

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Lithuania plans blonde vacation island

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

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**3rd October, 2010**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

A company from Lithuania plans to set up a vacation island in the Maldives where all the staff have blonde hair. The company is called Olialia (pronounced "ooh-la-la"). It believes the idea of having all blonde employees will bring in many tourists. An Olialia spokesman said even the pilots who fly to the island must be blonde. Olialia is already quite big in Lithuania. It has branched out into 75 different areas, including music, food and computer software. The company is part of a blonde craze that is sweeping Lithuania.

Many people are saying the idea is a racist one. It means local people in the Maldives cannot work on the island because of the colour of their hair. Others say Olialia is sending out the wrong image about blonde women. They think the company wants to attract men to the island who really like blondes. The company told the BBC that: "Our girls are very smart and they have degrees. All of them want to do something with their lives. They have lots of business ideas." It did not say what happens when blonde employees start going grey.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. set up a vacation      | a. hair                   |
| 2. the staff have blonde  | b. out                    |
| 3. pronounced             | c. sweeping Lithuania     |
| 4. the pilots who         | d. island in the Maldives |
| 5. branched               | e. "ooh-la-la"            |
| 6. a blonde craze that is | f. fly to the island      |

## Paragraph 2

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. the idea is        | a. to the island |
| 2. sending out the    | b. a racist one  |
| 3. attract men        | c. their lives   |
| 4. Our girls are very | d. grey          |
| 5. do something with  | e. smart         |
| 6. start going        | f. wrong image   |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

A company from Lithuania \_\_\_\_\_ vacation island in the Maldives \_\_\_\_\_ have blonde hair. The company is called Olialia (pronounced "ooh-la-la"). It \_\_\_\_\_ having all blonde employees will bring in many tourists. An Olialia spokesman said \_\_\_\_\_ fly to the island must be blonde. Olialia is already quite big in Lithuania. It \_\_\_\_\_ into 75 different areas, including music, food and computer software. The company is \_\_\_\_\_ craze that is sweeping Lithuania.

Many people are \_\_\_\_\_ a racist one. It means local people in the Maldives cannot \_\_\_\_\_ because of the colour of their hair. Others say Olialia is sending out \_\_\_\_\_ about blonde women. They think the company \_\_\_\_\_ men to the island who really like blondes. The company told the BBC that: "Our girls are very smart and \_\_\_\_\_. All of them want to do something with their lives. They have lots of business ideas." It did not say \_\_\_\_\_ blonde employees start going grey.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

A company from Lithuania plans to set (1) \_\_\_\_ a vacation island in the Maldives where all the staff have blonde hair. The company is called Olialia ((2) \_\_\_\_ "ooh-la-la"). It believes the idea of having (3) \_\_\_\_ blonde employees will bring in many (4) \_\_\_\_\_. An Olialia spokesman said even the pilots who fly to the island must be blonde. Olialia is already quite big in Lithuania. It has branched (5) \_\_\_\_ into 75 different areas, including music, food and computer software. The company is part of a blonde (6) \_\_\_\_ that is sweeping Lithuania.

Many people are saying (7) \_\_\_\_ idea is a racist one. It means (8) \_\_\_\_ people in the Maldives cannot work on the island because of the colour of their hair. Others say Olialia is sending out the wrong image (9) \_\_\_\_ blonde women. They think the company wants to (10) \_\_\_\_ men to the island who really like blondes. The company told the BBC that: "Our girls are very smart and they have (11) \_\_\_\_\_. All of them want to do something with their lives. They have lots of business ideas." It did not say what happens when blonde employees start (12) \_\_\_\_ grey.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                  |                   |                |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) in           | (b) down          | (c) up         |
| 2.  | (a) pronounced   | (b) pronunciation | (c) pronounces |
| 3.  | (a) every        | (b) all           | (c) a          |
| 4.  | (a) tourists     | (b) touristy      | (c) tourism    |
| 5.  | (a) in           | (b) up            | (c) out        |
| 6.  | (a) crazy        | (b) craze         | (c) craziness  |
| 7.  | (a) the          | (b) an            | (c) a          |
| 8.  | (a) locally      | (b) locals        | (c) local      |
| 9.  | (a) about        | (b) abroad        | (c) above      |
| 10. | (a) attractive   | (b) attraction    | (c) attract    |
| 11. | (a) temperatures | (b) degrees       | (c) fevers     |
| 12. | (a) coming       | (b) going         | (c) arriving   |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

## Paragraph 1

1. A pnmyaoc from Lithuaniaand
2. enocronpud "ooh-la-la"
3. all blonde elsmyepeo
4. bring in many outtirss
5. already ueqit big
6. a blonde aczre

## Paragraph 2

7. alloc people
8. the looruc of their hair
9. the wrong igema
10. taartct men
11. lots of business dsiae
12. start onggi grey

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( **1** ) A company from Lithuania plans to set up a vacation island in the Maldives where all the staff have blonde
- ( ) already quite big in Lithuania. It has branched out into 75 different areas, including music, food and
- ( ) computer software. The company is part of a blonde craze that is sweeping Lithuania.
- ( ) hair. The company is called Olialia (pronounced "ooh-la-la"). It believes the idea of having all blonde employees will
- ( ) bring in many tourists. An Olialia spokesman said even the pilots who fly to the island must be blonde. Olialia is
- ( ) lives. They have lots of business ideas." It did not say what happens when blonde employees start going grey.
- ( ) blonde women. They think the company wants to attract men to the island who really like blondes. The company
- ( ) told the BBC that: "Our girls are very smart and they have degrees. All of them want to do something with their
- ( ) Many people are saying the idea is a racist one. It means local people in the Maldives cannot work on the
- ( ) island because of the colour of their hair. Others say Olialia is sending out the wrong image about

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1010/101003-blonde.html>

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

1. in up the a Maldives vacation island Set.

---

2. bring All in blonde many employees tourists will.

---

3. who fly to the island must be blonde The pilots.

---

4. out into It 75 has different branched areas.

---

5. is that craze blonde A Lithuania sweeping.

---

6. saying racist is People one the are a idea.

---

7. in people Local work cannot Maldives the.

---

8. image wrong the out sending is Olialia.

---

9. want to do something with their lives All of them.

---

10. going start employees Blonde grey.

---

## **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. \_\_\_\_\_



# 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. BEING BLONDE:** Search the Internet and find more information about being blonde. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about this blonde vacation island. Include imaginary interviews with local people. 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 owner of Olialia. Ask him/her three questions about this island. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.