



Globetrotter

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Greetings

Thank you very much to the students who sent comments about the previous Globetrotter issue. We always enjoy receiving your mail and hearing what you think. We look forward to getting more emails from all of you.

NEWS---The new Global Communications website will be coming soon. Please check out all the new features, such as: blogs, downloadable worksheets and newsletters, video introductions of the teachers, and much more!

NEWS---If you are preparing for the test, be sure to check out the e-test at www.e-test.biz.

REMINDER---Father's Day is on June 18, 2006, so don't forget to treat dad to something special.



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Teacher Spotlight Aurelio

Hello, Global students! My name is Aurelio, and I'm originally from San Antonio, an historical city in the heart of Texas. One of the most famous landmarks is the Alamo, an old Spanish fort and mission. It was the sight of the famous "Battle of the Alamo" which was fought many, many years ago—well, at least by American standards!

Before coming to Japan, I lived in southern California for a few years. There are many Japanese tourists there, especially in the summer. Surely, many of you have visited the beautiful beaches there. While not exactly as lovely as Hawaii's beaches, they do attract millions of tourists every year.

I've lived in Tokyo for many years now—and I really like it here. I enjoy the exciting, fast-paced city life. I'm happy to be in this "concrete jungle" as we say in English. Tokyoites are fortunate that their city (or should I say "our city"?) is a clean, modern, and for the most part, safe, megalopolis. I have many foreign friends who feel more "at home" here in Tokyo than back home—and I may be one of them!



Movie Review

The Da Vinci Code

By Alando Garcia

The Da Vinci Code stars Tom Hanks as professor Langdon and French actress, Audrey Tautou as Sophie. Those interested in European religion or history will definitely enjoy this movie but those not interested in these subjects might find the story a bit difficult to follow.

A couple of months ago, I **attempted** to read the book that this movie is based on. I felt that the book was a rather plain story and it felt very much like a fictional story. But the movie really **brought the story to life** and I felt as though I was watching a mystery and thriller about a real life historical event. The **visuals** in the movie were very good! I really enjoyed how they blended images together in the movie so that you are viewing two scenes at one time. And the **flashback** scenes were also very well done.

Though the movie is more than 2 1/2 hours, it is such an interesting story with a lot of action, twists and turns and even a **false ending** or two, that it moves by very quickly.

The acting was very good and I really enjoyed the relationship between Hanks character and his French female "**sidekick**" (Sophie), which turns out to be, much more than a sidekick. I like the way that the movie did not make them romantically involved. There was so much going on with the story and many action scenes and wonderful visuals that adding a romantic element would have taken away from the overall story.

And I must say that I really enjoyed the ending. Some mysteries were solved, but other questions arise. It was a **fitting end** for this topic, I think.

This is the type of movie, the type of story that stirs your interest in history and religion and makes you wonder about those things we hold as truths.



Movie Reviews Grading System

- **A** = Outstanding acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **B** = Very good acting **and** storyline, visuals and/or special effects are good.
- **C** = Good acting **or** good storyline **or** good visuals and/or special effects.
- **D** = Poor acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **F** = Everything was terrible!

Vocabulary

The Da Vinci Code

1. **attempted** – the verb “to attempt” means “to try”. I attempted to read the book means that I tried to read the book (but I found it boring, so I did not finish it).
2. **brought the story to life** – this is an idiom that is sometimes used to describe how a good movie can make a boring story seem very interesting.
3. **visuals** – the visuals in the movie are simply what you see on the screen – it is how the movie looks to your eyes. Visuals are usually something rather impressive to look at, for example, a beautiful view of nature or in the case of this movie, a view of the city of Paris at nighttime.
4. **flashback** – a flashback is when a scene in a movie shows you something from the past. A movie usually tells the story in the present, so a flashback is a scene from the past. For example, one scene in this movie shows Sophie remembering when she was a little girl running through a field of purple flowers.
5. **false ending** – In a movie, a false ending is when you think the movie is over (you believe you are watching the final scene of the movie), but then the movie continues and ends in a different way. False endings are sometimes used to add excitement and suspense to a film.
6. **sidekick** – sidekick is similar in meaning to “a partner”. For example, in this film Hank’s character (professor Langdon) and Sophie work together to solve the mystery – they are partners. Usually the junior person is referred to as the sidekick.
7. **a fitting end** – a fitting end means that something (a movie, for example) ended in the way that you think it should have ended. In other words, I liked the way this film ended.

