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Wikileaks founder to appear in The Simpsons

2nd February, 2012

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is going to be the next special guest of the cartoon series "The Simpsons". The 40-year-old activist will make a cameo appearance as the neighbour of Bart, Homer, Marge and the rest of the family. The episode will be the 500th show and is currently titled "At Long Last Leave". It will air in the USA on February 19th. In the programme, the family move to an isolated house and find themselves living next to Assange. "The Simpsons" producer Al Jean told "Entertainment Weekly" that Assange recorded his part of the show from a secret location in Britain six months ago. Jean said: Assange "invites them over for a home movie and it's an Afghan wedding being bombed".

Julian Assange is famous for creating his Wikileaks website that uploaded hundreds of thousands of confidential government documents for the world to see. He is currently under house arrest in Britain, awaiting the result of an extradition request by Sweden. He is accused of committing sexual offences in Sweden, which he strongly denies. If the court rejects his case, the 40-year-old Australian will have to make a last-ditch appeal to the European Court of Human Rights to be allowed to stay in the UK. In the meantime, Assange is set to make another television appearance – as the host of a chat show, set to premiere in mid-March. Assange will carry out in-depth interviews with important world figures.

WARM-UPS

1. JULIAN ASSANGE: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Julian Assange. 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.

Wikileaks / special guest / cartoon / episode / isolated / secret location / wedding / uploaded / confidential documents / extradition / denies / appeals / chat show

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

3. CONFIDENTIAL: Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share again.

| Topic | How secret? | Why? |
|-----------|-------------|------|
| Age | | |
| Salary | | |
| Weight | | |
| Partners | | |
| Passwords | | |
| Desires | | |

4. CRIMINAL: Students A **strongly** believe Julian Assange is a criminal; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. GUEST: Who would be the best guest of "The Simpsons"? What would the story be? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Barack Obama
- Lady Gaga
- Lionel Messi
- Hugo Chavez
- Queen Elizabeth II
- Justin Bieber
- Serena Williams
- J.K. Rowling

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

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Julian Assange will be a regular new character in "The Simpsons" | T / F |
| b. He will appear in the thousandth episode of the cartoon series. | T / F |
| c. An episode of the show will see Assange as the Simpsons' neighbor. | T / F |
| d. In the show, Assange shows a video of a wedding in Afghanistan. | T / F |
| e. Assange did not actually create the Wikileaks site. | T / F |
| f. Assange may appeal to a European court about charges against him. | T / F |
| g. Assange will soon host a TV talk show in the USA. | T / F |
| h. The show will feature celebrities who have been in "The Simpsons". | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. cartoon | a. show |
| 2. currently | b. throws out |
| 3. air | c. relocate |
| 4. move | d. top-secret |
| 5. location | e. animation |
| 6. confidential | f. repatriation |
| 7. extradition | g. ready |
| 8. rejects | h. place |
| 9. appeal | i. presently |
| 10. set | j. request |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. the next special guest of the cartoon | a. USA on February 19 th |
| 2. The episode will be | b. denies |
| 3. It will air in the | c. over for a home movie |
| 4. move to an isolated | d. sexual offences |
| 5. Assange invites them | e. arrest in Britain |
| 6. hundreds of thousands of confidential | f. series "The Simpsons" |
| 7. He is currently under house | g. interviews |
| 8. He is accused of committing | h. the 500 th show |
| 9. ...which he strongly | i. government documents |
| 10. carry out in-depth | j. house |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

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

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is going to be the next special (1) _____ of the cartoon series "The Simpsons". The 40-year-old (2) _____ will make a cameo appearance as the neighbour of Bart, Homer, Marge and the rest of the family. The (3) _____ will be the 500th show and is (4) _____ titled "At Long Last Leave". It will air in the USA on February 19th. In the programme, the family move to an (5) _____ house and find themselves living next to Assange. "The Simpsons" producer Al Jean told "Entertainment Weekly" that Assange recorded his (6) _____ of the show from a secret location in Britain six months ago. Jean said: Assange "(7) _____ them over for a (8) _____ movie and it's an Afghan wedding being bombed".

isolated

episode

invites

guest

home

part

activist

currently

Julian Assange is famous for (9) _____ his Wikileaks website that uploaded hundreds of thousands of confidential government (10) _____ for the world to see. He is currently under house arrest in Britain, (11) _____ the result of an extradition request by Sweden. He is accused of committing sexual (12) _____ in Sweden, which he strongly denies. If the court rejects his (13) _____, the 40-year-old Australian will have to make a last-ditch appeal to the European Court of Human Rights to be allowed to stay in the UK. In the (14) _____, Assange is set to make another television appearance – as the host of a chat show, set to (15) _____ in mid-March. Assange will carry out in-depth interviews with important world (16) _____.

offences

figures

documents

premiere

case

creating

awaiting

meantime

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is _____ special guest of the cartoon series "The Simpsons". The 40-year-old activist will make a _____ the neighbour of Bart, Homer, Marge and the rest of the family. _____ the 500th show _____ "At Long Last Leave". It will air in the USA on February 19th. In the programme, the family _____ house and find themselves living next to Assange. "The Simpsons" producer Al Jean told "Entertainment Weekly" that Assange _____ the show from a secret location in Britain six months ago. Jean said: Assange "invites them over for a home movie and it's an Afghan wedding being bombed".

Julian Assange is _____ his Wikileaks website that uploaded hundreds of thousands of _____ documents for the world to see. He is currently under house arrest in Britain, awaiting the result of an extradition request by Sweden. He is _____ sexual offences in Sweden, which he strongly denies. If the court rejects his case, the 40-year-old Australian will have to make _____ to the European Court of Human Rights to be allowed to stay in the UK. In the meantime, Assange is set to make another television appearance – as the _____, set to premiere in mid-March. Assange will _____ interviews with important world figures.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, documents, synonyms ... for the words 'special' and 'guest'.

| special | guest |
|---------|-------|
| | |

- 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">• guest• activist• 500• move• part• home | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hundreds• result• accused• case• set• figures |
|---|--|

JULIAN ASSANGE SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Julian Assange 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.

