

A. Listening Comprehension



Part One

(Audiotrack: QR-Code rechts / Aufgaben S. 1)

News Item 1: World's oldest person

The world's oldest person has just celebrated her 119th birthday in Japan. Kane Tanaka, who has a weakness for fizzy drinks and chocolate, spent her birthday in her nursing home in south-west Japan. Tanaka has been the world's oldest person since March 2019, when she was 116. Born in 1903, the year the first Tour de France was held, Tanaka has lived through five Japanese imperial reigns, two world wars and two global pandemics. Tanaka is one of a large and growing number of Japanese centenarians. According to the health ministry, there are currently over 85,000 people in Japan who are aged 100 or older. The majority are women, with men making up around 10,000. Life expectancy in Japan, one of the fastest ageing societies on earth, is also at a record high, at 87.7 years for women and 81.6 years for men.

Tanaka celebrated her birthday last Sunday with a bottle of Coke – her favourite drink – and made a peace sign for photographers. In the nursing home, Tanaka keeps herself busy with maths problems and puzzles and by playing board games. Tanaka, the seventh of nine children, married when she was 19 and worked in the family's noodle shop until the age of 103. At this point she started her well-earned retirement.

Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/03/worlds-oldest-person-celebrates-119th-birthday-in-japan-nursing-home> (last accessed on 10.03.2022).

News Item 2: Super Bowl

Last night's Super Bowl between the LA Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals proved to be one of the most exciting championship finals in recent years. The Rams won 23:20 in front of a home crowd of over 70,000 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California. The halftime show featured hip-hop legends Eminem, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Kendrick Lamar and Mary J. Blige. For many fans, it was the best halftime show ever. Others enjoyed the innovative and fun commercials. The game itself was watched by more than 112 million people worldwide via TV and streaming. Indeed, for many Americans, the Super Bowl is an excuse to get together with family and friends and have a party. Super Bowl Sunday is one of the country's biggest food days, second only to Thanksgiving. Last year, an incredible \$11 billion was spent on food and drink. Americans ordered more than 12.5 million pizzas during the game and ate over 1.42 billion chicken wings. Other favorites include spare ribs and hamburgers. All this is washed down with millions of gallons of soft drinks and beer. It's not surprising that all this excessive eating and drinking has its consequences. As many as 17 million people do not go to work on „Super Sick Monday“, the day after Super Bowl Sunday. This results in a \$4 billion loss in productivity.

Adapted from: <https://www.dogonews.com/2022/2/3/super-bowl-56-is-this-sunday> (last accessed on 10.02.2022).

Part Two

(Audiotrack: QR-Code oben / Aufgabe S. 2)

Survey: Cheerleading

Reporter: Good evening! You're listening to Radio Kansas and my name is Rob Lowe. Tonight's discussion topic is cheerleading and I would love to hear your opinion on this sport.

Do you think cheerleading is an essential part of American culture or is it time to put away the pompoms? I'm looking forward to your calls.

Amanda: Hi there. My name is Amanda. I used to be a cheerleader 30 years ago but I would not want my grandchild to do it nowadays. It's become so dangerous. When I was a girl, cheerleading was jumping up and down and waving pompoms. Today, half-time routines include dangerous stunts, where female cheerleaders do tricks on top of human pyramids. I can't bear to look!

Lauren: Hi. My name is Lauren and Amanda is right about that. There are other reasons for banning cheerleading at football games. I think watching young, attractive women doing dance routines on the sidelines and cheering on male players just makes women seem less important in this male-dominated world. Why are the women on the sides of the pitch? Why aren't we watching them ON the pitch? We need to be promoting women's professional sports. We can do more than just look good.

