

NEWSFORNOW

Karen Blanchard

Christine Root

新闻英语

卡伦·布兰查德 克里斯蒂娜·鲁特 著

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NEWS FOR NOW

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新闻英语

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PART ONE

Contents

	Acknowledgements	4
Chapter 1	Up, up, and away	6
Chapter 2	Diamond ring found by child	12
Chapter 3	Snake on the loose	18
Chapter 4	Building a bridge between generations	24
Chapter 5	Hot peppers cause problems	30
Chapter 6	Mother Nature shows her strength	36
Chapter 7	Bank robberies on the increase	42
Chapter 8	A smelly surprise	48
Chapter 9	Painting for pay	54
Chapter 10	Soccer on the rise	60
Chapter 11	Overseas students teach art of origami	66
Chapter 12	Rabbits for dinner	72
Chapter 13	Student works for Congress	78
Chapter 14	Call of the wild	84
Chapter 15	Pathfinder lands successfully on Mars	90

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The **News for Now** reading series involves the use of newspaper articles from Thomson newspapers across the United States. In making the articles appropriate for classroom use, some modifying of length and editing has occurred.

Special notice should be made of the following articles:

- Chapter Two: **Diamond ring found by child.**
Reprinted with permission of the Associated Press.
- Chapter Five: **Hot peppers cause problems.**
Names of the individuals have been changed.



Photographs have been provided by Thomson Newspapers and Associated Press where noted. The photograph on page 9 was available through ©1996 Softkey International Inc. and its licences. Also, thanks to friends and colleagues of ITP Asia who have contributed their photographs to the ITP Asia Photo Collection.

We dedicate this book to our best teachers, our parents,
Charlotte and Stanley Baker and Betty and Herbert Lourie.

We would first like to acknowledge Karen Chiang, who called us in the middle of the night (our time) to propose that we do this project. We first knew Karen 30 years ago when the three of us were new in the field and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania. Her trademarks remain her enthusiasm, competence, and tenacity. Warm thanks go also to Joan Quick for her tactful and patient guidance through every step of the project. As always, we recognize our technical support team, David Root and Hasan Halkali, for their acuity, stamina, and good humor as we wended our way through cyberspace. Lastly, we thank our children Matthew, Ian, and Daniel for helping us endlessly comb newspapers in our search for the right articles.



To the Students

All the articles in this book come from real newspapers in the United States. We hope that you enjoy reading the stories. They are rich in vocabulary we think you will find useful. The exercises will help you focus on language and build your reading skills in English. These pages contain news you can use, **News for Now.**

K.L.B. and C.B.R.

Chapter



INTRODUCTION

Hot air ballooning is a popular sport. People have been going up in hot air balloons since 1783. The colorful balloons are fun to watch and to ride in.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Think about the following questions.

- ① Are you afraid of heights?
- ② Have you ever seen a hot air balloon?
- ③ How do you usually celebrate birthdays in your family?

FIRST READING

Look at the photo. Read the article one time quickly for the main idea. Do not use your dictionary.

Check (✓) the main idea of the article.

- ① Hot air ballooning is dangerous. ____
- ② Hot air ballooning is fun, even if you are afraid of heights. _____
- ③ A ride on a hot air balloon costs \$150. ____

SECOND READING

Read the article again more carefully. Then do the exercises that follow.

Up, up, and away

Debbie Huckabee is afraid of heights. She never planned to take a ride in a hot air balloon. The idea of going up hundreds of feet into the air frightened her. But last Saturday the bank where Huckabee works offered hot air balloon rides to its employees. The rides were free. So she decided to go ballooning. Huckabee saw Illinois from a new view!

"I loved riding in a hot air balloon. It was completely different from anything else I've ever done. It was so exciting that I lost my fear of heights. I think it was a great experience for me," Huckabee said.

The company that offers the balloon rides is called *Blue Sky Ballooning*. Mike Thomas is a pilot for Blue Sky. He said, "Most people who take balloon rides are celebrating something special like an anniversary, a birthday, or a wedding." The cost of a ride is \$150 per person.

Balloon rides are for people who want to have a new kind of experience. Thomas said that ballooning is very safe. Almost anyone can go for a balloon ride. Lots of senior citizens go ballooning.

Huckabee liked looking at Illinois from up high. "I never knew that Illinois was so beautiful," she said. "There are rivers and fields and lots of color. We don't have mountains or oceans, but it is very pretty."

Hot air ballooning is usually done in the early morning or late afternoon. That is when there is not much wind. People who want to ride in a hot air balloon have to be patient. Weather conditions are very important. Sometimes you have to wait for the weather conditions to change.

The ride takes about an hour. Then the pilot looks for a place to land the balloon. A car follows the balloon. The car meets the balloon when it lands. Huckabee thinks that landing is one of the best parts of the ride. "It's really exciting. You never know where you are going to land," she said. "It's fun because people come to meet you when the balloon lands. You meet all kinds of nice people. They are so happy to see you."

Debbie Huckabee felt very proud of herself after her first ride. In fact, she felt so confident that she went up three times on Saturday! "It was truly a wonderful experience and I can't wait to do it again!"



