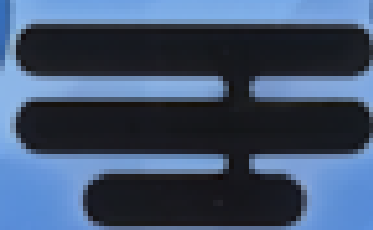


THIRD EDITION

# Issues Now in the News

Adam Worcester  
Brian Williams



Free App



With CD



THIRD EDITION

# Issues Now in the News

Adam Worcester, Brian M. Williams

## **Issues Now in the News** Third Edition

Adam Worcester, Brian M. Williams

© 2014 Compass Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Acquisitions Editor: Paul Peters  
Project Coordinator: Julie Kim  
Content Editor: Casey Malarcher  
Designer: Ji Sook Lee

email: [info@compasspub.com](mailto:info@compasspub.com)  
<http://www.compasspub.com>

ISBN: 978-1-61352-455-8

19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10  
26 25 24 23 22

### **Photo Credits**

- Cover © Shutterstock, Inc.
- pp. 7, 13, 19, 25, 31, 37, 43, 49, 55, 56, 57, 61, 67, 73, 79, 85, 91, 97, 103, 109, 110, 111, 115, 116, 117, 121 © Shutterstock, Inc.
- pp. 8, 9, 14, 15, 20, 26, 44, 50, 68, 69, 74, 98, 104, 105 © AP/Yonhap
- pp. 27, 32, 38, 39, 74, 81, 92, 93, 122, 123 © Reuters/Yonhap
- pp. 62, 63, 67 © European Pressphoto Agency
- p. 80 © [www.amazonteam.org](http://www.amazonteam.org)
- p. 86 © Tel Aviv University
- p. 98 © Yonhap News

Printed in Korea



# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	5
---------------------	---

## **International Concerns**

1. Sweden's ABBA Museum to Open	7
2. Safe Water	13
3. NASA Explores Technology to Face Asteroid Danger	19
4. World Population Growth	25

## **World Affairs**

5. Global Warming Trend "Unmistakable," UN Says	31
6. Human Rights Watch Campaigns Against "Killer Robots"	37
7. Africa: Poverty, Politics, and Disease	43
8. "New Europe" Goes Global	49

## **Life & Trends**

9. Bioengineered Kidney a Possible Solution to Donor-Organ Crisis	55
10. Cape Town Carnival	61
11. America's Changing Family	67
12. A Limit to Free Speech	73

## **Environment & Health**

13. Hero of the Planet	79
14. Plants Respond to Their Environment	85
15. Biofuels: An Alternative to Gasoline	91
16. Global Trade and Pests	97

## **Culture & Entertainment**

17. Women: Their Unique Beauty	103
18. Comfort Foods or Cures?	109
19. Immigrants in China	115
20. Violence and Video Games	121



# Introduction

**Issues Now in the News** is a 20-unit course-book designed to bring current events of worldwide interest and concern into the English-language classroom. Each unit focuses on an article originally produced for Voice of America (VOA). Voice of America ([www.voanews.com](http://www.voanews.com)), which first went on the air in 1942, is a multimedia international broadcasting service funded by the US government through the Broadcasting Board of Governors. VOA broadcasts more than 1,000 hours of news, information, educational, and cultural programming every week to an estimated worldwide audience of more than 115 million people.

Selected news articles are drawn from diverse nations and cultures and have been carefully chosen to provide a wide range of interesting topics. Each unit is methodically planned around the central topic to engage students' interest while improving general knowledge and providing useful language practice. Each article is accompanied by full-color photographs drawn primarily from news photo or agency services; these images have been carefully selected to highlight and clarify the content of each article. The goal of this text is to inspire and encourage students to take an interest in issues that are of global importance — i.e. politics, lifestyle choices, culture, ecology, economy, climatology, the environment, etc. — and to discuss aspects of these issues in an English-language context.

