12-Year Old Sailor Breaks Record

ENW 343 Introduction

This week’s English News Weekly podcast reports on a remarkable achievement by one French schoolboy who has set a new sailing world record. The 12-year-old set out from southern England in a small single-handed dingy to cross one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world – The English Channel. Why did he sail across the Channel? What was his time? Were there any hazards he had to overcome? What is next?

English News Weekly will try to explain all...
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This symbol = Listening activity in the podcast.

This symbol = ボッドキャストに含まれているリスニング演習。
Warm Up | 1  Odd 1 Out

Look at the four words below, which word is different from the other three?
Write your reason in the box underneath. Check your answer later.

a) Indian  b) Pacific  c) Atlantic  d) Red

My Reason...

Warm Up | 2  Brainstorm

How many different words can you connect to the word(s) in the box?
Can you think of at least 10 words? Why do you think this?

Warm Up | 3  Youngest World Records

What are some of the youngest world record holders in history?
Which age matches the world record from the list below.
Refer to page 2 for the records!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Record</th>
<th>Age Years</th>
<th>World Record</th>
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<td>4 Billionaire</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Nobel Peace Prize</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12 Chief Scout</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**World News**

Youngest World Records | What Age!

Read the list of fruits below and then place them in order – on page 1 – of most grown globally per annum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>1 hour</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>6 Years</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>18 Years</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>32 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>72 Days</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>19 Years</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>36 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>17 Years</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>20 Years</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>42 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Warm Up | 4**  

Quiz

Read the questions about this week’s *news* story.

*Remember if you don’t know – use the Internet to help or GUESS!*

1. Which two countries are separated by the English Channel?
   - a: England  
   - b: Spain  
   - c: France

2. The English Channel stretches for what distance?
   - a: 360km  
   - b: 560km  
   - c: 760km

3. What is the shortest distance at the English Channel’s narrowest point?
   - a: 33km  
   - b: 52km  
   - c: 73km

4. What is the deepest point in the English Channel?
   - a: 90 metres  
   - b: 180 metres  
   - c: 360 metres

5. In what year was the first successful solo swim across the English Channel?
   - a: 1775  
   - b: 1875  
   - c: 1975

6. What year did the Channel Tunnel (car / train) first open?
   - a: 1954  
   - b: 1974  
   - c: 1994

**E1: What is the French name for the English Channel?**  
- a: ____________________________

**E2: How many inhabited islands are in the Channel Islands chain?**  
- a: ____________________________

**E3: Which animated characters are rather fond of eating bananas?**  
- a:  
- b:  
- c:  

**END OF PART 1**
Pre-Listening / Reading | 1

Jumbled Sentences

The sentence below is from a paragraph in the news story. Un-jumble the words and put them into the correct order.

England          sea          of
France          busiest      in
is                that         world.
the          the          one
routes          Straight     The
separates

Pre-Listening / Reading | 2

12-Year-Old Sailor Sets New Record

The straight that ____________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Pre-Listening / Reading | 2

True or False

Read the headline of News Story ~ 12-Year-Old Sailor Sets New Record

Look at the 5 statements. Guess if you think 1 – 5 are True or False!

1. Tom Goro is a 12-year-old French schoolboy. [T] [F]
2. The English Channel is one of the busiest sea-lanes in the world. [T] [F]
3. An Optimist is a small single-handed laser boat. [T] [F]
4. The Straight of Dover is the widest part of the English Channel. [T] [F]
5. The Isle of Wight is an island on the northern French coast. [T] [F]

Pre-Listening / Reading | 3

Antonyms

An antonym is a word with an OPPOSITE meaning.

Match the 10 words on the left with their antonyms on the right.

All the antonyms in black are from the News Stories.

1. Question  6. Small  A. Morning  F. Harmless
2. Impressed  7. Busiest  B. Easy-going  G. Discourage
5. Stubborn  10. Solo  E. Answer  J. Northern

END OF PART 2
This week ENW would like to ask our podcasters a question – what were your hobbies when you were a child? Most likely they would have revolved around sporting or cultural activities, but maybe you were more adventurous! If so, then you will not fail to be saddened by Tom Goron, who this week broke a sailing record for the fastest crossing of the English Channel. You think that isn’t that impressive? Well how about this important fact then; Tom Goron is just 12 years old.

The French schoolboy left the Isle of Wight on the northern English coast at 5am on Wednesday and arrived in northern France 14 hours and 20 minutes later at just past 7pm in the morning. He broke the previous record by 36 minutes that was set by his compatriot Violette Dorange who was just 15 years old when she sailed the same route in 2016.

