

EJERCICIOS

The Ig Nobel Prizes

Organized by the scientific humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research (AIR), the Ig Nobel Prizes are presented by a group that includes genuine Nobel Laureates at a ceremony at Harvard University's Sanders Theater.

A parody of the Nobel Prizes, the Ig Nobel Prizes are given each year in early October — around the time the recipients of the genuine Nobel Prizes are announced — for ten achievements that “first make people laugh, and then make them think”. All prizes are awarded for real achievements (except for three in 1991 and one in 1994 due to an erroneous press release).

This is a list of some Ig Nobel Prize winners from 1993 to the present day:

1993. Literature – Presented to E. Topol, R. Califf, F. Van de Werf, P. W. Armstrong, and their 972 co-authors, for publishing a medical research paper which has one hundred times as many authors as pages. The authors are from the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

2000. Chemistry – Presented to D. Marazziti, A. Rossi, and Giovanni B. Cassano of the University of Pisa, Italy, and H. S. Akiskal of the University of California, San Diego, for their discovery that, biochemically, romantic love may be indistinguishable from having severe obsessive-compulsive disorder.

2004. Chemistry – Presented to The Coca-Cola Company of Great Britain, for using advanced technology to convert liquid from the River Thames into Dasani, a brand of bottled water, which for precautionary reasons has been made unavailable to consumers.

2006. Peace – H. Stapleton of Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, for inventing an electromechanical teenager repellent, a device that makes annoying high-pitched noise designed to be audible to teenagers but not to adults; and for later using that same technology to make telephone ringtones that are audible to teenagers but probably not to their teachers.

2009. Literature – Ireland's police service for writing and presenting more than 50 traffic tickets to a Polish individual, by the name of “Prawo Jazdy”. Mr. “Jazdy” was widely thought to be the most frequent driving offender in Ireland, until an investigation uncovered the fact that Prawo Jazdy is the Polish term for “Driving License”.

The Ig Nobel Prizes ...

- a. are awarded for making people think before they laugh
- b. were mistakenly awarded 4 times
- c. have 2 different achievement categories

The Ig Nobel Prizes are given ..

- a. only by people who have won the Nobel prize
- b. by previous Nobel prize winners as well as other people

- c. only by previous Nobel prize winners who work at Harvard

The 1993 Literature prize was given for ...

- a. managing to include authors from so many countries in a publication
- b. publishing one hundred pages more than authors
- c. publishing a research paper with far more authors than pages

Danasi ...

- a. can only be bought in GB
- b. should be drunk with precaution
- c. cannot be bought

According to the text, Prawo Jazdy ...

- a. is an Irish driving offender
- b. is a terrible driver
- c. is a Polish expression

4. FOR EACH QUESTION 1 – 8, CHOOSE FROM THE ANIMALS DESCRIBED IN A, B OR C. YOU CAN USE THE LETTERS MORE THAN ONCE. THE FIRST ONE HAS BEEN DONE FOR YOU AS AN EXAMPLE (0). BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE ANSWER SHEET.

Three wild animals

A. Robins

The robin is, without doubt, one of our favourite garden birds. It seems to trust us, staying close when we're in the garden and even taking food from our hands. This confiding nature has existed for many centuries – the first record of a robin taking food from a human was in the 6th century

Seeing red

The robin's red breast is part of what endears it to us, providing a welcome flash of colour on a winter's day. But its evolutionary purpose is for a more serious role, with male robins using it to settle territorial disputes, especially during the breeding season. In some populations, up to 10 per cent of adult mortality is due to clashes over territory. This is the reason why robins are born without a red breast, and don't acquire it until their first moult.

Unusual nesting habits

Robins are prolific breeders, often producing between three and five broods a year, each containing four or five eggs. If the weather is mild, they can breed as early as January, though it is more usual for them to start in March. Broods can overlap with the male feeding the chicks of one clutch while the female sits on the eggs of the next. This enables the population to bounce back readily from any overwinter population losses. Robins will nest almost anywhere. Recorded nest sites include plant pots, a pigeonhole in a desk, the engine of a WWII plane, and in the body of a dead cat.

