

www.**Breaking News English**.com
Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Coldplay to appear on The Simpsons

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0907/090730-coldplay.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

THE ARTICLE

Hollywood insiders say a star is not really a star until he, she or they have appeared on 'The Simpsons'. The latest act to reach these greater heights is the British rock band Coldplay. The UK rockers follow a long list of artists to appear in the long-running animation. Previous musicians include Michael Jackson, U2 and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The cartoon versions of Coldplay will feature in the 21st season of The Simpsons, which starts on the 27th of September. The band give a private concert at the Simpson's house after Homer and Bart win millions of dollars in the lottery. The latest report on the storyline is that the band has to stop playing when Bart answers a call of nature, and goes to the bathroom.

The members of Coldplay are big fans of 'The Simpsons'. They are looking forward to seeing themselves as yellow-faced cartoon characters in the upcoming episode. They will record the voiceovers for the show and provide the music. The band is currently ending its latest tour of North America. They will soon return to Europe to complete their 'Viva La Vida' world tour. The album of the same name has turned multi-platinum and has won many awards. The new season of 'The Simpsons' sees the TV show enter the record books. The Guinness Book of World Records reports the hugely popular cartoon is the longest-running sitcom in the world. It has a back catalogue of over 450 shows and doesn't look like it'll stop any time soon.

WARM-UPS

1. ROCK GROUPS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about rock groups. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

Hollywood / The Simpsons / reaching greater heights / animation / concerts / lottery / big fans / looking forward / cartoon characters / world tours / awards / world records

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. GUEST APPEARANCES: What would you do on a guest appearance? Complete this table. Talk about it with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you heard.

Guest on...	I would.... because....
The Simpsons	
A Hollywood movie	
Oprah Winfrey's show	
A talent show	
The evening news	
Olympics opening ceremony	

4. SIMPSONS: Students A **strongly** believe The Simpsons is not quality entertainment; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. INVITATION: Who would you like to invite to your house? Rate these and share your ratings with your partner: 10 = would love to invite; 1 = absolutely no way. What would you do to entertain them? Change partners and share your ratings and ideas.

- Barack Obama
- David Beckham
- Oprah Winfrey
- Nelson Mandela
- The Pope
- Your country's leader
- Your country's top singer
- Mickey Mouse

6. CARTOON: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'cartoon'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. People in Hollywood say appearing on The Simpsons equals stardom. T / F
- b. Coldplay will be the first musical act to appear on The Simpsons. T / F
- c. There have already been 27 seasons of the Simpsons. T / F
- d. Coldplay might have to stop playing so Bart can go to the toilet. T / F
- e. Coldplay members aren't so keen on the show The Simpsons. T / F
- f. The band will head back to Europe to finish their world tour. T / F
- g. The Simpsons is the world's longest-running situation comedy show. T / F
- h. There are plans to end the show some time soon. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. latest | a. appear |
| 2. heights | b. prizes |
| 3. animation | c. toilet |
| 4. feature | d. levels |
| 5. bathroom | e. next |
| 6. fans | f. most recent |
| 7. upcoming | g. situation comedy |
| 8. awards | h. followers |
| 9. hugely | i. cartoon |
| 10. sitcom | j. highly |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hollywood | a. list of artists |
| 2. reach these greater | b. episode |
| 3. The UK rockers follow a long | c. The Simpsons |
| 4. the 21st season | d. sitcom in the world |
| 5. Bart answers a | e. heights |
| 6. big fans of | f. books |
| 7. the upcoming | g. its latest tour |
| 8. The band is currently ending | h. insiders |
| 9. enter the record | i. call of nature |
| 10. the longest-running | j. of The Simpsons |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Hollywood _____ say a star is not really a star until he, she or they have appeared on 'The Simpsons'. The latest act to _____ these greater heights is the British rock band Coldplay. The UK rockers follow a long _____ of artists to appear in the long-running animation. Previous musicians _____ Michael Jackson, U2 and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The cartoon _____ of Coldplay will feature in the 21st season of The Simpsons, which starts on the 27th of September. The band give a _____ concert at the Simpson's house after Homer and Bart win millions of dollars in the _____. The latest report on the storyline is that the band has to stop playing when Bart answers a call of _____, and goes to the bathroom.

