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Level 6

Michelangelo's 'David' in danger of collapse

5th May, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>



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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's masterpiece statue "David" is in great danger of collapsing due to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall iconic statue make it susceptible to crumbling under its own weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles heel. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University confirmed the existence of a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have led to this weakening. These include the poor quality of marble and the fact that the statue has been leaning at an angle for centuries, and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors.

The sculptor Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was just 26 when he embarked on the project. The statue depicts the biblical hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was commissioned by the rulers of Florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was unveiled to the public on the 8th of September, 1504 and remained on display outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the elements. Art lovers have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a purpose-built, earthquake proof museum to insulate it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.

Sources: <http://rt.com/news/156500-florence-statue-michaelangelo-collapse/>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/art-news/10802304/Michelangelos-David-has-weak-ankles-and-could-collapse.html>
<http://www.dailytech.com/Achilles+Heel+Might+Destroy+Michelangelos+Massive+Marble+David+Statue/article34848c.htm>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_%28Michelangelo%29

WARM-UPS

1. STATUES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about statues. Change partners often 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.

masterpiece / great danger / iconic / Achilles heel / crumbling / poor quality / museum / sculptor / project / biblical / hero / symbol / on display / earthquake proof / traffic

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

3. ART: Which is the best example of these? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Best?	Why?
Painting		
Movie		
Music		
Sculpture		
Photograph		
Poem		

4. MODERN ART: Students A **strongly** believe modern art is better than centuries-old art; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FAMOUS STATUES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Michelangelo's David
- Venus de Milo
- The Thinker (Rodin)
- Statue of Liberty
- Christ the Redeemer
- Easter Island Moai
- The Sphinx (Giza)
- The Mermaid (Copenhagen)

6. ANKLE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "ankle". 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/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The statue's weak knees may cause it to collapse. | T / F |
| b. The statue is just over five metres tall. | T / F |
| c. Tests were carried out on the statue by the University of Rome. | T / F |
| d. The statue has been leaning at an angle for hundreds of years. | T / F |
| e. Michelangelo was 26 years old when he starting making David. | T / F |
| f. The statue was requested and paid for by a rich merchant from Milan. | T / F |
| g. David stood in the wind and rain for more than 350 years. | T / F |
| h. David is now housed in an earthquake proof museum. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. collapsing | a. cracks |
| 2. confirmed | b. conducted |
| 3. carried out | c. the climate |
| 4. fractures | d. started |
| 5. quality | e. ordered |
| 6. embarked | f. crumbling |
| 7. depicts | g. safeguard |
| 8. commissioned | h. standard |
| 9. the elements | i. verified |
| 10. insulate | j. portrays |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. make it susceptible | a. an angle for centuries |
| 2. The cracks have become the statue's | b. hero |
| 3. the poor quality | c. embarked on the project |
| 4. the statue has been leaning at | d. the elements |
| 5. vibrations | e. of marble |
| 6. He was just 26 when he | f. rulers of Florence |
| 7. the biblical | g. from traffic |
| 8. It was commissioned by the | h. proof museum |
| 9. protect it from | i. to crumbling |
| 10. a purpose-built, earthquake | j. Achilles heel |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's (1) _____ statue "David" is in great danger of collapsing (2) _____ to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall (3) _____ statue make it susceptible to crumbling under its own weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles (4) _____. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University confirmed the existence of a (5) _____ series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have (6) _____ to this weakening. These include the poor quality of marble and the fact that the statue has been (7) _____ at an angle for centuries, and (8) _____ from traffic and museum visitors.

heel
leaning
iconic
masterpiece
vibrations
whole
due
led

The sculptor Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was just 26 when he (9) _____ on the project. The statue depicts the (10) _____ hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was commissioned by the (11) _____ of Florence as a (12) _____ of the city's commercial and military strength. It was unveiled to the public on the 8th of September, 1504 and remained on (13) _____ outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved (14) _____ in 1873 to protect it from the elements. Art lovers have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the (15) _____ of a purpose-built, earthquake proof museum to (16) _____ it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.