Street singers

Robins are one of the first birds to start the dawn chorus and one of the last to stop singing at night, even in the winter when they sing to defend their winter territories

B. Grey squirrels

Grey squirrels are a common sight throughout much of the eastern United States and Canada. These small, tree-dwelling rodents fit easily into a number of habitats due to their remarkable adaptability. Grey squirrels are easily recognized by their grey coat (varying from yellowish gray to pure silver, though different color morphs exist), ruffed tail and cream-coloured underbelly.

Grey squirrels provide a source of food for many predatory species within their habitat, including many birds of prey (eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and ospreys), weasels, foxes, coyotes, wolves, bobcats and lynxes. They are also hunted by humans for population control, sport or food throughout much of their range. Grey squirrels predominantly feed on tree nuts, but will also eat flowers, seeds, fungi, insects and even the occasional bird eggs. In addition to serving as an

important prey species, the nut storing tendencies of the grey squirrel help to disperse tree seeds within their habitat.

Adaptability

Grey squirrels have been able to adapt to a number of habitats, as their native environments have become more urbanized and forests cleared. Though they require trees for nesting, squirrels will occasionally make use of outside leaf nests, eaves and attics, allowing them to thrive in suburban and urban areas, and areas without heavy forest cover. Because grey squirrels have a relatively flexible diet (and because acorns--a very common nut in many yards and parks--are a large part of their diet), they are able to further adapt to changing environmental conditions.

C. Mice

A mouse is a small rodent with a pointed nose, furry round body, large ears and a long, often hairless, tail. There are hundreds of types of mice, divided into subfamilies of either Old World or New World species. Common varieties include deer mouse, house mouse, field mouse, wood mouse, dormouse, spiny mouse and zebra mouse. Though some people talk about mice and rats as if they were the same thing, they are actually different types of animals in the rodent family. Rats generally are larger than mice, and they can be bald, scaly and cylinder-shaped.

Size

Mice come in a wide variety of colors and sizes. Some common mice colors are white, brown and grey. Some are very tiny and others are around the size of a baked potato.

Where do mice live?

Mice are hardy creatures that are found in nearly every country and type of terrain. They can live in forests, grasslands and manmade structures easily. Mice typically make a burrow underground if they live out in the wild. Their burrow helps protect them from predators. Their natural predators are cats, birds, wild dogs and foxes.

Mice are nocturnal, meaning they like to sleep during the day. This is why house mice can be heard playing or foraging during the night. Most wild mice are timid toward humans and other animals, but they are very social with other mice. According to the RSPCA, mice are very territorial. Even domestic mice like to have a large area that they can claim as their own.

If you believe what you see in cartoons, you would think that mice eat cheese. Actually, they like to eat fruits, seeds and grains. They are omnivorous, which means they eat both plants and meat, and the common house mice will eat just about anything it can find. In fact, if food is scarce, mice will even eat each other. Mice have voracious appetites. They eat around 15 to 20 times per day, so they build their homes nearby places that have readily accessible food sources.

According to the texts, which animal/s...

choose their homes to protect them from attackers	0	C
are sometimes eaten by people.	1	
can be comfortable around people.	2	
change their colour as they get older.	3	
have been known to eat members of their own species.	4	
are active both night and day.	5	
have to make their nests in trees	6	
help increase the number of trees.	7	
recover easily from a decrease in numbers.	8	

5. READ THE TEXT BELOW AND CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER (A, B, OR C) FOR ITEM 1.

1. The text gives information about

- A. the most famous skyscrapers in the world today.
- B. the people who designed skyscrapers.
- C. why skyscrapers were needed

The first skyscrapers

The term 'skyscraper' has been used in a number of ways over the years: an ornament on the top of a building, a high-flying bird, a very tall man and a sail at the top of a mast. At the end of the nineteenth century, the word was used to refer to buildings of ten storeys or more. Later, a lift was used to take people up to the higher floors, as in the most famous skyscraper, the Empire State Building.

During the middle ages, the people who lived in the cities of northern Europe began to build great cathedrals. Tall spires were added to make these churches higher and bring them closer to heaven.

