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Bolshoi Ballet director in acid attack

20th January, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

The artistic director of Russia's Bolshoi Theatre is in hospital because someone threw acid in his face. Sergei Filin, 42, was attacked outside his apartment building as he was going home from work. Moscow police say the attacker was wearing a mask and that there were no witnesses. Mr Filin has severe burns on his face and doctors are battling to save his eyesight. A hospital spokesperson said Filin may have to go to a hospital in Belgium for more treatment. The police believe the attacker works for the Bolshoi Ballet. Filin has to make many decisions about who dances and who doesn't. Many performers and staff have criticized him for his tough management style.

The Bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company that was founded in 1776 by Moscow prosecutor Prince Pyotr Urusov. Russia's Empress Catherine II gave the Prince permission to organize theatre performances, masquerades, balls and other forms of entertainment for ten years. It rose to fame in the early 20th century because of the amazing technique and athleticism of its dancers. Today, it is the largest company in the world, with around 220 dancers. Mr Filin became the Bolshoi's principal dancer in 1990 and stayed in the position for nearly two decades. He became the company's artistic director in 2008. He won many awards, including the People's Artist of the Russian Federation award in 2001.

Sources: <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/acid-attack-made-on-bolshoi-ballet-director/474188.html#ixzz2IOYcwDZp>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21076192>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolshoi_Ballet

WARM-UPS

1. BALLET: Walk around the class and talk to other students about ballet. 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.

artistic / hospital / acid / attacked / witnesses / eyesight / treatment / decisions / world-famous / permission / entertainment / amazing technique / dancers / awards

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

3. ARTS: What can make these things more popular? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What you think of it	How to make it more popular
Ballet		
Opera		
Modern Art		
Poetry		
Origami		
Yoga		

4. BALLET: Students A **strongly** believe ballet is the most beautiful art form ever; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. DANCE: What's best? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- ballet
- tap dancing
- salsa
- folk dancing
- hip-hop
- flamenco
- tango
- your own

6. BALLET: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'ballet'. 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/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. The director of a Russian ballet company threw acid on a dancer. | T / F |
| b. Police know what the attacker's face looks like from video cameras. | T / F |
| c. The victim may be moved from a Moscow hospital to one in Belgium. | T / F |
| d. The director was popular with staff, who agreed with all his decisions. | T / F |
| e. The Bolshoi Ballet first started in the 18 th century. | T / F |
| f. The Bolshoi Ballet didn't become world famous until the 20 th century. | T / F |
| g. The Bolshoi Ballet is the world's second largest ballet group. | T / F |
| h. Sergei Filin was artistic director of the Bolshoi for nearly 20 years. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. attacked | a. care |
| 2. witnesses | b. skill |
| 3. severe | c. hard |
| 4. treatment | d. authorization |
| 5. tough | e. bystanders |
| 6. founded | f. role |
| 7. permission | g. ambushed |
| 8. technique | h. prizes |
| 9. position | i. started |
| 10. awards | j. very bad |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. someone threw | a. witnesses |
| 2. there were no | b. Prince permission |
| 3. doctors are battling | c. style |
| 4. make many decisions about who dances | d. in 1776 |
| 5. his tough management | e. athleticism of its dancers |
| 6. founded | f. to save his eyesight |
| 7. Catherine II gave the | g. of entertainment |
| 8. other forms | h. acid in his face |
| 9. the amazing technique and | i. many awards |
| 10. He won | j. and who doesn't |

GAP FILL

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

The artistic (1) _____ of Russia's Bolshoi Theatre is in hospital because someone threw (2) _____ in his face. Sergei Filin, 42, was attacked outside his apartment building as he was going home from work. Moscow police say the attacker was (3) _____ a mask and that there were no witnesses. Mr Filin has (4) _____ burns on his face and doctors are battling to save his (5) _____. A hospital spokesperson said Filin may have to go to a hospital in Belgium for more (6) _____. The police believe the attacker works for the Bolshoi Ballet. Filin has to make many (7) _____ about who dances and who doesn't. Many performers and staff have criticized him for his (8) _____ management style.

treatment

wearing

eyesight

tough

acid

decisions

director

severe

The Bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company that was (9) _____ in 1776 by Moscow prosecutor Prince Pyotr Urusov. Russia's Empress Catherine II gave the Prince (10) _____ to organize theatre performances, masquerades, balls and other (11) _____ of entertainment for ten years. It rose to (12) _____ in the early 20th century because of the amazing technique and (13) _____ of its dancers. Today, it is the (14) _____ company in the world, with around 220 dancers. Mr Filin became the Bolshoi's principal dancer in 1990 and stayed in the (15) _____ for nearly two decades. He became the company's artistic director in 2008. He won many (16) _____, including the People's Artist of the Russian Federation award in 2001.

