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**e-lesson**Week starting: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012**1. Events of 2011**

The week's lesson looks back at some news stories from the year just finished, 2011.

**Level**

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

**How to use the lesson**

1. Ask your students what the biggest news stories of 2011 were, both in their country and around the world. You could divide the news stories into categories: politics, economics, natural disasters, sport, celebrities, etc. Before handing out Worksheet A, you could potentially elicit some of the specific vocabulary in the lesson by asking the students what news stories in 2011 were connected with Japan, the Arab countries, football, the theme of population, etc.
2. Hand out Worksheet A, divide the students into pairs, and give them at least five minutes to put the mixed-up pieces of information back together again.
3. When the time is up, check answers in open class and ask students to read out their sentences.
4. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheet A or to hand them back to you temporarily. Hand out Worksheet B and, keeping the students in their pairs, allow them as much time as they need to complete the gaps in the sentences.
5. Check answers in open class.
6. Hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword. (The 'most popular' film of 2011 means the one that took the most money at cinema box offices worldwide.)

**2. Related websites**

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011>

From the Simple English Wikipedia, a chronological list of news stories in 2011. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.

[http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_deaths](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_deaths)

Also from the Simple English Wikipedia, a comprehensive list of famous people who died in 2011. Accessible to Pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-16089232>

An overview of the major events of 2011 from the BBC News website. Intermediate level and above.

**Answers:**

**Exercises 1 and 2** (missing words from Exercise 2 in **bold**)

1. In March there was a very strong earthquake under the sea near the coast of Japan, followed by a **terrible** tsunami that killed around 20,000 people and also **damaged** the Fukushima nuclear reactor, leading to a serious radiation **leak**.
2. In North Africa and the Middle East there were **protests** against the governments of many **Arab** countries. The countries in which there was a change of government included Tunisia, Egypt and, after months of **fighting**, Libya.
3. The world population is **growing** very quickly and reached seven billion in **late** October. It was only quite **recently**, in 1999, that it reached six billion. One hundred years ago, in 1911, the world population was less than two billion.
4. In April there was a **royal** wedding in London when Prince William (the son of **Princess** Diana, who died in 1997) got **married** to Kate Middleton.
5. Barcelona's football club, FC Barça, **won** the Spanish **championship**, the Champions League (beating Manchester United in the final) and the World **Club** Championship (beating Santos in the final).
6. Among the famous people who died in 2011 were Steve Jobs, a **co-founder** of Apple, who was 56 years old; the **actress** Elizabeth Taylor (79); and the **singer** Amy Winehouse (27).
7. There has been a financial **crisis** for the countries of the European Union. The most **serious** situation is in Greece, where the government has a huge **debt**.
8. In **pop** music, the **artist** with the **best-selling** album on iTunes® was Adele, a 23-year-old singer from London. The album is called *21*.

**Exercise 3**

1. mother   2. Africa   3. reached   4. singer   5. Libya  
6. Spain   7. founded   8. lost   9. earthquake   10. Greece   11. grew

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Harry Potter* will read from top to bottom.