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Level 6

Japan town beats world snowman record

21st February, 2015

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

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Residents of a Japanese town have broken the world speed record for building snowmen. Citizens at the Iiyama Snow Festival in Nagano made 1,585 of the snowy fellows in one hour to set the new mark. Around 630 people took part in the record attempt. The previous record was 1,279 snowmen, set in Utah, USA in 2011. The event in Iiyama Town coincided with the opening of a new train station for Japan's famous bullet train. Justin Patterson, the adjudicator from the official Guinness World Records organisation, said the event had been 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 to be met for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman had to be at least 80 cm tall. In addition the snowmen had to be made of three separate snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People used only their hands in the record-breaking endeavour. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the event was fitting for the opening of the bullet train station. He said: "We were able to achieve the record thanks to the cooperation of many people. We believe the feat will boost [the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the Shinkansen's Iiyama Station." Ichika Oguchi, 8, said: "It was tough because the snow didn't stick together, but I had fun."

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>

WARM-UPS

1. SNOWMEN: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about snowmen. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

residents / world record / snowmen / previous / bullet train / train station / wonderful / strict rules / snowballs / endeavor / achieve / cooperation / atmosphere / tough

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

3. WORLD RECORD: What do you think of these world records? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Should there be a record?	Why?
Biggest No Smoking sign		
Tallest Lego tower		
Largest suitcase		
Longest kiss		
Oldest gymnast		
Largest Hello Kitty collection		

4. SNOWMAN BUILDING: Students A **strongly** believe a snowman-building record is pointless; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. SNOW: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to do in / with snow at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- make a snowman
- watch it fall
- have a snowball fight
- make an igloo
- ski
- go sledding
- go for a walk
- make a snow maze

6. SPEED: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "speed". 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/1502/150221-snowman.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Residents in a Japanese town have built the world's tallest snowman. | T / F |
| b. It took about 630 people to break the snowman record. | T / F |
| c. The record attempt was to celebrate the opening of a train station. | T / F |
| d. The residents came together and did everything in a positive light. | T / F |
| e. The snowmen had to be made from three separate snowballs. | T / F |
| f. People used special equipment to help break the record. | T / F |
| g. The event put a damper on the celebratory atmosphere. | T / F |
| h. An 8-year-old said the event was fun and easy. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. residents | a. men |
| 2. fellows | b. what's more |
| 3. previous | c. confront |
| 4. coincided | d. collaboration |
| 5. tackle | e. attempt |
| 6. strict | f. citizens |
| 7. in addition | g. happened together |
| 8. endeavour | h. difficult |
| 9. cooperation | i. old |
| 10. tough | j. rigid |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Citizens at the | a. train |
| 2. 630 people took part | b. member |
| 3. Japan's famous bullet | c. light |
| 4. the residents came out to tackle | d. rules |
| 5. in a positive | e. snowballs |
| 6. strict | f. in the record attempt |
| 7. made of three separate | g. of many people |
| 8. committee | h. the challenge together |
| 9. thanks to the cooperation | i. atmosphere |
| 10. celebratory | j. Iiyama Snow Festival |

GAP FILL

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

Residents of a Japanese town have (1) _____ the world speed record for building snowmen. Citizens at the Iiyama Snow Festival in Nagano made 1,585 of the snowy fellows in one hour to (2) _____ the new mark. Around 630 people took (3) _____ in the record attempt. The previous record was 1,279 snowmen, set in Utah, USA in 2011. The event in Iiyama Town (4) _____ with the opening of a new train station for Japan's famous (5) _____ train. Justin Patterson, the adjudicator from the official Guinness World Records organisation, said the event had been a wonderful (6) _____. He said: "Despite Iiyama being (7) _____ in snow, it is wonderful that the residents came out to tackle the challenge together in a (8) _____ light."

coincided

set

buried

bullet

positive

broken

occasion

part

There were (9) _____ rules to be met for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman had to be at (10) _____ 80 cm tall. In addition the snowmen had to be made of three (11) _____ snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People used only their hands in the record-breaking (12) _____. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the event was (13) _____ for the opening of the bullet train station. He said: "We were able to (14) _____ the record thanks to the cooperation of many people. We believe the feat will (15) _____ [the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the Shinkansen's Iiyama Station." Ichika Oguchi, 8, said: "It was (16) _____ because the snow didn't stick together, but I had fun."