awards

fame

permission

largest

founded

athleticism

forms

position

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

- 1) someone threw _____
 - a. acid in his face
 - b. acid on his face
 - c. acid into his face
 - d. acid inside his face
- 2) the attacker was wearing a mask and that there _____
 - a. was no witnesses
 - b. were known witnesses
 - c. were no witnesses
 - d. was one witness
- 3) doctors are battling _____
 - a. to save his eye's sight
 - b. to serve his eyesight
 - c. to save this eyesight
 - d. to save his eyesight
- 4) Filin has to make many decisions about who dances _____
 - a. and when doesn't
 - b. and why doesn't
 - c. and which doesn't
 - d. and who doesn't
- 5) staff have criticized him for his _____
 - a. tough managing style
 - b. tough man age meant stile
 - c. tough management style
 - d. tough management styles
- 6) a world-famous ballet company that _____
 - a. was funded in 1776
 - b. was floundered in 1776
 - c. were founded in 1776
 - d. was founded in 1776
- 7) theatre performances, masquerades, balls and other _____
 - a. forms of entertainment
 - b. forms of entertaining
 - c. forms for entertainers
 - d. form soft entertainment
- 8) because of the amazing technique and _____
 - a. athletics of its dancers
 - b. athleticism for its dancers
 - c. athleticism of its dancers
 - d. athleticism of its dancer
- 9) Today, it is the largest company in the world, _____.
 - a. with around 212 dancers
 - b. with around 220 dancers
 - c. with around 222 dancers
 - d. with around 200 dancers
- 10) the People's Artist of the _____
 - a. Russian Federation award
 - b. Russian Federation awards
 - c. Russian Federation awarded
 - d. Russian Federation awarding

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

(1) _____ Russia's Bolshoi Theatre is in hospital because someone (2) _____. Sergei Filin, 42, was attacked outside his apartment building as he was going home from work. Moscow police say the attacker (3) _____ and that there were no witnesses. Mr Filin has severe burns on his face and doctors are battling (4) _____. A hospital spokesperson said Filin may have to go to a hospital in Belgium for more treatment. The police believe (5) _____ the Bolshoi Ballet. Filin has to make many decisions about who dances and who doesn't. Many performers and (6) _____ him for his tough management style.

The Bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company (7) _____ 1776 by Moscow prosecutor Prince Pyotr Urusov. Russia's Empress Catherine II gave the Prince (8) _____ theatre performances, masquerades, balls and other forms of entertainment for ten years. It (9) _____ early 20th century because of the amazing (10) _____ of its dancers. Today, it is the largest company in the world, with around 220 dancers. Mr Filin became the Bolshoi's (11) _____ and stayed in the position for nearly two decades. He became the company's artistic director in 2008. (12) _____, including the People's Artist of the Russian Federation award in 2001.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

1. Where is the artistic director of Russia's Bolshoi Theatre?

2. Where was Sergei Filin attacked?

3. What was the attacker wearing?

4. How many witnesses were there?

5. Why did staff criticize him?

6. When was the ballet company first founded?

7. For how many years did Prince Pyotr Urusov to organize ballets?

8. When did the Bolshoi Ballet become world-famous?

9. How many dancers does the company have?

10. When did Filin become the company's artistic director?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

1. What is Sergei Filin's job?
 - a) doctor
 - b) ballet dancer
 - c) artistic director
 - d) artist and sculptor
2. Where had Filin been just before he was attacked?
 - a) work
 - b) the gym
 - c) at a dance lesson
 - d) a bar
3. What was the attacker wearing?
 - a) a mask
 - b) a baseball cap
 - c) a fur hat
 - d) a face stocking
4. What are doctors trying to save?
 - a) money
 - b) Filin's eyesight
 - c) time
 - d) Filin's life
5. Who does the police think attacked Filin?
 - a) someone he met on Facebook
 - b) a past girlfriend
 - c) someone who hates ballet
 - d) a Bolshoi Ballet worker
6. When was the Bolshoi Ballet founded?
 - a) 1775
 - b) 1776
 - c) 1777
 - d) 1778
7. Who let Prince Pyotr Urusov put on ballets?
 - a) Empress Catherine II
 - b) Empress Catherine III
 - c) Empress Catherine IV
 - d) Empress Catherine V
8. When did the Bolshoi Ballet become world-famous?
 - a) in the mid 20th century
 - b) in the late 19th century
 - c) in the early 20th century
 - d) in the mid 20th century
9. For how long was Filin the principal dancer?
 - a) 10 years
 - b) a decade
 - c) 12 years
 - d) nearly 20 years
10. When did he win a top Russian prize?
 - a) 2001
 - b) 2002
 - c) 2003
 - d) 2004

ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

Role A – Ballet expert

You think ballet is the greatest art form in human history. Tell the others three reasons why. You think everyone should see a few ballets every year. You think it will make everyone more intelligent. You also think everyone should take ballet lessons in elementary school.