**Issues Now in the News** is an excellent resource for English-language instruction for students at more advanced levels, especially in college or university settings. Because the source material for this book was created for a native English-speaking audience, the language used is elevated and topic-specific, which facilitates the learning of vocabulary in a real world context for foreigner second-language learners. The beginning of each unit introduces the topic, highlights key points to notice, and provides background information on the topic in order to contextualize the subject matter. The reading text is followed by activities which are specifically designed to promote vocabulary learning and retention through reading and writing. The activities accomplish this by requiring the students to demonstrate their understanding of the article's vocabulary words and idioms they just read by correctly using them in several different contextual ways. Furthermore, some activities also require students to show they understood the overall meaning of what they just read by answering reading comprehension questions related directly to the text. This book leaves nothing to be desired from the language acquisitions and reading comprehension standpoint for advanced English-language learners.





# Unit 01

## International Concerns

# Sweden's ABBA Museum to Open



### Warm-Up

ABBA was a Swedish pop group that formed back in 1972. The name ABBA is an acronym of the first letters of the band members' first names (Agnetha, Benny, Bjorn, and Anni-Frid). The band was one of the most commercially successful groups in the history of pop music. They frequently topped the worldwide music charts from 1972 until 1982, when the band broke up. ABBA has sold over 370 million albums and singles worldwide. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2010.

### Points to Notice

Pay attention to the ongoing discussion throughout the article about whether or not the band will reunite. Compare what is said about Agnetha Faltskog's position on a reunion to Bjorn Ulvaeus's statement.

### Cultural Notes and Background

ABBA holds a special place in the hearts of many Swedes since they are, to this day, the most popular band to ever come out of the Scandinavian country. Although they had moderate success with their first songs in 1972, the group finally hit the big time after winning the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest, in which different acts from around Europe competed in a format similar to that of American Idol or X-Factor. Eurovision still airs in Europe and is one of the continent's most popular shows.



# Unit 01

## Sweden's ABBA Museum to Open



A man walks past the lit logo of the legendary Swedish pop group at ABBA: The Museum in Stockholm, May 6, 2013.

(Reuters/Arnd Wiegmann)



A couple performs with a "virtual" ABBA band during a media preview at the new ABBA museum in Stockholm, May 6, 2013.

(Reuters/Arnd Wiegmann)

STOCKHOLM — The catchy tunes, outlandish costumes, and shimmering boots that made ABBA a global phenomenon all feature in a new museum dedicated to the band, but rumors the exhibition may presage a reunion by Sweden's most famous export were quickly quashed.

The permanent exhibition within a hall of fame of Swedish pop music opens in Stockholm this week, and organizers hope to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually on a pop nostalgia trip.

Visitors will be able to sing along to ABBA hits alongside life-size holograms of the group—and then download the images to their web account.

"I would be interested, even if I hated ABBA, about how it actually happened and why," former ABBA member Bjorn Ulvaeus said on Monday at the museum.

Ulvaeus, now a 68-year-old grandfather, rejected suggestions the opening could coincide with the band reuniting. A British bookmaker was taking bets in April on an ABBA comeback after singer Agnetha Faltskog hinted at a possible reunion.

"As you all know, we have never reunited," Ulvaeus said. "So I take this opportunity to say now we are not going to, either."

ABBA, made up of Ulvaeus, Faltskog, Anni-Frid Lyngstad, and Benny Andersson, shot to fame when they won the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest with the song "Waterloo."

To revive their heyday, the museum has a 1970s disco dance floor to practice your moves, audition recordings for a "fifth" member of the band, and the opportunity to sit inside the famous helicopter that featured on the *Arrival* album cover.

### "Ring Ring"

A mockup of the old ABBA studio features a self-playing piano connected to Andersson's current music studio; each time the musician plays on it, the piano plays as well. The museum walls are





Former ABBA member Bjorn Ulvaeus poses for the media in front of an exhibit at ABBA: The Museum in Stockholm, May 6, 2013. The picture on the wall shows former ABBA members (L-R) Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Agnetha Faltskog, and Benny Andersson.

(Reuters/Arnd Wiegmann)

plastered with newspaper cuttings, fan mail, and videos. Visitors can peer into a behind-the-scenes dressing room, admire ABBA's gold and platinum discs, and see a reconstruction of the Swedish cabin where they composed songs.

Based on the band's first major hit, "Ring Ring," the museum also includes a red telephone. Only the four band members have the number, and they promise occasionally to call it and speak to surprised visitors.

