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J.K. Rowling announces Harry Potter site

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1106/110624-harry_potter_pottermore.html

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24th June, 2011

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1106/110624-harry_potter_pottermore.html

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling has unveiled the latest addition to her hugely successful fictional phenomenon - a website called Pottermore.com. The new site will be officially online from October 2011, but people who sign up for it now have the chance of a sneak preview before then. The official online announcement reads: "Pottermore is a free website that builds an exciting online experience around the reading of the Harry Potter books." The site will include a considerable amount of unpublished material about Harry Potter, that Ms Rowling had to leave out of her books to keep the word count down. The author says there will be a lot of new info on the characters' backgrounds and on wizardly locations.

J.K. Rowling says she is starting Pottermore to thank her fans. "I wanted to give something back to the fans that have followed Harry so devotedly over the years, and to bring the stories to a new digital generation," she said. There is currently no official Harry Potter website, although there are hugely popular sites run by fans, such as mugglenet.com and the-leaky-cauldron.org, as well as the Warner Brothers movie site. Pottermore will allow fans to interact with Rowling and create new content together. She said: "I hope fans and those new to Harry will have as much fun helping to shape Pottermore as I have." She added that fans, "will be able to enjoy a safe, unique online reading experience built around the books".

WARM-UPS

1. HARRY POTTER: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Harry Potter. 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.

J.K. Rowling / authors / websites / Harry Potter / books / characters / backgrounds / fans / devotedly / digital generation / movie sites / unique / online / reading

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

3. BOOKS: Which are best for children? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	How important?	Why?
Fantasy books		
Encyclopaedia		
Non-fiction		
Religious books		
Books on hobbies		
Poetry books		

4. THE BOOKS: Students A **strongly** believe the Harry Potter books are the best children's books ever; Students B **strongly** believe they are not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FICTION: What's your favourite? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put your favourite at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- witches and wizards
- romance
- spy stories
- fantasy
- horror
- science fiction
- crime
- comedy

6. FAN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'fan'. 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/1106/110624-harry_potter_pottermore.html

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. J.K. Rowling has announced the eighth Harry Potter book online. | T / F |
| b. The new site is officially online from July 1, 2011. | T / F |
| c. The new website will include a lot of material not published before. | T / F |
| d. The site will have a lot of information on different Harry Potter places. | T / F |
| e. The new site is J.K Rowling's way of thanking her fans. | T / F |
| f. Pottermore.com replaces the current official Harry Potter website. | T / F |
| g. Fans will create new material on the website with J.K. Rowling. | T / F |
| h. A special library will be built made from Harry Potter books. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. author | a. secret |
| 2. unveiled | b. form |
| 3. sneak | c. presently |
| 4. considerable | d. revealed |
| 5. locations | e. greatly |
| 6. fans | f. novelist |
| 7. currently | g. places |
| 8. hugely | h. supporters |
| 9. interact | i. great |
| 10. shape | j. communicate |

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. author J.K. Rowling has unveiled | a. Harry Potter website |
| 2. The new site will be officially | b. preview |
| 3. the chance of a sneak | c. with Rowling |
| 4. a considerable amount of unpublished | d. back to the fans |
| 5. a lot of new info on the characters' | e. the latest addition |
| 6. I wanted to give something | f. online from October |
| 7. that have followed Harry so devotedly | g. reading experience |
| 8. There is currently no official | h. backgrounds |
| 9. allow fans to interact | i. material |
| 10. enjoy a safe, unique online | j. over the years |

J.K. Rowling announces Harry Potter site – 24th June, 2011

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1106/110624-harry_potter_pottermore.html

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

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling has (1) _____ the latest addition to her (2) _____ successful fictional phenomenon - a website called Pottermore.com. The new site will be (3) _____ online from October 2011, but people who sign up for it now have the chance of a (4) _____ preview before then. The official online announcement reads: "Pottermore is a free website that builds an exciting online experience (5) _____ the reading of the Harry Potter books." The site will include a considerable (6) _____ of unpublished material about Harry Potter, that Ms Rowling had to leave out of her books to keep the word (7) _____ down. The author says there will be a lot of new info on the characters' backgrounds and on wizardly (8) _____.

