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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/12/12

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call

Today, let's talk about the recent hoax telephone call from two Australian DJs to a London hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge was staying. The prank has caused a storm of controversy around the world.

The DJs in question are Mel Greig and Michael Christian. In a call to London's King Edward VII hospital on Tuesday 4th December they posed as the Queen and Prince Charles. They asked about how the Duchess was following her bout of morning sickness as a result of her recent pregnancy.

The DJs spoof conversation with nurse Jacintha Saldanha, 46, at the hospital spectacularly backfired three days later following her suicide.

Following the tragedy the DJs radio show on Australian radio station *2Day FM* was immediately taken off the air. The Sydney radio station also suspended all advertising and was inundated with complaints.

Rhys Holleran, CEO of the company that owns *2Day FM* said the DJs were "deeply shocked" by the death of Jacintha Saldanha. He said the radio presenters would not comment at this point and that their show would not return until further notice. He said: "This is a tragic event that could not have been reasonably foreseen and we are deeply saddened by it."

The DJs actions were deplored by King Edward VII hospital who described it as "truly appalling". Chairman Lord Glenarthur said the consequences of the "ill-considered actions" were "frankly, tragic beyond words".

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are said to be "extremely saddened" by the news.

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about the recent Australian radio hoax. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the DJs.
- 2) Name the radio station.
- 3) Name the hospital.
- 4) Who is Rhys Holleran?
- 5) Who is pregnant?

Student B questions

- 1) Where is the radio station based?
- 2) What did Lord Glenarthur say?
- 3) Name the nurse who committed suicide.
- 4) How did the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge react to the news?
- 5) What caused 'a storm of controversy'?

Category: Media / Pranks / Tragedy
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call – 10th December 2012

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Prank calls**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call -
In pairs choose three things from the article. Write them below.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Add three similar ideas of your own about the new ideas. Discuss together.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Think of three good points that come out of this tragedy. What lessons have been learnt? Write down your thoughts.

The teacher will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Did you watch/listen to the prank broadcast by the DJs?
- 3) What do you think of this tragedy?
- 4) How do you think the family of the nurse must feel?
- 5) What, if any, action will be taken against these DJs?
- 6) Would you now hire these DJs?
- 7) What other DJ pranks do you know about?
- 8) Will prank calls on radio stations be banned?
- 9) What was the reaction to this tragedy in your country?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call*.

- 1 The Duke / Duchess of Cambridge
- 2 Rhys Holleran
- 3 A nurse at King Edward VII hospital
- 4 Mel Greig / Michael Christian

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a coffee shop in your town/city. Start a conversation about: '*Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call*'. *5 mins*.

SPEAKING

In pairs either tell the class about another hoax/prank you did or know about **or** briefly describe the events of this tragic one. *5 mins prep.* **The teacher** will choose some pairs to hear their details in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

The tragic suicide after Kate hoax call

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have the DJs "got blood on their hands", as many think?
- 3) What will the Australian government do about all this?
- 4) Will the British police take any action?
- 5) What lessons will be learnt from this?
- 6) Do similar pranks happen in your country? Explain.
- 7) What must the hospital now do?
- 8) Should *2Day FM* lose their radio licence?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call – 10th December 2012

GAP FILL: READING

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call

Today, let's talk about the recent (1)_____ telephone call from two Australian DJs to a London (2)_____ where the Duchess of Cambridge was staying. The (3)_____ has caused a storm of controversy around the world.

The DJs in question are Mel Greig and Michael Christian. In a call to London's King Edward VII hospital on Tuesday 4th December they posed as the Queen and Prince Charles. They asked about how the Duchess was following her bout of morning sickness as a result of her recent (4)_____.

The DJs spoof conversation with nurse Jacintha Saldanha, 46, at the hospital spectacularly backfired three days later following her (5)_____.

Following the (6)_____ the DJs radio show on Australian (7)_____ station *2Day FM* was (7)_____ taken off the air. The Sydney radio station also suspended all advertising and was inundated with complaints.

suicide / immediately / prank / tragedy / hospital / pregnancy / radio station / hoax

Rhys Holleran, CEO of the company that owns *2Day FM* said the (1)_____ were "deeply shocked" by the (2)_____ of Jacintha Saldanha. He said the radio (3)_____ would not comment at this point and that their show would not return until further notice. He said: "This is a (4)_____ event that could not have been reasonably (5)_____ and we are deeply saddened by it."

