

Reading

I read on line a news from BBC of a world's longest and deepest rail tunnel (57 kilometres long) opened in Switzerland after almost two decades of construction.

I chose this news because I really like everything related to technology, inventions and the construction of large structures.

I understood quite well this news and the global comprehension of the text. I searched some vocabulary words that I didn't understand like: deep (profund), smash (aixafar), barriers (barreres), twin-bore (forat doble) and winding route (ruta sinuosa).

I understood that the Gotthard base tunnel is the world's longest and more expensive tunnelling project. Also this tunnel situated 2,3 kilometres deep under the Swiss Alps it will provide a high-speed rail link between northern and southern Europe.

This extra work has been useful for me to the comprehension of text and to know and increase new vocabulary.



GOTTHARD TUNNEL

Writing

I wrote two informal emails to practise to my English test. This extra work has been useful for me to learn say hello and goodbye and the expressions and words that I have to use in each paragraph of informal emails such as: basically, I've been, I mean, anyway, I've got to, I've just, take care, keep in touch...

Also it has been useful for me to improve my written expression and write with more fluidity.

I have learned to tell in an email to friends what I have been doing, ask questions about themselves, give details about my experience, explain where I took place and what was I involved, say what happened in the end, say how I felt about the experience, explain what conclusions I have come to and finish the email by saying why I have to stop writing and finally say goodbye.

Hi Peter,

How have things been doing? Did you have a good summer? Since we last chatted, I've become a volunteer in a campaign against bullying in my school.

I used to think that bullying wasn't a big problem, so I was wrong because it's really a important matter. I've learned that there are lots of children who are victims of it.

Basically, we are helping to boys and girls through a web page that we have created to give advices and support to stop bullying. We've just finished preparing some posts to help people who suffers bullying. We think that people should be more respectful with the other persons.

Anyway, we have started a project of cooperation with other schools also involved in this cause.

To be honest, it's hard work but I've learned a lot and I've never felt so satisfied by something that I've done. I feel that I'm doing something really useful. I'm now convinced that we can make a difference with this great project to stop bullying.

Keep in touch!

Lucas

Hi Patrick,

How have things been doing? Did you have a good summer? Since we last chatted, I've become to cooperate at a national park like a volunteer.

I used to think that trying to protect the environment was a waste of time. I mean, who has ever made a difference? Well, I've learned that it's very important to take care of the nature and the animals, so I got involved in this great project.

Basically, I'm reintroducing animals that used to live in the local park. I've just finished to cleaning up a wooded area, so the animals will be able to live in better conditions. Also, with this project we want to increase the number of animals.

Anyway, it's hard work but I've learned a lot and I've never felt so satisfied by something that I've done. I feel that I'm doing something really useful.

I think that everybody should participate in this cause helping animals and protecting the wildlife. Would you like have got to hand it in?

Take care,

Lucas

Listening

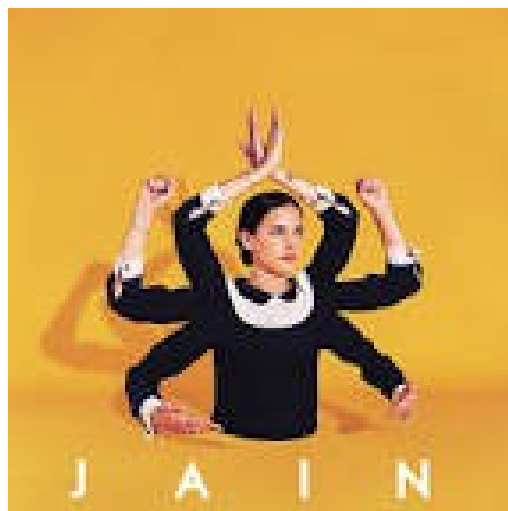
I heard the song *Come* by Jain and I liked very much because the letter has a lot of rhythm and a very catchy chorus.

The first time that I heard it I didn't understand very well the mean of the song because the lyrics is very quickly and the comprehension was a little bit difficult for me. I returned to hear it with the written lyrics and this second time it was easier and practically I understood everything.