display
rulers
safety
embarked
insulate
indoors
biblical
symbol

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

- 1) cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall iconic statue make it _____
 - a. susceptible to crumbling
 - b. suspicious to crumbling
 - c. sustainable to crumbling
 - d. spectacular to crumbling
- 2) The cracks have become the statue's _____
 - a. Achilles heel
 - b. Achilles feel
 - c. Achilles peel
 - d. Achilles seal
- 3) Italy's National Research Council and Florence University _____
 - a. conformed the existence
 - b. reconfirmed the existence
 - c. confirmed the existence
 - d. condoned the existence
- 4) These include the poor _____
 - a. qualify of marble
 - b. quality of marble
 - c. qualities of marble
 - d. quirky of marble
- 5) the statue has been leaning at an _____
 - a. angular for centuries
 - b. angled for centuries
 - c. angel for centuries
 - d. angle for centuries
- 6) The sculptor Michelangelo spent three _____
 - a. years curating David
 - b. years creating David
 - c. years creation David
 - d. years crating David
- 7) The statue depicts the _____
 - a. biblical hero
 - b. Bible hero
 - c. bible call hero
 - d. bib lyrical hero
- 8) a symbol of the city's commercial and _____
 - a. militarily strength
 - b. military's strength
 - c. militia strength
 - d. military strength
- 9) It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it _____
 - a. from the element
 - b. from the elements
 - c. from the elementals
 - d. from the elemental
- 10) relocated to the safety of a purpose-built, earthquake _____
 - a. prove museum
 - b. proofer museum
 - c. proof museum
 - d. proofs museum

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's masterpiece statue "David" (1) _____ of collapsing due to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall iconic statue make (2) _____ crumbling under its own weight. The cracks have become the statue's (3) _____. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University confirmed (4) _____ a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have led to this weakening. These include the poor (5) _____ and the fact that the statue has been leaning at an angle for centuries, and (6) _____ and museum visitors.

The sculptor Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was just 26 when (7) _____ the project. The statue depicts the biblical hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was (8) _____ rulers of Florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was (9) _____ on the 8th of September, 1504 and (10) _____ outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it (11) _____. Art lovers have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a purpose-built, (12) _____ to insulate it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

1. What part of David's body is the weak point?

2. How tall is the statue?

3. Which university helped carry out tests on the statue?

4. What was of poor quality?

5. For how long has the statue been leaning at an angle?

6. In what year did Michelangelo finish David?

7. Who did the biblical hero David kill?

8. Who ordered the statue to be made?

9. For how long was the statue at the mercy of the elements?

10. Who wants the statue to be put in a special museum?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

1. What part of David's body is the weak point?
 - a) his heel
 - b) the ankles
 - c) his knees
 - d) his hips
2. How tall is the statue?
 - a) 1.57 metres
 - b) 1.75 metres
 - c) 7.15 metres
 - d) 5.17 metres
3. Which university helped carry out tests on the statue?
 - a) New York
 - b) Tokyo
 - c) Florence
 - d) London
4. What was of poor quality?
 - a) the marble
 - b) the air
 - c) the security
 - d) the workmanship
5. For how long has the statue been leaning at an angle?
 - a) millennia
 - b) centuries
 - c) decades
 - d) years
6. In what year did Michelangelo finish David?
 - a) 1504
 - b) 1503
 - c) 1502
 - d) 1501
7. Who did the biblical hero David kill?
 - a) Bill
 - b) The Good Samaritan
 - c) Goliath
 - d) Samson
8. Who ordered the statue to be made?
 - a) the rulers of Florence
 - b) a merchant from Venice
 - c) the Romans
 - d) the early Mafia
9. For how long was the statue at the mercy of the elements?
 - a) (more than) 350 years
 - b) exactly 350 years
 - c) slightly less than 350 years
 - d) no one knows
10. Who wants the statue to be put in a special museum?
 - a) the living family of David
 - b) Italy's prime minister
 - c) art lovers
 - d) the Louvre

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Role A – Sculpture

You think sculpture is the greatest art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): painting, poetry or opera.

Role B – Painting

You think painting is the greatest art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): sculpture, poetry or opera.

Role C – Poetry

You think poetry is the greatest art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): painting, sculpture or opera.

Role D – Opera

You think opera is the greatest art form. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their art forms. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): painting, poetry or sculpture.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

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

master	piece
---------------	--------------

- 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">• due• under• out• whole• led• leaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• three• hero• rulers• 350• 1873• lovers
---	---

STATUES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Write five GOOD questions about statues 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.

STATUES 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 'statue'?
- c) What do you think of statues?
- d) What do you think of Michelangelo's 'David'?
- e) What do you think of the statues in your town?
- f) What is the best statue in the world?
- g) Are modern statues better than ones that are centuries old?
- h) How would you feel if "David" collapsed and crumbled?
- i) What kind of statue would you like in your garden?
- j) How would you like a statue of you to look?

Michelangelo's 'David' in danger of collapse – 5th May, 2014
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STATUES DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you think it is like to be a sculptor?
- c) What do you know about David (and his fight with Goliath)?
- d) Do you prefer paintings or statues?
- e) What do you think about when you look at a statue?
- f) What makes a statue great or rubbish?
- g) What do you know about Michelangelo?
- h) Which of the world's statues would you like to own (and why)?
- i) What are the arguments for and against moving "David"?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a Michelangelo expert?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's masterpiece statue "David" is in great danger of collapsing (1) _____ to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall (2) _____ statue make it susceptible to crumbling under its own weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles (3) _____. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University confirmed the existence of a (4) _____ series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have led to this (5) _____. These include the poor quality of marble and the fact that the statue has been leaning (6) _____ an angle for centuries, and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors.

