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Arbetsblad

av Sara Håkansson

Vocabulary: Before listening, make sure that you are familiar with the following words:

<i>Word</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Synonym</i>
rely on	to need and/or trust someone or something in order to continue working	depend on; trust
session	a period of time arranged for a particular activity	meeting; gathering
access	the chance or opportunity to retrieve something	entry; approach
purpose-driven	effective action that aims toward an overarching goal	inspired; principled
drop back	to get left behind or to not be able to catch up	lag behind; linger
remote learning	learning that happens away from a school building	distance learning
numeracy	the ability to understand and work with numbers	mathematical skills
literacy	the ability to read and write	book learning
provision	the act of providing something	supply; arrangement
operate	here: to act or work in a certain way	perform; function
nourished	to be provided with food (here: knowledge) in order to stay healthy	fed; cared for
environmentalist	someone who is concerned with protecting the environment	preservationist; greenie
iconic	very famous or popular	exemplary
beacon	here: a symbolic light that acts as a signal or warning	guide; alert
decriminalise	to stop something from being illegal	
stall	to stop or cause to stop from making progress	delay; hinder
solicitor general	a legal officer representing the government in court	
petitioner	a person who writes a formal request to an authority in relation to a particular cause	applicant; claimant
constitutional	relating to the basic principles and laws of a nation	legal; statutory
enshrine	here: protected by or included in the laws of a nation	preserved; treasured
benefit	here: money received as financial aid from the government	help; welfare
dignity	the quality of being worthy of honour and/or respect	respect; decency
proponent	someone who speaks in support of an idea or action	supporter; defender
board game	any game in which pieces are moved in particular ways on a board marked with a pattern, e.g. chess	
blast	a sudden loud noise	roar; burst

Jamaica: Distance learning difficulties during the pandemic

1. How does Taneka McCoy Phipps describe herself?
2. What is Taneka McCoy Phipps' mission?
3. Approximately, how many students are unable to access online learning systems, according to the Ministry of Education?
 - a. 1 million
 - b. 10 million
 - c. 5 million
 - d. 500,000
4. What else, apart from education, does Taneka McCoy Phipps want to provide for children who are in need?

Kenya: Good news for an iconic fig tree

5. Why was the iconic fig tree in Nairobi going to be uprooted?

India: Equal rights for all

6. According to Mannat, what do adults need help with especially?
7. What are some rights that are denied same-sex couples because they cannot legally marry?

Australia: New ways of finding friends

8. According to the programme, what challenges can people diagnosed with autism face?
9. How are the teenagers with autism helped in the social club?

Ghana: Festive film music for the holiday season

10. What is the musical film *Jingle Jangle* about?

Grammar check

Subject-verb agreement (SVA)

When we speak, we often pay less attention to grammar rules than we do when we write. The main objective of spoken language is to communicate as efficiently and smoothly as possible and there is often no time to be concerned with language rules. In this sense, spoken language is more flexible than written language. This is true even when we speak our native tongue.

In this week's episode, we can find some examples of spoken language that do not adhere to English grammar rules. These examples concern a rule called *Subject-Verb Agreement* (also called *Concord*) which states that verbs must agree with subjects in relation to number and person. Have a look at the sentences (from the programme) below and identify the SVA errors. Rewrite the sentences in their correct grammatical form.

11. "That has helped me very much because some of my dreams mostly depends on going to school."

12. "How has the blackboards helped you?"

13. SVA exercises: Circle the version of the verb that is right.

- a. The books borrowed from the library is/are on my desk.
- b. The boy who won the two medals are/is a friend of mine.
- c. Collecting match-boxes are/is one of his favourite hobbies.
- d. The quality of the sweets is/are very poor.
- e. The players, who each brought a lovely gift for their coach, is/are staying at the Plaza.
- f. You should decide which one of these three choices are/is the best.
- g. Where is/are my scissors? I can't find it/them anywhere.
- h. The police are/is looking into the matter as we speak.

Discussion points

The language of different genres: The grammar check above raises the point that written language is often more grammatically correct than spoken language and that spoken language can be more flexible than written language. But what about the language used for text messages? Arguably, text messages are written language, but would you say that text messages adhere to grammatical rules? Try to identify ways in which text message language differs from written language used in other genres, for example, in newspapers. Do you think that teenagers run the risk of acquiring poor grammar skills due to texting language? Why or why not? Are there advantages of texting language? Would you agree that text message language has influenced the English language in general? If yes, in what ways?

Can adults learn from younger generations? In this week's episode, we learn about unequal treatment of homosexual couples in India who are denied the right to marry because of their sexual orientation. Mannat argues that adults need help breaking away from social stigmas. Why do you think adults seem to need more help letting go of traditions and culturally bound structures? Would the same be true of the adults in the society in which you live? Can you think of other examples where it is the adult community that seems to obstruct development?

Key

1. Suggestion: She describes herself as powerful, purpose-driven and passionate for kids.
2. Suggestion: Her mission is to fill the gap in education caused by the coronavirus pandemic for kids in eight inner-city communities in Kingston.
3. d. 500,000
4. Suggestion: She wants to provide the children who need it most with a hot meal so that they are not doing school work on empty stomachs.
5. Suggestion: It was going to be uprooted to make way for the Nairobi Expressway.
6. Suggestion: According to Mannat, adults need help breaking away from the stigma of discussing sensitive topics, due to the kind of culture they grew up in.
7. Suggestion: Without marriage, same-sex couples cannot inherit property, adopt children, access some medical care benefits or visit each other in hospital.
8. Suggestion: They can find it hard to interact and communicate with other people and might get anxious about social events.
9. Suggestion: They are introduced to board games and computer games that are played with other teenagers. Through these games, they form new friendships.
10. Suggestion: It's about an eccentric toymaker and his adventurous granddaughter.
11. Suggestion: "That has helped me very much because some of my dreams mostly *depend* on going to school."
12. Suggestion: "How *have* the blackboards helped you?" alt. "How has the *blackboard* helped you?"
13.
 - a. are
 - b. is
 - c. is
 - d. is
 - e. are
 - f. is
 - g. are/them
 - h. are