

the guardian weekly

June 2008

Level » Advanced

Style » Individual or group activities



Welcome to the Guardian Weekly's special news-based materials to support learners and teachers of English. Each month, the Guardian Weekly newspaper selects topical news articles that can be used to practise English language skills. The materials are graded for two levels: Advanced and Lower Intermediate. These worksheets can be downloaded free from guardianweekly.co.uk/learningenglish/. You can also find more advice for teachers and learners on the site

Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould

Fan who gatecrashed Lennon Bed-In sells lyrical gift

Before reading

1 Look at the photo. Then find words in the headline and caption to complete the paragraph below.

In (a) John Lennon and
(b) staged a protest by
staying in (c) for a week in

hotel in the Canadian city of

(d) . This famous event

was called a (e) . At this

time, Lennon gave a gift to a young

(f) called

(g) .

2 Work in small groups. Discuss the questions below. Make notes and report your ideas back to the class.

a What do you know about the life of John Lennon?

b Have you heard of the event in the photo? If yes, what do you know about it?

c What gift do you think Lennon gave to the girl in the photo?

3 Nouns from the article. Match the words and the definitions.



Gail Renard, left, in bed with John Lennon and Yoko Ono in Montreal, 1969

a lyrics

b memento

c memorabilia

d recording

e review

1 a report in a magazine which gives opinions about a film/concert etc

2 the process of making a record/CD etc

3 the words to a song

4 things people collect because they once belonged to a famous person

5 a thing you give to someone to remind them of a person/place

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Article

Fan who gatecrashed Lennon Bed-In sells lyrical gift

- 1 Twenty-seven years after his death John Lennon will make good a promise he once made to a star-struck Canadian teenager: that he would always look after her.
- 2 In one of the most keenly anticipated sales of rock memorabilia for years, Gail Renard, who is now a television comedy writer, is to auction Lennon's handwritten lyrics of Give Peace a Chance, which have hung in her study for years.
- 3 The lyrics – “Everybody's talking bout [sic] / Bagism, Shagism, Dragism, Madism, Ragism, Tagism, This-ism, That-ism” etc – will be sold next month in London by Christie's for a sum estimated to be between \$400,000 and \$600,000.
- 4 The sale has revealed the remarkable story of how Renard was given the lyrics nearly 40 years ago.
- 5 Lennon and Yoko Ono were in Montreal for their Bed-In in 1969, a week of staying in bed calling for peace. plus a recording of Give Peace A Chance sung by Lennon and 50 or so others in the hotel suite. With them for most of the week was Renard who, with a friend, got into the hotel via a fire escape to bring a present for Ono's five-year-old daughter, Kyoko; they waited for security on Lennon's floor to change and then simply knocked on the suite door. “It's incredible the things you'd do when you're young that you wouldn't do now,” she said.
- 6 Renard and Lennon bonded, and the self-described “hyperventilating teenager” was allowed to stay until the media circus ended.

- 7 Renard says she had an amazing week. “My mother spoke to him and made it quite clear what the rules were. He got me home for bedtime each night.”
- 8 Lennon gave Renard several mementos, saying they would be worth something one day. He also kickstarted her writing career by telling the editor of the Beatles Monthly magazine to publish her review of the Bed-In.
- 9 The lyrics have hung in her study for years, but when her roof leaked she thought it was time to let them go.
- 10 Helen Hall, head of popular culture at Christie's, said she expected the lyrics to beat the \$450,000 paid at Christie's in 2003 for the original of the Beatles' Nowhere Man.
- 11 A few months after the Bed-In, half a million anti-Vietnam protesters sang “Give Peace a Chance” in Washington. Lennon said it was “one of the biggest moments of my life”.

Mark Brown

Glossary

gatecrash (verb) to go to a party or an event without being invited

bond (verb) to develop a special friendship with a person

hyperventilating (adjective) breathing too quickly because you are very excited

kickstart (verb) to do something to help a process or project start more quickly

make good a promise (expression) to do something that you have promised to do

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While reading

1 Complete the questions with the correct words below. Use each word only once. Then find the answers to the questions in the first four paragraphs of the article.

how long / how many / how much / what where / which

a years have passed since John Lennon's death?

b did John Lennon give to Gail Renard?

c did Renard put the gift from Lennon?

d will Renard receive for the item at auction?

e company will auction the item?

f ago did Lennon give Renard the gift?