The sculptor Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was just 26 when he (7) _____ on the project. The statue depicts the biblical hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was commissioned by the (8) _____ of Florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was (9) _____ to the public on the 8th of September, 1504 and remained (10) _____ display outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the elements. Art (11) _____ have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a purpose-built, earthquake (12) _____ museum to insulate it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) due | (b) because | (c) rather | (d) as |
| 2. | (a) ironic | (b) laconic | (c) iconic | (d) isotonic |
| 3. | (a) ankle | (b) knee | (c) heel | (d) toe |
| 4. | (a) completed | (b) totally | (c) every | (d) whole |
| 5. | (a) weakening | (b) weakened | (c) weaken | (d) weakling |
| 6. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) for | (d) inside |
| 7. | (a) barked | (b) remarked | (c) earmarked | (d) embarked |
| 8. | (a) protractors | (b) rulers | (c) compasses | (d) abacus |
| 9. | (a) unraveled | (b) enveloped | (c) unveiled | (d) inviolate |
| 10. | (a) to | (b) on | (c) at | (d) by |
| 11. | (a) romantics | (b) darlings | (c) nuts | (d) lovers |
| 12. | (a) prof | (b) proof | (c) prove | (d) roof |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Michelangelo's emsrteeicpa statue
2. the csturetru's 5.5-ton weight
3. makes it sbupeicelst to crumbling
4. a whole series of "micro-urasfertc"
5. A number of tsfarco have led to this
6. toibrinsav from traffic

Paragraph 2

7. he statue depicts the ablcbili hero
8. ionedmsmscoi by the rulers of Florence
9. It was eiduvlne to the public
10. protect it from the lemetsen
11. a purpose-built, kateurqhea proof museum
12. road oocnscnitrtu

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the
- () just 26 when he embarked on the project. The statue depicts the biblical hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was commissioned
- () weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles heel. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research
- () built, earthquake proof museum to insulate it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.
- () for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the elements. Art
- (**1**) Michelangelo's masterpiece statue "David" is in great danger of collapsing due
- () heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall iconic statue make it susceptible to crumbling under its own
- () unveiled to the public on the 8th of September, 1504 and remained on display outside in the Piazza della Signoria
- () weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have led to this weakening. These include the poor quality
- () of marble and the fact that the statue has been leaning at an angle for centuries, and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors.
- () Council and Florence University confirmed the existence of a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have
- () The sculptor Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was
- () lovers have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a purpose-
- () by the rulers of Florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

1. ankles In great danger of collapsing due to its weak.

2. have heel become the The statue's cracks Achilles.

3. fractures" "micro- of series whole a of existence The

4. These marble of quality poor the include.

5. centuries The statue has been leaning at an angle for.

6. when he embarked on the project He was just 26.

7. biblical hero who killed the giant The statue depicts the.

8. of commissioned Florence by the It rulers was.

9. the elements Moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from.

10. The museum proof earthquake , built purpose- a of safety.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's masterpiece statue "David" is in *greatly / great* danger of collapsing *due / because* to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have *confirmed / conformed* that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall *ironic / iconic* statue make it susceptible *by / to* crumbling under its own *weight / weighs*. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles heel. Tests carried *out / in* by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University confirmed the *existence / exists* of a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have led to this *weakening / weaken*. These include the poor quality of marble and the fact that the statue has been leaning *at / by* an angle for centuries, and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors.

The *sculptor / sculpture* Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was just 26 when he *embarked / earmarked* on the project. The statue *aspects / depicts* the biblical hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was commissioned by the *rulers / ruling* of Florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was *unraveled / unveiled* to the public on the 8th of September, 1504 and *remained / remains* on display outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the *elements / element*. Art *lovers / romantics* have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a *porpoise-built / purpose-built*, earthquake proof museum to *insulate / incubate* it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

