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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/01/16

## Remembering 2015

In today's English lesson we will look back at 2015. We will talk about some of the things that happened in the world during 2015.

The ongoing war in Syria dominated the news headlines in 2015. That aside, perhaps the biggest event to happen in Europe in 2015 was the great migration crisis. When the German Chancellor Mrs Merkel said 'All migrants are welcome' the floodgates were opened. Only Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán challenged her with his fence.

In the States Donald Trump was big news. He's got a big mouth and wasn't afraid to use it. Sadly, more people were killed by guns in the USA but as usual nothing was done about it.

In Britain, the Royal Family remained popular. Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron kept pussyfooting around EU leaders on the subject of should Britain stay or leave the EU.

*Looking at some events month by month now...*

In January, we saw the Charlie Hebdo massacre in Paris. Rebels took over the Yemeni capital, and in Nigeria Boko Haram launched a deadly assault on Baga.

February saw ISIS execute more hostages, the Russian opposition leader murdered, and the Venezuelan President retaliated against US sanctions.

In March, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS. The US, with help from Iran, began a major campaign against ISIS. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a controversial speech to the U.S. Congress.

April saw Somalian militants targeting non-Muslims at a university in Kenya. In Egypt, former President Morsi was sentenced to 20 years in jail, and Saudi Arabia attempted to end the air campaign in Yemen.

**Continued on page 4...**

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you remember about 2015. 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) What is ISIS?
- 2) Who is Benjamin Netanyahu?
- 3) What happened in January?
- 4) What happened in March?
- 5) What does 'pussyfooting around' mean?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What happened in December?
- 2) Name the former Australian Prime Minister.
- 3) Who is Aung San Suu Kyi?
- 4) Who is Victor Orbán?
- 5) What happened in October?

**Category: History / 2015 / World Events**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Remembering 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can about '2015'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three sporting and three cultural events that took place in 2015. Discuss together!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Think of three things that changed your life in 2015. Write them down. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs* - Student A is a news reporter. Student B is themselves. Student A interviews Student B about what they think of 2015? 3 mins.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How will you remember 2015?
- 3) Was 2015 a good year for you?
- 4) Did you do everything you wanted?
- 5) Was 2015 a sad or happy year for you?
- 6) Was 2015 a positive or perhaps negative year for you?
- 7) What are your three predictions for 2016?
- 8) What has the weather been like in 2015 where you live?
- 9) Will Donald Trump become president of the USA?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPELLING

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

- 1) chancellor
- 2) pussyfooting
- 3) popular
- 4) migration
- 5) immigration
- 6) massacre
- 7) hostages
- 8) campaign
- 9) controversial
- 10) floodgates

### SPELLING

Note the following:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) election
- 12) deal
- 13) birth
- 14) austerity
- 15) assault
- 16) crisis
- 17) majority
- 18) major
- 19) austerity
- 20) multiple

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are themselves. You are in the Discussion FM radio studio in London. Today's interview is: 2015. 10 mins.

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

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What are your top three predictions for 2016?
- 2) Did you watch any 'Back to the Future' movies this year?
- 3) What will happen in Syria this year?
- 4) Will the migration crisis in Europe get worse?
- 5) Will Mrs Merkel be fired?
- 6) Will Britain leave the EU?
- 7) Will the EU start to implode?
- 8) Will we see more fences built across Europe?
- 9) Will the USA put boots on the ground in Syria?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Remembering 2015**

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The ongoing war in Syria dominated the news headlines in 2015. That aside, perhaps the biggest (1)\_\_\_ to happen in Europe in 2015 was the great migration crisis. When the German Chancellor Mrs Merkel said 'All (2)\_\_\_ are welcome' the floodgates were opened. Only Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán challenged her with his (3)\_\_\_.

In the States Donald Trump was big news. He's got a big mouth and wasn't (4)\_\_\_ to use it. (5)\_\_\_, more people were killed by guns in the USA but as usual nothing was done about it. In Britain, the Royal Family remained (6)\_\_\_ . Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron kept (7)\_\_\_ around EU leaders on the (8)\_\_\_ of should Britain stay or leave the EU.

**fence / pussyfooting / afraid / subject / sadly / event / migrants / popular**

*Looking at some events month by month now...*

In January, we saw the Charlie Hebdo (1)\_\_\_ in Paris. Rebels took over the Yemeni capital, and in Nigeria Boko Haram launched a (2)\_\_\_ (3)\_\_\_ on Baga.

February saw ISIS (4)\_\_\_ more (5)\_\_\_, the Russian opposition leader murdered, and the Venezuelan President retaliated against US sanctions.

In March, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS. The US, with help from Iran, began a (6)\_\_\_ campaign against ISIS. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a controversial speech to the U.S. Congress.

