

First (FCE) Use of English Part 2 – Create an Open Cloze

**TEXT 1 (2015)***Source: www.newsinlevels.com*

More than 120 cats are living and running wild over a tiny Japanese island giving it the nickname "Cats Island." Tourists from around the country have been flocking to Aoshima even though there are no shops or any hotels. There are only ferries twice a day which link Aoshima to the rest of Japan, but that hasn't deterred cat lovers.

The cats were originally brought over to the island to deal with mice plaguing fishing boats, but they've since multiplied, as there are no natural predators. In its heyday, nearly 900 people lived on the island, but over the last 70 years, the population has declined.

The cats are fed occasionally by tourists and some people who live on the island, but generally a lot of them have to look for their own food, eating crops grown by residents or anything edible left lying around. In a bid to control the cat population, ten have been neutered so far. But humans are still a minority on the island, even with the tourists.

Difficult words: run wild (to not be tame and to be out of control), tiny (very small), flock (to come in large numbers), deter (to stop from doing something), plague (to be in large numbers and to cause trouble), heyday (a period of success and popularity), decline (to fall), edible (able to be eaten), in a bid (in an attempt or try), neuter (to castrate or remove the reproductive organs), minority (a smaller group).

**TEXT 2 (2015)***Source: www.newsinlevels.com*

An office in Sweden is taking wearable technology to the next level by implanting microchips into its staff. Yes, that's right; the newly opened Epicentre office complex in Stockholm is offering workers the chance to be chipped under the skin of their hands.

The radio frequency identification chip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, allows users to open doors, swap contact details, and use the photocopier. One user claimed that it felt pretty scary but at the same time it felt very modern. The chipping is entirely voluntary and according to manufacturers, it's completely safe.

"So some of the future areas of use, I think, like anything where you today would use a pin code or a key or card. So payments is I think is one area. I think also for healthcare reasons that you can sort of communicate with your doctor and you can get data on what you eat and sort of what your physical state is. You have your own identification code and you're sending that to something else which you have to grant access to. So there's no one else that can follow you on your ID, so to say. It's you who decides who gets access to that ID."

Difficult words: implant (to place inside the skin), microchip (a very small electronic part that normally goes inside computers and other electronics), chip (to put a microchip inside of something), voluntary (by your choice), manufacturer (a company that makes a product), healthcare reasons (about your health), physical state (how your body is), grant access (to allow someone to get something), ID (identification).



TEXT 3 (2015)

Source: www.newsinlevels.com

A giant polar bear has been spotted roaming the streets of London, giving commuters and joggers a fright. But there was no need to worry, as the 8-foot-long adult male bear was actually an animated prop created by a team of Hollywood special effects experts to mark the launch of Sky Atlantic's anticipated Arctic crime drama "Fortitude."

A team of 19 prop specialists spent eight weeks designing and building the realistic Arctic animal. There were six to eight people working on the costume at any one time, using over 60 types of material, which included 90 square feet of sheep fur. If that wasn't cool enough, the prop uses internal monitors like hidden cameras to allow puppeteers inside to control the bear's movements.

The two people inside the animal studied footage of real polar bears before spending five days rehearsing in order to get their movements right. The new Sky Atlantic series "Fortitude" is set in a fictional town with thousands of polar bears and starts on Thursday at 9 p.m.

Difficult words: spot (to see), roam (to move around without a fixed route), commuter (a person who travels to work every day), fright (a feeling of fear), prop (something used on the set of a film or TV show), launch (to start), Sky Atlantic (a British TV channel), anticipate (to expect or look forward to something), fortitude (the courage you show when you have problems), at any one time (at any moment), fur (the hair from an animal), puppeteer (somebody who performs with puppets), footage (video), rehearse (to practise).

TEXT 4 (2015)

Source: www.newsinlevels.com

Leonard Nimoy, the actor best known for his well-loved Star Trek character Mr. Spock, has died at age 83. The actor died this morning – Friday the 27th of February – at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles. His wife, Susan B. Nimoy, confirmed his death, saying the cause was end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Mr. Nimoy announced last year that he had the disease, which he attributed to years of smoking, a habit he'd given up three decades earlier. He had been hospitalised earlier in the week. TV's most beloved pointy-eared half-Vulcan suffered for several years with the disease, which made it difficult to breathe.

Most recently, Nimoy played the brilliant William Bell in science fiction series "Fringe," but he will be forever remembered for Spock's calm nature, his neck pinch and famous catch phrases. "Live long and prosper."

Difficult words: confirm (to say that something is true), chronic (existing for a long time), obstructive (causing a block), pulmonary (relating to the lungs), attribute something to something (to say that something is caused by something), half-Vulcan (the Vulcans were a fictional people on "Star Trek;"), neck pinch (to press on somebody's neck and make him faint or collapse).