Hot air balloons take people for wonderful rides.

**“It was so exciting that
I lost my fear of heights.”**

— Debbie Huckabee

*Adapted from an article by M. Mindy Moretti,
Terre Haute Tribune-Star*

COMPREHENSION CHECK**Focus on Main Ideas**

True or False? If a sentence is false, correct it. Follow the example.

- False ① Debbie Huckabee ^{never}~~always~~ wanted to take a ride in a hot air balloon.
 _____ ② Mike Thomas works for Blue Sky Ballooning.
 _____ ③ Older people cannot take rides on a hot air balloon.
 _____ ④ Hot air ballooning is done when there is a lot of wind.
 _____ ⑤ A ride on a hot air balloon takes about an hour.

Focus on Details

Complete the sentence.

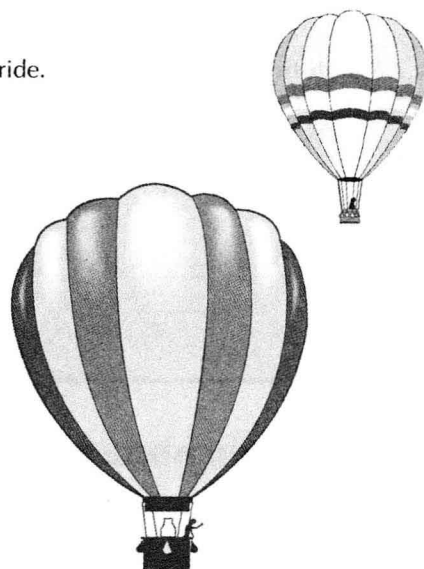
- ① Hot air ballooning is usually done _____.
 a) early in the morning or late in the afternoon
 b) when it is very windy
 c) late at night
- ② When Huckabee looked down she saw _____.
 a) oceans
 b) rivers and fields
 c) mountains
- ③ A ride in a hot air balloon costs _____ per person.
 a) \$300
 b) \$150
 c) \$115
- ④ Most people who take a balloon ride are _____.
 a) over 55 years old
 b) afraid of heights
 c) celebrating a special occasion

WORD POWER: Expanding Vocabulary

◆ Choose the correct definition for the underlined word.

- ① People who want to ride in a hot air balloon have to be patient.
 a) able to wait
 b) strong
 c) young

- 2 Debbie Huckabee felt very proud of herself after her first ride.
 - a) pleased with her accomplishment
 - b) fearful of what will happen
 - c) sick to her stomach
- 3 Mike Thomas is a pilot for Blue Sky.
 - a) customer
 - b) person who flies
 - c) senior citizen
- 4 The car meets the balloon when it lands.
 - a) goes up
 - b) comes down
 - c) flies
- 5 It was truly a wonderful experience.
 - a) sad
 - b) expensive
 - c) excellent



B Complete the sentence.

land
afraid

wonderful
celebrate

pilot
free

patient
proud

- 1 I am going to have a party to _____ my birthday.
- 2 You must be _____ when you teach someone a new language.
- 3 She was _____ that she won the tennis match.
- 4 Mr. Wang is a _____ for a big airline company.
- 5 My trip to China was a _____ experience.
- 6 Kim is _____ of big dogs.
- 7 I decided to go to the concert because I got a _____ ticket.
- 8 It is difficult to _____ a plane in bad weather.

Synonyms

A word that has the same meaning as another word is called a *synonym*. For example, *sad* is a synonym of *unhappy*.

Match the word with its synonym.

A		B	
_____	① afraid	a.	price
_____	② cost	b.	worker
_____	③ beautiful	c.	thought
_____	④ best	d.	fearful
_____	⑤ idea	e.	pretty
_____	⑥ employee	f.	greatest

SKILL BUILDING: The 5Ws

Newspaper articles usually answer the questions who? what? when? where? why? These questions are called the 5Ws. The 5Ws give the important facts of the story.



Example

In **Up**, **up**, and **away**, the answers to the 5Ws are:

Who? Debbie Huckabee
 What? went on a ride in a hot air balloon
 When? last Saturday
 Where? in Illinois
 Why? the bank she works at offered free rides

Answer the 5Ws for the short article.

The Boston Celtics have lost three of their first four home games this season. Celtics coach Rick Pitino isn't surprised. He says this year's team has many young, inexperienced players who have a lot to learn. That's the reason they keep losing. It will take time, he says, to build a team that can bring championships back to Boston. "It may take a couple of years," said Pitino, "but I am a patient man."

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Subject Pronouns

The subject of a sentence can be a noun or a pronoun. Study the subject pronouns.

Singular	Plural
I	we
you	you
he, she, it	they

The pronouns replace subject nouns.

Example

Debbie is afraid of heights. She never planned to go hot air ballooning.
(She = Debbie)

Mike Thomas is a pilot. He works for Blue Sky Ballooning.
(He = Mike Thomas)

Underline the subject pronouns in the article.

Complete the sentence with a pronoun.

