
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Hunting for medals



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

In the shadows of Mount Kilimanjaro, warriors are **warming up**.

They're competing in the Maasai Olympics.

The event was **brought about** to discourage the traditional practice of hunting, which has taken the local lion population to **the brink of extinction**.

The games will allow young men to **showcase** their skills and also preserve the **big cats**.

Vocabulary

warming up

doing gentle exercise to prepare the body for physical activity

brought about

caused to happen

the brink of extinction

close to dying out

showcase

show their best qualities

big cats

large wild animals from the cat family, such as lions and tigers

Watch the video online: Hunting for medals <http://bbc.in/1GOWeMr>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

warming up / brought about / the brink of extinction / showcase / big cats

1. From blurry photos of the Beast of Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, to reports of a lion on the loose in Essex in 2012, the UK has a long tradition of spotting _____.

2. So far, more than 2,400 people have died in West Africa, in an outbreak which began in Guinea in February.

It has _____ an outpouring of international offers of support, including military personnel from the United States who will be deployed to Liberia.

3. US Metal detecting enthusiasts hunting buried treasure are to be encouraged to _____ their discoveries.

Enthusiasts in Wales will be encouraged to share their finds and stories with museums and local communities.

4. Strengthening your forearm muscles that grip the racquet and stiffen the wrist during backhand shots should help to prevent the injury from happening again.

Stretch the forearm muscles and tendons when _____.

5. Species on _____ are sure to grab headlines. But equally disturbing is the decline of birds that are still considered common, such as the eastern meadowlark and nighthawk. The State of the Birds identifies more than two dozen such species that are in "steep decline".

Answers

1. From blurry photos of the Beast of Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, to reports of a lion on the loose in Essex in 2012, the UK has a long tradition of spotting **big cats**.

Source: 'Big cat' Canadian lynx was on the loose in UK in 1903

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22263874>

2. So far, more than 2,400 people have died in West Africa, in an outbreak which began in Guinea in February.

It has **brought about** an outpouring of international offers of support, including military personnel from the United States who will be deployed to Liberia.

Source: Ebola outbreak: A great challenge to modern medicine

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-29241873>

3. US Metal detecting enthusiasts hunting buried treasure are to be encouraged to **showcase** their discoveries.

Enthusiasts in Wales will be encouraged to share their finds and stories with museums and local communities.

Source: Metal detecting set for National Museum Wales boost

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-29600919>

4. Strengthening your forearm muscles that grip the racquet and stiffen the wrist during backhand shots should help to prevent the injury from happening again.

Stretch the forearm muscles and tendons when **warming up**.

Source: What is tennis elbow?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/health_and_fitness/6037251.stm

5. Species on **the brink of extinction** are sure to grab headlines. But equally disturbing is the decline of birds that are still considered common, such as the eastern meadowlark and nighthawk. The State of the Birds identifies more than two dozen such species that are in "steep decline".

Source: Growing threat to American birds, says report

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-29116412>