

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

Exploding chewing gum kills student

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

9th December, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

A student in Ukraine died after eating a stick of exploding chewing gum. News reports say police discovered the body of the 25-year-old chemistry student in his parents' home. His jaw was missing. Something in the chewing gum exploded and ripped off the lower part of his face. Reporters said: "A loud pop was heard from the student's room." Doctors checked the gum and found a strange chemical on it. The student's friends said he liked dipping gum into citric acid before eating it. The police think he made a mistake and dipped it into the wrong chemical.

This is a very unusual story. First, I can't imagine why the student liked dipping gum into citric acid. Gum already has a taste. In fact, it has lots of tastes. Buying lemon, orange or lime-flavoured gum is the same as citric acid. I don't see the need to dip it into anything. It is a real mystery. Second, how can a piece of chewing gum explode? Perhaps it was a special formula for a secret project. I hope he wasn't in a lot of pain after the gum exploded. That would be terrible. I will always think of this man when I eat gum.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a stick of | a. discovered the body |
| 2. police | b. citric acid |
| 3. the lower part | c. mistake |
| 4. A loud pop | d. exploding chewing gum |
| 5. he liked dipping gum into | e. of his face |
| 6. he made a | f. was heard |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. This is a very | a. anything |
| 2. I can't imagine | b. secret project |
| 3. dip it into | c. mystery |
| 4. a real | d. unusual story |
| 5. a special formula for a | e. of this man |
| 6. I will always think | f. why |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

A student in Ukraine _____ a stick of exploding chewing gum. News reports say police discovered _____-year-old chemistry student in his parents' home. His jaw was missing. Something in the chewing gum exploded _____ lower part of his face. Reporters said: "A loud pop was heard from the student's room." Doctors checked the gum _____ chemical on it. The student's friends _____ gum into citric acid before eating it. The police think he made a mistake and dipped it _____ chemical.

This is a _____. First, I can't imagine why the student liked dipping gum into citric acid. Gum already has a taste. In fact, it _____. Buying lemon, orange or lime-flavoured gum _____ citric acid. I don't see the _____ anything. It is a real mystery. Second, how can a piece of chewing gum explode? Perhaps it was a special formula _____. I hope he wasn't in a lot of pain after the gum exploded. That would be terrible. I will always think of this man _____.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

A student in Ukraine died after eating a (1) _____ of exploding chewing gum. News reports say police discovered the body of the 25-year-old chemistry student in his (2) _____ home. His jaw was missing. Something in the chewing gum exploded and ripped (3) _____ the lower part of his face. Reporters said: "A loud pop was heard from the student's room." Doctors checked the gum and found a (4) _____ chemical on it. The student's friends said he liked dipping gum into citric acid before eating it. The police think he (5) _____ a mistake and dipped it into the wrong chemical.

This is a very unusual story. First, I can't (6) _____ why the student liked dipping gum into citric acid. Gum already has a taste. In fact, it has lots of (7) _____. Buying lemon, orange or lime-flavoured gum is the same as citric acid. I don't see the (8) _____ to dip it into anything. It is a real mystery. Second, how can a piece of chewing gum explode? Perhaps it was a special formula for a secret project. I hope he wasn't in a lot of (9) _____ after the gum exploded. That would be (10) _____. I will always think of this man when I eat gum.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. (a) stick | (b) stuck | (c) stack |
| 2. (a) parents | (b) parents' | (c) parent |
| 3. (a) on | (b) off | (c) to |
| 4. (a) strange | (b) stranger | (c) strangely |
| 5. (a) made | (b) did | (c) had |
| 6. (a) imagination | (b) imagine | (c) imagines |
| 7. (a) tastes | (b) tasty | (c) taste |
| 8. (a) must | (b) need | (c) necessary |
| 9. (a) painful | (b) pains | (c) pain |
| 10. (a) terribly | (b) terror | (c) terrible |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a tikcs of exploding chewing gum
2. iepcol discovered the body
3. His jaw was gsiimsn
4. A uldo pop
5. a egsrtna chemical
6. the rwong chemical

Paragraph 2

7. a very ausnuul story
8. I can't igaemni why
9. lots of eattss
10. a real temsryy
11. special mflruao
12. That would be rtrlieeb

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () the chewing gum exploded and ripped off the lower part of his face. Reporters said: "A loud pop was heard from
- () pain after the gum exploded. That would be terrible. I will always think of this man when I eat gum.
- () liked dipping gum into citric acid before eating it. The police think he made a mistake and dipped it into the wrong chemical.
- () This is a very unusual story. First, I can't imagine why the student liked dipping gum into citric
- () the body of the 25-year-old chemistry student in his parents' home. His jaw was missing. Something in
- () acid. Gum already has a taste. In fact, it has lots of tastes. Buying lemon, orange or lime-flavoured gum is the same
- () of chewing gum explode? Perhaps it was a special formula for a secret project. I hope he wasn't in a lot of
- () the student's room." Doctors checked the gum and found a strange chemical on it. The student's friends said he
- () as citric acid. I don't see the need to dip it into anything. It is a real mystery. Second, how can a piece
- (**1**) A student in Ukraine died after eating a stick of exploding chewing gum. News reports say police discovered

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Eating gum chewing exploding of stick a.

2. the gum in chewing exploded Something.

3. pop from room loud heard student's A was the.

4. into gum dipping liked He acid citric.

5. police The mistake a made he think.

6. is very story This a unusual.

7. citric liked acid dipping gum The into student.

8. chewing can gum a explode piece of How?

9. for formula special A project secret a.

10. think always will I man this of.

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. _____

WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0912/091209-chewing-gum.html>

Write about chewing gum for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

[illegible]

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 more information about chewing gum. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about chewing gum. Include imaginary interviews with a chewing gum maker. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. 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.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the police. Ask them three questions about this story. Give them three of your opinions on how the chewing gum killed the student. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.