

# NEWSREEL WORLD



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Arbetsblad

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# Vocabulary

<i>The following words are specific to the context of the programme. Make sure that you are familiar with them before listening.</i>		
<b>Word</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Synonym</b>
secessionist	a person who wants their region to become completely independent from the country to which it belongs	rebel; revolutionist
separatist	(very closely related to secessionist) someone who supports an effort to become independent of the country or group to which the person belongs	dissenter; dissident
cerebral palsy	a physical condition involving permanent tightening of the muscles that is caused by damage to the brain during or before birth	
polar vortex	an area of low pressure and cold air that forms near the North or South Pole and is stronger in winter	
mammalian	relating to mammals (däggdjur)	
biodiversity	the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat	
conservation	the prevention of wasteful use of a resource	preservation; protection
Māori	a member of New Zealand's indigenous population	
pākehā	a New Zealander of primarily European descent	
<i>The following words are general in nature. Take note of these to expand your general vocabulary of the English language.</i>		
suspend	to stop something from being active	discontinue; halt
ban	to officially forbid something	prohibit; outlaw
violate	(here): to break or act against something, especially a law, agreement, principle	disregard; breach
meddle	interfere in something that is not one's concern	intrude; intervene
resolution	the act of solving or ending a problem or difficulty	solution; settlement
cameo	a small but noticeable part in a film or play, performed by a famous person	
bandwagon	an activity or idea that has become very popular	fashion; craze
virtual	(here) something that can be done or seen using the internet instead of going to a place	computer-generated
possum	a small mammal that lives in trees and has thick fur and a long nose and tail	marsupial; opossum
stoat	a small, thin animal that has brown fur in summer and white fur in winter	
predator	an animal that hunts, kills, and eats other animals	carnivore; hunter
eradicate	to get rid of or destroy something completely	abolish; eliminate
indigenous	relating to the people who originally lived in a place	native; domestic
kakapo	a large parrot with greenish plumage, which is nocturnal, ground-dwelling, and endangered	
lever	to move a bar or handle around a fixed point, so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled to move a heavy object	crowbar; lifter

## Content questions

### Nigeria: Tweeting trouble

1. Why did Twitter remove a tweet by the Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari?
2. What are the secessionists fighting for and why did the Nigerian government accuse Twitter of double standards?
3. What does Huawa Ishaq Ibrahim think Twitter will want to do if it resumes its operations in Nigeria?

### Pakistan: Paralympic champion

4. How did Paralympic gold medal winner Haider Ali make history back in 2008?

### USA and Israel: Climate change complexities

5. According to a new report by American and Israeli scientists, what is a consequence of temperature rises in the Arctic and how does this, in turn, affect the weather in the United States?

### Virtual music and gaming

6. What is unusual about the music band *Pentakill* and who writes their music?

### New Zealand: Biodiversity through conservation

7. Why is there a movement to eradicate predatory mammals in New Zealand?
8. How did the problem with predators in New Zealand come about?
9. What was it that triggered Elizabeth Werner to devote her life to conservation?
10. What do all the schools in Elizabeth Werner's community do during lunchtime or before breakfast?

## Language points

Complete the following idiomatic expressions

11. When my parents went back to Australia, it felt like a part of me was...
  - a. missing
  - b. mister
  - c. mind
  
12. She accused me of double ... when I wouldn't give her what she wanted.
  - a. styles
  - b. stones
  - c. standards
  
13. You should stand by your... once you have made it.
  - a. direct
  - b. decision
  - c. deck
  
14. Thanks for coming with me today. It really made my...
  - a. day
  - b. deep
  - c. decision
  
15. We'll be much more successful if we partner ... rather than do it ourselves.
  - a. over
  - b. on
  - c. up
  
16. The kids had gone wild and were really out of ...
  - a. control
  - b. county
  - c. canvas

### Curious grammar facts

Did you notice, when listening to this week's episode, that the verb following the band name *Pentakill* is a **plural** verb and not a singular one, i.e. "*Pentakill aren't* your usual band"?

In this case, the band name *Pentakill* is considered a so-called collective noun. A **collective noun** is a noun that is used to denote a group of people or things. In British English, collective nouns are generally considered plural and are therefore followed by verbs in the plural. Hence, "*Pentakill aren't* your usual band".