In the nineteenth century, as cities grew more crowded with people looking for work the value of land rose. New businesses were starting and in order to make room for offices on a small plot of land, it was necessary to build higher. But the problem was that to put up a stone building of such height, the walls on the ground floor would have to be more than two metres thick to hold the weight of the building. So another material was required to make skyscrapers possible.

About this time, three buildings were put up that used iron or steel to support great weight with safety. They were the Crystal Palace in London, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. From then on, architects started to experiment with buildings that had steel frames. Today, the tallest skyscrapers are a hundred storeys or more, compared to the first 10 storeys skyscrapers, which seem tiny.

2. In the past, the word 'skyscraper' had

- A. only one meaning.
- B. different meanings.
- C. the same meaning as today.

3. In the middle ages, they built tall churches because

- A. they were more beautiful.
- B. it felt like approaching God.
- C. they took in more people.

4. Why were taller buildings necessary in the nineteenth century? Because

- A. they were cheaper.
- B. land was expensive.
- C. they made better offices.

5. In the nineteenth century, skyscrapers were needed


- A. for offices.
- B. as houses for the poor.
- C. for shops.

6. What was the problem with making tall buildings with stone?

- A. It was an expensive material.
- B. It was too heavy.
- C. It wasn't strong enough.

6. READ THE STORY BELOW AND FOR EACH GAP (12-16) CHOOSE THE BEST OPTION (A-F). THERE IS ONE OPTION YOU DO NOT NEED.

A.	back	B.	across	C.	away	D.	up	E.	through	F.	off
-----------	------	-----------	--------	-----------	------	-----------	----	-----------	---------	-----------	-----

Greek Mythology	
<h1 style="margin: 0;">Jason</h1> 	<p>Many years ago, Jason, the true King of Thessaly, returned to his kingdom only to find that his uncle, Pelius, had murdered his father and taken over the kingdom. Jason, still a child, had no army and no allies to help him get (12) _____ his kingdom. In order to protect Jason from his evil uncle, Jason's mother decides to send him (13) _____ to live in the cave of Chiron the Centaur, where he is brought (14) _____. Having grown into a strong, brave man, Jason then set out for Iolcus to claim the throne from his uncle.</p> <p>On his way to Iolcus, he came (15) _____ the goddess Hera, dressed as an elderly woman. Hera begged Jason to help her cross a stream. He agreed and so took her on his back. As he was crossing the stream, he lost one sandal, thus fulfilling a prophecy that meant Pelius would die.</p> <p>Jason's good-will impresses Hera, and she decided to help him (16) _____: she made sure he got back to Iolcus safely, where Pelius was waiting for him...</p>

7. READ THE TEXT BELOW AND CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER (A, B, OR C) FOR ITEMS 1-4

1. This extract is probably taken from a novel about

- A. war in an African village.
- B. the life of a great warrior.
- C. everyday life in a small city

2. The action takes place

- A. in a small town.
- B. in several locations.
- C. in neighbouring villages

3. From this extract we get the impression that life for these people is

- A. a constant struggle.
- B. often harmonious.
- C. tragic but amusing.

4. What is the main point of this extract?

- A. To introduce the characters of the story.
- B. To describe the setting of the story.
- C. To provide historical background to the story.

THINGS FALL APART

by Chinua Achebe

Okonkwo was well known throughout the nine villages and even beyond. His fame rested on solid personal achievements. As a young man of eighteen, he had brought honour to his village by throwing Amalinze the Cat. Amalinze was the great wrestler who for seven years was unbeaten, from Umuofia to Mbaino. He was called the Cat because his back would never touch the earth. It was this man that Okonkwo threw in a fight which the old men agreed was one of the fiercest since the founder of their town engaged a spirit of the wild for seven days and seven nights. The drums beat, the flutes sang, and the spectators held their breath. Amalinze was a wily craftsman, but

Okonkwo was as slippery as a fish in water. Every nerve and every muscle stood out on their arms, on their backs and their thighs, and one almost heard them stretching to breaking point. In the end Okonkwo threw the Cat. That was many years ago, twenty years or more, and during this time Okonkwo's fame had grown like a bush-fire in the harmattan. He was tall and huge, and his bushy eyebrows and wide nose gave him a very severe look. He breathed heavily, and it was said that, when he slept, his wives and children in their out-houses could hear him breathe. When he walked, his heels hardly touched the ground and he seemed to walk on springs, as if he was going to pounce on somebody. And he did pounce on people quite often. He had a slight stammer and whenever he was angry and could not get his words out quickly enough, he would use his fists. He had no patience with unsuccessful men. He had had no patience with his father.

