
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Don't look down!

The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white box above the words 'LEARNING ENGLISH' in white text on a teal background.

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

Transcript

The wonderful sight of Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls.

Two **daredevils** trained for two years to make the 100-metre-long crossing on a slack line. German student Lukas Irmler and Austrian journalist Reinhard Kleindl are the first people ever to cross the **gorge** walking upright.

It might be a **daring** walk for many, but it's just a **hobby** for these two and they managed to **take it in their stride**.

Vocabulary

daredevils

people who enjoy the excitement of doing dangerous activities

gorge

a geographical feature which is made of a narrow passage with steep walls, usually with a stream running through it

daring

adventurous

hobby

a free-time activity that people do regularly

take (it) in their stride

to deal with problems and difficulties calmly

Watch the video online: Don't look down! <http://tinyurl.com/m3ejwck>

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.

daredevils / gorge / daring / hobby / take it in their stride

1. Lifeguards who were involved in a _____ rescue of two surfers stranded on rocks at sea have been honoured for their heroism.

2. One at a time, the extreme sports enthusiasts jumped off the 330m-high Kuala Lumpur tower and parachuted towards a nearby skyscraper rooftop.

The _____ landed in the pool where they were met by cheers from fellow extreme sports enthusiasts.

3. The work, which will involve drilling and grouting old mine workings and strengthening slopes and the river banks, will take four years, the council said.

A spokesman said land instability in the _____ "is nothing new" with reports of ground movement being recorded over the past 235 years.

4. A new record of trainspotting has been discovered from 1861, 80 years earlier than the _____ was first thought to have begun.

5. Young said: 'Though it is a big occasion we will be treating it as just another game.'

'It isn't very often that you get the opportunity to play live on the television but I am sure the lads will go out there and _____.'

Answers

1. Lifeguards who were involved in a **daring** rescue of two surfers stranded on rocks at sea have been honoured for their heroism.

Source: RNLI honour for Newgale lifeguards' daring rescue

<http://tinyurl.com/pyve4vg>

2. One at a time, the extreme sports enthusiasts jumped off the 330m-high Kuala Lumpur tower and parachuted towards a nearby skyscraper rooftop.

The **daredevils** landed in the pool where they were met by cheers from fellow extreme sports enthusiasts.

Source: Kuala Lumpur base jumpers 'gatecrash' skyscraper pool party

<http://tinyurl.com/o4azm66>

3. The work, which will involve drilling and grouting old mine workings and strengthening slopes and the river banks, will take four years, the council said.

A spokesman said land instability in the **gorge** "is nothing new" with reports of ground movement being recorded over the past 235 years.

Source: Ironbridge Gorge gets £12m government grant

<http://tinyurl.com/bo59ytm>

4. A new record of trainspotting has been discovered from 1861, 80 years earlier than the **hobby** was first thought to have begun.

Source: Trainspotting hobby 80 years older than thought

<http://tinyurl.com/p7osum2>

5. Young said: 'Though it is a big occasion we will be treating it as just another game.

'It isn't very often that you get the opportunity to play live on the television but I am sure the lads will go out there and **take it in their stride**.'

Source: Young: Hawks have nothing to lose (from The News in Portsmouth, UK)

[http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/sport/football/young-hawks-have-nothing-to-lose-l-](http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/sport/football/young-hawks-have-nothing-to-lose-l-6407054)

[6407054](http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/sport/football/young-hawks-have-nothing-to-lose-l-6407054) (The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites)