

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Answer the question: What animal are you most afraid of?

Read these actual new articles from around the world.

Kung Fu Granny Floors Thief

Forty-year-old Noi Namjung picked the wrong grandma when he tried to **snatch** a 73-year-old woman's purse. He quickly found himself on the ground when she **knocked the daylight out of him**. Noi was jobless, homeless and hungry — and looking for an **easy mark**.

He noticed a nice purse carried by a helpless-seeming granny. Noi **zeroed in** and grabbed her purse. Mrs Prapai, the granny he **targeted** was **taken aback** when Noi grabbed her purse, but she held on tight and began yelling for help. Then she grabbed the thief's shirt, pulled him forward and brought her knee up into his **groin** as hard as she could.

Noi fell on **all fours, curling up** in **agony** as Granny Prapai delivered a further **barrage** of kicks and punches. She stopped only when Noi surrendered and **begged for mercy**. **Bystanders** rushed in to carry her **assailant** to the nearby police station.

1-List some stereotypes of grannies:

2-Was the old lady **justified** in beating up her attacker?

3-In the U.S., this is called **purse snatching** or **mugging**. Is this a problem in your country?

4-What crime do you worry about most?

5-Would you fight off an attacker or give him your purse?

Fire Leads to Discovery of House of Snakes

Firefighters arrived at a Utah home to put out a **blaze** started by a kitchen fire and discovered more than **flames**. Twenty eight snakes, six of them **venomous** were in the home. "I'm just trying to **wrap my head** around what happened" said the fire chief. The snakes were all in cages and were well taken care of. However, the owner had no **permit** for the six venomous snakes.

All the snakes were **confiscated** and will probably be **released into the wild**. People keeping snakes without permits is an increasing problem in Utah. Earlier this year a man was fined for having 29 boa constrictors in his house without a permit.

1-Do you think it is OK to release venomous snakes into the wild?

2-How would you feel about your neighbor keeping snakes in his house?

3-Only poisonous snakes require a permit. Do you think all snakes should require a permit?

4-What animals would you be willing to have as a pet?

5-Do people in your country keep pet snakes as pets are a source of food?

Moose Nuggets

TSA agents at Juneau International Airport found a "large organic mass" in one of the passenger's bags. They were unsure what it was and were concerned it might be explosives. When they questioned the owner of the bag, he explained he was carrying "moose nuggets". Moose nuggets is moose poop. The passenger explained he collects the moose poop, bags it in little plastic bags and hands it out to politicians who he disapproves of. The passenger was not **detained** and was allowed to **proceed** with his moose poop.

Later that day, the Anchorage Daily News reported that a man was seen at the state capitol, handing out baggies of moose nuggets in protest of Gov. Mike Dunleavy's proposed budget.

1. Do you think the man should have been allowed to carry moose poop on the plane?
2. My mom bought some very expensive lotion while on vacation. When she went through security, the agents pulled out the large bottle of lotion and told her she would have to throw it away. She begged and pleaded, but they had no mercy for her. She grudgingly threw the \$50 lotion away. Have you ever had to throw away something valuable at the security check?
3. Do you think handing moose poop to politicians is a good way to protest? What's a better way?

Grammar Exercise: Choose the best answer.

1-Seals can _____ because they have a thick layer of blubber under their fur.

- a-keep them warm
- b-keep themselves warm
- c-they keep warm
- d-keep their warm

2-A cure for juvenile diabetes _____ until more funds are allocated to basic research.

- a-won't develop
- b-aren't developing
- c-don't develop
- d-won't be developed

3-Civil engineers had better _____ steel supports in concrete structures built on unstable geophysical sites.

- a-include
- b-including
- c-inclusion
- d-included

4-Even without strong wings, the ostrich has survived because it _____ at high speeds to escape predators.

- a-to run
- b-can run
- c-running

d-run

5-In general, by the second year of production, the price of a new piece of technology _____ significantly.

a-will decreased

b-has decreased

c-will have decreased

d-had decreased

These sentences have errors. Correct the sentence by changing the underlined word.

1. Fred Astaire is saying to have been the best dancer of his time.
2. He was also a talent actor, singer and choreographer.
3. The cones of pine trees take two or three years to reach mature.
4. On average, a healthy heart pump five tablespoons of blood with every beat.
5. Almost everyone fails the driver's test on the first trying.
6. The average spoken sentence in conversational English takes 2.5 seconds for complete.

Put the correct preposition in the blank.

1. Stop worrying _____ the exam. Everything will be fine.
2. Stop talking and concentrate _____ your work.
3. What we do on the weekend depends _____ the weather.
4. He will let us know _____ advance if he decides to come.
5. Good computer skills are really _____ demand.
6. In this country, the buses always run _____ time.
7. You must wear your seatbelt _____ all times.
8. Families living nearest the waste dump are most _____ risk.
9. The armies are _____ the move.
10. If you are _____ doubt about the diagnosis, you should see another doctor.