Unoka, for that was his father's name, had died ten years ago. In his day, he was lazy and improvident and was quite incapable of thinking about tomorrow. If any money came his way, and it seldom did, he immediately bought gourds of palm-wine, called round his neighbors and made merry. He always said that whenever he saw a dead man's mouth he saw the folly of not eating what one had in one's lifetime. Unoka was, of course, a debtor and he owed every neighbor some money, from a few cowries to quite substantial amounts.

He was tall but very thin and had a slight stoop. He wore a haggard and mournful look except when he was drinking and playing on his flute. He was very good on his flute and his happiest moments were the two or three moons after the harvest when the village musicians brought down their instruments, hung above the fireplace. Unoka would play with them his face beaming with blessedness and peace. Sometimes another village would ask Unoka's band and their dancing egwugwu to come and stay with them and teach them their tunes. They would go to such hosts for as long as three or four markets, making music and feasting. Unoka loved the good fare and the good fellowship, and he loved this season of the year, when the rains had stopped and the sun rose every morning with dazzling beauty.

5. Summarize the text using a graphic designer

8. IMAGINE YOU ARE NEW AT SCHOOL AND SOME OF THE OLDER STUDENTS ARE LAUGHING AT YOUR CLOTHING. YOU HAVE JUST SEEN UNHAPPY 15'S MESSAGE IN THE AGONY COLUMN OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEEN MAGAZINE. USING IT AS A MODEL, WRITE YOUR OWN TEXT TO APPEAR IN THE SAME AGONY COLUMN (80 WORDS), EXPLAINING YOUR PROBLEM, AND ASKING FOR ADVICE. SIGN AS SAD 16.

 Ask Jane	Agony column
<p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm 15 and the fattest in my class. I've tried to lose weight by cutting down on sweets, but it didn't help much. The problem is I like fast food and when my friends and I go out, we go to fast food restaurants and I end up eating hamburgers and chips. I can't dress the way I want and all my girlfriends look so much prettier. I feel awful!</p> <p>What can I do? Please, help me!</p> <p>Unhappy 15</p> 	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am new at school and some of the older kids...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Sad 16</p>

9. READ THE TEXT AND SUMMARIZE IT USING A CARTOON, IMAGES AND TEXT

SMALL, RAT AND TIGER

At one time, in the middle of the forest, there was a mouse that was busy playing. He sang and went around very cheerfully. So he did not realize that he was very far from home. After very far from home, the mouse then realized. He immediately chose to go home, but instead, he got lost in the forest.

When he was in a state of confusion looking for a way home, he was instead trapped in a tiger lair. He watched as a male tiger was sleeping soundly and the rat felt fear. Because he was so panicked to see a tiger, he ran and accidentally stepped on a tiger's feet.

Finally, the tiger woke up and was angry because it disturbed his rest. The rat was finally caught with sharp nails. He also tried to escape and beg the tiger to release him.

But the tiger still did not want to let go of the rat and said that he felt very angry when someone bothered him. Not so far from that place, there was a deer who was drinking on the river bank.

He was surprised to see the incident. And lip service to the tiger. But the tiger actually wants to eat the deer instead.

However, he quickly said, "Why should I be afraid of you while I am the king of the jungle here. If you don't believe me, ask my advisor directly. My advisor is the person who is currently in your grip. He is a respected advisor in this forest. Then I will not forgive you if anything happens with my advisor.

"Tigers are affected by what the deer said. The tiger then asked the rat the truth said by the deer. And the rat realized that the deer was lying to help. He also said,

"He is right, deer is just this forest. And I became his advisor. Deer are greatly feared and respected in this forest by all animals. If you do not believe, please ask directly to all animals in this forest

"The tiger is finally afraid of the words of the rat but still does not show fear. Finally, the deer were confused about how to prove his strength to the tiger. Finally, he tried to calm down with his intelligence even though he actually felt afraid.