The members of Coldplay are big _____ of 'The Simpsons'. They are looking _____ to seeing themselves as yellow-faced cartoon characters in the upcoming episode. They will record the voiceovers for the show and _____ the music. The band is currently ending its latest tour of North America. They will soon _____ to Europe to complete their 'Viva La Vida' world tour. The album of the same name has turned multi-platinum and has won many _____. The new season of 'The Simpsons' sees the TV show enter the _____ books. The Guinness Book of World Records reports the _____ popular cartoon is the longest-running sitcom in the world. It has a back catalogue of over 450 _____ and doesn't look like it'll stop any time soon.

list
lottery
insiders
versions
nature
reach
include
private

hugely
provide
shows
fans
awards
forward
record
return

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the gaps.

Hollywood insiders _____ really a star until he, she or they have appeared on 'The Simpsons'. The latest _____ greater heights is the British rock band Coldplay. The UK _____ artists to appear in the long-running animation. Previous musicians include Michael Jackson, U2 and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The cartoon versions of Coldplay _____ 21st season of The Simpsons, which starts on the 27th of September. The band _____ at the Simpson's house after Homer and Bart win millions of dollars in the lottery. The latest report on the storyline is that the band has to stop playing when Bart answers _____, and goes to the bathroom.

The members of Coldplay _____ 'The Simpsons'. They are looking forward to seeing themselves as yellow-faced cartoon characters in _____. They will record the voiceovers for the show and provide the music. The band is currently _____ tour of North America. They will soon return to Europe to complete their 'Viva La Vida' world tour. The album _____ has turned multi-platinum and has won many awards. The new season of 'The Simpsons' sees the TV show _____. The Guinness Book of World Records reports the hugely popular cartoon is the longest-running sitcom in the world. It has a back catalogue of over 450 shows and doesn't look like it'll _____.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'situation' and 'comedy'.

situation	comedy

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• not really• heights• list• versions• lottery• nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• fans• upcoming• ending• album• sitcom• soon
---	--

STUDENT ROCK GROUP SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about rock groups in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Hollywood'?
- c) When does a star become a star?
- d) What do you know about the rock group Coldplay?
- e) Would you like to appear in an episode of The Simpsons?
- f) What greater heights have you reached?
- g) Which artist or band would you like to play at your house?
- h) What would you do if you won a million dollars in the lottery?
- i) Have you had to stop something to answer a call of nature?
- j) Do you prefer the word 'toilet' or 'bathroom' for the small room where you answer nature's call?

Coldplay to appear on The Simpsons – 30th July, 2009
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Are you a big fan of The Simpsons?
- c) Why do you think The Simpsons is such a successful show?
- d) What do you think it's like to be a rock star on a world tour?
- e) What are you looking forward to at the moment?
- f) Have you ever won an award?
- g) Do you like reading the Guinness Book of World Records?
- h) What sitcoms do you like?
- i) What's your favourite cartoon series and why?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Coldplay?

LANGUAGE

Hollywood (1) _____ say a star is not really a star until he, she or they have appeared on 'The Simpsons'. The latest act to (2) _____ these greater heights is the British rock band Coldplay. The UK rockers follow a long list of artists to appear in the long-running animation. Previous musicians (3) _____ Michael Jackson, U2 and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The cartoon versions of Coldplay will (4) _____ in the 21st season of The Simpsons, which starts on the 27th of September. The band give a private concert at the Simpson's house after Homer and Bart win millions of dollars in the lottery. The (5) _____ report on the storyline is that the band has to stop playing when Bart answers a (6) _____ of nature, and goes to the bathroom.