What do you think?

By Jennifer Yun

Helicopter Parents

PARENTS WHO HAVE TROUBLE LETTING GO

On newsweek.com, I recently read a very interesting article about problems parents have with their children growing up. The article centered on parents of children who are about to leave the house to attend university. The parents are called "helicopter parents" because they are always hovering around the children, like a helicopter. Since it is the custom for American teens to move out of their parents' home to attend university, this time can be very difficult for parents. The emotional difficulty most parents experience is called "empty-nest syndrome" and it usually encompasses feelings of sadness and loneliness.

The article described many examples of parents who were very involved with their child's upbringing in order to insure a better life in the future for their children. However, in the attempt to improve the chances for their children, they also became rather overbearing and controlling. Some parents even admitted to helping their children by reviewing their homework or proofreading their essays. Some even went as far as calling university administrators or professors to argue their child's homework or grade.

To be able to have parents who love you so much that they would do anything to help you secure a successful future is a blessing. However, as for myself, I feel that it is necessary for the development of young people to suffer through mistakes from time to time. To mature into a competent adult, a person needs to know what failure feels like. If a person has only enjoyed success and easiness, it is very understandable to see why they cannot solve a problem or why they cannot be confident about starting new things. There are many mistakes in my past that I have hidden from my parents, but I do not feel like it is a lie to them. Actually, I feel proud that I was able to handle the problem well enough that I didn't have to involve them in the solution.

What do you think?

Send Us Your Comments

What do you think about the following article? Voice your opinion by sending your comments to:

office@globalcom-online-english-school.co.jp

We anxiously look forward to knowing how the readers feel about the topic.

Salary Systems Comments

I think it's impossible to make the perfect salary system for all employees. When I think of fairness to all employees and the evaluation of the result of their works, the merit-based payment system seems more rewarding to everyone than the seniority-based pay system. I think it is natural that the salary is paid according to the result of the work. But at the same we have to think of the management of the company, the social responsibility of the company, and helping the poor people in the society. We should not want the best, we should rather want the second best and should satisfy the second best. The positive thinking to your future will give you more reward next year.--
Takuma---

Vocabulary Builder

Emotion Vocabulary

1. to fret = VERB = to worry or be troubled about (something)
 - Marla fretted about the results of her test all night.
2. to be agitated = VERB = to be disturbed or bothered
 - His mother was agitated about his bad grades.
3. dismal = ADJECTIVE = hopeless or depressing
 - The dismal apartment was horrible to live in.
4. fervent = ADJECTIVE = passionate or excited
 - The fervent student enjoyed his studies immensely.
5. antipathy = NOUN = a feeling of strong dislike
 - Her antipathy for her partner was obvious.

Test Your Skills

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct word to complete the reading sample and answer the following comprehension questions.

Leonardo Da Vinci

Leonardo Da Vinci was one of the greatest inventor-scientist of recorded history. Da Vinci was (1) to discovery of truth and the mysteries of nature, and his insightful contributions to science and technology were legendary. As the archetypical Renaissance man, Leonardo helped set an ignorant and superstitious world on a course of reason, science, learning, and (2). He was an internationally renowned inventor, scientists, engineer, architect, painter, sculptor, musician, mathematician, anatomist, astronomer, geologists, biologist, and philosopher in his time.

Born in 1452, Da Vinci was sent to Florence in his teens to apprentice as a painter (3) Andrea del Verrocchio. He quickly developed his own artistic style which was unique and (4) to tradition. His style was characterized by diffuse shadows and subtle hues and marked the beginning of the High Renaissance period.