officially

count

unveiled

around

locations

hugely

amount

sneak

J.K. Rowling says she is (9) _____ Pottermore to thank her fans. "I wanted to give something back to the fans that have followed Harry so (10) _____ over the years, and to bring the stories to a new (11) _____ generation," she said. There is currently no official Harry Potter website, although there are (12) _____ popular sites run by fans, such as mugglenet.com and the-leaky-cauldron.org, as well as the Warner Brothers movie site. Pottermore will (13) _____ fans to interact with Rowling and create new content together. She said: "I hope fans and those new to Harry will have as much fun helping to (14) _____ Pottermore as I have." She added that fans, "will be able to enjoy a safe, (15) _____ online reading experience (16) _____ around the books".

unique

devotedly

built

digital

starting

allow

shape

hugely

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1106/110624-harry_potter_pottermore.html

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AFTER READING / LISTENING

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1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'web' and 'site'.

web	site
------------	-------------

- 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">• author• sign• reads• amount• leave• locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• thank• years• digital• movie• fun• built
--	---

STUDENT HARRY POTTER SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1106/110624-harry_potter_pottermore.html

Write five GOOD questions about Harry Potter 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.

HARRY POTTER 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 name 'Harry Potter'?
- c) What do you think of Harry Potter?
- d) Do you think children should be reading about witches, wizards and dark magic?
- e) Why are the Harry Potter books so popular?
- f) What do you think of the idea of Pottermore.com?
- g) Would you like a sneak preview?
- h) Do you think all authors should publish material left out because of the word count?
- i) Who is your favourite Harry Potter character and why?
- j) Which of Harry Potter's spells would you like to be able to do?

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HARRY POTTER DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think Pottermore.com is a good way for J.K. Rowling to thank her fans?
- c) Should all authors do things to thank his/her fans?
- d) Who is your favourite author and why?
- e) What's the best children's book ever written?
- f) What do you think of the idea of fans creating new content with J.K. Rowling?
- g) Do you like reading online?
- h) Should J.K. Rowling write an eighth Harry Potter book?
- i) Do you think Pottermore is just another way to make lots of money?
- j) What questions would you like to ask J.K. Rowling?

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LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

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J.K. Rowling says she is starting Pottermore to thank her fans. "I wanted to give something back to the fans that have followed Harry so (7) ____ over the years, and to bring the stories to a new (8) ____ generation," she said. There is currently no official Harry Potter website, although there are hugely popular sites (9) ____ by fans, such as mugglenet.com and the-leaky-cauldron.org, as well as the Warner Brothers movie site. Pottermore will (10) ____ fans to interact with Rowling and create new content together. She said: "I hope fans and those new to Harry will have as much fun helping to (11) ____ Pottermore as I have." She added that fans, "will be able to enjoy a safe, (12) ____ online reading experience built around the books".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) unveiled | (b) unveils | (c) unveiling | (d) unveil |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) up | (d) of |
| 3. | (a) snake | (b) sneak | (c) snack | (d) snuck |
| 4. | (a) over | (b) more | (c) then | (d) around |
| 5. | (a) considerate | (b) considering | (c) considerable | (d) consider |
| 6. | (a) count | (b) sum | (c) account | (d) countless |
| 7. | (a) devotion | (b) devote | (c) devotee | (d) devotedly |
| 8. | (a) digitally | (b) digital | (c) digit | (d) digits |
| 9. | (a) walked | (b) paced | (c) run | (d) strolled |
| 10. | (a) allow | (b) follow | (c) bellow | (d) wallow |
| 11. | (a) sharp | (b) shape | (c) shave | (d) shame |
| 12. | (a) antique | (b) pique | (c) clique | (d) unique |

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WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1106/110624-harry_potter_pottermore.html

Write about **Harry Potter** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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

3. HARRY POTTER: Make a poster about Harry Potter. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. HARRY: Write a magazine article about Harry Potter. Include imaginary interviews with him and with J.K. Rowling.

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 Harry Potter. Ask him three questions about being Harry Potter. Give him three suggestions on what might happen in an eighth Harry Potter book. 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. T d. T e. T f. F g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. author | a. novelist |
| 2. unveiled | b. revealed |
| 3. sneak | c. secret |
| 4. considerable | d. great |
| 5. locations | e. places |
| 6. fans | f. supporters |
| 7. currently | g. presently |
| 8. hugely | h. greatly |
| 9. interact | i. communicate |
| 10. shape | j. form |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. author J.K. Rowling has unveiled | a. the latest addition |
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| 6. I wanted to give something | f. back to the fans |
| 7. that have followed Harry so devotedly | g. over the years |
| 8. There is currently no official | h. Harry Potter website |
| 9. allow fans to interact | i. with Rowling |
| 10. enjoy a safe, unique online | j. reading experience |

GAP FILL:

J.K. Rowling announces Harry Potter site

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LANGUAGE WORK

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

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