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US Coast Guard sinks tsunami ghost ship

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

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7th April, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

The U.S. Coast Guard sank a Japanese fishing boat off the coast of Alaska on Thursday. The 60-metre ship was washed away by the Japanese tsunami in March 2011. The boat, named the *Ryou-Un Maru*, was becoming a danger to other ships near Alaska. It had no lights and contained more than 7,500 litres of diesel fuel. U.S. Coast Guard spokesman David Mosley said it was safer to sink the ship even though it would create a little pollution. It is now almost two km under the sea.

There are many more things floating from Japan towards the U.S. Mr Mosley said: "The *Ryou-Un Maru* is really one of the first [big] pieces of tsunami debris to make its way across the Pacific Ocean." He said many people followed the news to see what would happen to it. Mr Mosley said: "I think it [interested] a lot of people because it survived. It was believed lost...and it spends an entire year at sea - A summer, a winter and it makes it all the way across the Pacific Ocean."

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. off the | a. the Japanese tsunami |
| 2. washed away by | b. other ships |
| 3. becoming a danger to | c. under the sea |
| 4. 7,500 litres of | d. little pollution |
| 5. it would create a | e. coast of Alaska |
| 6. two km | f. diesel fuel |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. many more things floating | a. way across |
| 2. pieces of | b. news |
| 3. make its | c. tsunami debris |
| 4. many people followed the | d. Pacific Ocean |
| 5. an entire | e. from Japan |
| 6. across the | f. year at sea |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

The U.S. Coast Guard sank a Japanese fishing boat _____ of Alaska on Thursday. The 60-metre ship was _____ the Japanese tsunami in March 2011. The boat, named the *Ryou-Un Maru*, was becoming _____ ships near Alaska. It had no lights and _____ than 7,500 litres of diesel fuel. U.S. Coast Guard spokesman David Mosley said it was _____ the ship even though it would _____ pollution. It is now almost two km under the sea.

There are many more _____ from Japan towards the U.S. Mr Mosley said: "The *Ryou-Un Maru* is really one of the first [big] pieces of _____ to make its way across the Pacific Ocean." He said many people _____ to see what would happen to it. Mr Mosley said: "I think it [interested] a lot of people _____. It was believed lost...and it _____ year at sea - A summer, a winter and it makes it _____ the Pacific Ocean."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

The U.S. Coast Guard sank a Japanese fishing boat (1) _____ the coast of Alaska on Thursday. The 60-metre ship was washed (2) _____ by the Japanese tsunami in March 2011. The boat, named the *Ryou-Un Maru*, was (3) _____ a danger to other ships near Alaska. It had no lights and (4) _____ more than 7,500 litres of diesel fuel. U.S. Coast Guard spokesman David Mosley said it was safer to sink the ship (5) _____ though it would create a (6) _____ pollution. It is now almost two km under the sea.

There are many more things (7) _____ from Japan towards the U.S. Mr Mosley said: "The *Ryou-Un Maru* is really one of the first [big] (8) _____ of tsunami debris to (9) _____ its way across the Pacific Ocean." He said many people (10) _____ the news to see what would happen to it. Mr Mosley said: "I think it [interested] a lot of people because it survived. It was believed (11) _____ ...and it spends an entire year at sea - A summer, a winter and it makes it all the way (12) _____ the Pacific Ocean."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) of | (b) off | (c) under |
| 2. | (a) away | (b) down | (c) through |
| 3. | (a) became | (b) becomes | (c) becoming |
| 4. | (a) container | (b) contained | (c) contains |
| 5. | (a) even | (b) ever | (c) event |
| 6. | (a) few | (b) small | (c) little |
| 7. | (a) floating | (b) floats | (c) float |
| 8. | (a) bites | (b) pieces | (c) puzzles |
| 9. | (a) do | (b) have | (c) make |
| 10. | (a) followed | (b) stalked | (c) chased |
| 11. | (a) cost | (b) most | (c) lost |
| 12. | (a) though | (b) across | (c) at |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. hngsifi boat
2. off the tscao of Alaska
3. dwaehs away
4. a ednrga to other ships
5. nedicanot more than 7,500 litres
6. it would rceeat a little

Paragraph 2

7. more things Inaitogf from Japan
8. iscpee of tsunami debris
9. people efodwlol the news
10. it esedtitenr a lot of people
11. it ivrusevd
12. an iernet year at sea

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of Alaska on Thursday. The 60-metre ship was washed away by the Japanese
- () tsunami in March 2011. The boat, named the Ryou-Un Maru, was becoming a danger to other
- () fuel. U.S. Coast Guard spokesman David Mosley said it was safer to sink the ship even
- () across the Pacific Ocean." He said many people followed the news to
- (**1**) The U.S. Coast Guard sank a Japanese fishing boat off the coast
- () There are many more things floating from Japan towards the U.S. Mr Mosley said:
- () ships near Alaska. It had no lights and contained more than 7,500 litres of diesel
- () because it survived. It was believed lost...and it spends an entire
- () see what would happen to it. Mr Mosley said: "I think it [interested] a lot of people
- () year at sea - A summer, a winter and it makes it all the way across the Pacific Ocean."
- () though it would create a little pollution. It is now almost two km under the sea.
- () "The Ryou-Un Maru is really one of the first [big] pieces of tsunami debris to make its way

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Alaska Japanese off of A boat coast fishing the.

2. was 60 washed - away metre ship The.

3. A Alaska near ships other to danger.

4. pollution It create little would a.

5. two the It almost under now km sea is.

6. from many Japan more things There floating are.

7. tsunami One first of the pieces debris of big.

8. the see happen followed to would People news what.

9. a I lot think of it people interested.

10. spends It sea at year entire an.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1204/120407_coast_guard.html

Write about ghost ships for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

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. GHOST SHIPS: Search the Internet and find more information about ghost ships. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the Japanese ghost ship. Include an imaginary interview with the Coast Guard. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a ghost ships expert. Ask him/her three questions about ghost ships. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.