M_ch_l_ng_l_'s m_st_rp__c_ st_t__ "D_v_d" _s _n
gr__t d_ng_r_f c_ll_ps_ng d__t__ts w__k_nkl_s _nd
th__str_ct_r_'s 5.5-t_n w__ght. Sc__nt_sts h_v_
c_nf_rm_d th_t cr_ck_s _n th_h__ls _f th_g__nt 5.17-
m_tr_-t_ll _c_n_c st_t__ m_k__t s_sc_pt_bl__t_
cr_mbl_ng _nd_r__ts _wn w__ght. Th_cr_ck_s h_v_
b_c_m th_st_t__'s _ch_ll_s h__l. T_sts c_rr__d __t
by _t_ly's N_t__n_l R_s__rch C__nc_l _nd Fl_r_nc_
_n_v_rs_ty c_nf_rm_d th__x_st_nc__f__wh_l_s_r__s
_f "m_cr_-fr_ct_r_s" th_t h_v_ w__k_n_d D_v_d's
_nkl_s. _n mb_r _f f_ct_rs h_v_ l_d t_ th_s
w__k_n_ng. Th_s__ncl_d th_p__rq__l_ty _f m_rbl_
_nd th_f_ct th_t th_st_t__ h_s b__n l__nng _t_n
_ngl_f_r c_nt_r__s, _nd v_br_t__ns fr_m tr_ff_c _nd
m_s__m v_s_t_rs.

Th_sc_lpt_r M_ch_l_ng_l_ sp_nt thr__y__rs cr__t_ng
D_v_d b_tw__n 1501 _nd 1504. H_w_s j_st 26 wh_n h_
_mb_rk_d _n th_pr_j_ct. Th_st_t__d_p_cts th_
b_bl_c_l h_r_ wh_k_ll_d th_g__nt G_l__th. _t w_s
c_mm_ss__n_d by th_r_l_rs _f Fl_r_nc__s _symb_l_f
th_c_ty's c_mm_rc__l _nd m_l_t_ry str_ngh. _t w_s
_nv__l_d t_ th_p_bl_c _n th_8th _f S_pt_mb_r, 1504
_nd r_m__n_d _n d_spl_y __ts_d__n th_P__zz_d_ll_
S_gn_r__f_r 350 y__rs. _t w_s m_v_d _nd__rs _n 1873
t_pr_t_ct _t fr_m th__l_m_nts. _rt l_v_rs h_v_ b__n
c_ll_ng f_r y__rs f_r th_st_t__t_b_r_l_c_t_d t_ th_
s_f_ty _f _p_rp_s_-b__lt, __rthq__k pr__f m_s__m
t__ns l_t__t fr_m th_v_br_t__ns fr_m tr_ff_c _nd
r__d c_nstr_ct__n.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

michelangelo's masterpiece statue "david" is in great danger of collapsing due to its weak ankles and the structure's 55-ton weight scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 517-metre-tall iconic statue make it susceptible to crumbling under its own weight the cracks have become the statue's achilles heel tests carried out by italy's national research council and florence university confirmed the existence of a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened david's ankles a number of factors have led to this weakening these include the poor quality of marble and the fact that the statue has been leaning at an angle for centuries and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors

the sculptor michelangelo spent three years creating david between 1501 and 1504 he was just 26 when he embarked on the project the statue depicts the biblical hero who killed the giant goliath it was commissioned by the rulers of florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength it was unveiled to the public on the 8th of september 1504 and remained on display outside in the piazza della signoria for 350 years it was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the elements art lovers have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a purpose-built earthquake proof museum to insulate it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's masterpiece statue "David" is in great danger of collapsing due to its weak ankles and the structure's 5.5-ton weight. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall iconic statue make it susceptible to crumbling under its own weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles heel. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University confirmed the existence of a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of factors have led to this weakening. These include the poor quality of marble and the fact that the statue has been leaning at an angle for centuries, and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors. The sculptor Michelangelo spent three years creating David between 1501 and 1504. He was just 26 when he embarked on the project. The statue depicts the biblical hero who killed the giant Goliath. It was commissioned by the rulers of Florence as a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was unveiled to the public on the 8th of September, 1504 and remained on display outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the elements. Art lovers have been calling for years for the statue to be relocated to the safety of a purpose-built, earthquake-proof museum to insulate it from the vibrations from traffic and road construction.

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 Michelangelo's David. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. STATUES: Make a poster about statues. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DAVID: Write a magazine article about David. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it the statue being relocated.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an art expert. Ask him/her three questions about David. Give him/her three of your opinions on the statue. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d T e T f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----|-------------|
| 1. | collapsing | a. | crumbling |
| 2. | confirmed | b. | verified |
| 3. | carried out | c. | conducted |
| 4. | fractures | d. | cracks |
| 5. | quality | e. | standard |
| 6. | embarked | f. | started |
| 7. | depicts | g. | portrays |
| 8. | commissioned | h. | ordered |
| 9. | the elements | i. | the climate |
| 10. | insulate | j. | safeguard |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The ankles
2. 5.17 metres
3. The University of Florence
4. The marble
5. Centuries
6. 1504
7. Goliath
8. The rulers of Florence
9. (More than) 350 years
10. Art lovers

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)