

Assignment No	H7DJ 04/AS/13	
Title	General Translation for Vocabulary Improvement (Individual Assignment)	
Description	<p>This assignment aim to develop the general vocabulary to improve the reading ability of students.</p> <p>Students have to translate 5 or more editorials to understand general English words</p>	
Submitting Criteria	The above mentioned handwritten translations should be converted to the PDF format and submitted Electronically.	
Individual / Group	Individual	
Duration	4 weeks	
Marking Criteria	5 translated documents	100%
Expected Student managed Learning hours	Student is expected to work an average of 26 hours a week to complete the entire workload assigned to be completed during the week in combination with other assignments both individually and as a group.	

ARTICLE 01

Man survives flight from Algeria to Paris hidden in plane's landing gear

A man has been discovered hidden in the landing gear compartment of a commercial aircraft that flew into Paris from Algeria with severe hypothermia but alive, French authorities have said.

The man, believed to be in his 20s, was found during technical checks after the Air Algerie flight from Oran, Algeria, landed at Paris's Orly airport in mid-morning, prosecutors told AFP.

He had no ID on him, and was taken to hospital in serious condition, they said.

An airport source earlier reported that the man "was alive but in a life-threatening condition because of severe hypothermia".

Commercial aircraft cruise at 30,000 to 40,000 feet altitude where temperatures typically drop to around -50 degrees Celsius (-58F), and a lack of oxygen makes survival unlikely for anyone travelling in a landing gear compartment which is neither heated nor pressurized.

According to US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) data cited in media, 132 people – known in the industry as wheel-well stowaways – attempted to travel in the landing gear compartments of commercial aircraft between 1947 and 2021.

In April of this year, the body of a man was discovered in the landing gear of an aircraft in Amsterdam's Schiphol airport that had flown in from Toronto, but previously took off from Nigeria.

Four months earlier, two passengers were found dead on arrival in the landing gear storage space of a flight between Santiago de Chile and Bogotá.

In July 2019, the frozen body of a man fell into a garden in a London suburb, believed to have been in the landing gear compartment of a Kenya Airways plane approaching Heathrow airport. The mortality rate for people attempting to travel this way is 77%, according to the FAA figures.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/29/man-survives-flight-from-algeria-to-paris-hidden-in-planes-landing-gear>

ARTICLE 02

Experts say the end of Windows 10 support could turn 240 million PCs into e-waste

The upcoming end of Windows 10 support may lead to hundreds of millions of devices becoming obsolete, potentially contributing significantly to electronic waste. The industry predicts that the end of Windows 10 support in 2024 will affect customers' refresh plans, with one in three devices expected to be replaced in the next two years.

Despite the growing capabilities of partners to refurbish and resell PCs, devices not supported by Windows 11 will not be viable for reuse, exacerbating the industry's e-waste problem.

Market research firm Canalys predicts an 8 percent growth in the PC market by 2024, spurred by customers upgrading their pandemic-era PCs and the emergence of new AI-capable devices. However, the hardware requirements of Windows 11 may prevent many in-use devices from being refurbished for a second life.

Canalys estimates that around 240 million PCs will become e-waste when Windows 10 support ends in October 2025. Most of these devices, if in good condition, could be recycled, but their incompatibility with Windows 11 significantly reduces their value for refurbishment and resale.

While these PCs could still be usable for years, demand for devices no longer supported by Microsoft will be minimal, even among companies with tight IT budgets. Moreover, donating these devices to disadvantaged communities is not a viable or socially sustainable solution to bridging the digital divide.

In response to these concerns, Microsoft has announced that Extended Security Updates for Windows 10 will be available until October 2028, albeit for an unspecified annual fee. However, the cost of these updates may deter many users, pushing them to migrate to newer, Windows 11-capable PCs.

The e-waste implications of the end of Windows 10 support highlight the responsibility of device and operating system vendors to maximize the lifespan of their products. To support a circular economy, vendors must ensure their devices are durable, repairable, and recyclable, and remain usable and secure for as long as possible. However, without regulations to drive this change in the PC market, cross-industry collaboration may be the only solution to the technology sector's persistent e-waste problem.

