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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/10/15

World University Rankings 2015

The Times Higher Education Magazine recently published its annual list of the world's top 800 universities. This year it includes 70 countries. The California Institute of Technology continues to be the number one university in the world. It has maintained this position for five years running.

The US remains the world leader when it comes to top universities. It has six of the top ten universities, down from seven last year. These include Stanford University (No 3), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (No 5), Harvard University (No 6) and Princeton University (No 7).

The UK has 78 positions in the top 800, second only to the US. The UK has 34 universities in the top 200 institutions. Oxford and Cambridge each climb a place into second and fourth place, while Imperial College London is at number eight.

There are a record 105 European universities in the world's top 200, compared to 87 last year. Germany, Switzerland and Holland have done well. This is because they are less hindered by funding cuts. They are also more welcoming for international students. France has five top universities in the top 200, with Italy and Spain each having three. In Asia, Japan and South Korea have fallen back this year, while China remains steady.

UK universities moving up the rankings include Warwick, St Andrews and Exeter. Reading, Dundee and Newcastle re-establish their places in the top 200. Manchester, York, Sussex and Royal Holloway, London have slipped down the university rankings. Funding cuts in the UK universities and new immigration measures for overseas students will hinder future UK rankings.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about universities. 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 top university in the world.
- 2) How many positions in the top 800 has the UK?
- 3) Which universities in the UK slipped in the ranking?
- 4) Name three other top US universities.
- 5) How many universities has France got in the top 200?

Student B questions

- 1) What might hinder future UK university rankings?
- 2) Name three European countries.
- 3) Which country has remained steady?
- 4) What does 'steady' and 'hindered' mean?
- 5) Where is Massachusetts?

Category: UK / Education / University Rankings
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

World University Rankings 2015 – 5th October 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Each of you writes down your top three universities. Why these? Discuss together!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What makes a good university? Write down your ideas. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What are the top three university subjects to study? Why these? Discuss together!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to hear their findings.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Which university did you go to?
- 2) Should university education be free or should you have to pay for it? Explain.
- 3) Why do some countries charge to go to university while in other countries' university education is free?
- 4) What is the top university in your country? Why?
- 5) What do you think is the top university in the world? Why?
- 6) Does your university feature in the top 200 universities in the world? Explain.
- 7) Why is university important?
- 8) Is your country experiencing university funding cuts?
- 9) Are immigration issues a threat to university choice in your country?
- 10) What are the current top or popular subjects to study at university?

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 in London. Today's interview is: *World University Rankings 2015.*

- 1) A student from the USA / Americas.
- 2) A student from Asia.
- 3) A student from Europe.
- 4) A student from Africa / Middle East.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a news reporter in London. *Student B* is a student from outside of the UK. *Student A* interviews *Student B* about what are the best universities and why? 3 mins.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

World University Rankings 2015
(Google the full results first!)

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Does your country charge university admission fees or yearly fees? If yes how much are they?
- 2) What did you study at university?
- 3) These days would you prefer to study to do an apprenticeship rather than do a university degree? Explain.
- 4) In regard to question three what would your parents say to this?
- 5) Are there too many universities in the world today?
- 6) Are there too many unemployed university students who still can't find a job in the subject they studied for?
- 7) Why does the US come out top for universities?
- 8) Do you read the Times Higher Education Magazine? Why? Why not?
- 9) What do you think of Oxford and Cambridge universities in the UK?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

World University Rankings 2015

The Times Higher Education (1)___ recently published its (2)___ (3)___ of the world's top 800 universities. This year it includes 70 countries. The California Institute of Technology continues to be the number one (4)___ in the world. It has maintained this (5)___ for five years running.

The US remains the world (6)___ when it comes to top universities. It has six of the top ten universities, down from seven last year. These include Stanford University (No 3), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (No 5), Harvard University (No 6) and Princeton University (No 7).

The UK has 78 positions in the top 800, second only to the US. The UK has 34 universities in the top 200 (7)___ . Oxford and Cambridge each (8)___ a place into second and fourth place, while Imperial College London is at number eight.

leader / climb / position / list / institutions / university / magazine / annual

There are a (1)___ 105 European universities in the world's top 200, compared to 87 last year. Germany, Switzerland and Holland have done well. This is because they are less hindered by (2)___ cuts. They are also more welcoming for international students. France has five top universities in the top 200, with Italy and Spain each having three. In Asia, Japan and South Korea have fallen back this year, while China remains (3)___ .

