
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Alternative Miss World



Transcript:

This is Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, but what would **the Bard** make of this?

Both **genders** were competing for the title of Alternative Miss World. And they **pushed the boat out** with their costumes. How about a peacock for evening wear? Would an octopus do for swimwear?

This **unusual** contest was created about 40 years ago. Maybe the only real thing this event has in common with a **beauty pageant** is the emotional coronation.

Vocabulary:

the Bard

nickname given to the English poet, playwright and actor William Shakespeare

genders

the male and female sexes

pushed the boat out

idiom: spent a lot of money, or made a lot of effort

unusual

out of the ordinary

beauty pageant

a competition traditionally focused on the physical beauty of its contestants, which are usually women

Watch the video online: **Alternative Miss World** <http://bbc.in/ZNxIC4>

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.

the Bard / genders / pushed the boat out / unusual / beauty pageant

1. Getting people from different types of jobs into school "will help to show children what they could achieve and that no occupation should be closed to them because of their _____. It is exciting to see schools taking the initiative in this way," said the education secretary.
2. Now, the Royal Shakespeare Company has launched a "manifesto" to bring _____ alive in classrooms. It advocates acting out the plays, seeing live performances and starting Shakespeare as early as possible.
3. Superior 'inn rooms' come with four-poster beds and, if you really want to _____, there's an even more luxurious private suite.
4. In Venezuela, there is almost no criticism of the _____ phenomenon. When, in 1972, a feminist group from the country's Central University interrupted the Miss Venezuela broadcast, it was the first and only demonstration of its kind.
5. A stuffed otter was one of the more _____ items of lost property handed in to Scottish police, it has emerged. False teeth and a fully-dressed male mannequin were also among the items handed in to police stations.

Answers:

1. Getting people from different types of jobs into school "will help to show children what they could achieve and that no occupation should be closed to them because of their **gender**. It is exciting to see schools taking the initiative in this way," said the education secretary.

Source: Primary pupils to learn about work

<http://tinyurl.com/menr3ej>

2. Now, the Royal Shakespeare Company has launched a "manifesto" to bring **the Bard** alive in classrooms. It advocates acting out the plays, seeing live performances and starting Shakespeare as early as possible.

Source: Bored by the Bard?

<http://tinyurl.com/lhh4d2g>

3. Superior 'inn rooms' come with four-poster beds and, if you really want to **push the boat out**, there's an even more luxurious private suite.

Source: Travel review: Enjoying the luxury of the Chatsworth Estate in the Peak District

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/travel-review-enjoying-luxury-chatsworth-7964491> *(The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites)*

4. In Venezuela, there is almost no criticism of the **beauty pageant** phenomenon. When, in 1972, a feminist group from the country's Central University interrupted the Miss Venezuela broadcast, it was the first and only demonstration of its kind.

Source: Inside a Venezuelan school for child beauty queens

<http://tinyurl.com/8ume447>

5. A stuffed otter was one of the more **unusual** items of lost property handed in to Scottish police, it has emerged. False teeth and a fully-dressed male mannequin were also among the items handed in to police stations.

Source: Scottish police list 'unusual' items of lost property

<http://tinyurl.com/nv38a2d>