JULIAN ASSANGE 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 'cartoon'?
- c) What do you know about Julian Assange?
- d) What do you think of him appearing in a Simpsons cartoon?
- e) Do you think the TV company should be using Assange, considering he is wanted on charges of rape?
- f) Would you like to make a cameo appearance in the Simpsons?
- g) What kind of role would you play and in what kind of Simpsons story?
- h) Was Julian Assange right to upload confidential information?
- i) What do you think of the ideas for the 500th episode?

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JULIAN ASSANGE DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you think will happen to Julian Assange?
- c) Why has he become such a celebrity?
- d) Would you like to see his chat show when it starts?
- e) How can governments keep their confidential information more secure?
- f) What do you hope happens to Assange?
- g) Have you ever made a "last-ditch appeal"?
- h) Should Assange be arrested for uploading the confidential documents?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Julian Assange?

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LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120201-simpsons.html>

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is going to be the next special guest of the cartoon series "The Simpsons". The 40-year-old (1) _____ will make a cameo appearance as the neighbour of Bart, Homer, Marge and the (2) _____ of the family. The episode will be the 500th show and is (3) _____ titled "At Long Last Leave". It will air in the USA on February 19th. In the programme, the family move to an isolated house and (4) _____ themselves living next to Assange. "The Simpsons" producer Al Jean told "Entertainment Weekly" that Assange recorded his part of the show from a secret (5) _____ in Britain six months ago. Jean said: Assange "invites them over for a home movie and it's an Afghan wedding being bombed".

Julian Assange is famous (6) _____ creating his Wikileaks website that uploaded hundreds of thousands of confidential government documents for the world to see. He is currently (7) _____ house arrest in Britain, awaiting the result of an extradition request by Sweden. He is accused (8) _____ committing sexual offences in Sweden, which he strongly denies. If the court rejects his case, the 40-year-old Australian will have to make a (9) _____ -ditch appeal to the European Court of Human Rights to be allowed to stay in the UK. In the (10) _____, Assange is set to make another television appearance – as the host of a chat show, (11) _____ to premiere in mid-March. Assange will carry out in-(12) _____ interviews with important world figures.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) activity | (b) activism | (c) actively | (d) activist |
| 2. | (a) rest | (b) relax | (c) remains | (d) rested |
| 3. | (a) current | (b) currency | (c) currently | (d) currant |
| 4. | (a) finding | (b) find | (c) finder | (d) finds |
| 5. | (a) local | (b) location | (c) localize | (d) locution |
| 6. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) for | (d) to |
| 7. | (a) under | (b) of | (c) over | (d) above |
| 8. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) at | (d) of |
| 9. | (a) past | (b) fast | (c) cast | (d) last |
| 10. | (a) meanwhile | (b) meantime | (c) sometime | (d) timely |
| 11. | (a) set | (b) bet | (c) let | (d) wet |
| 12. | (a) deep | (b) deeply | (c) depth | (d) deeper |

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 Wikileaks. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. JULIAN ASSANGE: Make a poster about Julian Assange. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ASSANGE: Write a magazine article about Julian Assange and his appearance in the Simpsons. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 Mr Assange. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three pieces of advice on what to do in the future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. cartoon | a. animation |
| 2. currently | b. presently |
| 3. air | c. show |
| 4. move | d. relocate |
| 5. location | e. place |
| 6. confidential | f. top-secret |
| 7. extradition | g. repatriation |
| 8. rejects | h. throws out |
| 9. appeal | i. request |
| 10. set | j. ready |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. the next special guest of the cartoon | a. series "The Simpsons" |
| 2. The episode will be | b. the 500 th show |
| 3. It will air in the | c. USA on February 19 th |
| 4. move to an isolated | d. house |
| 5. Assange invites them | e. over for a home movie |
| 6. hundreds of thousands of confidential | f. government documents |
| 7. He is currently under house | g. arrest in Britain |
| 8. He is accused of committing | h. sexual offences |
| 9. ...which he strongly | i. denies |
| 10. carry out in-depth | j. interviews |

GAP FILL:

Wikileaks founder to appear in The Simpsons

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is going to be the next special (1) **guest** of the cartoon series "The Simpsons". The 40-year-old (2) **activist** will make a cameo appearance as the neighbour of Bart, Homer, Marge and the rest of the family. The (3) **episode** will be the 500th show and is (4) **currently** titled "At Long Last Leave". It will air in the USA on February 19th. In the programme, the family move to an (5) **isolated** house and find themselves living next to Assange. "The Simpsons" producer Al Jean told "Entertainment Weekly" that Assange recorded his (6) **part** of the show from a secret location in Britain six months ago. Jean said: Assange "(7) **invites** them over for a (8) **home** movie and it's an Afghan wedding being bombed".

Julian Assange is famous for (9) **creating** his Wikileaks website that uploaded hundreds of thousands of confidential government (10) **documents** for the world to see. He is currently under house arrest in Britain, (11) **awaiting** the result of an extradition request by Sweden. He is accused of committing sexual (12) **offences** in Sweden, which he strongly denies. If the court rejects his (13) **case**, the 40-year-old Australian will have to make a last-ditch appeal to the European Court of Human Rights to be allowed to stay in the UK. In the (14) **meantime**, Assange is set to make another television appearance – as the host of a chat show, set to (15) **premiere** in mid-March. Assange will carry out in-depth interviews with important world (16) **figures**.

LANGUAGE WORK

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

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