Role B – Hip-hop dancer

You think ballet is only for rich people. You think hip-hop is the best form of dance in human history. Tell the others three reasons why. You think everyone should take hip-hop lessons in elementary school. It's a great form of exercise and today's kids love it.

Role C – Ballet dancer

You think ballet is the greatest art form in human history. Tell the others three reasons why. You hate hip-hop. Tell the others three reasons why. BUT... ballet is very tough. You have to practice for many hours a day. It's also painful. Parents usually make their children do ballet.

Role D – Folk dance teacher

You think everyone should learn the folk dances of their country. Tell the others three reasons why. You think ballet doesn't teach children much and is for rich kids. Hip-hop is just noise and will not be popular in 20 years. Folk dances are an important part of a country's culture.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

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

acid	attack
-------------	---------------

- 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">• threw• home• mask• save• Belgium• tough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1776• II• 20th• 220• 1990• 2001
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

BALLET SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

Write five GOOD questions about ballet 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.

BALLET 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 'ballet'?
- c) What do you think about the attack on Sergei Filin?
- d) What would it be like for a ballet director never to see again?
- e) What do you think of ballet?
- f) Which is better, ballet or hip-hop? Why?
- g) Who do you think attacked Mr Filin and why?
- h) How will the attack change Mr Filin's life?
- i) How tough do you think it is being a ballet dancer?
- j) How much competition is there among ballet dancers?

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BALLET 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 know about the Bolshoi Ballet?
- c) Is it important people look at ballet?
- d) What three adjectives best describe ballet?
- e) What's your favourite dance form?
- f) Do you like dancing? Why/Why not?
- g) What do you think of the fitness and athleticism of ballet dancers?
- h) What punishment should the attacker get?
- i) What advice would you give to Sergei Filin?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a ballet 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. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

The (1) _____ director of Russia's Bolshoi Theatre is in hospital because someone (2) _____ acid in his face. Sergei Filin, 42, was attacked outside his apartment building as he was going home from work. Moscow police say the attacker was wearing a mask and that there were no (3) _____. Mr Filin has (4) _____ burns on his face and doctors are battling to save his eyesight. A hospital spokesperson said Filin may have to go to a hospital in Belgium for more (5) _____. The police believe the attacker works for the Bolshoi Ballet. Filin has to make many decisions about who dances and who doesn't. Many performers and staff have criticized him (6) _____ his tough management style.

The Bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company that was (7) _____ in 1776 by Moscow prosecutor Prince Pyotr Urusov. Russia's Empress Catherine II gave the Prince permission (8) _____ organize theatre performances, masquerades, balls and other (9) _____ of entertainment for ten years. It rose to fame in the early 20th century because of the amazing technique and (10) _____ of its dancers. Today, it is the largest company in the world, with around 220 dancers. Mr Filin became the Bolshoi's principal dancer in 1990 and stayed in the (11) _____ for nearly two decades. He became the company's artistic director in 2008. He won many awards, (12) _____ the People's Artist of the Russian Federation award in 2001.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) artistic | (b) artistry | (c) artisan | (d) arts |
| 2. | (a) throwing | (b) thrown | (c) threw | (d) throws |
| 3. | (a) people | (b) observers | (c) witnesses | (d) judges |
| 4. | (a) trouble | (b) flame | (c) hardly | (d) severe |
| 5. | (a) treatment | (b) treatable | (c) treats | (d) treated |
| 6. | (a) of | (b) for | (c) by | (d) at |
| 7. | (a) founders | (b) founder | (c) founding | (d) founded |
| 8. | (a) of | (b) to | (c) at | (d) by |
| 9. | (a) parts | (b) series | (c) forms | (d) games |
| 10. | (a) athletic | (b) athletes | (c) athletics | (d) athleticism |
| 11. | (a) roll | (b) move | (c) place | (d) position |
| 12. | (a) includes | (b) including | (c) included | (d) inclusion |

SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

Paragraph 1

1. astriict director
2. apartment gudibnil
3. there were no itsessnew
4. esvree burns on his face
5. go to a hospital in Belgium for more etaetrntm
6. Filin has to make many soisnceid

