

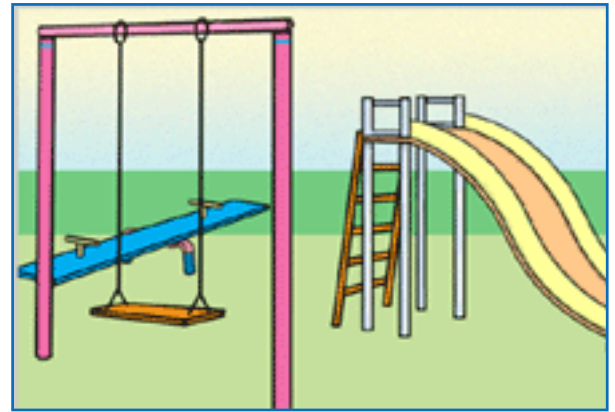


## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Discussion

Look at the questions below and discuss them with your group.

1. What is the name of this place? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who plays in this place? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is it important that they are safe? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Look at the pictures below. What are the children doing?  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. Which of the things in the pictures did you like doing when you were a child? Why?

### B: Vocabulary

Match the words in *italics* with their correct meanings.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A <i>rule</i> ... <input type="radio"/>                                | a. ...a place where children enjoy themselves.                                |
| 2. A <i>playground</i> is... <input type="radio"/>                        | b. ...you make them do something they don't want to do.                       |
| 3. If you <i>force</i> somebody to do something,... <input type="radio"/> | c. ...people can't use it.  |
| 4. If something <i>closes</i> ,... <input type="radio"/>                  | d. ...tells you what you are allowed to do and what you aren't allowed to do. |



## Reading Activities

### A: Prediction

1. Read the first sentence from today's article. Find and underline the words from **Pre-Reading Activity B**.

"A European Union rule has forced a British parish council to close its playground swings which are used by hundreds of children a year."

2. Work in pairs and discuss the questions.
  - a. *What has forced the council to close its playground swings?*
  - b. *Does the council want to close its swings?*
  - c. *Who uses the playground?*
  - d. *What do you think the European Union rule is? (Use your own ideas.)*

### B: Reading for Detail

Read today's article and then choose the best meaning for each word or phrase in **bold** type.

## EU Union: Swings Are Too High

LONDON Tue Jan 21 (Reuters) - A European Union rule has forced a British parish council to close its playground swings which are used by hundreds of children a year.

(1) **The three swings** are higher than 9 feet, 11 inches which is the height decided by (2) **Brussels** (3) **bureaucrats**.

The swings, at a park in Wiltshire, southwest England,

were (4) **put up** 25 years ago.

"**The (5) ruling** has come as a (6) **bombshell**," Parish Council chairman Toby Sturgis told Reuters, saying there had been no accidents on the swings for 25 years.

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1. **The three swings** means...
  - a. *the European Union's swings.*
  - b. *the parish council's swings.*
  - c. *some swings in Brussels.*
2. **Brussels** means...
  - a. *a city.*
  - b. *a vegetable.*
  - c. *the city where the countries from the European Union meet.*
3. **Bureaucrats** means...
  - a. *people who work in an organization where there are many rules.*
  - b. *people who work in an organization where there are no rules.*
  - c. *people who work for an organization.*
4. **Put up** means...
  - a. *to build something.*
  - b. *to increase the prices.*
  - c. *to stay at somebody's house.*
5. **The ruling** means...
  - a. *the European Union.*
  - b. *Brussels.*
  - c. *swings are not allowed to be higher than 9 feet, 11 inches.*
6. **Bombshell** means...
  - a. *the outside of a bomb.*
  - b. *very bad news that is surprising.*
  - c. *a bomb.*

### C: Questions

1. Complete each question with the correct word below.  
**why when have what**
  - a. *\_\_\_ is the European Union rule for swings?*
  - b. *\_\_\_ has the European Union forced the British council to close its swings?*
  - c. *\_\_\_ were the swings put up?*
  - d. *\_\_\_ there been any accidents?*

2. Now answer the questions.  
Use the information in the article to help you.

### D: Discussion

Work in groups and discuss the questions below.

