

From: Rick
To: IELTS Prep Group
Subj: IELTS Reading lesson 5-31-2017

Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use "power words" as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

Section One

Vocabulary

Match the correct Idiom in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to understand definitions of English Idioms

Column A

Column B

IDIOMS	DEFINITION
1. CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT	1. TO AGREE ON SOMETHING
2. DAY LATE, DOLLAR SHORT	2. WHEN SOMEBODY YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ARRIVES
3. BALL IS IN YOUR COURT	3. BEING TOO INQUISITIVE CAN LEAD TO UNPLEASANT SITUATION
4. FEEL UNDER THE WEATHER	4. MEANS YOU ARE TOO LATE FOR SOMETHING
5. IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO	5. ITS UP TO YOU TO MAKE THE NEXT DECISION OR STEP
6. ON THE BALL	6. NOT FEELING WELL
7. SPEAK OF THE DEVIL	7. ACTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS NEED MORE THAN ONE PERSON
8. SEE EYE TO EYE	8. SOMEONE UNDERSTANDS THE SITUATION WELL

Section Two

Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

ARTICLE A

Girls Who Code Founder: Brown girls can do 'white guy things'

[Source](#)

1. White men do not have a monopoly on good ideas, says Girls Who Code founder Reshma Saujani.

In a commencement speech at Harvard Graduate School of Education on Wednesday, Saujani remarked that while white men may have led the past major revolutionary moments of U.S. history, the tide needs to start turning.

"The culture is the problem. And the solution, graduates, is you," she added. said Saujani, whose nonprofit organization Girls Who Code gives middle- and high school girls access to coding education.



Saujani, who is the daughter of refugees expelled from Uganda, discussed how "real world" success is a result of "bravery, not perfection." Girls must be taught to be brave to achieve success in business, programming, government, and other roles.

2. Despite the progress women have made in recent years, it's not enough, Saujani said. "The next revolution is underway. And its leaders? Well, they don't look like me. They look like tomorrow's commencement speaker."

She was referring to Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook ([FB](#), [Tech30](#)) cofounder and CEO, who was set to address Harvard as the university's main commencement speaker on Thursday.

"I mean no shade to Zuckerberg," said Saujani. "But America is a big, beautiful, diverse country...[yet white men have] occupied a platform that the rest of us haven't had access to. The good news is that platform is no longer out of reach. In the last half-century, women and people of color have been climbing."

3. Saujani's Girls Who Code aims to help bridge the opportunity gap for young girls through its after-school and summer immersion programs.

But Saujani was clear about one thing: Her path to success hasn't been all rosy.

Saujani detailed her journey, from studying public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School, to getting rejected from Yale Law School not once, but three times, before transferring in. Saujani said she was "obsessed" with the idea of getting credentialed from Yale to set her on her path to working in politics and social justice.

Upon graduating from Yale, she ran for public office and lost -- twice. In 2012, she started Girls Who Code, which is projected to serve 40,000 girls across all 50 U.S. states this year. This summer the group will offer 76 free summer immersion classes, sponsored by 39 companies and philanthropic organizations, to teach young girls coding.

4. Unlike Zuckerberg, who dropped out of college to create Facebook, Saujani said it took her a long time to learn to be brave. "He just went for it," she said "It took me 33 years to figure out that brown girls can do white guy things, too."

Saujani urged the Harvard graduates to push girls to be brave, so it doesn't take them 33 years to find their own strength. "Push them to take risks. Reward them for trying," she said. If you do your part — if we all do our part — then we will unleash the most badass generation of women leaders the world has ever seen."

ARTICLE B

5 Cool Inventions That Could Save The Planet

[Source](#)

You've heard about the impact that our technology-driven population is having on the planet -- from cars, to energy factories, to the over-consumption of the earth's resources.

It's causing a lot of problems.

