

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Top spam e-mail sender stays in prison

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0803/080304-spam-hero.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

4th March, 2008

THE ARTICLE

An American court has sent a strong warning to anyone who sends spam e-mail. Virginia judges decided that one of the world's top e-mail spammers, Jeremy Jaynes, must stay in prison. He was originally jailed for nine years in 2004 for mass distribution of junk e-mail. He appealed against the decision and was trying to get his prison sentence overturned, saying that sending bulk e-mail was not against the law. He tried to argue in court that his rights of free speech meant he could send as many mails as he liked. The judges disagreed in a 4-3 decision against him. Virginia's state attorney Bob McDonnell said: "This is a historic victory in the fight against online crime." He added: "Spam not only clogs e-mail inboxes and destroys productivity, it also defrauds citizens and threatens the online revolution that is so critical to...economic prosperity."

Jaynes was thought to be one of the top ten spammers in the world before the police caught him. He used aliases and false Internet addresses to mail out millions of junk mails. Investigators said he sent as many as ten million mails a day, which earned him up to \$750,000 a month. Many of these mails were for fake goods and services. The court ruled that Jaynes was sending out false information and this was not protected under America's laws of free speech. Jaynes' lawyer said the court's decision was dangerous as it meant anyone who sent out bulk mail anonymously could now be arrested. Although keeping Jaynes in prison is good news in the fight against cyber-crime, there are thousands more like him. Experts predict that up to 90 percent of the world's e-mail is junk. Spam also tricks people into giving personal information like bank and credit card details to the spammers.

WARM-UPS

1. E-MAIL: Walk around the class and talk to other students about e-mail. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

American courts / strong warnings / prison / free speech / rights / online crime / aliases / junk mails / fake goods / experts / personal information / spammers

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

3. E-OPINIONS: Talk with your partner(s) about the points below. Are they true? Rate them: 10 = very true, 1 = not at all true. Talk about the reasons for your scores. Change partners and share your findings.

- a. _____ e-mail can never harm us
- b. _____ children should not have e-mail accounts until they are 16
- c. _____ letters are better than e-mail
- d. _____ anyone who buys anything from an e-mail is stupid
- e. _____ spammers are worse than thieves
- f. _____ sending e-mail anonymously is totally OK
- g. _____ spammers should be jailed for damaging the economy
- h. _____ online crime will get worse in the future

4. E-MAIL PROBLEMS: Talk with your partner(s) about these e-mail problems. Agree on the three biggest and smallest. Change partners and share your findings.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • spam | • English spelling |
| • time taken to send mail | • personal information |
| • file size | • phishing |
| • connection speed | • losing mails |
| • viruses | • other _____ |

5. JUNK: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'junk'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. QUICK ROLE PLAY: Student A **strongly** believes that sending spam e-mails isn't a criminal offence; Student B **strongly** believes sending spam e-mails is a serious crime. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. A US court ruled a big-time e-mail spammer must stay in jail. | T / F |
| b. The spammer will be released from prison in 2013. | T / F |
| c. Forty three judges decided to keep the spammer in prison. | T / F |
| d. Spam mail has a negative effect on the economy. | T / F |
| e. The spammer used his own name in all of the mails he sent. | T / F |
| f. The spammer sent as many as 10,000,000 mails every day. | T / F |
| g. It could be that up to 90 per cent of all e-mails is spam. | T / F |
| h. Spammers never try to get personal information and bank details. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. mass | a. reversed |
| 2. originally | b. fools |
| 3. overturned | c. wealth |
| 4. clogs | d. large-scale |
| 5. prosperity | e. imitation |
| 6. aliases | f. initially |
| 7. fake | g. forecast |
| 8. anonymously | h. blocks |
| 9. predict | i. false names |
| 10. tricks | j. secretly |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. sent a strong warning to anyone who | a. laws of free speech |
| 2. mass distribution | b. sentence overturned |
| 3. trying to get his prison | c. false Internet addresses |
| 4. his rights of | d. of junk e-mail |
| 5. the online revolution that is so critical | e. be one of the top ten |
| 6. thought to | f. sends spam e-mail |
| 7. He used aliases and | g. world's e-mail is junk |
| 8. not protected under America's | h. to economic prosperity |
| 9. anyone who sent out bulk mail | i. free speech |
| 10. Experts predict that up to 90% of the | j. anonymously |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

An American court has sent a _____ warning to anyone who sends spam e-mail. Virginia judges decided that one of the world's top e-mail spammers, Jeremy Jaynes, must stay in prison. He was _____ jailed for nine years in 2004 for mass distribution of junk e-mail. He appealed _____ the decision and was trying to get his prison sentence overturned, saying that sending bulk e-mail was not against the law. He tried to _____ in court that his rights of free speech meant he could send as many mails as he liked. The judges disagreed in a 4-3 _____ against him. Virginia's state attorney Bob McDonnell said: "This is a historic victory in the fight against _____ crime." He added: "Spam not only _____ e-mail inboxes and destroys productivity, it also defrauds citizens and threatens the online revolution that is so critical to...economic _____."