Source : <https://betanews.com/2023/12/21/windows-10-240-million-pcs-e-waste/>

ARTICLE 03

Amazon is set to introduce adverts to its Prime Video streaming service from 5 February 2024.

Customers in the UK and Germany will see "limited" ads unless they pay £2.99 per month to remove them.

Previously, rivals such as **Disney+** and **Netflix** introduced cheaper ad-supported memberships amid price rises.

Amazon said the move would "allow us to continue investing in compelling content and keep increasing that investment over a long period of time".

"We aim to have meaningfully fewer ads than linear TV and other streaming TV providers," the firm added in an email to customers.

It said even if people pay to remove ads, live content such as sports will continue to include advertising.

Customers in the US and Canada will see ads earlier from 29 January, and Amazon plans to expand them to France, Italy, Spain, Mexico and Australia later in 2024.

But UK customers may feel they have drawn the short straw with the ad-free price, as customers in Germany will pay €2.99 (£2.60) and those in the US will pay \$2.99 (£2.35).

An Amazon Prime subscription includes one-day delivery on products as well as access to its streaming service.

It last raised the price of this service in 2022, when its monthly subscription went up £1 to £8.99 and its annual membership rose from £79 to £95.

The introduction of ads comes after several announcements from Amazon about future content.

As well as renewals of hit series such as *Leverage: Redemption* and *The Boys*, it has also made a deal with Games Workshop to bring *Warhammer 40,000* to the big screen - with British actor and professed gamer Henry Cavill heavily involved.

And it is planning other high-profile content, such as its much-anticipated series based on the video game *Fallout*.

Disney+ previously expanded its ad-supported service to the UK in August 2023, while Netflix introduced its "basic with ads" streaming plan in 2022.

Source : <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-67826592>

ARTICLE 04

U.S. sanctions money network tied to Houthi rebels blamed for shipping vessel attacks

WASHINGTON — The U.S. imposed sanctions today on a group of money exchange services from Yemen and Turkey alleged to help provide funding to Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who have been launching attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the southern Red Sea.

Included in the sanctions are the head of a financial intermediary in Sana'a, Yemen, along with three exchange houses in Yemen and Turkey. The U.S. Treasury Department alleges that the people and firms helped transfer millions of dollars to the Houthis at the direction of sanctioned Iranian financial facilitator Sa'id al-Jamal.

The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans.

Thursday's action is the latest round of financial penalties meant to punish the Houthis.

The U.S. announced sanctions this month against 13 people and firms alleged to be providing tens of millions of dollars from the sale and shipment of Iranian commodities to the Houthis in Yemen.

Brian E. Nelson, the undersecretary of the treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence, said the action today "underscores our resolve to restrict the illicit flow of funds to the Houthis, who continue to conduct dangerous attacks on international shipping and risk further destabilizing the region."

Nelsons said the U.S. and its allies "will continue to target the key facilitation networks that enable the destabilizing activities of the Houthis and their backers in Iran."

The Houthis have sporadically targeted ships in the region in the past, but the attacks have increased since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas, spiking after an Oct. 17 explosion at a hospital in Gaza killed and injured many people. Houthi leaders have insisted Israel is their target.

The White House also announced this month that it was encouraging its allies to join the Combined Maritime Forces, a 39-member partnership that exists to counter malign action by nonstate actors in international waters, as it looks to push back against the Houthis.

The attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea by Yemen's Houthi rebels have scared off some of the world's top shipping companies and oil giants, effectively rerouting global trade away from a

crucial artery for consumer goods and energy supplies, which is expected to trigger delays and rising prices.