least

fitting

boost

strict

endeavour

tough

separate

achieve

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Residents of a Japanese town have broken the world _____ building snowmen
 - a. speed recording for
 - b. speeding record for
 - c. speed record for
 - d. speeds record for
- 2) made 1,585 of the snowy fellows in one hour _____ mark
 - a. to set the new
 - b. to sit the new
 - c. to sat the new
 - d. to sot the new
- 3) coincided with the opening of a new train station for Japan's _____
 - a. famous bull it train
 - b. famous bullied train
 - c. famous bullet train
 - d. famous bully it train
- 4) the official Guinness World Records organisation said the event had been _____
 - a. a wonder fully occasion
 - b. a wonderfully occasion
 - c. a wonder-filled occasion
 - d. a wonderful occasion
- 5) residents came out to tackle the challenge together _____
 - a. in a positively light
 - b. in a positive light
 - c. in a positives light
 - d. in a positiveness light
- 6) There were strict rules to be met for the record _____
 - a. to get broken
 - b. to be broken
 - c. to do broken
 - d. to have broken
- 7) People used only their hands in the record-_____
 - a. breaking endeavours
 - b. breaking end ever
 - c. breaking end event
 - d. breaking endeavour
- 8) We were able to achieve the record thanks to the cooperation _____
 - a. of many people
 - b. for many people
 - c. off many people
 - d. over many people
- 9) We believe the feat will boost the celebratory atmosphere _____
 - a. of the openings
 - b. of the open in
 - c. of the opening
 - d. of the open inn
- 10) It was tough because the snow didn't stick together, _____
 - a. but I had fun
 - b. but I had Hun
 - c. but I had funny
 - d. but I had fan

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Residents of a Japanese (1) _____ the world speed record for building snowmen. Citizens at the Iiyama Snow Festival in Nagano made 1,585 of the snowy fellows in one (2) _____ new mark. Around 630 people (3) _____ record attempt. The previous record was 1,279 snowmen, set in Utah, USA in 2011. The event in Iiyama Town (4) _____ opening of a new train station for Japan's famous bullet train. Justin Patterson, the adjudicator from the official Guinness World Records organisation, said (5) _____ been a wonderful occasion. He said: "Despite Iiyama being buried in snow, it is wonderful that the residents came (6) _____ challenge together in a positive light."

There were (7) _____ met for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman (8) _____ least 80 cm tall. In addition the snowmen had to be made of three separate snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People (9) _____ hands in the record-breaking endeavour. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the (10) _____ for the opening of the bullet train station. He said: "We were able to achieve the record thanks to the cooperation of many people. We (11) _____ boost [the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the Shinkansen's Iiyama Station." Ichika Oguchi, 8, said: "It was tough because the (12) _____ together, but I had fun."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. At what kind of festival was the record broken?

2. How many people helped make the snowmen?

3. What did the event coincide with?

4. Who is Justin Patterson?

5. In what kind of light did the residents tackle this challenge?

6. What kind of rules were there for the event?

7. What was the minimum height each snowman had to be?

8. Who is Jiro Kobayashi?

9. What kind of atmosphere did the event boost?

10. How old was the child who had fun?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. At what kind of festival was the record broken?
 - a) a Guinness festival
 - b) a snow festival
 - c) a festival of light
 - d) a trainspotting festival
2. How many people helped make the snowmen?
 - a) almost 360
 - b) around 360
 - c) just over 630
 - d) around 630
3. What did the event coincide with?
 - a) the opening of a train station
 - b) a new kind of bullet
 - c) snow
 - d) a new Guinness
4. Who is Justin Patterson?
 - a) the CEO of Guinness
 - b) a snowman builder
 - c) an adjudicator
 - d) a snow expert
5. In what kind of light did the residents tackle this challenge?
 - a) a dim one
 - b) a positive one
 - c) an electric one
 - d) a bright one
6. What kind of rules were there for the event?
 - a) lax ones
 - b) relaxed ones
 - c) strict ones
 - d) made as they went along
7. What was the minimum height each snowman had to be?
 - a) 18cm
 - b) 88cm
 - c) 78cm
 - d) 80cm
8. Who is Jiro Kobayashi?
 - a) a committee member
 - b) a snowman expert
 - c) CEO of Guinness Japan
 - d) a reporter
9. What kind of atmosphere did the event boost?
 - a) a celebratory one
 - b) a weightless one
 - c) a dark one
 - d) a sombre one
10. How old was the child who had fun?
 - a) 7
 - b) 8
 - c) 9
 - d) 10

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Making snowmen

You think making snowmen is the best snow-related activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their activities aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): hiking, having a snowball fight or just watching it fall.