In North-American English, however, collective nouns are generally followed by singular verbs unless the noun itself **sounds** plural. Hence, in North-American English, the band *The Rolling Stones* would be followed by a plural verb because the name **sounds** plural but the band name *Pentakill* would, in North-American English, be followed by a singular verb because it does not have a plural sound.

## Discussion points

### Social media powers:

In this week's episode, we hear about the Nigerian government banning Twitter for removing a presidential tweet that was considered in breach of Twitter's rules against abusive behaviour. Earlier this year, former President Donald Trump's Twitter account was permanently suspended after riots on Capitol Hill.

- Do you think that closing individual people's accounts on social media is a breach of freedom of speech? Are there situations when it may be justified?
- Many social media platforms are operated by profit-driven corporations. Can these global corporations ban specific people/images/values as they wish, or should they live by other standards than other corporations and take responsibility for, for example, freedom of speech?
- Some social media have proven to have played significant roles in political and historical events, for example in the Arab Spring some 10 years ago. Can you think of other important events in which social media have played significant roles?
- What is your relationship to social media? If you use it, what do you mostly use it for?

### Climate change consequences:

In this week's episode, we hear about a report that has shown that the increase in extreme winter weather events in the US is linked to global warming and how this can be traced back to temperature rises in the Arctic, which in turn can be traced back to carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions.

You can read more about the report [here](#).

These results comply well with the IPCC report (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) that you might have heard of. It states that "the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years".

- Have you noticed unusual weather patterns where you live? Could they be explained by climate change or is it something other do you think?
- What should be done to stop climate change? On an individual level? On a political level? On a global level?
- Has climate change affected your life in any way? Do you do things differently now than you did some years for climate change reasons?

### **Preying on predators:**

According to the programme, biodiversity in New Zealand has suffered from the introduction of predators, the multiple numbers of which put several other species at risk of becoming endangered.

- Do you agree with the method of attempting to eradicate specific species in order to maintain biodiversity and to protect indigenous species from going extinct? Why or why not? Can you think of less radical ways of maintaining biodiversity?
- The predators exemplified in the programme are so-called invasive species, i.e. they are animals from another region of the world that do not belong in their new environment. Do you know of any invasive species (plants or animals) in your own part of the world that have either assimilated to their new ecosystem, or that have been eradicated, or that are still being fought?
  - There are predatory species that although native to the habitat they are in, are still considered to cause ecological and economic harm. In Sweden, for example, wolves are seen by some as harmful predators that need to be eradicated, and by others as a native species that needs to be protected. Whose interests should take priority do you think? According to statistics from the Country Administrative Board, 150 sheep, 50 cattle and 19 dogs were attacked by wolves in 2019. Is that reason to eradicate wolves? Why or why not?

## Teachers' note

Questions for working with the photo on page 1:

- What seems to be going on in the photo? Describe the scene to one of your friends. What do you think the context is? What type of animal is being handled and what are the people doing with it?
- Imagine that the photo were in a newspaper and you are the editor. Put together a headline and caption (bildtext) to it.

## KEY

1. Suggestion: Twitter argued that the President's tweet violated its rules against abusive behavior.
2. Suggestion: The secessionists are fighting for independence for some regions in Nigeria and the Nigerian government maintained that Twitter allowed some violent tweets by the separatists and so lived by double standards.
3. Suggestion: Huawa Ishaq Ibrahim thinks Twitter will want to regulate a few things about the kind of matters it allows.
4. Suggestion: Haider Ali won Pakistan's first ever Paralympic medal when he won the silver in the Paralympic games in Beijing.
5. Suggestion: Temperature rises in the Arctic disturb the pattern of circular winds called the polar vortex, which in turn, allows colder winter weather to flow down to the U.S.
6. Suggestion: *Pentakill* are a fictional band made up of characters from the video game *League of Legends*. Their music is written by composers that work for the game company Riot Games.
7. Suggestion: Because New Zealand is experiencing severe biodiversity loss and has a high rate of threatened indigenous species.
8. Suggestion: Primarily through European colonisation, predatory mammals were introduced into New Zealand.
9. Suggestion: She started her "conservation journey" after she met a kakapo called Sirocco.
10. Suggestion: The schools in Elizabeth's community are involved in the conservation work and go around and check the traps around the school at lunchtime or before school starts.
11. a
12. c
13. b
14. a
15. c
16. a