
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

How many in the zoo?



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

Transcript

One, two, three... It's **census** time at London Zoo.

Zookeepers are **kicking off** the New Year with the **mammoth task** of counting every single animal. The zoo **houses** more than 750 different species.

For penguins, food is an **incentive** to show up for the count.

Monkeys are known to be clever animals. Here the question is: who's counting who?

Vocabulary

census

official count of the population

kicking off

starting

mammoth task

very big task

houses

gives a place to live

incentive

encouragement

Watch the video online: How many in the zoo?

<http://bbc.in/1woEnHl>

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.

census / kicking off / mammoth task / houses / incentive

1. The fall in the price of coal is a classic case of supply and demand, says senior economist at St George Bank, Janu Chan.

"Over the past decade, prices went up. There was an _____ to increase coal supply, and more mines opened or became profitable. However, as capacity increased, it generated too much coal and prices fell again."
2. A man with a collection of nearly 500 radio sets, some dating back to the early 1900s, has opened a museum to _____ them in a former Suffolk chapel.
3. In 1911, as far as work went, the government just wanted to know occupation, industry, and status. In 2011, the _____ has 15 nuanced questions on work and employment.
4. The Franco-German meeting in Paris _____ a week of meetings involving European leaders, the European Central Bank (ECB) and US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, culminating in Brussels on Friday with an EU summit.
5. In Kazinga, MSF assembled a team of 55 porters to carry all the equipment necessary to perform the _____ of vaccinating communities far removed from any kind of infrastructure.

Answers

1. The fall in the price of coal is a classic case of supply and demand, says senior economist at St George Bank, Janu Chan.

“Over the past decade, prices went up. There was an **incentive** to increase coal supply, and more mines opened or became profitable. However, as capacity increased, it generated too much coal and prices fell again.”

Source: From boom to bust in Australia's mining towns

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-australia-30584123>

2. A man with a collection of nearly 500 radio sets, some dating back to the early 1900s, has opened a museum to **house** them in a former Suffolk chapel.

Source: Monks Eleigh radio museum: Paul Goodchild finds home for 500 sets

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-30476959>

3. In 1911, as far as work went, the government just wanted to know occupation, industry, and status. In 2011, the **census** has 15 nuanced questions on work and employment.

Source: Census: 1911 v 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12324970>

4. The Franco-German meeting in Paris **kicks off** a week of meetings involving European leaders, the European Central Bank (ECB) and US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, culminating in Brussels on Friday with an EU summit.

Source: Sarkozy and Merkel kick off week of euro crisis talks

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-16026270>

5. In Kazinga, MSF assembled a team of 55 porters to carry all the equipment necessary to perform the **mammoth task** of vaccinating communities far removed from any kind of infrastructure.

Source: Into the bush: Vaccinating a remote community

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-30035323>