UK universities moving up the rankings include Warwick, St Andrews and Exeter. Reading, Dundee and Newcastle re-establish their (4)___ in the (5)___ 200. Manchester, York, Sussex and Royal Holloway, London have slipped down the university (6)___ . Funding cuts in the UK universities and new (7)___ measures for overseas students will (8)___ future UK rankings.

hinder / immigration / steady / record / places / top / funding / rankings

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

World University Rankings 2015

The Times Higher Education Magazine recently published (1)___ annual list (2)___ the world's top 800 universities. This year (3)___ includes 70 countries. The California Institute of Technology continues to be (4)___ number one university in the world. It has maintained this position (5)___ five years running.

The US remains the world leader when it comes to top universities. It has six of the top ten universities, down from seven last year. These include Stanford University (No 3), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (No 5), Harvard University (No 6) (6)___ Princeton University (No 7).

The UK has 78 positions in the top 800, second only to the US. The UK has 34 universities (7)___ the top 200 institutions. Oxford and Cambridge each climb a place into second and fourth place, while Imperial College London is (8)___ number eight.

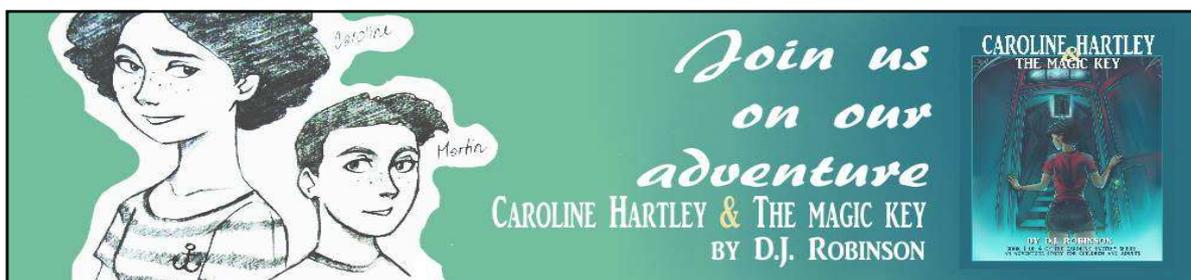
in / at / it / of / for / its / the / and

(1)___ are a record 105 European universities in the world's top 200, compared to 87 last year. Germany, Switzerland and Holland have done well. (2)___ is because they are less hindered by funding cuts. They are (3)___ (4)___ welcoming for international students. France has five top universities in the top 200, (5)___ Italy and Spain (6)___ having three. In Asia, Japan and South Korea have fallen back this year, while China remains steady.

UK universities moving up the rankings include Warwick, St Andrews and Exeter. Reading, Dundee and Newcastle re-establish (7)___ places in the top 200. Manchester, York, Sussex and Royal Holloway, London have slipped down the university rankings. Funding cuts in the UK universities and new immigration measures (8)___ overseas students will hinder future UK rankings.

for / their / each / this / more / there / also / with

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

World University Rankings 2015

The _____ Magazine recently published its _____ world's top 800 universities. This year it includes 70 countries. The California Institute of Technology continues to be the number one university in the world. It has maintained this position for five years running.

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This is because they are less hindered by funding cuts. They are also more welcoming for _____. France has five top universities in the top 200, with Italy and Spain each having three. In Asia, _____ have fallen back this year, while China remains steady.

UK universities moving up the rankings include Warwick, St Andrews and Exeter. Reading, Dundee and Newcastle re-establish their places in the top 200. Manchester, York, Sussex and Royal Holloway, London have slipped down the university rankings. _____ UK universities and new immigration measures for overseas students will _____ rankings.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, list 20 things you know about: **Universities**. One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.

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

- 1) The USA _____
- 2) In my country _____
- 3) The top university _____

3) In class - Write 50 words about: *World University Rankings 2015*. Your work can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *World University Rankings 2015*. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

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

- 1) California
- 2) institutions
- 3) Oxford
- 4) Cambridge
- 5) universities
- 6) maintained
- 7) continues
- 8) annual
- 9) these
- 10) positions

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) international
- 12) immigration
- 13) hinder
- 14) measures
- 15) overseas
- 16) rankings
- 17) cuts
- 18) re-establish
- 19) overseas
- 20) fourth

World University Rankings 2015 – *5th October 2015*