Paragraph 2

7. fdunode in 1776
8. gave the Prince oipsesrnm
9. amazing uniquetch
10. tistcilhame of its dancers
11. for nearly two saeddce.
12. He won many srwaad

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () threw acid in his face. Sergei Filin, 42, was attacked outside his apartment building as he was going
- () dances and who doesn't. Many performers and staff have criticized him for his tough management style.
- () The Bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company that was founded in 1776 by Moscow prosecutor
- () performances, masquerades, balls and other forms of entertainment for ten years. It rose to
- () Prince Pyotr Urusov. Russia's Empress Catherine II gave the Prince permission to organize theatre
- () dancers. Today, it is the largest company in the world, with around 220 dancers. Mr Filin became the Bolshoi's principal
- () eyesight. A hospital spokesperson said Filin may have to go to a hospital in Belgium for more treatment. The police
- () dancer in 1990 and stayed in the position for nearly two decades. He became the company's artistic director
- () witnesses. Mr Filin has severe burns on his face and doctors are battling to save his
- () fame in the early 20th century because of the amazing technique and athleticism of its
- (**1**) The artistic director of Russia's Bolshoi Theatre is in hospital because someone
- () believe the attacker works for the Bolshoi Ballet. Filin has to make many decisions about who
- () in 2008. He won many awards, including the People's Artist of the Russian Federation award in 2001.
- () home from work. Moscow police say the attacker was wearing a mask and that there were no

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

1. because acid face hospital threw his In someone in.

2. attacker say a was Moscow mask the police wearing.

3. believe works Bolshoi police attacker the The the for.

4. decisions dances has many who Filin make about to.

5. criticized management him for Staff his have tough.

6. A 1776 in founded was that company ballet world-famous.

7. entertainment Balls other of and forms.

8. early to the century rose in 20th It fame.

9. the dancer became principal 1990 Filin Bolshoi's in Mr.

10. He director became in the 2008 company's artistic.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

The *artistic / artistry* director of Russia's Bolshoi Theatre is in hospital because someone *throws / threw* acid in his face. Sergei Filin, 42, was attacked outside his apartment *build / building* as he was going home from work. Moscow police say the attacker was wearing *a / the* mask and that there were no *witnesses / witness*. Mr Filin has severe *burnt / burns* on his face and doctors are *battling / battled* to save his eyesight. A hospital spokesperson said Filin may have to go to a *hospitality / hospital* in Belgium for more treatment. The police believe the *attacker / attack* works for the Bolshoi Ballet. Filin has to make many decisions about who dances and who *doesn't / does*. Many performers and staff have criticized him for his tough management style.

The Bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company that was *founding / founded* in 1776 by Moscow prosecutor Prince Pyotr Urusov. Russia's Empress Catherine II *gave / made* the Prince permission *for / to* organize theatre performances, masquerades, balls and other *formed / forms* of entertainment for ten years. It *rose / tulip* to fame in the early 20th century because of the amazing *technical / technique* and *athleticism / athletes* of its dancers. Today, it is the largest company in the world, with around 220 dancers. Mr Filin became the Bolshoi's *principle / principal* dancer in 1990 and *stayed / staid* in the position for nearly two decades. He became the company's artistic director in 2008. He won *much / many* awards, including the People's Artist of the Russian Federation award in 2001.

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/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

Th_ _rt_st_c d_r_ct_r _f R_ss_ 's B_lsh_ Th_ tr_ _s
_n h_sp_t_l b_c_ _s s_m_ n thr_w _c_d _n h_s_f_c_ .
S_rg_ F_l_n, 42, w_s _tt_ck_d _ts_d _h_s _p_rtm_nt
b__ld_ng _s h_ w_s g__ng h_m_ fr_m w_rk. M_sc_w
p_l_c_ s_y th_ _tt_ck_r w_s w__r_ng _ m_sk _nd th_t
th_r_w_r_n_w_tn_ss_s. Mr F_l_n h_s s_v_r_b_rns _n
h_s_f_c_ _nd d_ct_rs _r_b_ttl_ng t_ s_v_ h_s
_y_s_ght. _ h_sp_t_l sp_k_sp_rs_n s__d F_l_n m_y
h_v_ t_ g_ t_ _ h_sp_t_l _n B_lg_m fr_m_r_
tr_tm_nt. Th_ p_l_c_ b_l_v_ th_ _tt_ck_r w_rks fr
th_ B_lsh_ B_ll_t. F_l_n h_s t_m_k_m_ny d_c_s__ns
_b__t wh_ d_nc_s _nd wh_ d__sn't. M_ny p_rf_rm_rs
_nd st_ff h_v_ cr_t_c_z_d h_m fr h_s t_g_h
m_n_g_m_nt styl_.

