WARS AND CONFLICTS (2)

1. BUILD UP YOUR VOCABULARY

A. The odd one out: pick the word that doesn't belong in each list.

1. Blind, sightless, blindfolded, cross-eyed
2. Demonstration, riot, rally, upheaval
3. Demand, claim, agreement, petition
4. Abduction, kidnapping, rape, elopement
5. Frank, cunning, wily, crafty
6. Stroll, race, walk leisurely, ramble
7. Heir, heiress, inheritor, predecessor
8. Strife, struggle, conflict, massacre

B. Choose the correct answer(s).

1. When you say that something is dwarfed by something else, it means that:
   - the first thing appears bigger than it really is;
   - the first thing appears smaller than it really is;
   - the first thing is made to look much smaller by the second thing;
   - the first thing is made to look much bigger by the second thing.

2. If you do something of your own free will, it means you:
   - do it willingly;
   - do it because you're obliged to;
   - refuse to do it;
   - do it unwillingly.

3. If something seems clear-cut, it means:
   - it remains vague;
   - it is precise;
   - it has been cut off;
   - it is evident.

4. When you say that Paris fled to Troy with Helen in tow, it means:
   - Helen was following Paris closely;
   - Paris was forcibly pulling Helen behind him;
   - Helen was pushing Paris in front of her;
   - Helen was trying to resist being taken away.

5. A war of attrition is:
   - like a blitzkrieg;
   - one that lasts forever;
   - one in which you try to make your enemy weaker and weaker by attacking them repeatedly;
   - one in which the attacker becomes weaker and weaker.

6. When you give someone a hand, you:
   - accept to marry him/her;
   - decide to help him/her;
   - shake his/her hand;
• deal him/her good cards.

7. When you put someone to the sword, you:
• teach the person the art of fencing;
• drive the sword through his/her body;
• murder the person with a sword;
• offer the person a sword.

C. Phonology: pronunciation of the letter "e".
How will you pronounce these words? ? [e], [ə], [3:], [i], [i:], [εə], [ıə], [ø] = mute?
Fill in the grid then check with the recording.

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2. BRUSH UP YOUR GRAMMAR
Génitif incomplet
Opposition, restriction (although)
Passif en be+ing
Do/did dits "emphatiques"
Pluriel des noms en –f(e)
Used to
1. How was this interview of King Henry V made possible almost 600 years after the events?

2. What shows that the Machine is quite operational?

3. How did the 21st century reporter manage not to arouse suspicion from the people he met?

4. Did the Machine land before or after the battle?

5. How did the time travelers manage to avoid detection?

6. What could have happened to them if they had been discovered?

7. Who won the battle?

8. Would the king himself have bet on his success?

9. Why/not?

10. Who were the odds in favour of?

11. Why?

12. What problem did the English army encounter prior to the battle?

13. Why did the English find themselves in front of a French army?

14. What various causes led to the French defeat?

15. Does the King take all the credit for his victory?

16. Why do we know so well what happened on that day?

17. Why did the reporter have to leave in a hurry?

4. READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and answer the questions.

On its way back to the 21st century, our Time Machine made a refuelling stop in London in August 1533. Mike disguised in local garb again, took a few minutes to buy a newspaper.

It read like this:

ENGLISH CHURCH MAKES DRAMATIC SPLIT WITH ROME.
KING HENRY VIII DECLARES HIMSELF HEAD OF THE CLERGY.
The King has recently rejected Pope Clement VII’s ultimatum that he renounce to his marriage with Ann Boleyn and take back his former wife, Catherine of Aragon. The king is at risk of being excommunicated if he doesn't comply. And he has been given till this September to get his act together.
In response, the king has taken punitive measures to strengthen his control of the English Church and clergy.
This comes after the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Canmer, took the oath of allegiance to the king and flouted the Pope's authority by declaring Henry's first marriage to Catherine null. Meanwhile the king has ordered all ecclesiastical taxation be diverted to his own royal coffers.
The situation, it appears, has been festering for some time, since the king announced last year to the bishops assembled in Canterbury that they were to take orders from him and him alone. Many think (but dare not voice their feelings) that the Church's independence from temporal authority has now come to an end.
Consequently Lord Chancellor Thomas More, Henry's old faithful friend, is said to resign his post soon in protest at the clergy's submission to Henry's will.
Rumors have it that the king and Parliament are also planning to pass an act to dissolve monasteries and add church riches to the royal treasure.
It has become clear to one and all that those who will refuse to take the oath of allegiance will be imprisoned and executed.

Questions
1. How did this article come into our hands?
2. Do you really believe this is an article dating back 550 years or so?
3. What events are covered here?
4. When and why did the king clash with the Pope?
5. Whose ultimatum did the king receive?
6. What was he ordered to do?
7. What would happen to him if he didn't comply?
8. Did he seem to care?
9. How did he react to the Pope's threats?
10. How did he manage to obtain a divorce without the Pope's consent?
11. What else did Henry do to retaliate against the Pope's decision?
12. Why is this fight important in English history?
13. What did the King demand from the nobility and the clergy?
14. Did everybody comply?
15. What happened to those who refused to take the oath in question?
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. BUILD UP YOUR VOCABULARY

A. The odd one out: pick the word that doesn’t belong in each list.
   1. cross-eyed
   2. rally
   3. agreement
   4. elopement
   5. Frank,
   6. race
   7. predecessor
   8. massacre

B. Choose the correct answer(s).
   1. When you say that something is dwarfed by something else, it means that:
      • the first thing appears smaller than it really is;
      • the first thing is made to look much smaller by the second thing;
   2. If you do something of your own free will, it means you do it willingly;
   3. If something seems clear-cut, it means:
      • it is precise;
      • it is evident.
   4. When you say that Paris fled to Troy with Helen in tow, it means:
      • Helen was following Paris closely;
   5. A war of attrition is one in which you try to make your enemy weaker and weaker by attacking them repeatedly;
   6. When you give someone a hand, you decide to help him/her;
   7. When you put someone to the sword, you:
      • drive the sword through his/her body;
      • murder the person with a sword;

C. Phonology: pronunciation of the letter "e".

How did you pronounce these words? Click here and check your answers with the recording.