*decision**against**prosperity**online**strong**argue**clogs**originally*

Jaynes was _____ to be one of the top ten spammers in the world before the police caught him. He used aliases and _____ Internet addresses to mail out millions of junk mails. Investigators said he sent as _____ as ten million mails a day, which earned him up to \$750,000 a month. Many of these mails were for _____ goods and services. The court ruled that Jaynes was sending out false information and this was not protected _____ America's laws of free speech. Jaynes' lawyer said the court's decision was dangerous as it _____ anyone who sent out bulk mail anonymously could now be arrested. Although keeping Jaynes in prison is good news in the fight against cyber-crime, there are thousands more like him. Experts _____ that up to 90 percent of the world's e-mail is junk. Spam also _____ people into giving personal information like bank and credit card details to the spammers.

*under**many**fake**tricks**thought**meant**false**predict*

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

An American court has _____ anyone who sends spam e-mail. Virginia judges decided that one of the world's top e-mail spammers, Jeremy Jaynes, must stay in prison. He _____ nine years in 2004 for mass distribution of junk e-mail. He appealed against the decision and was _____ sentence overturned, saying that sending bulk e-mail was not against the law. He tried to argue in court that his rights of free speech meant he could send _____ liked. The judges disagreed in a 4-3 decision against him. Virginia's state attorney Bob McDonnell said: "This is a historic _____ against online crime." He added: "Spam _____ inboxes and destroys productivity, it also defrauds citizens and threatens the online revolution that _____ economic prosperity."

Jaynes _____ of the top ten spammers in the world before the police caught him. He used aliases and false Internet addresses to mail out millions of junk mails. Investigators _____ as ten million mails a day, which earned him up to \$750,000 a month. Many of these mails _____ services. The court ruled that Jaynes was sending out false information and this was not protected under America's _____. Jaynes' lawyer said the court's decision was dangerous as it meant anyone who sent out bulk mail anonymously could now be arrested. Although keeping Jaynes in prison _____ against cyber-crime, there are thousands more like him. Experts predict that up to 90 percent of the world's e-mail is junk. Spam _____ giving personal information like bank and credit card details to the spammers.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'junk' and 'mail'.

junk	mail
-------------	-------------

- 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 exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong • originally • overturned • judges • historic • critical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • false • earned • protected • dangerous • fight • tricks
--	--

STUDENT E-MAIL SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about e-mail 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.

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 'spam'?
 - c) How do you feel when you see junk mail in your inbox?
 - d) What would you like to do to people who send you junk mail?
 - e) Do you think the authorities could and should do more to stop spammers sending junk mail?
 - f) Is it part of free speech to send mails to people you don't know?
 - g) What do you do to keep your e-mail address known to as few people as possible?
 - h) What punishment should spammers receive for sending out junk mail?
 - i) Why do you think Jaynes thought it was OK to send up to 10 million e-mails a day using aliases and false Internet addresses?
-

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Has a junk mail ever successfully tricked you?
- c) Do you think nine years in prison is a suitable sentence for Jeremy Jaynes?
- d) Do you think junk mail will be a problem for many years or will someone find a solution to stop spamming?
- e) Do you prefer e-mail or writing letters with a pen and mailing them in an envelope?
- f) What do you do to avoid spam?
- g) Are you worried that the Internet will become more and more dangerous?
- h) What do you think about what Jaynes' lawyer said about the decision?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

An American court has sent a (1) _____ warning to anyone who sends spam e-mail. Virginia judges decided that one of the world's top e-mail spammers, Jeremy Jaynes, must stay in prison. He was (2) _____ jailed for nine years in 2004 for mass distribution of junk e-mail. He appealed against the decision and was trying to get his prison sentence (3) _____, saying that sending bulk e-mail was not against the law. He tried to argue in court that his rights (4) _____ free speech meant he could send as many mails as he liked. The judges disagreed in a 4-3 decision against him. Virginia's state attorney Bob McDonnell said: "This is a (5) _____ victory in the fight against online crime." He added: "Spam not only clogs e-mail inboxes and destroys productivity, it also defrauds citizens and (6) _____ the online revolution that is so critical to...economic prosperity."