Role B – Hiking

You think hiking is the best snow-related activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their activities aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): making snowmen, having a snowball fight or just watching it fall.

Role C – Having a snowball fight

You think having a snowball fight is the best snow-related activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their activities aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): hiking, making snowmen or just watching it fall.

Role D – Just watching it fall

You think just watching it fall is the best snow-related activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their activities aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): hiking, having a snowball fight or making snowmen.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

speed	record
--------------	---------------

- 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">• citizens• 630• 1,279• famous• wonderful• challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rules• 80• hands• fitting• feat• stick
---	---

SNOWMEN SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1502/150221-snowman.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.

SNOWMEN DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'snowman'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) What do you think of there being a record for building the most snowmen in an hour?
- 5) Would you like to take part in this attempt?
- 6) What do you know about Japan's bullet train?
- 7) What world record would you like to break?
- 8) What things are good to do in snow?
- 9) Do you like snow? Why?
- 10) Do you live in a community where people do things together?

Japan town beats world snowman record – 21st February, 2015
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SNOWMEN DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) How do you think the rules are decided for such a record?
- 13) Why do you think each snowman had to be in three different parts?
- 14) Was this a good event to mark the opening of a bullet train station?
- 15) What other things do people make with snow?
- 16) Do you prefer lots of snow or 40-degree heat?
- 17) Where do you think the idea of snowmen came from?
- 18) Why don't people say snow-women?
- 19) What are the good and bad things about snow?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the snowman builders?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Residents of a Japanese town have (1) _____ the world speed record for building snowmen. Citizens at the Iiyama Snow Festival in Nagano made 1,585 of the snowy fellows in one hour to set the new (2) _____. Around 630 people took part in the record attempt. The (3) _____ record was 1,279 snowmen, set in Utah, USA in 2011. The event in Iiyama Town (4) _____ with the opening of a new train station for Japan's famous bullet train. Justin Patterson, the adjudicator from the official Guinness World Records organisation, said the event had been a wonderful occasion. He said: "Despite Iiyama (5) _____ buried in snow, it is wonderful that the residents came out to tackle the challenge together in a positive (6) _____."

There were strict rules to be (7) _____ for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman had to be at least 80 cm tall. In addition the snowmen had to be made of three (8) _____ snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People used only their hands in the record-breaking endeavour. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the event was (9) _____ for the opening of the bullet train station. He said: "We were able to achieve the record thanks (10) _____ the cooperation of many people. We believe the (11) _____ will boost [the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the Shinkansen's Iiyama Station." Ichika Oguchi, 8, said: "It was tough because the snow didn't stick (12) _____, but I had fun."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) breaking | (b) broke | (c) broken | (d) break |
| 2. | (a) mark | (b) marking | (c) marked | (d) marks |
| 3. | (a) previous | (b) previously | (c) impervious | (d) imperious |
| 4. | (a) coincided | (b) coincide | (c) coincident | (d) coincidental |
| 5. | (a) be | (b) being | (c) been | (d) were |
| 6. | (a) beam | (b) ray | (c) shine | (d) light |
| 7. | (a) taken | (b) answered | (c) met | (d) deemed |
| 8. | (a) separating | (b) separates | (c) separation | (d) separate |
| 9. | (a) fitting | (b) opting | (c) jostling | (d) angling |
| 10. | (a) to | (b) for | (c) by | (d) of |
| 11. | (a) feet | (b) feat | (c) fit | (d) foot |
| 12. | (a) icy | (b) snowy | (c) together | (d) compact |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. serdnteis of a Japanese town
2. 630 people took part in the record epmttta
3. dieccidno with the opening
4. the event had been a wonderful snoicoca
5. came out to aclkte the challenge together
6. in a itveiops light

Paragraph 2

7. made of three eapatsre snowballs
8. the record-breaking reonadevu
9. the opening of the ebltul train station
10. thanks to the oeirtcnaopo of many people
11. the betaylreocr atmosphere
12. It was toghu