Source : <https://nbcnews.com/news/world/live-blog/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-hezbollah-lebanon-rcna131415>

ARTICLE 05

Russian News in Brief

- **Russian** occupation authorities vastly and deliberately undercounted the dead in the flooding after the explosion that destroyed the **Kakhovka Dam** an investigation by the Associated Press (AP) has found. Russia said 59 people drowned in the territory it controls, but the AP investigation claims the number is at least in the hundreds in the town of Oleshky alone.
- The **United States** has announced a fresh package of arms to **Ukraine**, worth up to \$250m. The package comes amid growing Republican opposition to continued financial support for Kyiv. The state department has said the **US Congress** should “act swiftly” to renew the flow of aid to **Ukraine**.
- **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** has thanked the **United States** for the fresh military aid package. In a post on X, Zelenskiy wrote: “We must continue to respond to ongoing Russian aggression in the most forceful and resolute manner possible.”
- **Russian** forces struck **Vovchansk in Kharkiv oblast** on the morning of 28 December, killing a 66-year-old woman and wounding another resident, reported Oleh Syniehubov, the regional governor.
- **Russian navy’s** Ropucha-class landing ship tank (LST) Novocherkassk was completely destroyed on 25 December 2023 following a Ukrainian strike while alongside at the port of Feodosia, on the south coast of Russian-occupied Crimea, the latest summary from the **UK’s Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has said.
- **Russia’s foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov**, has warned that no one worldwide could be certain of escaping unscathed from western machinations in 2024, Reuters reported. In an interview released by the official Tass news agency, Lavrov added that the west’s dominance was “slipping away”.
- **Russia** is resolved to achieve its goals in its military operations in Ukraine, **Lavrov** has said, adding that what he called the west’s strategy to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia had “completely failed”.
- The **G7 countries** intend to discuss a “peace formula” proposed by the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskiy, which they agreed on at a “secret summit” held about 10 days ago, **Lavrov** said in an interview with Russian state media.
- In an interview with RIA state news agency and the Rossiya 24 TV channel, **Lavrov** said some in the west were suggesting **Moscow** should discuss peace in **Ukraine** because the **United States** and its allies had failed to defeat Russian forces in Ukraine. He added he believed there were signs the west was changing its tactics and strategy on Ukraine.

- A **Panama-flagged** bulk carrier, which was heading to a River Danube port to load grain hit a **Russian mine** in the Black Sea on Wednesday, injuring two crew members, **Ukrainian officials** said on Thursday.
- **Russia** is resolved to achieve its goals in its military operations in Ukraine, **Lavrov** said, adding that what he called the west's strategy to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia had "completely failed".
- **Russia** has lost 356,670 personnel since the beginning of the war until 28 December, according to the Ukrainian army's general staff. Other losses include 5,940 tanks, 11,015 APVs, 8,391 artillery systems and 6,503 drones.
- **Ukraine** and **Hungary** are preparing a meeting between **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** and **Viktor Orbán** in the near future, the Ukrainian president's chief of staff said on Thursday.
- **Ukraine's** air defence systems shot down seven out of eight **Russia-launched Shahed drones** overnight, the country's air force said on Thursday. Drones were downed in three central and southern regions, the air force said on the Telegram messenger. The Russian defence ministry said it thwarted a Ukrainian drone attack over Moscow-occupied Crimea overnight.
- **Finland** will be the first country to "suffer" in the event of an escalation of tensions between **Russia and Nato** due to its proximity to the former, the RIA news agency cited senior Russian diplomat Mikhail Ulyanov, permanent representative of Russia to international organisations in Vienna as saying: "...since they are our neighbours, if, God forbid there is some escalation, they will be the first to suffer."
- The **United States** has proposed that working groups from G7 nations explore ways to seize \$300bn in frozen **Russian** assets, according to the Financial Times.
- Two **Russian men** have been sentenced to long prison terms for reading poems criticising Russia's military attack on **Ukraine**. Artyom Kamardin was sentenced to seven years in prison and Yegor Shtovba to five years and six months. Both men were convicted of "inciting hatred" and "calling for activities threatening state security".
- A raunchy celebrity-studded party in **Moscow** has prompted outrage among **Russian** politicians and law enforcement agencies, in one of the starkest examples to date of how Vladimir Putin is moving the country in a conservative and anti-liberal direction.
- **Russia's** space state agency **Roscosmos** said has said that a cross-flight programme with **Nasa** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** had been extended until 2025, Interfax news agency reported.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/dec/28/russia-ukraine-war-live-us-state-department-calls-on-congress-to-act-swiftly-to-resume-flow-of-aid-to-kyiv>