Jaynes was thought (7) _____ be one of the top ten spammers in the world before the police caught him. He used (8) _____ and false Internet addresses to mail out millions of junk mails. Investigators said he sent as many as ten million mails a day, which (9) _____ him up to \$750,000 a month. Many of these mails were for fake goods and services. The court ruled that Jaynes was sending out false information and this was not protected (10) _____ America's laws of free speech. Jaynes' lawyer said the court's decision was dangerous as it meant anyone who sent out bulk mail anonymously could now be arrested. Although (11) _____ Jaynes in prison is good news in the fight against cyber-crime, there are thousands more like him. Experts predict that up to 90 percent of the world's e-mail is junk. Spam also tricks people (12) _____ giving personal information like bank and credit card details to the spammers.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) strengthen | (b) strength | (c) strongest | (d) strong |
| 2. | (a) origins | (b) originally | (c) origin | (d) originate |
| 3. | (a) overturned | (b) overtaken | (c) overstayed | (d) overcast |
| 4. | (a) by | (b) for | (c) of | (d) from |
| 5. | (a) hysterical | (b) historically | (c) historic | (d) historian |
| 6. | (a) threats | (b) threatens | (c) treats | (d) threatening |
| 7. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) on | (d) out |
| 8. | (a) aliens | (b) alias | (c) alas | (d) aliases |
| 9. | (a) burned | (b) earned | (c) yearned | (d) turned |
| 10. | (a) over | (b) before | (c) around | (d) under |
| 11. | (a) keep | (b) keeps | (c) keeping | (d) kept |
| 12. | (a) into | (b) onto | (c) and to | (d) up to |

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 about spam mails and junk mails. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CYBER DANGERS: Make a poster about all the different dangers and annoyances of the Internet – from spam to phishing to identity theft. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SPAM: Write a magazine article about a spammer who became very rich by sending bulk spam mail and then ended up in prison. Include imaginary interviews with the spammer and someone who lost a lot of money after buying fake goods from one of the spammer's mails.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the head teacher of cybercrime fighting unit. Ask her/him three questions about cybercrime. Give her/him three suggestions on what (s)he should do to stop it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. T b. T c. F d. T e. F f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. mass | a. large-scale |
| 2. originally | b. initially |
| 3. overturned | c. reversed |
| 4. clogs | d. blocks |
| 5. prosperity | e. wealth |
| 6. aliases | f. false names |
| 7. fake | g. imitation |
| 8. anonymously | h. secretly |
| 9. predict | i. forecast |
| 10. tricks | j. fools |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. sent a strong warning to anyone who | a. sends spam e-mail |
| 2. mass distribution | b. of junk e-mail |
| 3. trying to get his prison | c. sentence overturned |
| 4. his rights of | d. free speech |
| 5. the online revolution that is so critical | e. to economic prosperity |
| 6. thought to | f. be one of the top ten |
| 7. He used aliases and | g. false Internet addresses |
| 8. not protected under America's | h. laws of free speech |
| 9. anyone who sent out bulk mail | i. anonymously |
| 10. Experts predict that up to 90% of the | j. world's e-mail is junk |

GAP FILL:

Top spam e-mail sender stays in prison

An American court has sent a **strong** warning to anyone who sends spam e-mail. Virginia judges decided that one of the world's top e-mail spammers, Jeremy Jaynes, must stay in prison. He was **originally** jailed for nine years in 2004 for mass distribution of junk e-mail. He appealed **against** the decision and was trying to get his prison sentence overturned, saying that sending bulk e-mail was not against the law. He tried to **argue** in court that his rights of free speech meant he could send as many mails as he liked. The judges disagreed in a 4-3 **decision** against him. Virginia's state attorney Bob McDonnell said: "This is a historic victory in the fight against **online** crime." He added: "Spam not only **clogs** e-mail inboxes and destroys productivity, it also defrauds citizens and threatens the online revolution that is so critical to...economic **prosperity**."

Jaynes was **thought** to be one of the top ten spammers in the world before the police caught him. He used aliases and **false** Internet addresses to mail out millions of junk mails. Investigators said he sent as **many** as ten million mails a day, which earned him up to \$750,000 a month. Many of these mails were for **fake** goods and services. The court ruled that Jaynes was sending out false information and this was not protected **under** America's laws of free speech. Jaynes' lawyer said the court's decision was dangerous as it **meant** anyone who sent out bulk mail anonymously could now be arrested. Although keeping Jaynes in prison is good news in the fight against cyber-crime, there are thousands more like him. Experts **predict** that up to 90 percent of the world's e-mail is junk. Spam also **tricks** people into giving personal information like bank and credit card details to the spammers.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d 2 - b 3 - a 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - a 8 - d 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a