

Today is our last class for the spring semester. We will stop at 11 to enjoy a potluck meal. Summer session classes begin June 7th.

Decode the News: Tell what the headlines and statements below mean.

Headlines:

Murdoch Insider Charged in Phone Hacking Probe

An insider is a member of a group who has information about the group. A Murdoch insider would be a person who works inside Rupert Murdoch's media companies. Hacking is illegally breaking in to someone's computer or cell phone. A probe is an investigation.

Obama Weighs In on JPMorgan Loss.

If you weigh in on something, you enter the argument on an issue by making a comment about it. In this case, President Obama made a statement about this investing firm's losses.

Being Bilingual Boosts Brainpower

If something is boosted, it is raised. In this case, your brain is boosted (raised to a higher level of functioning) by learning another language. You can ask someone to give you "a boost" if you are trying to climb up on something high.

Learning a New Language Enhances Memory

Enhances means to make it better or more valuable. If your memory is enhanced, it is improved.

Ousted Yahoo CEO Gets No Severance

If you oust someone, you throw them out of their position or place. A CEO is the chief executive officer. If the president of a company is ousted, he loses his job. Severance pay is money you get when your job ends. Some high executives have contracts with their employer that calls for severance pay if their job ends. Most people do not get any kind of severance pay if they are fired or laid off.

Stocks Set for Rebound

If something rebounds, it bounces back. It returns to its original state. This headline doesn't say the stocks will rebound. It says they are "set" to rebound. That means they are prepared to rebound. The conditions are favorable for stock prices to go up.

Europe Dodges Recession

If you dodge something, you move quickly to get out of the way of something coming toward you. In this headline, Europe gets out of the way of a recession. A recession is a period of economic decline when stock prices are down. When I was in school we used to play a game called Dodgeball. The kids would divide up into two teams. There was one ball. Someone on one team would throw the ball as hard as he could toward the other team. Everyone dodged the ball, because if the ball hit you, you were out of the game and had to go sit down. Have you ever played this game?

European Woes Over Debt in Greece Continue in 2012

Woes are troubles. Greece and other European countries are struggling to pay their debts. This is having a negative effect on the economy all over Europe.

Stock Markets Stay Volatile Through End of Year

If something is volatile, it might break out into an explosion soon. This headline says that we could expect stock prices to go up or down a lot. No one knows what they will do. If stock markets are volatile, people are afraid to put their money into them.