He also said that he had just defeated a tiger as big as the tiger. And that makes the tiger feel very scared. He also asked the deer to prove his blessing that the tiger head he had killed was still on the edge of the river.

Finally, the mouse deer brought the tiger to a deep, dark well. But it is not visible because there is a reflection from the sun. He was asked to see the head of a tiger in the well. As a result, he peeked and found that the tiger head really existed.

When in fact there was nothing in the well. It's just that the tiger saw its own reflection. Seeing that, the tiger immediately ran scared. And rats are free from the grip of tigers because of the help of the very clever deer.

10. FOR ITEMS 1- 6 MATCH THE EXTRACTS FROM VARIOUS LEAFLETS AND BROCHURES WITH THE BUSINESSES OR ORGANISATIONS THEY ARE CONNECTED WITH (OPTIONS A-G). THERE IS ONE OPTION YOU DO NOT NEED.

a	a coffee shop	b	an energy efficiency company	c	an environmental campaign organisation	d	a furniture shop
e	a wine merchant	f	a sailing school	g	a train company		

1	Free Home Delivery – Because you'll have enough rushing around to do this Christmas, we offer FREE delivery on a mixed case of 12 bottles anywhere in mainland UK.	
2	The perfect start to your day – Warm up for the day ahead with a frothy Cappuccino and a Star Linzer – a double fluted shortbread biscuit sandwich filled with seedless raspberry jam and icing.	
3	If you have any questions or queries, please contact staff at your local station ticket office.	
4	Joining us is the most effective way for you to protect your world. By giving as little as £3 a month, you can be part of our work to make politicians and companies take action.	
5	Our centre is up to date with all the latest innovations and designs, and by improving and replacing equipment regularly, we maintain impressive fleets of both boats and windsurfers.	
6	Heat moves towards cold. In the winter it's drawn to cold glass to escape your home (see illustration below). In the summer, outdoor heat moves towards the windows of your air-conditioned home.	

--	--	--

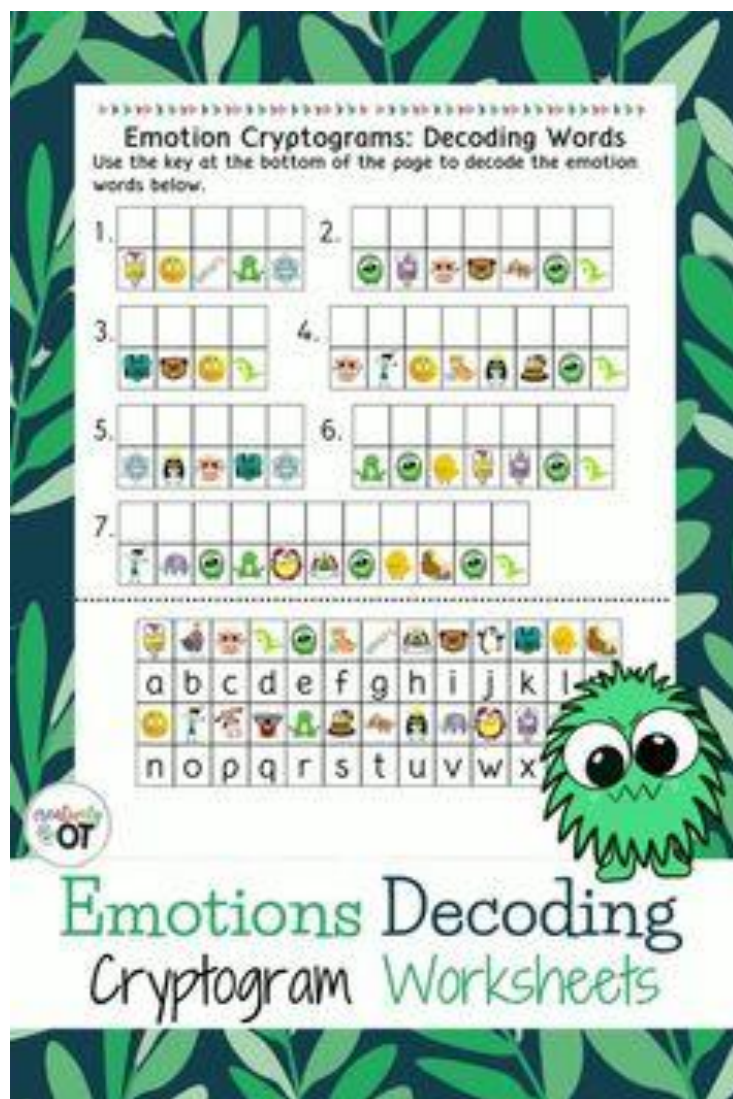
11. ENTER TO THIS LINK AND LISTEN TO THE CONVERSATION, THEN PREPARE THE EXERCISE FOR READING IN THE CLASSROOM

