

The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/10/17

Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar

The plague is a disease that killed millions of people across Europe during the Middle Ages. It became known as the Black Death.

It appears the killer disease is back. This time it is in Madagascar, which is a holiday destination island off the coast of south east Africa. Since August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by the outbreak of the disease. According to the latest WHO analysis, there is a 'very high risk' of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries and overseas territories; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, as well as the Comoros Islands, which are a small group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on alert.

The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all mobilised emergency plans in these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to increase surveillance at these countries' borders.

The symptoms of plague include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans by infected fleas. It is the most common form of plague. It can cause inflamed lymph nodes. These can turn to puss-filled, open sores, if the condition worsens. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from human to human through the air, as well as animals affected through infected flea bites.

It can turn into pneumonic plague, if the infection spreads to the lungs. Of those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague. There is a high chance of death if the plague is left untreated. Some travel advisories are warning people to avoid the country.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about 'the Black Death'. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Where is Madagascar?
- 2) Name three other nearby countries.
- 3) What is there 'a very high risk' of?
- 4) What does ECDC mean?
- 5) What is the Red Cross?

Student B questions

- 1) What are the symptoms of plague?
- 2) What is bubonic plague?
- 3) What is pneumonic plague?
- 4) How many people in Madagascar have been affected by the plague?
- 5) What have some travel advisories suggested?

Extra question: Name the capital of Madagascar. (The answer is on page 2)

Category: Health / The Plague / Madagascar
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about 'The Black Death'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things you know about the plague in Madagascar that were in the article. Write them below. Discuss!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three *other* things that you know about the plague. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING – DEADLY DISEASES

In pairs/As a class - Think of five other deadly diseases you could catch. Talk about each of them. Which is the worst to catch? Why? *3 mins.*

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you know anyone who has survived the plague?
- 3) What would you do if you contracted the plague?
- 4) Do you think the plague will spread beyond Madagascar?
- 5) What should the world do to help the people of Madagascar prevent this disease spreading?
- 6) Would you like to volunteer to help the people of Madagascar prevent the spread of the plague?
- 7) How would you know if someone had the plague?
- 8) Would you like to visit the Comoros Islands?
- 9) Is there a very high risk of the disease spreading?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in a *Discussion FM* radio studio in the capital of Madagascar - Antananarivo. Today's interview via satellite to London is about: *Plague warning: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar.*

- 1) A taxi driver in Madagascar.
- 2) A doctor in Madagascar.
- 3) A doctor from the European Centre of Disease Prevention in Madagascar.
- 4) A tourist in Madagascar.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a nurse in hospital in Madagascar. *Student B* is a journalist who is visiting the island. Start a conversation with *Student A* about the plague spreading in Madagascar. *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 5-10 minutes – As a class.

10-20 things about the Black Death in the Middle Ages

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Could airlines be responsible for the spread of the Black Death?
- 3) What is the worst disease you have had? When was this?
- 4) When was the last time you visited the doctor?
- 5) When was the last time you suffered from a fever, had a headache or body ache, were vomiting or had nausea?
- 6) What advice would you offer the people of Madagascar?
- 7) What can the Red Cross and other such agencies do to help the situation in Madagascar?
- 8) What would you do if the plague spread to your country?
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar

The (1)___ is a disease that killed millions of people across Europe during the Middle Ages. It became known as the Black Death.

It appears the killer (2)___ is back - this time in Madagascar, which is a holiday (3)___ island off the coast of south east Africa. Since August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by the (4)___ of the disease. According to the latest WHO (5)___, there is a 'very high (6)___' of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries and overseas (7)___; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, as well as the Comoros Islands, which are a small group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on (8)___.

alert / risk / disease / territories / plague / analysis / outbreak / destination

The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all mobilised emergency (1)___ in these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to increase (2)___ at these countries' borders.

The symptoms of plague include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans by infected flees. It is the most common form of plague. It can cause inflamed (3)___. These can turn to puss-filled, open (4)___, if the (5)___ worsens. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from (6)___ to human through the air, as well as animals affected through infected (7)___ bites.

It can turn into pneumonic plague, if the infection spreads to the (8)___. Of those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague.

human / surveillance / plans / condition / flea / lungs / sores / lymph nodes

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar

The plague is a disease (1)___ killed millions of people across Europe during the Middle Ages. It became known as the Black Death.

(2)___ appears the killer disease is back - (3)___ time in Madagascar, (4)___ is a holiday destination island off the coast of south east Africa. (5)___ August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by (6)___ outbreak of the disease. According to the latest WHO analysis, there is a 'very high risk' of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries (7)___ overseas territories; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, (8)___ the Comoros Islands, which are a small group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on alert.

as well as / which / since / that / this / and / the / it

The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all mobilised emergency plans (1)___ these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to increase surveillance at (2)___ countries' borders.

The symptoms of plague include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans (3)___ infected flees. It is the most common form of plague. (4)___ can cause inflamed lymph nodes. These can turn to puss-filled, open sores, (5)___ the condition worsens. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from human to human through the air, (6)___ animals affected through infected flea bites.

It can turn (7)___ pneumonic plague, if the infection spreads to the lungs. (8)___ those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague.

if / of / as well as / by / in / these / into / it

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Plague warning given: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar

The plague is a disease that killed millions of people across Europe during _____. It became known as the Black Death. It appears the killer disease is back - this time in Madagascar, which is a holiday destination island off the coast of south east Africa. Since August, 124 people have been killed by the deadly disease. A total of 1,133 people have been affected by the _____. According to the latest WHO analysis, there is a 'very high risk' of the disease spreading.

Nearby countries and _____; including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius, La Réunion, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, as well as the Comoros Islands, _____ group of islands near Madagascar, have all been put on alert. The Red Cross, Unicef, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), have all _____ in these countries. The idea is to raise awareness, and to _____ at these countries' borders.

The _____ include sudden fevers, head and body aches, vomiting and nausea. The bubonic plague is transmitted to humans by infected fleas. It is the most common form of plague. It can cause inflamed lymph nodes. These can turn to puss-filled, open sores, if the _____. Health officials now say the disease in Madagascar is spreading from human to human through the air, as well as animals affected through infected flea bites. It can turn into _____, if the infection spreads to the lungs. Of those people affected so far in Madagascar, all had developed pneumonic plague. There is a high chance of death if the plague is left untreated. Some travel advisories are warning people _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/As a class, list 10-20 things about Madagascar. What do you know about the island? It's a nice place to go on holiday, right? Briefly, talk about each of them. *Five minutes.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The plague _____
- 2) The Black Death _____
- 3) I think _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *Plague warning: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar.* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Plague warning: The Black Death spreads in Madagascar.***

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) destination
- 2) territories
- 3) deadly
- 4) since
- 5) plague
- 6) across
- 7) Madagascar
- 8) overseas
- 9) prevention
- 10) surveillance

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) symptoms
- 12) through
- 13) pneumonic
- 14) infection
- 15) lungs
- 16) high
- 17) advisories
- 18) flea
- 19) vomiting
- 20) alert

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