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	at the Iiyama Snow Festival in Nagano made 1,585 of the snowy fellows in one hour to set
()	the new mark. Around 630 people took part in the record attempt. The previous record
()	of a new train station for Japan's famous bullet train. Justin Patterson, the adjudicator from the official
()	was 1,279 snowmen, set in Utah, USA in 2011. The event in Iiyama Town coincided with the opening
()	Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the event was fitting for the opening of the bullet
()	Guinness World Records organisation, said the event had been a wonderful occasion. He said: "Despite Iiyama being
()	people. We believe the feat will boost [the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the Shinkansen's Iiyama
()	train station. He said: "We were able to achieve the record thanks to the cooperation of many
()	Station." Ichika Oguchi, 8, said: "It was tough because the snow didn't stick together, but I had fun."
(1)	Residents of a Japanese town have broken the world speed record for building snowmen. Citizens
()	buried in snow, it is wonderful that the residents came out to tackle the challenge together in a positive light."
()	arms. People used only their hands in the record-breaking endeavour. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told
()	least 80 cm tall. In addition the snowmen had to be made of three separate snowballs, with eyes, a nose and
()	There were strict rules to be met for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman had to be at

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. speed record Broken for the building world snowmen .

2. Around took the people in attempt 630 part record .

3. a station with of train Coincided opening new the .

4. residents is came wonderful out that the It .

5. in Tackle a the positive challenge light together .

6. rules to be met for the record There were strict .

7. be at least 80 cm tall Each snowman had to .

8. of three separate snowballs The snowmen had to be made .

9. bullet of the train the Fitting station opening for .

10. the stick It because didn't tough snow together was .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Residents / Residence of a Japanese town have broken the world speed record for *building / built* snowmen. Citizens at the Iiyama Snow Festival in Nagano made 1,585 of the snowy *follows / fellows* in one hour to set the new *marking / mark*. Around 630 people took *party / part* in the record attempt. The previous record was 1,279 snowmen, set in Utah, USA in 2011. The event in Iiyama Town *coincided / coincident* with the opening of a new train station for Japan's *famous / famously* bullet train. Justin Patterson, the *injunction / adjudicator* from the official Guinness World Records organisation, said the event had been a wonderful *occasion / occasional*. He said: "Despite Iiyama being buried in snow, it is wonderful that the residents came out to tackle the challenge together in a *positive / positively* light."

There were *strict / stripped* rules to be met for the record to *be / been* broken. One was that each snowman had to be at *last / least* 80 cm tall. In addition the snowmen had to be made of three *separation / separate* snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People used only *them / their* hands in the record-breaking endeavour. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the event was *fitting / fitted* for the opening of the bullet train station. He said: "We were *ability / able* to achieve the record thanks to the *cooperative / cooperation* of many people. We believe the feat will *boost / boast* [the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the Shinkansen's Iiyama Station." Ichika Oguchi, 8, said: "It was tough because the snow didn't *stick / stickiness* together, but I had fun."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

R_s_d_nts _f _ J_p_n_s_ t_wn h_v_ br_k_n th_ w_rld
sp_d r_c_rd f_r b__ld_ng sn_wm_n. C_t_z_ns _t th_
__y_m_ Sn_w F_st_v_l _n N_g_n_ m_d_ 1,585 _f th_
sn_wy f_ll_ws _n _n_ h__rt_ s_t th_ n_w m_rk. _r__nd
630 p__pl_ t__k p_rt _n th_ r_c_rd _tt_mpt. Th_
pr_v__s r_c_rd w_s 1,279 sn_wm_n, s_t _n _t_h, _S_
n 2011. Th _v_nt _n __y_m_ T_wn c__nc_d_d w_th
th_ _p_n_ng _f _n_w tr__n st_t__n f_r J_p_n's f_m__s
b_ll_t tr__n. J_st_n P_tt_rs_n, th_ _dj_d_c_t_r fr_m
th_ _ff_c__l G__nn_ss W_rld R_c_rds _rg_n_s_t__n,
s__d th_ _v_nt h_d b__n _ w_nd_rf_l _cc_s__n. H_
s__d: "D_sp_t__y_m_ b__ng b_r_d _n sn_w, _t_s
w_nd_rf_l th_t th_ r_s_d_nts c_m__t t_t_ckl_ th_
ch_ll_ng_ t_g_th_r _n _p_s_t_v_l_ght."