- Rachel: Hi, my name is Rachel and I am a member of the All-Stars Comets cheerleading team. We don't cheer at sports events, we enter national competitions and compete against other teams. You should go along, it's great! We perform amazing stunts to loud, pulsating music. It's real sport.
- Courtney: My name is Courtney. Why would you want to take away the one thing that I love the most? It's the biggest thing in my life. I wake up and I know I have cheerleading practice after school. It's what brings me alive and gets my adrenaline pumping in the best way possible. Sure, there are some risks, but if you can't handle the intensity, do something else.
- Dylan: My name is Dylan and I'm against cheerleading at American football matches. Professional cheerleaders add little to the sport. It is clear that cheerleaders are not necessary to improve spectator participation. Fans at soccer matches in England are very animated without the presence of cheerleaders. Getting rid of professional cheerleaders would allow fans to focus properly on the game itself.
- Adam: Hi. My name is Adam and I do cheerleading. „But you're a guy!“ I can hear you say. When I got to college, I discovered that the cheerleading team was for both female and male students. It's not just about short skirts and dance choreography. It is tough and requires a lot of blood, sweat and skill. Cheerleading has also opened up many doors for me. I now work as an instructor for one of the nation's largest cheer camp companies. It allows me to travel to some amazing places and I have made some lifelong friends along the way.
- Haley: My name is Haley and I love being a cheerleader! One of the best parts of being a cheerleader is that you get to inspire so many people. At games, little girls show me their handstands, jumps and flips. They think I'm one of the greatest people in the world. I encourage them to join a cheerleading team and try new things. Being a cheerleader means setting a good example, so you can't let your grades drop, you can't fight with people and you've got to encourage your teammates, other squads, and those little girls.
- Reporter: We're going to take a commercial break right now but keep those calls coming. We've got plenty of time left.

Adapted from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/31/sports/31cheerleader.html> (last accessed on 10.03.2022).

Part Three

(Audiotrack: QR-Code S. 13 / Aufgabe S. 3)

Interview: Jackpot winner

- Reporter: Good morning, everyone. With me in the studio are Rob and Caroline O'Leary, who last week won the EuroMillions jackpot. My name is Jamie Flynn and I am here to present the cheque to them both. Congratulations, here is your cheque for £ 184 million.
- Caroline: Wow, that's amazing. I still can't believe it.
- Reporter: There must be so many different emotions going through your head right now. How are you feeling?
- Rob: It's like Caroline said, it's just unbelievable. Our whole world has been turned upside down.
- Reporter: Tell us something about yourselves. What do you do for a living?
- Rob: I am a sales manager for a communications company.
- Caroline: And I have a hair salon with my mum and my sister. I run the business side of that. We have two boys who are ten and eight years old. And we also have three horses, sheep, chickens, two dogs and some geckos.
- Reporter: Wow! You must be busy. Why did you decide to go public about your big win?
- Caroline: We want to share this win. We have had a lot of help all of our lives and now we have the chance to give that back. You can't give your family money without them asking where it is from. We don't want to lie. We want to be open with the people we love.
- Reporter: Yes, I can understand that. Has life changed for you already?
- Caroline: We're living in a dream at the moment. There is so much to think about. We're trying to carry on with life as normal, though. Our children love simple things like going for a bike ride or sleeping in a tent. That's not going to change.
- Reporter: Do you play the lottery regularly?
- Rob: Yes, I buy a ticket every week, but I have never won anything.

Reporter: And do you always use the same numbers?

Rob: Yes, I do actually. My lucky number is a combination of our birthdays.

Reporter: OK. Is there one thing you have always dreamt of buying?

Caroline: I'm looking forward to going on a family holiday. We haven't had a holiday for such a long time.

Rob: Yes, in fact, we have booked two holidays for next year. Tom, our oldest son, would like to stay on a ranch in Texas and ride horses. And our youngest son has always wanted to go to Hawaii, so we are going to do that too.

Reporter: Are you going to give up work now?

Caroline: Well, my hair salon is a family business, so I can't stop working. I've worked this week. I will take some time off though.

Rob: I have left work now. I think I will have a full-time job just managing all this. It feels like a roller-coaster ride.

Reporter: When you found out that you had won, what did you do to celebrate?

Caroline: Last Monday we had a family meal so that we could share our amazing news. And, to tell the truth, we went out and bought some new bedroom furniture. We moved house three months ago and since then, we have been living out of suitcases, so I thought I would buy a new wardrobe and a chest of drawers.

Reporter: Thank you, Caroline and Rob, for this interview. And once again, congratulations on your big win.

Adapted from: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10900237/Frugal-184m-EuroMillions-winners-buy-second-handVOLVO.html> (last accessed on 30.09.2022).