1. Do you feel sorry for the children and the parish council in Wiltshire? Why or why not?
2. Do you think the swings should be closed? Why or why not?

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Language

When we change a word from an adjective to a noun, we sometimes change the spelling.

For example: **'high'** (adjective) becomes **'height'** (noun).

Use your dictionaries and change the following words from adjectives to nouns.

1. **long** -
2. **wide** -
3. **deep** -

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words.

4. **high - height**
  - a. The swings at the a park in Wiltshire, England are too \_\_\_\_.
  - b. Swings must be at the right \_\_\_\_.
5. **long - length**
  - a. The \_\_\_\_ of the swimming pool is 25 meters.
  - b. How \_\_\_\_ is that swimming pool?
6. **deep - depth**
  - a. That water isn't very \_\_\_\_.
  - b. Always check the \_\_\_\_ of the water before you dive.

### B: Word Find

Find these words from today's article in the **Word Find** puzzle below.

**children**  
**close**  
**council**  
**force**  
**height**  
**higher**  
**put up**  
**rule**  
**swings**  
**year**

E	Q	A	T	H	G	I	E	H
S	L	C	U	L	L	S	C	C
W	P	U	O	O	N	H	X	L
I	U	J	R	U	I	X	F	O
N	T	K	M	L	N	K	V	S
G	U	B	D	Y	T	C	N	E
S	P	R	E	Y	A	M	I	L
F	E	A	F	O	R	C	E	L
N	R	Y	R	E	H	G	I	H

### C: Gap Fill

Use words the list below to fill in the gaps below.

**European Union; close; playground; rule; force; council; swings; children; year; higher; high; put up; bombshell**

The **1.** \_\_\_\_\_ has a **2.** \_\_\_\_\_ that **3.** \_\_\_\_\_ are not allowed to be **4.** \_\_\_\_\_ than 9 feet, 11 inches. The ruling came as a **5.** \_\_\_\_\_ to a British parish **6.** \_\_\_\_\_. It is forced to **7.** \_\_\_\_\_ its **8.** \_\_\_\_\_ swings because they are too **9.** \_\_\_\_\_. The swings were **10.** \_\_\_\_\_ 25 years ago.

### D: Design and Describe

Work in a small group. Together, design a children's playground. Talk about the safety of the equipment (e.g. swings, slide) in the playground (including the surface of the ground on which children will play). Think about things like height and weight. Think also about what the equipment will be made of. Put all of your plans on paper. When you have finished, take turns to describe your playground to another group.



# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Discussion - Answers

1. A playground with swings.
2. Children.
3. To prevent children having accidents. Little children are more prone to overbalancing, falling, etc., and playground equipment has to be built with this in mind.
4. Climbing trees, sliding, seesawing (using a seesaw).
5. Answers will vary.

### B: Vocabulary - Answers

1. d, 2. a, 3. b, 4. c.

## Reading Activities

### A: Prediction - Notes

1. The purpose of this activity is to allow the student to see the words studied in **Pre-Reading B: Vocabulary**, in context.
2. d. The last question is designed to let the students predict what will be in the article. At this stage don't indicate if they are right or wrong.

### A: Prediction - Answers

1. "A European Union **rule** has **forced** a British parish council to **close** its **playground** swings which are used by hundreds of children a year."
  - a. A European Union rule.
  - b. No.
  - c. Hundreds of children.
  - d. Answers will vary.

### B: Reading for Detail - Answers

1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. a, 5. c, 6. b.

### C: Questions - Answers

1. a. What, b. Why, c. When, d. Have.
2. a. No higher than 9 feet, 11 inches. b. Because the swings are too high. c. 25 years ago. d. No.

### D: Discussion - Notes

This activity allows students to reflect on the content of the article and voice their opinions. You can do this activity as a class, group or pair discussion.

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Language - Answers

1. length, 2. width, 3. depth, 4. a. high, b. height, 5. a. length b. long, 6. a. deep b. depth.

### B: Word find - Answers



### C: Gap fill - Answers

1. European Union, 2. rule, 3. swings, 4. higher, 5. bombshell, 6. council, 7. close, 8. playground, 9. high, 10. put up.

### D: Design and Describe - Notes

If you decide to do this activity, you will need to provide A3 paper and felt markers for each group.