I understood that this song refers to a girl who walks along the streets (as in the advertisement of "El Corte Inglés") while is claiming her love. The girl feels alone without her boy.

I searched in the dictionary the words that I didn't understand or I didn't remember like: soul (ànima), hanging out (passar l'estona), cover (protegir) and nightmares (malsons).

This extra work has been useful to me to get used to listening to speak in English and to be more prepared when we do a listening in English class, in a test or to understand to English people. Also it has been useful to increase my vocabulary.



Writing

I have restarted my English project which I started last year. I have sent some emails to schools of foreign countries. I want that the students continue to sending me their writings about how is their country to increase and complete all the flags in my web page where English is official language.

This extra work is very useful for me because I learn new vocabulary and expressions of the writings of the students. Also I learn how is the life in their country, their culture...

Moreover I like very much this extra work because I can meet people of other countries, establish relationships and communicate with them in English via email. This is a good method for me to practise English and meet new friends.

Listening

I heard the song *Thinking Out Loud* by Ed Sheeran and I liked a lot because it's a very beautiful and romantic song of love with a melodic lyric and chorus.

I understood quite well this song because is slow and the comprehension of the lyric was more or less easy for me.

First I heard all the song without the lyric and after I returned to listen it with the written lyric and this second time it was easier and I understood practically all the song.

I searched in the dictionary the words and expressions that I didn't understand or I didn't remember such us: thinking out loud (pensar en veu alta), swipe you off of your feet (aixecar-te en braços), strings (cordes), cheeks (galtes), grow old (envellir), keep on (continuar), soul (ànima), crowd (multitud), evergreen (perenne) and beating (bategant).

I understood that this song talks about a love forever. They will love each other forever although some parts of their bodies don't work like before, become older or their memories fade. This is a compromise of love that goes beyond the aches and pains of their bodies because their love is above that. It's an evergreen love because their souls will never grown old.

This extra work has been useful to me to get used to listening to speak in English with different accents and to be more prepared when we do a listening in English class, in a test or to understand to English people. Also it has been useful to increase my vocabulary.



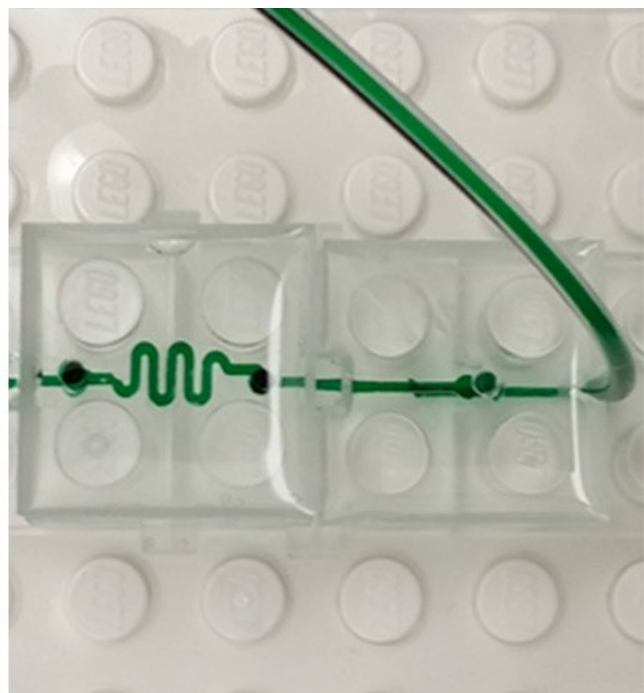
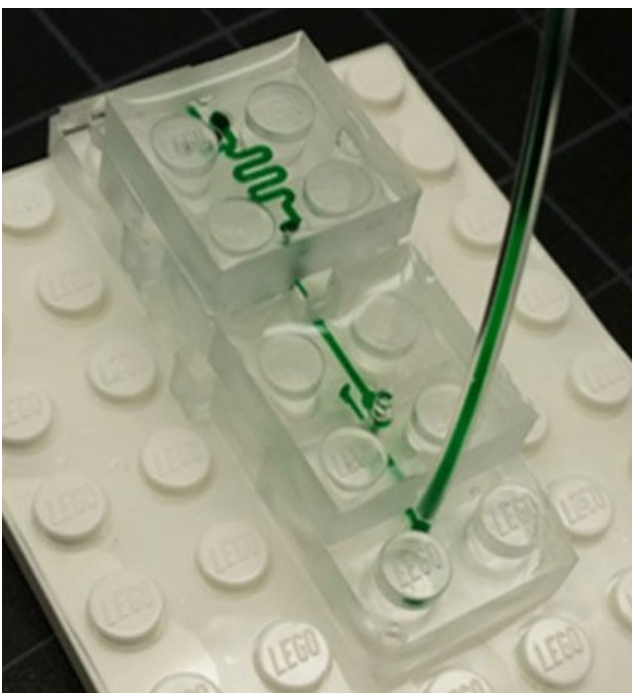
Reading

