
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Battle of the Oranges



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

Transcript

A battle is about to start in this northern Italian city.

And this is the **ammunition**. During the festival, hundreds of **revellers** pour into Ivrea to take part in the historic 'Battle of the Oranges'.

The tradition is said to date back to a 12th century **uprising** against a **tyrant**.

Some 500 tonnes of **juicy** fruit are shipped from Sicily for the occasion.

Vocabulary

ammunition

objects that are shot from a weapon

revellers

people taking part in a public party

uprising

rebellion against the people or group in power

tyrant

cruel and unfair leader

juicy

containing a lot of liquid; used for fruit

Watch the video online: Battle of the Oranges <http://bbc.in/19vykMs>

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.

ammunition / revellers / uprising / tyrant / juicy

1. Thousands of people have gathered across the UK to watch New Year's Eve fireworks to herald the start of 2015.

Some 100,000 _____ lined the River Thames in London for the first ticketed New Year's display.
2. Apple growers are expecting a "delicious and _____" early harvest after sustained fine weather.
3. In the 1976 anti-apartheid _____, black students were protesting against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in government schools.
4. Five rifles and four shotguns, along with _____ and thousands of pounds worth of jewellery, have been stolen from a property in Surrey.
5. In fact, the ancient Greek word "tyrannos" (from which our term comes) was originally a fairly neutral word for a sole ruler, good or bad.

Of course, there had been some very nasty monarchs and despots before Caligula. But, so far as we know, none of his predecessors had ever ticked all the boxes of a fully-fledged _____, in the modern sense.

Answers

1. Thousands of people have gathered across the UK to watch New Year's Eve fireworks to herald the start of 2015.

Some 100,000 **revellers** lined the River Thames in London for the first ticketed New Year's display.

Source: New Year celebrations: Revellers gather in London and across UK
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-30645457>

2. Apple growers are expecting a "delicious and **juicy**" early harvest after sustained fine weather.

Source: Fine weather brings 'juicy' early apple harvest
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-28705265>

3. In the 1976 anti-apartheid **uprising**, black students were protesting against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in government schools.

Source: Nelson Mandela aide race row shows social media perils
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-30880068>

4. Five rifles and four shotguns, along with **ammunition** and thousands of pounds worth of jewellery, have been stolen from a property in Surrey.

Source: Firearms and jewellery stolen in Banstead burglary
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-31370718>

5. In fact, the ancient Greek word "tyrannos" (from which our term comes) was originally a fairly neutral word for a sole ruler, good or bad.

Of course, there had been some very nasty monarchs and despots before Caligula. But, so far as we know, none of his predecessors had ever ticked all the boxes of a fully-fledged **tyrant**, in the modern sense.

Source: Viewpoint: Does Caligula deserve his bad reputation?
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-23455774>