The members of Coldplay are big fans of 'The Simpsons'. They are looking forward to seeing themselves (7) _____ yellow-faced cartoon characters in the upcoming episode. They will record the voiceovers for the show and provide the music. The band is (8) _____ ending its latest tour of North America. They will soon return to Europe to complete their 'Viva La Vida' world tour. The album (9) _____ the same name has turned multi-platinum and has won many awards. The new season of 'The Simpsons' (10) _____ the TV show enter the record books. The Guinness Book of World Records reports the (11) _____ popular cartoon is the longest-running sitcom in the world. It has a (12) _____ catalogue of over 450 shows and doesn't look like it'll stop any time soon.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) sides | (b) insides | (c) inside | (d) insiders |
| 2. | (a) reach | (b) reached | (c) reaches | (d) reaching |
| 3. | (a) including | (b) include | (c) inclusive | (d) includes |
| 4. | (a) feather | (b) future | (c) feature | (d) feast |
| 5. | (a) least | (b) lasted | (c) latest | (d) lateness |
| 6. | (a) question | (b) call | (c) shout | (d) ask |
| 7. | (a) as is | (b) has | (c) was | (d) as |
| 8. | (a) currently | (b) currents | (c) currant | (d) currants |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) of | (c) to | (d) at |
| 10. | (a) peeks | (b) eyes | (c) views | (d) sees |
| 11. | (a) huger | (b) huge | (c) hugely | (d) hugest |
| 12. | (a) back | (b) side | (c) front | (d) bottom |

WRITING:

Write about **rock stars** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner’s paper.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about Coldplay. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ROCK STAR: Make a poster about the life of a rock star. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SIMPSONS: Write a magazine article about rock stars appearing on The Simpsons. Include imaginary interviews with stars that have and haven't appeared on the show.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Coldplay. Ask them three questions about being on The Simpsons. Give them three suggestions on where they could take their careers from now. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. F d. T e. F f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. latest | a. most recent |
| 2. heights | b. levels |
| 3. animation | c. cartoon |
| 4. feature | d. appear |
| 5. bathroom | e. toilet |
| 6. fans | f. followers |
| 7. upcoming | g. next |
| 8. awards | h. prizes |
| 9. hugely | i. highly |
| 10. sitcom | j. situation comedy |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hollywood | a. insiders |
| 2. reach these greater | b. heights |
| 3. The UK rockers follow a long | c. list of artists |
| 4. the 21st season | d. of The Simpsons |
| 5. Bart answers a | e. call of nature |
| 6. big fans of | f. The Simpsons |
| 7. the upcoming | g. episode |
| 8. The band is currently ending | h. its latest tour |
| 9. enter the record | i. books |
| 10. the longest-running | j. sitcom in the world |

GAP FILL:

Coldplay to appear on The Simpsons

Hollywood **insiders** say a star is not really a star until he, she or they have appeared on 'The Simpsons'. The latest act to **reach** these greater heights is the British rock band Coldplay. The UK rockers follow a long **list** of artists to appear in the long-running animation. Previous musicians **include** Michael Jackson, U2 and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The cartoon **versions** of Coldplay will feature in the 21st season of The Simpsons, which starts on the 27th of September. The band give a **private** concert at the Simpson's house after Homer and Bart win millions of dollars in the **lottery**. The latest report on the storyline is that the band has to stop playing when Bart answers a call of **nature**, and goes to the bathroom.

The members of Coldplay are big **fans** of 'The Simpsons'. They are looking **forward** to seeing themselves as yellow-faced cartoon characters in the upcoming episode. They will record the voiceovers for the show and **provide** the music. The band is currently ending its latest tour of North America. They will soon **return** to Europe to complete their 'Viva La Vida' world tour. The album of the same name has turned multi-platinum and has won many **awards**. The new season of 'The Simpsons' sees the TV show enter the **record** books. The Guinness Book of World Records reports the **hugely** popular cartoon is the longest-running sitcom in the world. It has a back catalogue of over 450 **shows** and doesn't look like it'll stop any time soon.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a