<https://www.esl-lab.com/intermediate/world-cup-soccer-script/>

12. ENTER TO THIS LINK AND LISTEN TO THE CONVERSATION, THEN PREPARE THE EXERCISE FOR READING IN THE CLASSROOM.

<https://www.esl-lab.com/intermediate/movie-shows-script/>

13. DISCOVER THE MESSAGE IN THE CRYPTOGRAM



14. READ AND SOLVE THE EXERCISES

A Thanksgiving Story



The Pilgrims were a group of people from England who came to America to start a new life. They wanted religious freedom.

In 1620, 104 Pilgrims crossed the Atlantic Ocean on a small ship. They wanted to start their new life in northern Virginia, but bad weather pushed their ship north to land that is now the state of Massachusetts. They decided to stay there and named their new home Plymouth.



The Pilgrims arrived in America in November, 1620. The first winter was very difficult. The Pilgrims were city people. They didn't know how to farm or hunt. 50 of the colonists died of hunger, cold and sickness.



The Wampanoag were Native Americans who already lived on the land where the Pilgrims decided to make their new home.

The Wampanoag were farmers. Their name means People of the First Light. They grew corn, beans, squash and tobacco.



They also hunted and fished. In the summer they lived near the ocean and caught fish and lobsters and dug clams. Their summer homes were called longhouses. Many families lived together in the longhouses.



In the winter, the Wampanoag traveled inland, hunted animals, and lived in wigwams.

The story of Thanksgiving says that the Indians met and helped the colonists in April, 1621. They gave the colonists food and taught them how to plant corn and catch fish. Slowly, life became better for the colonists. During the summer, they built houses and grew food to eat in the winter. They knew how to hunt and fish. The colonists were very thankful, and invited the Wampanoag to a celebration in the fall. Now, every year in the United States, many people celebrate this day as Thanksgiving.



Most historians agree that 50 Pilgrims came together for a 3-day harvest celebration and feast in 1621. They probably ate vegetables, seafood and maybe a duck or goose. We don't know if the Indians were actually invited to the feast.

The arrival of Europeans on this continent brought many hardships to Native Americans. At first, many native people welcomed the colonists. But over time, the native people suffered a lot. They lost their land, some became slaves, and millions died from European diseases.

For this reason, some native people don't celebrate Thanksgiving. Sharing and giving thanks are an important part of native culture and ceremonies of thanksgiving happen many times during the year. It isn't surprising that some Native Americans choose not to give thanks on a holiday that represents sadness and loss.

The Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) gives thanks for the harvest of wild rice.



True or False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The Pilgrims came to America in 1621. | T | F |
| 2. They wanted religious freedom. | T | F |
| 3. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in November. | T | F |
| 4. The Pilgrims were farmers from France. | T | F |
| 5. There were no native people in America when the Pilgrims arrived. | T | F |
| 6. The Wampanoag farmed, hunted and fished. | T | F |
| 7. They stayed in the same place in summer and winter. | T | F |
| 8. The Wampanoag helped the colonists build houses. | T | F |
| 9. Many native people died from diseases after Europeans arrived in America. | T | F |
| 10. Thanksgiving ceremonies are an important part of Native American culture. | T | F |

Vocabulary matching

Colonist	All of a farmer's crops when they are ready to eat or sell
Feast	A type of house used by the Wampanoag in winter
Harvest	A person from one country who lives in another land
Virginia	A large, delicious dinner
Celebration	A small sea animal with a shell
Wigwam	A colony of England in America
Clam	A special event or day