

## More people die from selfies than shark attacks

26th September, 2015



Travellers and phone-camera lovers need to note a new danger that has recently come to light. This new life-threatening hazard has sprung up in the past few years and is now a ubiquitous part of life. It is also proving to be twice as lethal as being killed by a

shark. What is this potential new menace? Well, it is the selfie. Yes – love 'em or hate 'em, the desire to take a photo of yourself in front of a world-famous site or to strike a pose and pout with a friend has resulted in more deaths in 2015 than shark attacks. It has been reported that so far this year, 12 people have died as a result of trying to take a selfie. This compares to just six deaths due to unprovoked shark attacks.

Selfie-related accidents can happen in all manner of circumstances. The website Wikipedia.com has detailed the twelve deaths seen this year. They include two Russian men who were killed while taking a selfie with a hand grenade; three Indian students who were killed by an oncoming train while taking selfies on train tracks; and an American woman who fell to her death while taking a selfie with her boyfriend on a cliff in South Africa. The latest death came last month when a Japanese tourist died falling down the stairs while trying to get a shot of himself at the Taj Mahal in India. There may be more. A Russian government spokeswoman told reporters that in July, there were, "dozens of selfie-related deaths" in Russia alone.

Sources: *Huffington Post* / *NewYorkDailyNews* / *Wikipedia*

## Writing

Selfie sticks should be banned. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*travellers / danger / life threatening / ubiquitous / lethal / shark / world famous / site / accidents / circumstances / hand grenade / train tracks / government / spokeswoman*

## True / False

- The article said a new danger is enlightening. T / F
- The article says the new danger is now very common in our lives. T / F
- The new danger has been twice as deadly as shark attacks this year. T / F
- Sharks have killed six people in unprovoked attacks this year. T / F
- Wikipedia outlined the way in which 12 people died because of selfies. T / F
- Three Russians died taking a selfie with a hand grenade. T / F
- An American man died after he fell off a cliff in South Africa. T / F
- A Russian government spokeswoman said 6 people died in Russia. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. note          | a. deadly      |
| 2. hazard        | b. consider    |
| 3. ubiquitous    | c. most recent |
| 4. lethal        | d. very common |
| 5. resulted in   | e. situations  |
| 6. circumstances | f. danger      |
| 7. death         | g. journalists |
| 8. latest        | h. exclusively |
| 9. reporters     | i. lead to     |
| 10. alone        | j. end         |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important are selfies to you?
- What's the favourite photo you have of yourself?
- Why is the world selfie-crazy?
- What safety instructions should be on selfie sticks ?
- Should selfie sticks be banned?
- How dangerous are selfies?
- Do you like photos of yourself?

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. note a new                   | a. of life          |
| 2. recently come                | b. related deaths   |
| 3. a ubiquitous part            | c. danger           |
| 4. a world-                     | d. grenade          |
| 5. six deaths due to unprovoked | e. of circumstances |
| 6. happen in all manner         | f. train            |
| 7. hand                         | g. shark attacks    |
| 8. killed by an oncoming        | h. of himself       |
| 9. trying to get a shot         | i. to light         |
| 10. selfie-                     | j. famous site      |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think when you see people with selfie sticks?
- What do you think of the selfie deaths reported on Wikipedia?
- Are there places you should never take selfies?
- Who would you like to have a selfie with, and why?
- Are selfies better than taking photos of other people?
- Where would you like a photo of yourself?
- Why have some places banned selfie sticks?
- What questions would you like to ask a selfie-stick maker?

## Spelling

- life-threatening dzhraa
- a tsubuiiuoq part of life
- twice as ahlte
- potential new mceena
- This moarepsc to just six
- due to rkdoevoupn shark attacks
- in all manner of massicnrcute
- a hand dneaerg
- killed by an mngocino train
- a Japanese itotsru
- veegrnotmn spokeswoman
- noeszd of selfie-related deaths

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. f	3. d	4. f	5. i
6. e	7. j	8. c	9. g	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Selfies

You think selfies are the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): wedding photos, photos of nature or photos of food.

### Role B – Wedding photos

You think wedding photos are the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): selfies, photos of nature or photos of food.

### Role C – Photos of nature

You think photos of nature are the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): wedding photos, selfies or photos of food.

### Role D – Photos of food

You think photos of food are the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): wedding photos, photos of nature or selfies.

## Speaking – Photos

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

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| • selfies           | • nature photos  |
| • photos of babies  | • family photos  |
| • photos of food    | • wedding photos |
| • photos of kittens | • celebrity pics |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.