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# Level 4 Michelangelo's 'David' in danger of collapse

5th May, 2014

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david-4.html

# Contents

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Survey	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).



# THE READING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david-4.html

Michelangelo's "David" could collapse because of its weak ankles. Scientists said that cracks in the heels of the 5.17-metre-tall statue could make it crumble under its 5.5-ton weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles heel. Scientists found many "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. Several things have caused this. These include the poor quality of marble, the statue leaning at an angle and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors.

Michelangelo started David when he was 26. He spent three years making it. The statue is of the biblical hero David, who killed the giant Goliath. The rulers of Florence paid for it. They wanted a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was shown to the public in 1504. It stayed outside for 350 years and then moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the weather. Art lovers want it moved to an earthquake proof museum to protect it.

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-andcould-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

# MATCHING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david-4.html

#### **PARAGRAPH ONE:**

1.	collapse because of	a.	Achilles heel
2	crumble under its	b.	its weak ankles
3.	The cracks have become the statue's	c.	"micro-fractures"
4.	Scientists found many	d.	traffic
5.	the statue leaning	e.	5.5-ton weight
6.	vibrations from	f.	at an angle

#### **PARAGRAPH TWO:**

1.	The statue is of the biblical	a.	and military strength
2	The rulers of Florence	b.	the weather
3.	a symbol of the city's commercial	c.	paid for it
4.	It was shown to	d.	proof museum
5.	protect it from	e.	hero David
6.	an earthquake	f.	the public in 1504

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david-4.html

Michelangelo's "David" could collapse (1) ankles.
Scientists said that cracks in the heels of the 5.17-metre-tall statue could
make (2) its 5.5-ton weight. The cracks have
become the (3) Scientists found many "micro-
fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. Several things
(4) These include the (5)
marble, the statue leaning at an angle and vibrations from traffic
(6)
Michelangelo started David when he was 26. (7)
making it. The statue is of (8) David, who killed the
giant Goliath. The rulers of Florence paid for it. (9)
of the city's commercial (10) It was shown to the
public in 1504. It stayed outside for 350 years and
(11) in 1873 to protect it from the weather. Art
lovers want it moved to an (12) museum to protect
it.

# **STATUES SURVEY**

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david-4.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.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

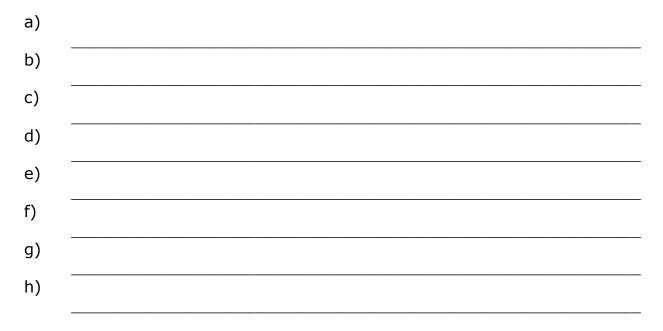
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	
e)	
f)	
g)	
h)	

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).



# FREE WRITING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david-4.html

Write about **statues** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.