
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Spiderman Santa



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

Transcript

Not something you see every day: Santa **abseiling** down a 100-metre-tall building in Berlin.

He claims he was retrieving a sack of presents which had fallen from his **sleigh**.

The **mishap** meant children got an early treat as Father Christmas climbed through a cafe window to hand out presents and sing an **impromptu** festive song.

All in a day's work for Santa, who still had time to entertain crowds on the street, before heading off to prepare for Christmas Day.

Vocabulary

abseiling

climbing down a rock or building holding onto a rope

sleigh

vehicle pulled by animals over snow

mishap

small accident or mistake

impromptu

not planned

all in a day's work

used to say that something difficult or unpleasant is a usual part of someone's job

Watch the video online: Spiderman Santa <http://tinyurl.com/q8l4tsz>

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.

abseiling / sleigh / mishap / impromptu / all in a day's work

1. From herding sheep to helping injured lions, it's _____ for a Junior Vet.
2. Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team carried the animals to safety after _____ 200ft (60m) down a rock face on Plynlimon mountain range.
3. Reindeer hooves are adapted to compress snow, but on slippery hard floor they would be prone to slip especially if pulling a _____.
4. A fan of Erasure sparked an _____ singalong on the London Underground with his own version of the band's A Little Respect.

Neil Francis, who sings at venues around Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, was waiting at the Kentish Town station when he decided to break into song.

5. More than one million Montreal residents must boil drinking and cooking water after a _____ at a water treatment plant, officials have warned.

Answers

1. From herding sheep to helping injured lions, it's **all in a day's work** for a Junior Vet.

Source: Junior vets on call

<http://tinyurl.com/k9tt3hf>

2. Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team carried the animals to safety after **abseiling** 200ft (60m) down a rock face on Plynlimon mountain range.

Source: 11 dogs rescued after cliff fall

<http://tinyurl.com/od6h55w>

3. Reindeer hooves are adapted to compress snow, but on slippery hard floor they would be prone to slip especially if pulling a **sleigh**.

Source: Santa's crew: Should reindeer be used in Christmas displays?

<http://tinyurl.com/ltwuy3z>

4. A fan of Erasure sparked an **impromptu** singalong on the London Underground with his own version of the band's A Little Respect.

Neil Francis, who sings at venues around Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, was waiting at the Kentish Town station when he decided to break into song.

Source: Erasure fan prompts London Underground singalong

<http://tinyurl.com/nj6zrlk>

5. More than one million Montreal residents must boil drinking and cooking water after a **mishap** at a water treatment plant, officials have warned.

Source: Montreal residents warned to boil drinking water

<http://tinyurl.com/nkkum85>