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3. LISTENING COMPREHENSION

A/ SCRIPT

WELL-DISCIPLINED ENGLISH SOLDIERS ROUT A SUPERIOR FRENCH ARMY

Reporter: Our Time Machine has just landed near the city of Arras. The date is October 25, 1415, just as planned. My name is Shauna, I am a war correspondent and I was sent on the field to see how the impending battle between the invading English army and the French army has finally turned out.

Of course, I have dressed in military garb of the time and I have hidden recording devices under my armour. Our Machine itself is concealed in a clearing in the middle of a dense forest… No need to frighten our valiant soldiers out of their wits or to be arrested for sorcery!

King Henry V has accepted to answer my questions before moving on to wherever he is headed.

Reporter: Your Majesty did you honestly expect such a favourable outcome against a force that was vastly superior in numbers?

Henry: I would be a liar or a braggart if I said I did.

Reporter: And why is that?

Henry: Well, since our landing in Normandy last August our army has met with unexpected resistance and the five-week siege of Harfleur cost us many English lives. Dysentery has depleted our force by one third, so that our original force of 10,000 men has been reduced to 6,000. The situation was so bad that my advisers tried to persuade me to just garrison Harfleur and sail back to England.

Reporter: Excuse me, Your Majesty, but that seems as if it was sound advice.

Henry: Maybe, but I decided to force-march what was left of my men to our stronghold at Calais where we could have waited for reinforcements.

Reporter: Things apparently did not work out as planned.

Henry: No they didn't and fate almost made my advisers right.

Reporter: But you did follow their advice not to march onto Paris.

Henry: That was, I think, the wisest thing to do considering the state my men were in.

Reporter: How come you didn't reach Calais as planned?

Henry: Well, we found our way barred by some 20,000 Frenchmen most of them cavalry. What was left of our tired, starved troops' morale hit an all-time low when they realised they were vastly outnumbered.

Reporter: I suppose there was no turning back either.

Henry: Indeed, so I thought I'd take advantage of the wooded landscape and organized my men in a single line protected by the tree lines. For three hours the two armies faced each other and then I ordered my soldiers, most of them longbow men, to march forward. We were lucky because the
battleground was like a bottleneck and the heavily armoured French horsemen couldn't manoeuvre and their divisions ran into each other while a storm of arrows met them, killing men and horses. After another three hours the French retreated, leaving 6,000 dead and many prisoners.

Reporter: What seemed to be a lost battle only a few days ago has turned into an incredible English victory then.

Henry: Yes, we lost only 500 men.

Reporter: Your Majesty, do you personally take credit for this crushing French defeat?

Henry: I was helped by the terrain, mostly the forest which offered our men shelter from the French. But I think they lost because they suffered from a feeling of overconfidence in their numbers and a lack of respect for their enemy.

Reporter: Thank you, your Majesty. I pledge my word to take your account to history books...

Reporter: Well, I'd better hurry back to the Machine, as i'm being told by the pilot that he has detected human presence closing in on the clearing!

B/ ANSWERS
1. Thanks to a Time Machine that "flew" back to the time in question.
2. It "landed" on the spot and date that had been programmed.
3. She dressed like the people of the time did.
4. Just after the battle.
5. She wore an armour which concealed his recording equipment.
6. She would have been accused of sorcery and probably burnt at the stake or beheaded.
7. The English did.
8. Not really, he was rather pessimistic in fact, but he didn't have much of a choice.
9. Because the French outnumbered his army at least 3 or 4 to one.
10. Of the French of course.
11. Because of sheer numbers and also because they were mostly horsemen while the English were foot-soldiers.
12. They had lost many men to dysentery.
13. Because they crossed French-controlled areas while attempting to reach Calais to the north.
14. They were too confident, and they didn't take the "firing" power of the English longbow men.
15. No, he admits that the terrain did help him and impaired the French.
16. Because of our time-travelling reporter of course!
17. Because the pilot of the Time Machine called her back to avoid detection from approaching people who might have seen the Machine hidden in the forest... 😊
4. READING COMPREHENSION

1. The time travellers stopped their Machine in 1533 and got their hands on the day's paper.
2. It is written like an article, but like a modern piece of journalism. Besides we are not sure that newspapers already existed only a few decades after the printing press was invented (in Europe, that is).
3. The historical clash between King Henry VIII of England and the Pope.
4. When he decided to divorce his first wife to marry Ann Boleyn.
5. The Pope's of course.
6. To renounce his plan to marry Ann Boleyn and take back his former wife.
7. He would be excommunicated.
8. Not in the least.
9. He retaliated by declaring himself head of the English Church.
10. He chose a new archbishop of Canterbury who was ready to go along with his scheme and defy the Pope.
11. He dissolved monasteries and confiscated the Church's riches.
12. Because it marks the beginning of what became the Anglican Church.
13. That they swore a sort of pledge of allegiance.
14. Not quite, some famous people refused to renounce the Catholic Church.
15. They were imprisoned and later executed (for treason most of the time).