Answers

a

b

c

d

e

f

2 Read the rest of the article from paragraph five onwards. Put yes (Y) or no (N) next to these statements. Gail Renard ...

a ... entered the hotel through a window.

b ... brought a gift with her for Ono's daughter.

c ... made friends with a guard outside the hotelroom.

d ... is amazed at what she did in the past.

e ... stayed at the hotel every night.

f ... began her career with a review in Beatles Monthly.

g ... decided to sell the lyrics because there was a hole in her roof.

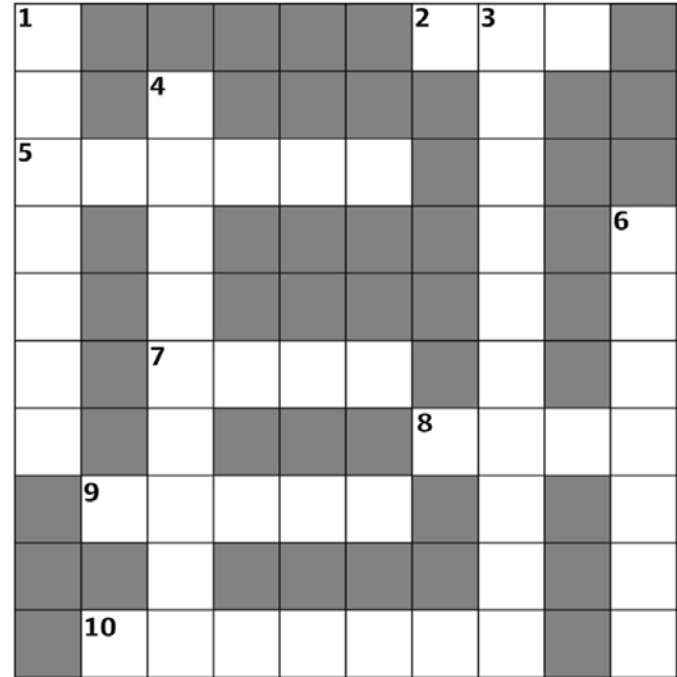
h ... had "one of the biggest moments of her life" when she sang in Washington.

3 Write a short summary of the events in the article from Gail Renard's point of view: "In 1969, I..."

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While reading cont ...



After reading

1 Synonym crossword

Complete the crossword by finding synonyms in the article for the words below. Put verbs in the base form.

Across

- 2 by way of (3)
- 5 words (song)(6)
- 7 every (4)
- 8 present (4)
- 9 office (5)
- 10 vow (7)

Down

- 1 to demand (4,3)
- 3 amazing (10)
- 4 demonstrator (9)
- 6 to sell off (7)

Activity – role play

As a class, role play a chat show interview with Gail Renard. One student is the host, one is Gail Renard and the rest of the class is the audience.

- 1 Each person spends 10 minutes preparing their role and making notes. Students in the audience think of four interesting questions to ask Renard.
- 2 As a class, role play the chat show with an introduction by the host and an interview with Renard based on questions from the audience.
- 3 Class feedback - reflect back on the interview.

Before reading
 1 a 1969 b YoKo Ono c bed d Montreal e Bed-In f fan g Gail Renard
 2 a See johnlenon.com for information on his life.
 b Their first peace Bed-In was in Amsterdam in March 1969. The second started in the Bahamas but moved to Montreal on May 26 1969 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel.
 While reading
 1 a How many; 27; b What, the handwritten lyrics to Give Peace a Chance; c Where, on the wall of her study; d How much, between \$400,000 and \$600,000. e Which, Christie's of London. f How long, nearly 40 years ago.
 2 a N b Y c N d Y e N f Y g Y h N
 After reading
 1 Across: 2 via 5 lyrics 7 each 8 gift 9 study 10 promise
 Down: 1 call for 3 incredible 4 protestor 6 auction