

## **Spammer imprisoned for nine years** (Sun 10 Apr, 2005)

### **WARM-UPS / POST-READING ACTIVITIES**

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about: spam / e-mail / Internet / pornography / Viagra / big fish / luxury mansion / charities.

For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**SPAM BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “spam”. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

### **SPAM LAWS:**

- a. How much spam do you receive every day / every week? What kind of spam is it? Do you read it? How do you deal with it? How does it make you feel? What would you like to say to the spammers?
- b. Brainstorm all the different kinds of spam (e.g. Viagra, dating agencies, free credit cards, “I need to deposit \$25,000,000 from my deceased uncle’s will into your bank account”...)
- c. In pairs / groups, make a law that deals with spammers. Decide what kind of sentence you would give to the various types of spam that were brainstormed above (e.g. two years in prison for a Viagra spammer ...)
- d. Change partners / groups and compare your laws and sentences.

**OPINIONS:** Talk about the following opinions based on the news article.

- a. Nine years in prison for a spammer isn’t long enough.
- b. Education is the key to stop spamming. If people didn’t buy the stuff, spam would disappear.
- c. Spam doesn’t harm anybody.
- d. Software companies should make better software to block spam.
- e. Many people do not realize their e-mail address is as important as their home address.
- f. Old people are easy targets. Spammers should get heavy prison sentences.
- g. I’m worried a virus from a spam mail might infect my computer.
- h. Dangerous criminal gangs are behind a lot of spam. It is as serious as drug trafficking.
- i. I want to know what happens when spammers start spamming mobile phones.
- j. Why is it called “spam”? Seems a stupid word.

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'legal' and 'history'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Someone who poisoned tins of meat has been jailed. T / F
- b. It is the first time a spammer has been convicted in America. T / F
- c. The spammer sent ten billion e-mails a day. T / F
- d. The spammer earned over a million dollars a week. T / F
- e. The spammer liked to catch big fish. T / F
- f. His lawyers are appealing the sentence, which they say is far too harsh. T / F
- g. The spammer is really a philanthropist who built homes for poor people. T / F
- h. The spammer said he wants to be involved in fighting spam in the future. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) jailed      | believed         |
| (b) unwanted    | swindling        |
| (c) fell for    | imprisoned       |
| (d) fake        | severe           |
| (e) reputed     | crooked          |
| (f) a big fish  | were taken in by |
| (g) harsh       | mean             |
| (h) shady       | bogus            |
| (i) ripping off | unsolicited      |
| (j) intend      | top dog          |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article:

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) legal                     | Internet addresses          |
| (b) sentenced to              | have earned up to \$750,000 |
| (c) false                     | business                    |
| (d) people fell               | fish                        |
| (e) He is reputed to          | the sentence                |
| (f) considered to be a big    | for his fake products       |
| (g) His lawyers are appealing | harm to anybody             |
| (h) shady                     | history                     |
| (i) ripping                   | nine years                  |
| (j) didn't intend to cause    | off millions of people      |

## GAP FILL

### Spammer imprisoned for nine years

**BNE:** For the first time in American \_\_\_\_\_ history, a “spammer”, or sender of junk e-mails, has been jailed. Jeremy Jaynes, 30, was sentenced to nine years in prison for using \_\_\_\_\_ Internet addresses to send millions of e-mail advertisements. He is said to have sent ten million unwanted mails a day; thousands of innocent, \_\_\_\_\_ people fell for his fake products and services, which included the usual variety of pornography and Viagra-related goods. He is \_\_\_\_\_ to have earned up to \$750,000 per month. Jaynes was considered to be a big \_\_\_\_\_ in the spamming world, one of the world’s top ten spammers. His lawyers are appealing the sentence, which they say is far too harsh and doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ the crime. They contend that even though the profits from his shady business afforded him a \_\_\_\_\_ mansion in Virginia, Jaynes is really a philanthropist who built homes for poor people and donated money to charities. Despite \_\_\_\_\_ off millions of people, he told the court he “didn’t intend to cause harm to anybody”. In his defense he said: “I can guarantee the court I will not be involved in the e-mail marketing business again.”

*reputed*

*legal*

*fit*

*false*

*ripping*

*luxury*

*fish*

*unaware*

## 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 information on spam. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. JEREMY’S LAWYER:** Imagine you are a lawyer defending Jeremy Jaynes. Write down at least five reasons why you think nine years is too long for his crime. State your reasons in a court case role play in your next class.
- 4. SPAM DANGERS:** Write a short article titled “The dangers of spam”. Talk about your article in your next class

## DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. Were you happy about anything in this article?
- d. What do you think of Jeremy Jaynes?
- e. Would you do what he did for \$750,000 a month?
- f. How do you feel when you see a spam mail in your in-box?
- g. Do you ever read all of a spam mail?
- h. Have you ever been tempted to buy something from a spam mail?
- i. Do you always click the “unsubscribe” link at the bottom of the mail?
- j. How do you protect your e-mail address?
- k. Are you happy about putting your personal information on the Internet?
- l. Is nine years a fair sentence in the case of Jeremy Jaynes?
- m. Do you think this sentence will deter other spammers?
- n. Which adjective would you use to describe spammers?
- o. Which animal would you associate with spammers?
- p. If you met someone who regularly spammed you, what would you say to them?
- q. Jeremy Jaynes gave lots of money to poor people. Is he a good guy?
- r. Jeremy Jaynes said he'd never do such a thing again. Is he a good guy?
- s. Did you like this discussion?
- t. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## TEXT

### Spammer imprisoned for nine years

**BNE:** For the first time in American **legal** history, a “spammer”, or sender of junk e-mails, has been jailed. Jeremy Jaynes, 30, was sentenced to nine years in prison for using **false** Internet addresses to send millions of e-mail advertisements. He is said to have sent ten million unwanted mails a day; thousands of innocent, **unaware** people fell for his fake products and services, which included the usual variety of pornography and Viagra-related goods. He is **reputed** to have earned up to \$750,000 per month. Jaynes was considered to be a big **fish** in the spamming world, one of the world's top ten spammers. His lawyers are appealing the sentence, which they say is far too harsh and doesn't **fit** the crime. They contend that even though the profits from his shady business afforded him a **luxury** mansion in Virginia, Jaynes is really a philanthropist who built homes for poor people and donated money to charities. Despite **ripping** off millions of people, he told the court he “didn't intend to cause harm to anybody”. In his defense he said: “I can guarantee the court I will not be involved in the e-mail marketing business again.”

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