I read on line a news from the magazine *ScienceNews* about Lego. I chose this news because I really like everything related to technology, inventions and science.

The comprehension of this text was a little difficult for me because there was a specific vocabulary but in general I understood that Lego have provided the inspiration for small fluid-filled devices that can be built brick by brick. These microfluidic devices can be used to realize blood tests, detect contaminants in water or simulate biological properties like blood vessels. These portable devices are small, about the size of a quarter. These devices can be built using 3D printers but the manufacture of these devices is not easy because each new application requires a different configuration of the small passages.

I looked for in the dictionary some vocabulary words that I didn't understand such us: blood vessels (vasos sanguinis), features (características), passages (passadissos), fluid-filled (plens de líquid), tiny (petites), tools (eines), leaks (fuites).

This extra work has been useful for me to the comprehension of text and to know and increase new vocabulary.



Listening

I watched an episode of *The Simpsons* in English (with English subtitles) and I understood quite well the plot.

According to what I understood, the summary of the episode is the following: the Simpson family fall asleep in the church. Each member of the family dreams with a history of the Bible. Marge dreams that she is Eva and Homer is Adan and they live in the Garden of Eden. God says them that they shouldn't eat apples from the forbidden tree but they eat an apple and Marge is discovered by God and expelled from Eden. Bart dreams that he is David and he is fighting against Goliath. He loses the battle because he doesn't have stones to use in his catapult. Lisa dreams that she, her brother and her classmates are Hebrews in ancient Egypt. All are taken prisoners in a pyramid until they scape. Homer dreams that he is King Solomon. Lenny and Carl are fighting for a pie and King Solomon cut it in half and he sentences them to die and after he eats the pie. Finally, the family wakes up of their dreams and they are alone in the church. When they leave the church they discover that they are in the Apocalypse. They observe that the Flanders family goes to heaven but for them a ladder opens on the ground and they are taken to hell.

This episode of the Simpsons in English has been useful for me to practice my listening with different accents, to improve my oral comprehension and also to learn new vocabulary and expressions.



Reading

I have read online a news from the digital magazine *The Drive* about roads made of recycling plastic that they are being tested in Britain. I have chosen this news because I like very much everything related with technology, inventions, science, buildings and civil engineering in general.

The comprehension of this text hasn't been difficult for me. I have understood quite well the global comprehension of this news and only I have looked in the dictionary some words that I didn't know. I have looked for in the dictionary some vocabulary words that I haven't understood such as: long lasting (de llarga durada, més duraderes), put down (col·locar), tire (neumàtic), lessen (reduir, disminuir), bitumen (betum), limestone (pedra calcària), come up (idear, planejar, proposar), county (comtat), crack (esquerda).

I have understood that the polymer based roads are more durable than normal asphalt roads and more environmentally friendly and for this reason is being tested in Britain this kind of material. I have read that a Scotland based company called MacRebur has come up to create roads that are made of recycled plastic that they are stronger and longer lasting than normal asphalt based roads. The roads are made with a material that this company (MacRebur) calls MR6. Generally, roads are built of 90 percent rock, sand, limestone and 10 percent bitumen but MacRebur's substance replaces the need for that last wasteful material.

