computer   criminal
prison sentence   climate change
athletics   phone
internet   conviction
fun   bottle

Now read the article and check your answers.
It’s easy money, says online fraudster who stole £250,000

Bobbie Johnson, technology correspondent
Thursday May 3, 2007

1 On the outside, Tee was a typical student. Living away from home was expensive, and he had racked up a sizable debt in a short time. Like most students, he had a computer and a phone in his room - but instead of using them to study, he turned them into the tools of a 21st century criminal.

2 In his short career as a fraudster, Tee - who is trying to rebuild his life after serving a long prison sentence, and agreed to speak anonymously - estimates that he stole as much as £250,000 through stolen credit card details, identity theft and bank account takeover. Police officials last week said the volume of online crime was so high that they could not investigate every case, and that big criminals were moving into the fast-growing field.

3 For Tee, who served almost four years for conspiracy to defraud, the chance to use people’s ignorance against them was just too easy. “Although it sounds really flippant, it wasn’t even like a part-time job - because at least in a job you have to work a few hours,” he said. “Maybe it took an hour a night if I really felt like it. But to me it felt like a bit of fun and a pastime which developed into an easy way of making money.”

4 In spare moments around his university schedule - he was studying law - the young Yorkshireman would take card details lifted from insecure websites or passed on from other criminals, and embark on spending sprees that got him cars, clothes and cash. Sometimes scant details such as a name and phone number could open the door. “I used to go through different methods depending on how confident I felt,” he said. “I used to call people up and pretend to be from a fraud department and just ask them for their details. But sometimes it’s as easy as getting information from a local video shop.”

5 Now 26, Tee admits that by the time he was caught he was looking into the possibility of getting bank loans and even mortgages using stolen identities. “It was just a game to see how far you could go,” he said. “My favourite trick was that you get a card in someone’s name and use it. Then, within 24 hours, you call the bank up and convince them that you’re the genuine person and that you haven’t made those transactions - and they refund it. Then you just go to the cash machine and take it all out again.” He even sent flowers to one victim, using their stolen bank details to pay for the bouquet as a cruel gesture of thanks.

6 People like Tee represent the smallest end of what is now a multibillion pound criminal industry. Statistics from Cifas, the UK’s fraud prevention service, show that identity theft was up almost 20% last year, while Internet and card fraud rose to an all-time high of £414m in 2006.

7 Martin Gill, a criminologist at the University of Leicester, who has studied the actions and motivations of fraudsters - Tee was one of his interviewees - said the perceived ease of fraud, particularly when using the Internet, was encouraging to those who commit crime. “One of the things that comes through is the belief that they’re not going to get caught,” he said. Industry insiders say a large number of cases still go unreported because conviction has proved so difficult.

8 “The common reaction among companies selling goods is a real frustration at how hard it is to prosecute and get convictions for people who commit fraud,” said Keith Marsden, managing director of 192.com, which sponsors Prove-ID, a private industrial forum on dealing with fraud. “It’s a hard process to go through.” Instead, companies are choosing tougher security procedures and programmes to educate the public about safe Internet use.

9 But experienced fraudsters like Tee say that it is still too easy: even chip and pin, which has drastically cut physical fraud levels, can prove beneficial to the seasoned criminal. “I thought..."
chip and pin was brilliant - now cashiers think they've got no right to look at your card. If I wanted to, I could pretend to be anyone, because nobody will ever check. It's a new opportunity for them.”

10 How to avoid scams

• Never give personal details over the phone. Banks should never ask for pin numbers or codes.
• Only shop on secure websites that display a padlock or key symbol in your browser. The address should start https instead of http.

3 Comprehension check

Match the sentence halves.

1. Tee started online fraud when...
2. He stole as much as £250,000...
3. Tee viewed stealing as...
4. Statistics show that online crime...
5. Criminologists say that people commit online crime because...
6. Tougher security and public awareness are...
7. People should not give their personal...
8. People should be careful of suspicious...

a. details over the phone.
b. emails and attachments.
c. fun and easy.
d. has risen in the past year.
e. he was a student at university.
f. they think they won't get caught.
g. through stolen credit card details, identities and bank accounts.
h. two methods to stop crime.
Online fraudster

Level 2 • Intermediate

4 Vocabulary 1: Find the word

Find the word for the following definitions.

1. A phrasal verb meaning to accumulate. (para 1)
2. An adverb meaning unknown, that nobody knows your name. (para 2)
3. An adjective meaning not serious. (para 3)
4. An adjective meaning few, little. (para 4)
5. A verb meaning to return money. (para 5)
6. An adjective meaning having a good effect or influence. (para 9)
7. An adjective meaning safe. (para 10)
8. A noun meaning something that hides a person’s real identity. (para 10)

5 Vocabulary 2: Odd word out

Circle the odd word out in each group and explain why.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>fraudster</td>
<td>director</td>
<td>criminal</td>
<td>criminologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>steal</td>
<td>rob</td>
<td>react</td>
<td>defraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>mortgage</td>
<td>padlock</td>
<td>loan</td>
<td>debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>industry</td>
<td>money</td>
<td>credit card</td>
<td>cash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>browser</td>
<td>attachment</td>
<td>cashier</td>
<td>website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Vocabulary 3: Prepositions

Complete the sentence with an appropriate preposition.

1. She’s been living ____ from home for the past three years.
2. It’s possible to use a laptop computer ____ many ways.
3. Climate change has developed ____ a major problem around the world.
4. It all depends ____ how you feel.
5. The government wants to educate young people ____ the dangers of smoking.
6. He gave his credit card details ____ the phone.
7. Be wary ____ suspicious-looking emails.

7 Discussion

Do you feel secure when shopping or giving out your personal details online? What security precautions do you take when using the Internet?
Online fraudster

Level 2 • Intermediate

KEY

1 Key words
1. A person who commits fraud.
2. A short period of time in which you spend a lot of money.
3. A system for paying for something using a credit/debit card that has information stored on it using a microchip.
4. A loan from the bank to buy a house.
5. A person who is interviewed.
6. A dishonest way of making money.

4 Vocabulary 1: Find the word
1. rack up
2. anonymously
3. flippant
4. scant
5. refund
6. beneficial
7. insecure
8. disguise

2 What do you think?
The words in the article are:
computer
prison sentence
internet
fun
criminal
conviction
phone

5 Vocabulary 2: Odd word out
1. director (the others are all related to crime)
2. react (the others are all verbs relating to stealing)
3. padlock (the others are all money and bank related words)
4. industry (the others are all ways of paying for something)
5. cashier (the others are all Internet related words)

3 Comprehension check
1. e. Tee started online fraud when he was a student at university.
2. g. He stole as much as £250,000 through stolen credit card details, identities and bank accounts.
3. c. Tee viewed stealing as fun and easy.
4. d. Statistics show that online crime has risen in the past year.
5. f. Criminologists say that people commit online crime because they think they won’t get caught.
6. h. Tougher security and public awareness are two methods to stop crime.
7. a. People should not give their personal details over the phone.
8. b. People should be careful of suspicious email and attachments.

6 Vocabulary 3: Prepositions
1. away
2. in
3. into
4. on
5. about
6. over
7. of