**Visiting the Forbidden City**

In Germany, tourists can go on organised tours to visit a secret Nazi **compound** called the ‘Forbidden City’. Both the Nazis and the **Soviets** used the complex.

The complex stayed secret inside of a forest and behind a fence. The Nazis hid underground **bunkers** in homes where they planned much of WWII here.

After WWII, the Soviet Union was in charge of East Germany. The Soviet Union used the compound as a home for its 40,000 soldiers. In 1994, the Russians left and took everything with them.

Difficult words**:**[**compound**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=compound)**(a series of buildings in one area and a wall around all of it),**[**Soviets**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=Soviets)**(the name for Russians when Russia was a communist country),**[**bunker**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=bunker)**(a partly underground place for the army).**

**Horse vs Human**

Dwain Chambers is a 38-year-old sprinter. He is one of the fastest European sprinters, but can he beat a **racehorse**?

Dwain Chambers and a racehorse raced 100 metres at a **racecourse**in England. The human started running **immediately** while the horse took a while to get moving. However, the horse soon got close behind Chambers.

In the end, two legs were faster than four on the 100-metre course. The sprinter won in a time of 10.36 seconds.

Difficult words: [**racehorse**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=racehorse) (a horse for racing – the sport of running on time), [**racecourse**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=racecourse) (the ‘road’ where you race/run), [**immediately**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=immediately) (right now).

[**Saving Endangered Turtles**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/products/saving-endangered-turtles-level-1/)

Tens of thousands of green sea turtles come to an island in Australia to lay their eggs. People think that the island is the biggest nesting site in the world. However, rising sea levels are **threatening** the island.

One expert explained that when a sea turtle mum lays 100 eggs, the water will probably **flood** the eggs during the next high tide. The babies will probably not develop.

To create space and protect the eggs, people **reshaped** and raised 150 metres of the island’s beach.

Difficult words: [**threaten**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=threaten) (put in danger), [**flood**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=flood) (cover in water), [**reshape**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=reshape) (change the shape of something).

**Scientists make meat**

A laboratory in the Netherlands can grow meat. Currently, a little piece of meat costs around $12,500, but the price will come down.

One professor said that the laboratory has an investor, and you could buy this meat in around three years. It will still be expensive, at around 12–14 dollars for a hamburger, but the price will **continue**to **drop**. In seven years from now, you will be able to buy it in a supermarket.

The production of the meat will be cheaper than keeping cows, but it is important that people like the meat.

Difficult words: [**continue**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=continue) (if something continues, it does not stop), [**drop**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=drop) (go down).

## **Fake Anti-Gay Attack**

An openly gay, African-American actor reported an attack on his person in January. He said that two men shouted racist and anti-gay **slurs** at him, put a rope around his neck, and poured chemicals on him.

The attack shocked a lot of people. Celebrity friends and even US senators commented on the attack and said that it was terrible. The police started to **investigate**the attack.

Things turned out differently than everyone thought. Police found out that the actor **staged**the attack, and the two men were paid by him. The actor is now in trouble, and he could go to prison for up to three years.

Difficult words: [**slur**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=slur) (saying something which make the person feel very bad), [**investigate**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=investigate) (try to find out what really happened), [**stage**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=stage) (organise, fake).

**A species of spider new to the U.S. has a lethal bite which killed five people in the summer of 2018.**

Invasive and exotic animals have long been common subjects of scarelore, and messages alerting readers to the supposed threat posed by some new or previously unheard-of species often spread like wildfire across message boards, social networks and email inboxes.

These posts typically take the form of a “public service announcement” and are shared in good faith, and without hesitation, by people who sincerely wish to alert their friends and loved ones to an unfamiliar threat. For these reasons, the “[**dangerous animal alert**](https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/category/animals/)” is also a frequent source of misinformation, deliberate scare-mongering, or even downright trolling.

On 21 August 2018, one Facebook post went viral after it warned of a “new deadly spider” breed which was purportedly spreading across the United States and had killed five people in one week.

Presenting several close-up photographs of a scary-looking spider, the post proclaimed:

## **USA and Venezuela**

The US is challenging the **legitimacy** of Venezuela’s president because he will not step down to another leader who the people voted for. The Venezuelan president is ignoring the world’s requests to give up his power.

The American president asked a leader to help America with this problem. This leader wanted to **overthrow** Nicaragua’s government in the 1980s, which means that he might want to overthrow Venezuela’s government. America hopes to get Venezuela’s military to stop supporting the president there.

However, this can **backfire** if people see this as the US trying to force change. They may not want to support the other leader.

Difficult words: [**legitimacy**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=legitimacy) (lawfulness), [**overthrow**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=overthrow) (take over), [**backfire**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=backfire) (when a solution becomes a problem).

## **Change in YouTube**

YouTube tries to **recommend**to you videos which it thinks that you are interested in. Nobody chooses these videos for you, as software does this.

YouTube is now changing the software to recommend fewer **conspiracy theory** videos. YouTube says that this change will affect less than 1 per cent of videos. However, users around the world watch around 1 billion hours of YouTube videos a day.

YouTube says that it is doing this to give people a better experience. What type of conspiracy videos will not be recommended? For example, videos which try to sell you fake medicine, videos which say that the earth is flat, or videos which say lies about events like 9/11 (the attacks on the World Trade Centre on September 11th 2011).

Some people may not like this. For example, they may think that the earth is not flat, but they think that videos about 9/11 can be true. They see YouTube’s move as an act of **censorship**.

Difficult words: [**recommend**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=recommend) (suggest, offer), [**conspiracy theory**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=conspiracy+theory) (an idea that people use to explain events which are different from explanations that most people believe; or explanations about things which are not possibly true), [**censorship**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=censorship) (censoring – limiting what people can watch, write, read, or say).

**Church Sex scandals**

Hundreds of bishops came together for a seven-day meeting near Chicago. They said that they were there to reflect on sexual **abuse** scandals in the **church**. This is another move by the Catholic Church to respond to the sexual abuse scandals.

Somebody said that the two cardinals abused someone – Pope Francis removed them from his group of **advisors**.

Pope Francis is also going to meet bishops from around the world next month. They will discuss how to stop sex abuse.

Difficult words: [**abuse**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=abuse) (when you abuse somebody, you hurt him or her), [**church**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=church) (an important and old organisation also called an institution), [**advisor**](https://www.newsinlevels.com/?s=advisor) (somebody who advises – who says what to do to help another person).