- ① Mrs. Baker is a teacher. _____ teaches English.
- ② The book is green. _____ is a grammar book.
- ③ John and I are going to the beach today. _____ are excited.
- ④ Peter and Charles are in Taiwan. _____ are visiting several cities.
- ⑤ Joseph loves sports. _____ plays tennis, soccer, and basketball.

READING A MAP

Use the map on page 96 to answer the questions.

- ① What two oceans border the United States?
- ② What three states border California?
- ③ What country lies to the north of the United States?
- ④ What country lies to the south of the United States?
- ⑤ Is Colorado east or west of Kansas?
- ⑥ Draw a circle around the state of Illinois.
- ⑦ Put an **X** in the states you have heard of or have visited.
- ⑧ Draw a circle around the capital of the United States.

LET'S TALK

In pairs, ask and answer the following questions.





INTRODUCTION

A diamond ring is a symbol of love. When two people decide to get married, the man usually gives the woman a diamond ring. It is called an engagement ring.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Think about the following questions.

- ① Is it common for a man to give his future wife a diamond ring in your culture?
- ② At what age do men and women usually get married in your culture?
- ③ Read the title of this article. What do you think the article will be about?

FIRST READING

Look at the photo. Read the article one time quickly for the main idea. Do not use your dictionary.

Check (✓) the main idea of the article.

- ① Many stories have happy endings. ____
- ② David Cochrane wanted to get married. ____
- ③ A three-year-old found a diamond ring. ____

SECOND READING

Read the article again more carefully. Then do the exercises that follow.

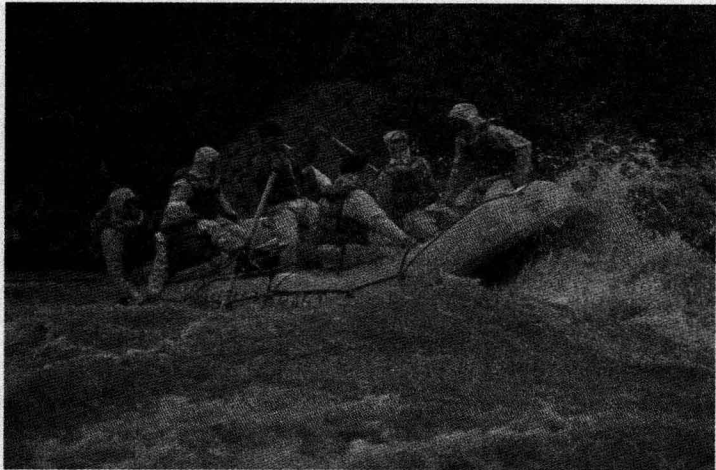
Diamond ring found by child

Last week a three-year-old girl found a plastic bag. It was lying on the beach of the Rogue River about a mile from Galice, Oregon. The little girl gave the plastic bag to her aunt, Jill Olerich. At first Jill thought the bag was empty. Then she opened the bag and discovered a ring inside. It was a beautiful diamond ring! She wondered who the ring belonged to.

The ring turned out to be an engagement ring that had been lost. It belonged to David Cochrane. David lives in Camas, Washington. He is 25 years old. He planned to ask his girlfriend, Holly, to marry him. Holly is 24 years old. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

Engagement ring goes for a ride down a river

David wanted to surprise Holly with the diamond ring. He planned to give Holly the ring last weekend on their vacation. They were going on a rafting trip. David put the ring in a plastic bag to keep it safe. However, while they were rafting down the Rogue



River rafting is a popular sport — but hang on to your belongings!

River near Galice, David fell into the water. The bag fell out of his pocket. He lost the bag and the ring inside it. Holly never even saw her diamond ring before it went for a ride down the Rogue River.

Jill Olerich heard about the lost ring a few days later. She sent the ring back to David.

This is a story with a happy ending. Now Holly is proudly wearing her diamond ring and the engagement is on! The happy couple is busy planning their wedding.

*Adapted from Salisbury Daily Times
(Associated Press)*

COMPREHENSION CHECK**Focus on Main Ideas**

A Check (✓) the topics discussed in the article.

- _____ ① Who found the diamond ring
- _____ ② Where the diamond ring was discovered
- _____ ③ How Jill Olerich heard about the lost ring
- _____ ④ The location of the Rogue River
- _____ ⑤ The cost of a diamond ring
- _____ ⑥ How the ring was lost

B Match the question word with its answer.

- | A | B |
|----------------|--|
| _____ ① who? | a. found a diamond ring |
| _____ ② what? | b. on a beach of the Rogue River near Galice, Oregon |
| _____ ③ where? | c. last week |
| _____ ④ where? | d. a three-year-old girl |

Focus on Details**Complete the sentence.**

- ① A three-year-old girl found the bag on a _____ about a mile from Galice, Oregon.
 - a) street
 - b) beach
 - c) boat
- ② The little girl gave the bag to her _____.
 - a) aunt
 - b) brother
 - c) friend
- ③ David was planning to ask Holly to marry him _____.
 - a) at dinner
 - b) at a party
 - c) on their vacation
- ④ David fell into the river and _____.
 - a) lost the ring
 - b) found the ring
 - c) returned the ring