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Virgin voyage to the bottom of the ocean

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

The boss of the Virgin group Richard Branson has unveiled his latest adventure project. He plans to explore the deepest parts of the ocean in a high-tech submarine. Virgin Oceanic will conduct five test dives over two years. His team plans to explore the deepest part of any ocean – the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. At a depth of almost 11,000 metres, the trench is deeper than Mount Everest is high. Branson showed the specially-built vessel to reporters at a news conference in California. He plans to pilot one of the dives himself. Branson also said he hoped Virgin Oceanic would one day take wealthy passengers on deep sea dives to explore the ocean depths.

Branson is a famed entrepreneur. He started off by selling used music records at university, which led to his opening of the Virgin Records stores. He has since become well known for pushing things to the limit. He has used his wealth to finance such feats as hot-air ballooning around the world and has set sailing records. As well as his Virgin airline company, he also operates Virgin Galactic, which will allow tourists to fly into space. He told reporters: "There is just so much to explore, so much to discover. We are going to obviously come across some fascinating creatures and learn some fascinating things that will hopefully be useful for mankind."

WARM-UPS

1. SUBMARINE TOURS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about submarine tours. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

boss / adventure / project / explore / ocean / vessel / news conference / passengers / entrepreneur / records / record stores / to the limit / hot-air ballooning / creatures

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ADVENTURE: Which would you go on? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share again.

	Yes / No (Why?)	What would you learn?
Submarine tour		
Space flight		
Amazon stay		
South Pole walk		
Climb Mt. Everest		
Walk across Sahara		

4. EXPLORATION: Students A **strongly** believe there'll be nowhere left on Earth to explore one day; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. SUBMARINE: What would you worry about most in a submarine 11.000 metres under the ocean? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- the confined space
- sharks
- oxygen running out
- the pressure
- mechanical failure
- unknown deep-sea monsters
- the dark
- the cost

6. OCEAN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'ocean'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. A group of virgin sailors are heading to the bottom of the ocean. | T / F |
| b. A submarine will explore the deepest part of the ocean. | T / F |
| c. The deepest part of the ocean isn't as deep as Mt. Everest is high. | T / F |
| d. The boss of the submarine project hopes to attract sightseers one day. | T / F |
| e. The submarine project boss became rich by opening record stores. | T / F |
| f. The boss has also funded other record-breaking attempts. | T / F |
| g. He said there isn't much left to discover in the ocean.. | T / F |
| h. He doubted if he'd find new species of ocean life. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. boss | a. do |
| 2. unveiled | b. runs |
| 3. conduct | c. well known |
| 4. vessel | d. animals |
| 5. wealthy | e. chief |
| 6. famed | f. clearly |
| 7. limit | g. craft |
| 8. operates | h. showed off |
| 9. obviously | i. maximum |
| 10. creatures | j. rich |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. unveiled his | a. on deep sea dives |
| 2. explore the deepest | b. the dives himself |
| 3. the trench is deeper than | c. much to explore |
| 4. He plans to pilot one of | d. parts of the ocean |
| 5. take wealthy passengers | e. some fascinating creatures |
| 6. He started off by | f. latest adventure project |
| 7. pushing things | g. mankind |
| 8. There is just so | h. to the limit |
| 9. come across | i. Mount Everest is high |
| 10. useful for | j. selling used music |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The boss of the Virgin group Richard Branson has (1) _____ his latest adventure project. He plans to (2) _____ the deepest parts of the ocean in a high-tech submarine. Virgin Oceanic will (3) _____ five test dives over two years. His team plans to explore the deepest part of any ocean – the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. At a (4) _____ of almost 11,000 metres, the trench is deeper than Mount Everest is (5) _____. Branson showed the (6) _____ -built vessel to reporters at a news conference in California. He plans to (7) _____ one of the dives himself. Branson also said he hoped Virgin Oceanic would one day take (8) _____ passengers on deep sea dives to explore the ocean depths.

depth

pilot

explore

wealthy

high

unveiled

specially

conduct

Branson is a (9) _____ entrepreneur. He started off by selling used music records at university, which (10) _____ to his opening of the Virgin Records stores. He has since become well known for pushing things to the (11) _____. He has used his wealth to finance such (12) _____ as hot-air ballooning around the world and has set sailing records. As well as his Virgin airline company, he also (13) _____ Virgin Galactic, which will allow tourists to fly into space. He told reporters: "There is just so much to explore, so much to (14) _____. We are going to obviously come across some fascinating (15) _____ and learn some fascinating things that will hopefully be useful for (16) _____."

limit

operates

famed

creatures

mankind

discover

led

feats

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

The boss of the Virgin group Richard Branson has _____
adventure project. He plans _____ parts of the ocean in
a high-tech submarine. Virgin Oceanic will conduct five test dives over two
years. His team plans to explore the deepest part of any ocean – the Pacific
Ocean's Mariana Trench. At _____ 11,000 metres, the
_____ Mount Everest is high. Branson showed the
specially-built vessel to reporters at a news conference in California. He
_____ the dives himself. Branson also said he hoped
Virgin Oceanic would one day take wealthy passengers
_____ explore the ocean depths.

Branson is _____. He started off by selling used music
records at university, which led to his opening of the Virgin Records stores.
He has since become well known _____ the limit. He has
used his wealth _____ as hot-air ballooning around the
world and has set sailing records. As well as his Virgin airline company, he
also operates Virgin Galactic, which will allow _____
space. He told reporters: "There is just so much to explore, so much to
discover. We are _____ come across some fascinating
creatures and learn some fascinating things that will hopefully be
_____."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'ocean' and 'dive'.

ocean	dive
--------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• latest• tech• test• high• pilot• wealthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• famed• opening• since• set• space• creatures
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

STUDENT SUBMARINE TOURS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

Write five GOOD questions about submarine tours 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.