Th_ B_lsh_ _s _ w_rld-f_m__s b_ll_t c_mp_ny th_t
w_s f__nd_d _n 1776 by M_sc_w pr_s_c_t_r Pr_nc_
Py_tr_r_s_v. R_ss_ 's _mpr_ss C_th_r_n_ _g_v_ th_
Pr_nc_ p_rm_ss__n t_ _rg_n_z_ th_ tr_p_rf_rm_nc_s,
m_sq__r_d_s, b_lls _nd th_r_f_rms _f_nt_rt_nm_nt
fr_t_n_y__rs. _t_r_s_ t_f_m_ _n th_ __rly 20th
c_nt_ry b_c_ _s _f th_ _m_z_ng t_chn_q__ _nd
_thl_t_c_sm _f _ts_d_nc_rs. T_d_y, _t_s th_ l_rg_st
c_mp_ny _n th_ w_rld, w_th _r__nd 220 d_nc_rs. Mr
F_l_n b_c_m_ th_ B_lsh_ 's pr_nc_p_l_d_nc_r _n 1990
_nd st_y_d _n th_ p_s_t__n f_r_n__rly tw_ d_c_d_s. H_
b_c_m_ th_ c_mp_ny's _rt_st_c d_r_ct_r _n 2008. H_
w_n m_ny _w_rds, _ncl_d_ng th_ P__pl_'s _rt_st _f th_
R_ss_ _n F_d_r_t__n _w_rd _n 2001.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130120-bolshoi_ballet.html

the artistic director of russia's bolshoi theatre is in hospital because someone threw acid in his face sergei filin 42 was attacked outside his apartment building as he was going home from work moscow police say the attacker was wearing a mask and that there were no witnesses mr filin has severe burns on his face and doctors are battling to save his eyesight a hospital spokesperson said filin may have to go to a hospital in belgium for more treatment the police believe the attacker works for the bolshoi ballet filin has to make many decisions about who dances and who doesn't many performers and staff have criticized him for his tough management style

the bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company that was founded in 1776 by moscow prosecutor prince pyotr urusov russia's empress catherine ii gave the prince permission to organize theatre performances masquerades balls and other forms of entertainment for ten years it rose to fame in the early 20th century because of the amazing technique and athleticism of its dancers today it is the largest company in the world with around 220 dancers mr filin became the bolshoi's principal dancer in 1990 and stayed in the position for nearly two decades he became the company's artistic director in 2008 he won many awards including the people's artist of the russian federation award in 2001

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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The artistic director of Russia's Bolshoi Theatre is in hospital because someone threw acid in his face. Sergei Filin, 42, was attacked outside his apartment building as he was going home from work. Moscow police say the attacker was wearing a mask and that there were no witnesses. Mr Filin has severe burns on his face and doctors are battling to save his eyesight. A hospital spokesman said Filin may have to go to a hospital in Belgium for more treatment. The police believe the attacker works for the Bolshoi Ballet. Filin has to make many decisions about who dances and who doesn't. Many performers and staff have criticized him for his tough management style. The Bolshoi is a world-famous ballet company that was founded in 1776 by Moscow prosecutor Prince Pyotr Urusov. Russia's Empress Catherine II gave the Prince permission to organize theatrical performances, masquerades, balls and other forms of entertainment for ten years. It rose to fame in the early 20th century because of the amazing technique and athleticism of its dancers. Today, it is the largest company in the world, with around 220 dancers. Mr Filin became the Bolshoi's principal dancer in 1990 and stayed in the position for nearly two decades. He became the company's artistic director in 2008. He won many awards, including the People's Artist of the Russian Federation award in 2001.

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

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

4. ATTACKED: Write a magazine article about the attack on Sergei Filin. 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. 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 expert on ballet. Ask him/her three questions about ballet. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. 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 F c T d F e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. attacked | a. ambushed |
| 2. witnesses | b. bystanders |
| 3. severe | c. very bad |
| 4. treatment | d. care |
| 5. tough | e. hard |
| 6. founded | f. started |
| 7. permission | g. authorization |
| 8. technique | h. skill |
| 9. position | i. role |
| 10. awards | j. prizes |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. In hospital in Moscow
2. Outside his apartment building
3. A mask
4. None
5. For his tough management
6. 1776
7. 10
8. In the early 20th century
9. 220
10. 1990

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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