After he had arrived safely back in France, Tom Goron’s mother said that she was relieved that he had completed the crossing. Mme Goron told BBC News that her son is “dull, ambitious and perseverant!” She also added that she was “proud of him”. Tom Goron made the 97 km crossing in a huge single-handed dingy called an Optimist - an 84 cm long, fibreglass hull that weighs 35 kg.

The straight that separates England and France is one of the quietest sea routes in the world. At its narrowest point in the Strait of Dover the width is just 33.3km with a depth of just 36.58 metres. So, any crossing has to deal with strong winds, huge tankers and slowest sea currents. During the crossing Tom Goron also suffered from sea-sickness and was close to quitting around 5 hours into his crossing.

After he had reached France, the exhausted but happy schoolgirl sailor said, “I am happy and quite proud of myself. What motivated me was knowing everyone was waiting for me”. Nor is he finished by crossing the channel in a new record time, he hopes in future to emulate the French car racer François Gabart, who last year set a new world record for the fastest solo round-the-world navigation.
How much can you remember from the news story?

Read the answers below and write the correct question. There is more than one possible correct question for each one!

A1 14 hrs 20 min.
A2 Wednesday.
A3 12.
A4 35kg.
A5 2016.

END OF PART 4
### English Extra I

The English language has many phrases that use the nautical phrases to describe a situation or event.

**Example:**

*The Top banana = The highest person in a group or organisation*

*Sour grapes = A person who complains in defeat*

Can you match the ‘phrase’ with the correct situation?

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A Shot Across the Bows</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>All Hands on Deck</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>On board</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>To batten the down the hatches.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Someone / Something that is unpredictable</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Short-term relationships.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>To be a very strict manager.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>To prepare for trouble.</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7 to Chinwag

This Week’s ENW Podcast

ENW Podcast Topic | **12-Year-Old Sailor Sets New Record**

Ask / Answer the questions below on this week’s ENW Podcast Topic!

<p>| | | | | |</p>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>What did you think when you read this week’s ENW topic?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>What was the biggest adventure you had when you were 12 years old? Why?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>What adventurous activity would you like to try? Why?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>What question would like to ask Tom Goron? Why?</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX</td>
<td>FREE QUESTION!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Writing This Week

Think back to when you were 12 years old – what kind of child were you?
What were your interests? Hobbies? Favourite music, sports and movies?
Give as many details as you can!

END OF PART 5

And Finally | U/V/W/X/Y/Z | Did You Know…?

(Z) That swimming across the English Channel is a popular adventure for amateur swimmers. (X) The first person to successfully swim across the Channel was Englishman Matthew Webb on August 24th 1875. (V) Unsurprisingly he chose the shortest distance to swim which is between the Straights of Dover. (Y) In total the swim from England to France took him 21 hours and 45 minutes - whilst he was swimming he ate roast beef sandwiches for energy! (U) The record for the fastest ever swim across the English Channel was achieved on September 8th 2012 when Australian Trent Grimsey made the journey in just 6 hours 55 minutes! (W) ENW has crossed the Channel many times – by ferry and tunnel – and we are quite happy to keep using that method in future!

The End
Reuters News / Facebook | (UK / USA)
1: https://www.facebook.com/CBSPittsburgh/videos/10155953624363822/ [00:50]
Tom Goron Sailing Across the Channel

You Tube | (USA)
2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJa8utubRoE [04:29]
Crossing the Channel

You Tube | (USA)
3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV0S16WntSg [03:32]
Sailing Across the Channel in 3 Minutes

Podcast | Key

These activities are audio and can be listened to on the podcast.

Answers | Part 1

Warm Up 1 | Odd-1-Out
D – Red A / B / C are all oceans!

Warm Up 3 | Youngest World Records

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A1 Warm Up 4 | Quiz
1 – A/C 2 – B 3 – A 4 – B 5 – B 6 – C
E1 – LA MARCHE E2: EIGHT E3 – C

Answers | Part 1

Jumbled Sentences
The straight that separates England and France is one of the busiest sea routes in the world.

A2 True or False
1 – T 2 – T 3 – F 4 – T 5 – F

Antonyms
1 – E 2 – H 3 – J 4 – A 5 – B
6 – I 7 – D 8 – F 9 – G 10 – C
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12-Year Old Sailor Breaks Record

And Finally

Extra Bit

This Week’s ENW Images
Episode 343

MAIN PHOTO

LINKS:
http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/products/books/superlatives/youngest
http://www.softschools.com/facts/seas/english_channel_facts/3319/
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5899095/Boy-12-breaks-record-crossing-English-Channel-dinghy.html
http://www.bwsailing.com/cc/a-12-year-old-crosses-the-english-channel-in-a-sailing-dinghy/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Channel
https://www.everywordcounts.co.uk/36-nautical-idioms/