SUBMARINE TOURS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'submarine'?
- c) Would you like to do a submarine tour?
- d) What do you think of Richard Branson's plans?
- e) What do you think they'll find at the bottom of the ocean?
- f) What are the dangers involved in this project?
- g) Do you think deep-sea dives to the bottom of the ocean would be popular?
- h) Would you rather stand on top of Everest or see the bottom of the world's deepest ocean? Why?
- i) Is this Earth's last frontier to be discovered?
- j) What adventure would you like to go on?

Virgin voyage to the bottom of the ocean – 7th April, 2011
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SUBMARINE TOURS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you know about Richard Branson?
- c) Would you call yourself an adventurer?
- d) Have you ever pushed things to the limit?
- e) What's the longest amount of time you could spend in a submarine?
- f) What do you think motivates Richard Branson to keep trying new adventures?
- g) What's the max you would pay to take a tour into space?
- h) Do you think the Virgin Oceanic project will find lots of fascinating creatures?
- i) Which will be more popular, Virgin Oceanic or Virgin Galactic? Why?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Richard Branson?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1104/110407-virgin_submarine.html

The boss of the Virgin group Richard Branson has (1) _____ his latest adventure project. He plans to explore the (2) _____ parts of the ocean in a high-tech submarine. Virgin Oceanic will (3) _____ five test dives over two years. His team plans to explore the deepest part of any ocean – the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. At a (4) _____ of almost 11,000 metres, the trench is deeper than Mount Everest is high. Branson showed the specially-built (5) _____ to reporters at a news conference in California. He plans to pilot one of the dives himself. Branson also said he hoped Virgin Oceanic would one day take (6) _____ passengers on deep sea dives to explore the ocean depths.

Branson is a (7) _____ entrepreneur. He started off by selling used music records at university, which led to his opening of the Virgin Records stores. He has (8) _____ become well known for pushing (9) _____ to the limit. He has used his wealth to finance such feats as hot-air ballooning around the world and has (10) _____ sailing records. As well as his Virgin airline company, he also operates Virgin Galactic, which will allow tourists to fly into space. He told reporters: "There is just so much to explore, so much to discover. We are going to (11) _____ come (12) _____ some fascinating creatures and learn some fascinating things that will hopefully be useful for mankind."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) veils | (b) veiled | (c) veil | (d) unveiled |
| 2. | (a) deepening | (b) deepen | (c) deepest | (d) deepens |
| 3. | (a) induct | (b) conduct | (c) obstruct | (d) duct |
| 4. | (a) depth | (b) deep | (c) depend | (d) deep end |
| 5. | (a) missal | (b) tinsel | (c) vessel | (d) colossal |
| 6. | (a) wealth | (b) wealthiest | (c) the wealthy | (d) wealthy |
| 7. | (a) framed | (b) famed | (c) flamed | (d) foamed |
| 8. | (a) since | (b) for | (c) ago | (d) then |
| 9. | (a) think | (b) things | (c) thing | (d) thinks |
| 10. | (a) do | (b) have | (c) set | (d) take |
| 11. | (a) obviously | (b) obvious | (c) oblivious | (d) oblivion |
| 12. | (a) over | (b) down | (c) in | (d) across |

Virgin voyage to the bottom of the ocean – 7th April, 2011

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SUBMARINE TOURS: Make a poster about submarine tours. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. VIRGING OCEANIC: Write a magazine article about Virgin Oceanic. Include imaginary interviews with Richard Branson and an environmentalist who is against the idea.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Richard Branson. Ask him three questions about his submarine project. Give him three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. F d. T e. T f. T g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. boss | a. chief |
| 2. unveiled | b. showed off |
| 3. conduct | c. do |
| 4. vessel | d. craft |
| 5. wealthy | e. rich |
| 6. famed | f. well known |
| 7. limit | g. maximum |
| 8. operates | h. runs |
| 9. obviously | i. clearly |
| 10. creatures | j. animals |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. unveiled his | a. latest adventure project |
| 2. explore the deepest | b. parts of the ocean |
| 3. the trench is deeper than | c. Mount Everest is high |
| 4. He plans to pilot one of | d. the dives himself |
| 5. take wealthy passengers | e. on deep sea dives |
| 6. He started off by | f. selling used music |
| 7. pushing things | g. to the limit |
| 8. There is just so | h. much to explore |
| 9. come across | i. some fascinating creatures |
| 10. useful for | j. mankind |

GAP FILL:

Virgin voyage to the bottom of the ocean

The boss of the Virgin group Richard Branson has (1) **unveiled** his latest adventure project. He plans to (2) **explore** the deepest parts of the ocean in a high-tech submarine. Virgin Oceanic will (3) **conduct** five test dives over two years. His team plans to explore the deepest part of any ocean – the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. At a (4) **depth** of almost 11,000 metres, the trench is deeper than Mount Everest is (5) **high**. Branson showed the (6) **specialty**-built vessel to reporters at a news conference in California. He plans to (7) **pilot** one of the dives himself. Branson also said he hoped Virgin Oceanic would one day take (8) **wealthy** passengers on deep sea dives to explore the ocean depths.

Branson is a (9) **famed** entrepreneur. He started off by selling used music records at university, which (10) **led** to his opening of the Virgin Records stores. He has since become well known for pushing things to the (11) **limit**. He has used his wealth to finance such (12) **feats** as hot-air ballooning around the world and has set sailing records. As well as his Virgin airline company, he also (13) **operates** Virgin Galactic, which will allow tourists to fly into space. He told reporters: "There is just so much to explore, so much to (14) **discover**. We are going to obviously come across some fascinating (15) **creatures** and learn some fascinating things that will hopefully be useful for (16) **mankind**."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d

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