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Level 5

Michelangelo's 'David' in danger of collapse

5th May, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david-5.html>



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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's statue "David" is in danger of collapsing due to its weak ankles. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall statue could make it crumble under its 5.5-ton weight. The cracks have become the statue's Achilles heel. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University found a whole series of "micro-fractures" that have weakened David's ankles. A number of things have caused this. These include the poor quality of marble, the statue leaning at an angle for centuries and vibrations from traffic and museum visitors.

Michelangelo started David when he was 26 and spent three years making it. It portrays the biblical hero David, who killed the giant Goliath. The rulers of Florence commissioned the work. They wanted a symbol of the city's commercial and military strength. It was unveiled to the public in 1504. It stayed outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 to protect it from the weather. Art lovers have been calling for the statue to be moved to a purpose-built, earthquake proof museum to protect it from the vibrations from traffic and construction work.

Sources: <http://rt.com/news/156500-florence-stature-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.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. in danger of collapsing due | a. of marble |
| 2. crumble under | b. visitors |
| 3. a whole series of | c. have caused this |
| 4. A number of things | d. to its weak ankles |
| 5. the poor quality | e. its 5.5-ton weight |
| 6. the statue leaning | f. from traffic |
| 7. vibrations | g. "micro-fractures" |
| 8. museum | h. at an angle |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. It portrays the biblical | a. proof museum |
| 2. The rulers of Florence | b. and military strength |
| 3. a symbol of the city's commercial | c. the vibrations |
| 4. It was unveiled to the | d. hero David |
| 5. Art | e. commissioned the work |
| 6. a purpose-built, earthquake | f. work |
| 7. protect it from | g. public in 1504 |
| 8. construction | h. lovers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.html>

Michelangelo's statue "David" is in danger of collapsing (1) _____ ankles. Scientists have confirmed that cracks in the heels of the giant 5.17-metre-tall statue (2) _____ under its 5.5-ton weight. The cracks have become the (3) _____. Tests carried out by Italy's National Research Council and Florence University found a whole series (4) _____ that have weakened David's ankles. A number of things have caused this. These include (5) _____ marble, the statue leaning at an angle for centuries and (6) _____ and museum visitors.

Michelangelo started David when he was 26 and spent three years making it. It (7) _____ hero David, who killed the giant Goliath. The rulers of Florence (8) _____. They wanted a symbol of the city's (9) _____ strength. It was unveiled to the public in 1504. It stayed outside in the Piazza della Signoria for 350 years. It was moved indoors in 1873 (10) _____ the weather. Art lovers have been calling for the statue to be moved (11) _____, earthquake proof museum to protect it from the vibrations from traffic (12) _____.

STATUES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140505-michelangelo-david.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)