Yet, inventors are also using this technology to improve lives across the planet. Here are a few of their creations (or soon-to-be ones):

1. **A high-tech sieve that makes the ocean drinkable**

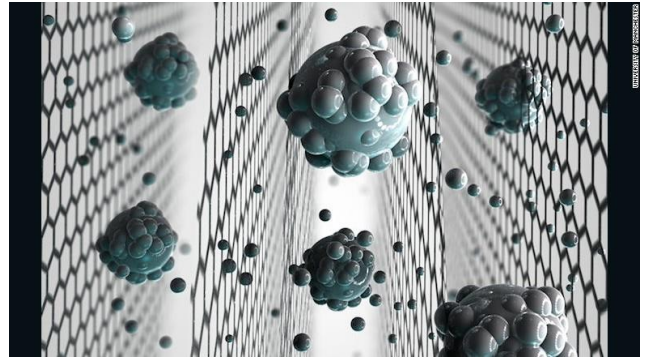
Yes, you can already turn the ocean into drinkable water through existing, industrial-scale desalination plants.

But these plants are often costly and can damage the environment: They use large amounts of energy, produce greenhouse gases and can harm marine life.

So, researchers in the UK have developed a sieve made out of graphene that may be able to filter out salt using less energy.

That could help provide safe, clean, drinkable water -- which is a rare resource in many countries.

In fact, the United Nations predicts that in less than a decade, 14% of people around the world will not have access to sufficient water resources where they live.



2. A drone that pollinates

So much of what you eat and drink every day -- apples, carrots, chocolate, even coffee -- relies on pollination, which allows plants to reproduce.

In fact, about 75% of the world's crops are produced with the help of pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

Yet these insect pollinators belong to a group that's facing extinction, according to a UN report.

So, researchers in Japan are testing drones to see if they can carry pollen from one plant to another -- just like a small insect.

The researchers' drone was able to pollinate a very large flower, but there's still a lot more work to do before these machines can carry out the work of bees.



3. Biodegradable Bullets

Protecting the environment might seem like the last thing the US military is worried about. Just this year, however, the US Army asked for proposals for biodegradable ammunition to replace the existing rounds it uses during training exercises.

The current spent rounds -- the bullet casings that are ejected from a weapon after it's been fired -- are believed to take hundreds of years to biodegrade, according to the Pentagon, and they contain components that could harm the soil and water.

As a result, the US Environmental Protection Agency says that military facilities make up the majority of the country's most polluted sites.

So, the US Department of Defense is asking for new ammunition that contains seeds to produce food for animals: "This effort will make use of seeds to grow environmentally friendly plants that remove soil contaminants and consume the biodegradable components developed under this project."



4. A plant based plastic that doesn't pollute

Inspiration can come from some unlikely places. For Indonesian entrepreneur Kevin Kumala, it arrived on a rainy day as he watched dozens of motorcyclists wearing vinyl ponchos to protect them from the wet weather.

"It clicked that these disgusting, toxic ponchos would be used a few times and then discarded, but they would not decompose," he said. So, the biology major set out to create a plastic made from a biodegradable material -- and he and his partner succeeded in making ponchos, bags and food packaging from cassava, a cheap and common vegetable found across Indonesia.

In 2014, Kumala launched Avani Eco, which produces four tons of cassava-plastic products each day. He hopes to secure funding to produce a lot more. Kumala is so confident in his product that he will dissolve and drink his bioplastic creations.



5. A plane that emits only water

OK, so it fits only four people, including the pilot -- but this sleek-looking plane runs on an electrical current from a supply of hydrogen and oxygen, aided by a battery. The result? Its only emission is water vapor.

"This is the first time that somebody has built an airplane that can carry more than one person and which is driven by hydrogen," says André Thess of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), which helped build the aircraft.

The hope is to create emission-free air taxis -- like the HY4 -- that can easily travel from city to city in the near future.

"Say you want to go between Irvine and Ventura in the Los Angeles area. It can take you between one and a half and three hours if there are traffic jams, but by plane it will take you around 35 to 40 minutes," says Josef Kallo, the HY4 project leader.

"And within a controlled airspace you could have a lot of these planes flying around."