I have read that the MR6 is made entirely from waste materials that get mixed into asphalt to create the durable roads. According to MacRebur, roads built with MR6 are less likely to crack than conventional roads. The company says they also lessen tire resistance, which could help improve fuel economy for any vehicles using the roadway. Other advantages of the plastic roads are that they can easily be removed and replaced.

Currently, the roads are being put down in northwest England, in Cumbria County.

This extra work has been useful for me to the comprehension of text and to know and increase new vocabulary.



Listening

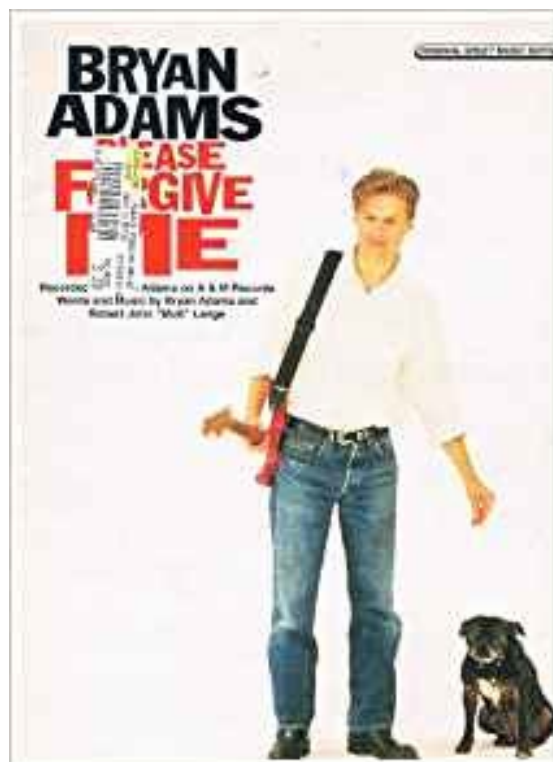
I have heard the song *Please Forgive Me* by Bryam Adams that it have liked me very much because lyrics has a very catchy chorus and it is a very nice and romantic song about love.

The first time that I have heard it I have understood very well the mean of the song because lyrics is quite slow and the comprehension has been easy for me. I have returned to heard it reading the written lyrics and this second time it has been easier and practically I have understood everything.

I have only looked for in the dictionary some words that I didn't know them or I didn't remember them like: holding on (agafar-se), getting closer (apropar-se, aproximar-se, en el sentit de conèixer a l'altre), pain (dolor), breath (alè, respiració), pray (rezar, suplicar, pregar). forgive (perdonar), fade away (desaparèixer), make believe (imaginar), haunt (obsesionar), weakness (debilitat), move on and carry on (seguir, continuar).

I have understood that this song talks about love and he asks his girl to forgive him because he can not be without her and he can not stop loving her. He tells her that she is his only love he has always loved. He also asks his girl that she believe him and not deny him the pain he is going through.

This extra work has been useful to me to get used to listening to speak in English with different accents and to be more prepared when we do a listening in English class, in a test or to understand to English people. Also it has been useful to increase my vocabulary.



EXTRA WORK

15/05/17

Listening

I have seen an episode in English of the comedy *The Big Bang Theory* and I have understood quite well the global argument of it.

According to what I have understood, the summary of this episode would be the following: while Amy has a great opportunity at Princeton, Sheldon meets with doctor Ramona who has been always in love with her intelligence. Her presence complicates Sheldon's emotions. Amy and Sheldon are in a good moment of their relation at the beginning of this episode, but the arrival of Ramona causes him to start behaving strangely. Everyone notices it and Amy gets confused information. The misunderstanding of the couple ends in jealousy and confusion. It is then when Ramona kisses Sheldon and he doesn't move. The scientist decides to leave, takes a taxi to the airport and flies to New Jersey to find Amy. She is surprised to meet with his boyfriend and even more when he asks her in marriage. However, she doesn't say yes but she neither says no. He, for his side, doesn't confess that Ramona's kiss has been the cause to take this decision.

Watch this episode of *The Big Bang Theory* in English has been useful for me to practice my listening hearing different accents, to improve my oral comprehension and to learn new vocabulary and expressions. Also it has been useful to be more prepared when I do a listening in English class, a test or to understand to speak English people.