April saw Somalian (7)\_\_\_ targeting non-Muslims at a university in Kenya. In Egypt, (8)\_\_\_ President Morsi was sentenced to 20 years in jail, and Saudi Arabia attempted to end the air campaign in Yemen.

**militants / major / execute / assault / deadly / hostages / former / massacre**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Remembering 2015**

In today's English lesson we will look back at 2015. We will talk about (1)\_\_\_ of the things (2)\_\_\_ happened in the world during 2015.

The ongoing war in Syria dominated the news headlines in 2015. That aside, perhaps the biggest event to happen in Europe in 2015 was the great migration crisis. (3)\_\_\_ the German Chancellor Mrs Merkel said 'All migrants are welcome' the floodgates were opened. (4)\_\_\_ Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán challenged (5)\_\_\_ with his fence.

In the States Donald Trump was big news. He's got a big mouth and wasn't afraid to use it. Sadly, (6)\_\_\_ people were killed by guns in the USA (7)\_\_\_ as usual nothing was done about it. In Britain, the Royal Family remained popular. Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron kept pussyfooting around EU leaders on the subject of (8)\_\_\_ Britain stay or leave the EU.

**should / more / when / that / some / only / but / her**

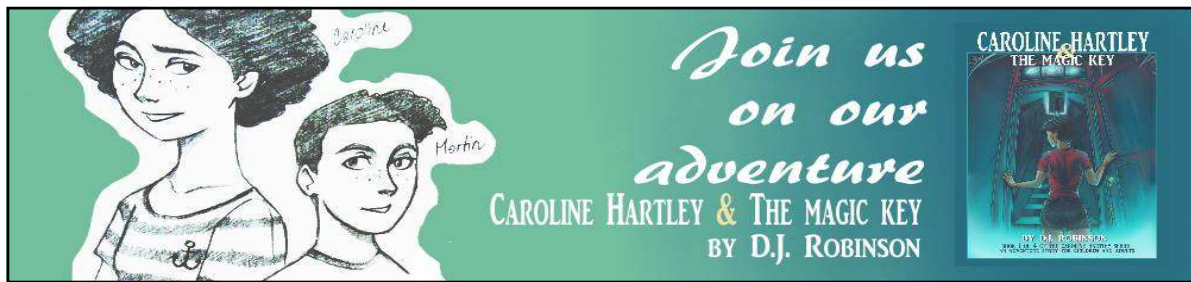
*Looking (1)\_\_\_ some events month (2)\_\_\_ month now...*

In January, (3)\_\_\_ saw the Charlie Hebdo massacre in Paris. Rebels took over the Yemeni capital, and in Nigeria Boko Haram launched a deadly assault (4)\_\_\_ Baga. February saw ISIS execute more hostages, the Russian opposition leader murdered, (5)\_\_\_ the Venezuelan President retaliated against US sanctions.

In March, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS. The US, with help from Iran, began a major campaign against ISIS. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a controversial speech to the U.S. Congress. April saw Somalian militants targeting non-Muslims at (6)\_\_\_ university in Kenya. In Egypt, former President Morsi was sentenced to 20 years in jail, and Saudi Arabia attempted to end (7)\_\_\_ air campaign (8)\_\_\_ Yemen.

**in / at / on / we / a / and / the / by**

## Remembering 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

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In the States \_\_\_\_\_ news. He's got a big mouth and wasn't afraid to use it. Sadly, more people were killed by guns in the USA but as usual nothing was done about it. In Britain, the Royal Family remained popular. Meanwhile the Prime Minister David Cameron kept \_\_\_\_\_ EU leaders on the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ or leave the EU.

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### READING - FROM PAGE 1

In May 2015 the Conservatives under David Cameron won the UK general election. The Duchess of Cambridge gave birth to a girl – Princess Charlotte, and in Egypt former Muslim Brotherhood leader President Morsi was sentenced to death.

In June, the Greek government missed a vital repayment loan payment. Dozens were killed at a beach resort in Tunisia and in Turkey Erdogan lost his majority in the election.

July saw the Iranians sign a nuclear deal, the USA and Cuba opening embassies in each other's countries, and the USA beating Japan in the football Women's World Cup.

In August, we had the Greek crisis, ISIS destroyed a famous temple in Syria, and the immigration crisis in Europe intensified.

September saw Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott replaced. The Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras who had resigned over austerity cuts was re-elected. In Europe the migration crisis got worse; Hungary was invaded, and the EU did nothing.

October saw a new Prime Minister in Canada. China ended its one child policy, and in Ankara, Turkey, there were multiple bombings. 'October 21 2015' was also 'Back to the Future' day!

In November 2015 we saw the leaders of China and Taiwan meet for the first time. Aung San Suu Kyi won the elections in Myanmar (Burma), and Paris was under attack from ISIS militants.

Finally in December we saw the climate change conference in Paris, New Zealand chose a new flag and most of us celebrated Christmas!

Remembering 2015 – *5<sup>th</sup> January 2016*