Later Da Vinci became the court artist for the duke of Milan. Throughout his life he also served various other roles, including civil engineer and architect (designing mechanical structures such as bridges and aqueducts), and military planner and weapons designer (designing rudimentary tanks, catapults, machine guns, and even navel weapons). Da Vinci's creative, analytic, and visionary inventiveness has yet to be matched.

1. _____
a. focused
b. concentrated
c. dedicated

2. _____
a. tolerate
b. tolerance
c. tolerant

3. _____
a. under
b. by
c. to

4. _____
a. opposition
b. contrary
c. following

In Paragraph 1, what does "archetypical" mean?

- A) the only one of
B) the best example of
C) the leader of
D) the last one of

Which was one profession Da Vinci was known for?

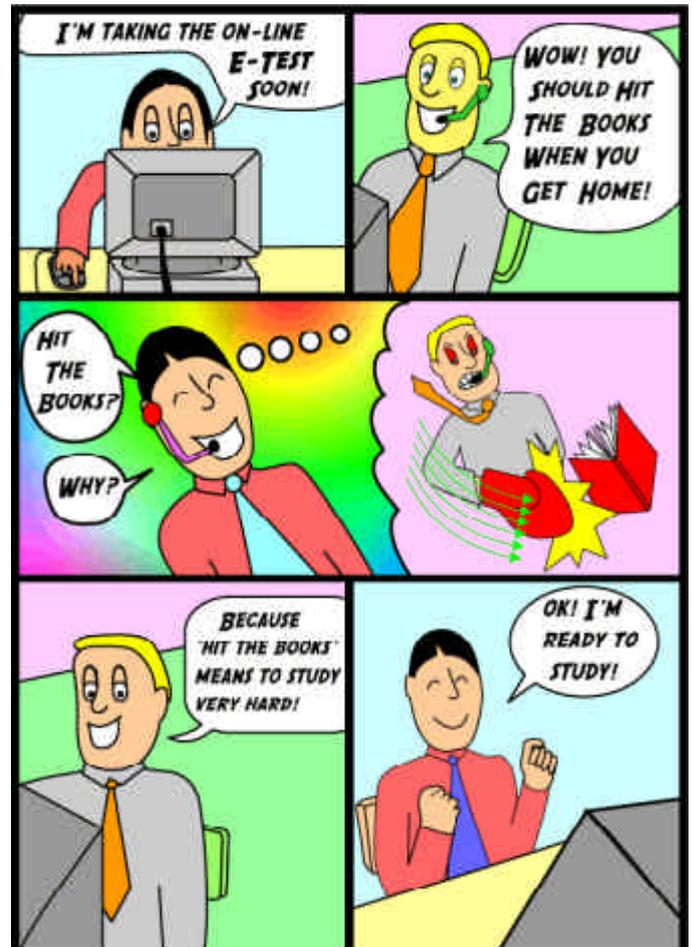
- A) professor
B) politician
C) model
D) geologist

Who did Da Vinci work for in Florence?

- A) Queen of Italy
B) Duke of Milan
C) Andrea del Verrocchio
D) The Pope

Which statement occurred last?

- A) Da Vinci developed his own artistic style.
B) Da Vinci worked for the Duke of Milan as a court artist.
C) Da Vinci went to Florence.



Kids Corner

RECOGNIZING VERBS

A verb is word that shows action. Circle the verb(s) in each sentence.

1. The children ran to the candy store.



2. David and his brother fight all the time.



3. Jamie can sing really well.



4. Jack is eating chicken.



VOCABULARY: OPPOSITES

Draw a line to connect the OPPOSITES.

1. good



a. thin



2. fat



b. boy



3. young



c. bad



4. girl



d. old



May Answers

Test Your Skills (pg. 4)

Fill in the Blank

1. a (preferred)
2. c (returned)
3. b (reputation)
4. c (popularity)

Multiple Choice Questions

1. a (WWI)
2. c (Psychology)
3. d (devil)
4. b (Lewis joined the British Army.)

Kids Corner (pg. 5)

Recognizing Nouns

1. student, Mexico
2. Kelly, mother
3. book, library
4. dog

Preposition Practice

1. by
2. in
3. under
4. on
5. by, on