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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>



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

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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-and-could-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).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