Th_r_ w_r_ str_ct_r_l_s t_b_m_t f_r th_ r_c_rd t_b_
br_k_n. _n_w_s th_t __ch sn_wm_n h_d t_b__t l__st
80 cm t_ll. _n _dd_t__n th_ sn_wm_n h_d t_b_m_d_
_f thr__s_p_r_t sn_wb_lls, w_th _y_s, _n_s__nd
_rms. P__pl_ _s_d _nly th__r h_nds _n th_ r_c_rd-
br_k_ng _nd_v__r. C_mm_tt__m_mbr J_r_
K_b_y_sh_t_l_d J_p_n's _s_h_ Sh_mb_n n_wsp_p_r th_t
th_ _v_nt w_s f_tt_ng f_r th_ _p_n_ng _f th_ b_ll_t
tr__n st_t__n. H_s__d: "W_w_r__bl_t__ch__v__th_
r_c_rd th_nks t_th_ c__p_r_t__n _f m_ny p__pl_. W_
b_l__v__th_ f__t_w_ll b__st [th_ c_l_br_t_ry
_tm_sph_r_ _f] th_ _p_n_ng _f th_ Sh_nk_ns_n's
__y_m_ St_t__n." _ch_k__g_ch_, 8, s__d: "_t_w_s
t_g_h_b_c__s_ th_ sn_w_d dn't st_ck t_g_th_r, b_t _
h_d_f_n."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

residents of a japanese town have broken the world speed record for building snowmen citizens at the iiyama snow festival in nagano made 1585 of the snowy fellows in one hour to set the new mark around 630 people took part in the record attempt the previous record was 1279 snowmen set in utah usa in 2011 the event in iiyama town coincided with the opening of a new train station for japan's famous bullet train justin patterson the adjudicator from the official guinness world records organisation said the event had been 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 to be met for the record to be broken one was that each snowman had to be at least 80 cm tall in addition the snowmen had to be made of three separate snowballs with eyes a nose and arms people used only their hands in the record-breaking endeavour committee member jiro kobayashi told japan's asahi shimbun newspaper that the event was fitting for the opening of the bullet train station he said "we were able to achieve the record thanks to the cooperation of many people we believe the feat will boost [the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the shinkansen's iiyama station" ichika oguchi 8 said "it was tough because the snow didn't stick together but i had fun"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Residents of a Japanese town have broken the world speed record for building snowmen. Citizens at the Iiyama Snow Festival in Nagano made 1,585 of the snowy fellows in one hour to set the new mark. Around 630 people took part in the record attempt. The previous record was 1,279 snowmen, set in Utah, USA in 2011. The event in Iiyama Town coincided with the opening of a new train station for Japan's famous bullet train. Justin Patterson, the adjudicator from the official Guinness World Records organisation, said the event had been 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 to be met for the record to be broken. One was that each snowman had to be at least 80cm tall. In addition the snowmen had to be made of three separate snowballs, with eyes, a nose and arms. People used only their hands in the record-breaking endeavour. Committee member Jiro Kobayashi told Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper that the event was fitting for the opening of the bullet train station. He said: "We were able to achieve the record thanks to the cooperation of many people. We believe the feat will boost the celebratory atmosphere of] the opening of the Shinkansen's Iiyama Station." Ichika Oguchi, 8, said: "It was tough because the snow didn't stick together, but I had fun."

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 snowmen. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SNOW: Make a poster about snow. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SEXIST: Write a magazine article about whether the word 'snowman' is sexist and should be replaced by 'snowperson'. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a snowman. Ask him/her three questions about snowmen. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. residents | a. citizens |
| 2. fellows | b. men |
| 3. previous | c. old |
| 4. coincided | d. happened together |
| 5. tackle | e. confront |
| 6. strict | f. rigid |
| 7. in addition | g. what's more |
| 8. endeavour | h. attempt |
| 9. cooperation | i. collaboration |
| 10. tough | j. difficult |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A snow festival
2. About 630
3. The opening of a bullet train station
4. An adjudicator from Guinness
5. A positive one
6. Strict rules
7. 80cm
8. A committee member
9. A celebratory one
10. 8

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. a 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)