

## **ESL News for the week of January 30, 2017**

### **Story 1 Lunar New Year**

The Lunar New Year, also called Chinese New Year, is celebrated in many countries in Asia, such as China, Korea, and Vietnam. It falls on the first new moon between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20 each year. This year the lunar year started on Jan 28. It's a time for families to clean their houses, gather together and enjoy festive meals. This year is the year of the fire rooster. Some people believe that if you are born in the year of the rooster, 2017 could bring bad luck to you. You have to be careful with money and health. However, roosters won't have bad luck if they fall in love or get married this year. A good way to avoid bad luck is to wear the colour red.

### **Story 2 Jail Better than Marriage**

A 70-year-old man who was fed up with his wife, decided that going to jail would be better than living at home. Lawrence John Ripple walked into a Kansas City bank and handed a teller a note saying he had a gun, and then demanded money. After that, he took the \$2,924 he was given and sat down in the bank lobby. Ripple told the security guard to arrest him. Ripple and his wife recently had an argument. He wrote his demand note in front of her and said that he would rather be in jail than at home. The bank he "robbed" was about a block from a police station. His plan didn't work when a judge released him from prison after a little while.

### **Story 3 Smart Phone Toilet Paper**

Tokyo's Narita Airport is serious about toilet cleanliness. There is now "toilet paper" for smartphones in its toilets. Passengers can use the special paper to clean their phones. This is the idea of the Japanese phone company NTT. It paid for the paper to be put next to the regular toilet paper in toilets at the airport. Toilet seats are usually more hygienic than smartphones. There are five times more germs on a smartphone than on a toilet seat. Japan is a world leader in high-tech toilet technology. Japanese homes have toilets that have warm seats and lids that automatically rise. Some toilets also flush on their own when you leave. There is also a gadget that produces loud flushing sounds that can hide embarrassing "toilet noises". NTT made a two-minute video to teach tourists how to use the smartphone toilet paper correctly. It also shows tourists how to use Japan's toilets so they "could enjoy their travel hygienically".

#### **Story 4 Avalanche Hero**

A nine-year-old boy who was trapped in an Italian hotel hit by a devastating avalanche kept up the spirits of two younger children by singing them songs and repeating stories from the Disney film Frozen. Edoardo, who was later taken to hospital, was hailed a hero after people learnt that he hugged and comforted a six-year-old girl and a seven-year-old boy as they faced two days and nights of freezing temperatures in a pitch-black space inside the collapsed hotel, in a remote mountain valley. The children found themselves imprisoned in a small space, without food or water, in a games room after a 300-yard-wide avalanche, which came down from the mountain overlooking the hotel, buried the four-star resort. Edoardo hugged the two children, sang songs and told stories from Frozen because that was the children's favourite film. Unfortunately, Edoardo's story ended in tragedy – both his parents were killed in the avalanche. Now an orphan, his older brothers, who are 17 and 19, will look him after.

#### **Story 5 Trump Will Build Wall**

Mexican President Pena Nieto has cancelled a planned meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump. News of the cancellation came on the same day that the U.S. president said he would seek a 20 per cent tax on Mexican imports to pay for a border wall between the two countries. Mexico has vowed not to pay for a wall along the 3,218-kilometre border, which is estimated to cost between \$12 billion and \$15 billion. The trade between U.S. and Mexico is about \$1.6 billion a day, and the two neighbours co-operate on everything from immigration to anti-drug enforcement to environmental issues. Mexico is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest customer of American-made products and sends about 80 per cent of its exports to the U.S. The Mexican foreign Minister said that this import tax is not a way for Mexico to pay for the wall, but a way to make the North American consumer pay for it through more expensive goods, such as avocados, washing machines and televisions. President Trump has also promised to be tough on illegal immigrants already in the States. However, illegal immigrants do a lot of the farm jobs in the U.S., such as fruit and vegetable picking. Many of these workers are from Mexico and Central America and do jobs that Americans are not willing to do because this work pays poorly and is extremely hard. As an example, in California half of all farm workers are undocumented. Farm owners are worried that if illegal immigrants aren't allowed to work in their farms, they won't be able to find any other workers.









