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Level 5

Japan town beats world snowman record

21st February, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150221-snowman-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Survey	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150221-snowman-5.html>

Residents of a town in Japan have broken the world record for building snowmen. Around 630 citizens at the Iiyama Snow Festival made 1,585 snowmen in one hour to set the new mark. The previous record was 1,279 snowmen, set in 2011. The event coincided with the opening of a new bullet train station. Justin Patterson, the judge from the Guinness World Records organisation, said the event was a wonderful occasion. He said: "Despite Iiyama being buried in snow, it is wonderful that the residents came out to tackle the challenge together in a positive light."

There were strict rules for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman had to be over 80 cm tall. They also had to be made of three separate snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People used only their hands to make them. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told the Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the event suited the opening of the bullet train station. He said that thanks to the cooperation of many people, the record was broken. He said the event added to the celebrations of the train station opening. An eight-year old commented that it was a tough thing to do.

Sources: http://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2015/02/16/1585-snowmen-break-Guinness-record-in-Japan/9931424121049/
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/02/15/national/record-set-nagano-prefecture-1585-snowmen-built-hour/#.VORIQSzsQxI>
<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/476500/do-you-wanna-build-a-snowman-japanese-city-makes-1585>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150221-snowman-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Residents of | a. wonderful occasion |
| 2. Around 630 | b. record was 1,279 |
| 3. The previous | c. light |
| 4. the opening of a new | d. citizens |
| 5. the event was a | e. a town in Japan |
| 6. being buried | f. together |
| 7. tackle the challenge | g. bullet train station |
| 8. in a positive | h. in snow |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. There were strict | a. snowballs |
| 2. each snowman had to | b. to the celebrations |
| 3. made of three separate | c. the bullet train station |
| 4. People used only their | d. rules |
| 5. the opening of | e. thing to do |
| 6. thanks to the cooperation | f. be over 80 cm tall |
| 7. the event added | g. hands |
| 8. it was a tough | h. of many people |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150221-snowman-5.html>

Residents (1) _____ Japan have broken the world record for building snowmen. Around (2) _____ the Iiyama Snow Festival made 1,585 snowmen (3) _____ set the new mark. The previous record was 1,279 snowmen, set in 2011. The event coincided with (4) _____ new bullet train station. Justin Patterson, the judge from the Guinness World Records organisation, said the event was a (5) _____. He said: "Despite Iiyama being buried in snow, it is wonderful that the residents (6) _____ tackle the challenge together in a positive light."

There (7) _____ for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman (8) _____ 80 cm tall. They also had to be made (9) _____ snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People used only their hands to make them. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told the Asahi Shimbun newspaper (10) _____ suited the opening of the bullet train station. He said that thanks to the (11) _____ people, the record was broken. He said the event added to the celebrations of the train station opening. An eight-year old commented that it was (12) _____ do.

SNOWMEN SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150221-snowman-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about snowmen in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