The DJs (6)_____ were deplored by King Edward VII hospital who described it as "truly appalling". Chairman Lord Glenarthur said the consequences of the "ill-considered actions" were "(7)_____, tragic beyond words".

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are said to be "(8)_____ saddened" by the news.

foreseen / death / tragic / actions / frankly / presenters / extremely / DJs

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call

Today, let's talk about (1)_____ recent hoax telephone call from two Australian DJs to (2)_____ London hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge was staying. The prank has caused a storm of controversy around the world.

The DJs in question are Mel Greig (3)_____ Michael Christian. (4)_____ a call to London's King Edward VII hospital on Tuesday 4th December they posed as the Queen and Prince Charles. They asked about (5)_____ the Duchess was following (6)_____ bout of morning sickness as a result of her recent pregnancy.

The DJs spoof conversation with nurse Jacintha Saldanha, 46, (8)_____ the hospital spectacularly backfired three days later following her suicide.

Following the tragedy the DJs radio show (7)_____ Australian radio station *2Day FM* was immediately taken off the air. The Sydney radio station also suspended all advertising and was inundated with complaints.

how / her / the / and / in / a / on / at

Rhys Holleran, CEO of the company (1)_____ owns *2Day FM* said the DJs were "deeply shocked" by the death of Jacintha Saldanha, 46. (2)_____ said the radio presenters would not comment at (3)_____ point and that their show (4)_____ not return until further notice. He said: "This is a tragic event that (5)_____ not have been reasonably foreseen and (6)_____ are deeply saddened by it."

The DJs actions were deplored (7)_____ King Edward VII hospital who described it as "truly appalling". Chairman Lord Glenarthur said the consequences (8)_____ the "ill-considered actions" were "frankly, tragic beyond words".

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are said to be "extremely saddened" by the news.

could / that / would / this / of / by / he / we

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call

Today, let's talk about the recent _____ from two Australian DJs to a London hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge was staying. The prank has caused a storm of controversy around the world.

The _____ are Mel Greig and Michael Christian. In a call to London's King Edward VII hospital on Tuesday 4th December they posed as the Queen and Prince Charles. They asked about how the Duchess was following her bout of morning sickness as a result of _____.

The DJs spoof conversation with nurse Jacintha Saldanha, 46, at the hospital spectacularly backfired three days later _____.

Following the tragedy the DJs radio show on Australian radio station *2Day FM* was immediately taken off the air. The Sydney radio station also suspended all advertising and was _____.

Rhys Holleran, CEO of the company that owns *2Day FM* said the DJs were "_____ " by the death of Jacintha Saldanha. He said the radio presenters would not comment at this point and that their show would not return until further notice. He said: "This is a tragic event that could not have been _____ and we are deeply saddened by it."

The DJs actions were deplored by King Edward VII hospital who described it as "_____". Chairman Lord Glenarthur said the consequences of the "_____ " were "frankly, tragic beyond words".

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are said to be "_____ " by the news.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, write as many words as you can to do with '**Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The DJs _____
- 2) The nurse _____
- 3) The hoax _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL ANSWERS

- 1) hoax
- 2) hospital
- 3) prank
- 4) pregnancy
- 5) suicide
- 6) tragedy
- 7) radio
- 8) immediately

GAP FILL ANSWERS

- 1) DJs
- 2) death
- 3) presenters
- 4) tragic
- 5) foreseen
- 6) actions
- 7) frankly
- 8) extremely

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) hoax
- 2) comment
- 3) pregnancy
- 4) foreseen
- 5) spoof
- 6) complaints
- 7) truly
- 8) consequences
- 9) inundated
- 10) until

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) sickness
- 12) further
- 13) telephone
- 14) controversy
- 15) suicide
- 16) immediately
- 17) appalling
- 18) frankly
- 19) extremely
- 20) deeply

Tragic suicide after Kate hoax call – *10th December 2012*