After ABBA, Ulvaeus went on to become a businessman and helped to produce the hugely successful *Mamma Mia!* musical that was later turned into a film. He has been the main ABBA member behind the museum.

ABBA became one of Sweden's biggest exports with hit songs like "Dancing Queen" and "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)."

The group sold around 370 million records in total and are part of a rich Swedish pop tradition which includes Roxette, Ace of Base, Europe, and Kent. But the museum took a long time coming. Separate plans for an earlier ABBA museum were shelved in 2008.

Stockholm has been struck by a bout of ABBA fever in the buildup to the opening. Visitors to the international airport are greeted by life-size pictures of the group as well as dancing Spitting Image puppets. Baggage belts have "Gimme Gimme Gimme" emblazoned on the sides.

"I walked with Frida yesterday around the museum and she had a tear in her eye," said museum director Ingmarie Halling, ABBA's former costumer and hair designer from 1977 to 1980. "Here you follow the footpath of ABBA. But you have to walk gently when you tell someone else's story."

By Reuters, May 06, 2013

Voice of America



## Vocabulary

Match each word to its definition.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. outlandish (adj) • | • a. to stop from happening   |
| 2. shimmering (adj) • | • b. shining with a glistening or tremulous light                                     |
| 3. phenomenon (n) •   | • c. a longing for the past   |
| 4. quash (v) •        | • d. to decorate with colors or symbols   |
| 5. nostalgia (n) •    | • e. extremely strange and unusual  |
| 6. coincide (v) •     | • f. to happen at the same time as something else                                     |
| 7. bookmaker (n) •    | • g. to be an important part or include as an important part                          |
| 8. reunion (n) •      | • h. an event where people who have not seen each other for a long time come together |
| 9. feature (v) •      | • i. a remarkable development or event  |
| 10. emblazon (v) •    | • j. someone whose job is to take bets  |
| 11. audition (n) •    | • k. a model for study or display   |
| 12. mockup (n) •      | • l. in the past; previous  |
| 13. presage (v) •     | • m. a piece of gossip or unconfirmed information                                     |
| 14. rumor (n) •       | • n. to indicate or foretell something to come  |
| 15. former (adj) •    | • o. a performance to try out for a show or part                                      |

## Idioms and Expressions

Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms and expressions from the box.

**spitting image:** something that looks just like something else

Her son is the spitting image of her grandfather.

**hint at:** to suggest or imply

The correct answer was hinted at by my professor.

**behind-the-scenes:** offering a look at something that is not normally seen by the public

The company gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of wine making at their factory.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ book about the legislative process was very informative.
2. I think he was \_\_\_\_\_ the possibility that he might not come to the party.
3. The man in this painting is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our next-door neighbor.



### Finding Details

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the article?

- a. Stockholm, Sweden, is the home of ABBA and has many great tourist attractions.
- b. ABBA was a popular pop group that now has a new museum dedicated to it.
- c. In the future, more museums will be designed to showcase pop music groups.
- d. The members of ABBA are conflicted on whether or not to reunite.

2. Considering the exhibits listed in the article, the best way to describe the museum is

- a. inspirational
- b. nationalistic
- c. futuristic
- d. interactive

3. Read the following sentence.

A British bookmaker was taking bets in April on an ABBA comeback after singer Agnetha Faltskog hinted at a possible reunion.

Which of the following sentences best expresses the essential information in the above sentence?

- a. Faltskog's suggestion that there might be a reunion prompted a British bookmaker to take bets on the band's comeback.
- b. The chances of an ABBA comeback were supported by Faltskog and a British bookmaker who placed a large bet on the band getting back together.
- c. Gamblers in England were given an opportunity to place bets on the chances of an ABBA reunion because of Faltskog.
- d. ABBA might have a comeback, according to Faltskog and a British bookmaker, who are working together to make it happen.

4. Why is the song "Ring Ring" mentioned in the article?

- a. To explain how talented the group was
- b. To talk about an exhibit related to a phone
- c. To talk about the group's biggest hit song
- d. To explain the meaning behind their first major hit

5. According to the article, which of the following does NOT cover the museum's walls?

- a. Posters of the band
- b. Fan mail
- c. Newspaper articles
- d. Videos

6. According to the article, what did group member Bjorn Ulvaeus go on to do after ABBA broke up?

- a. He formed a tribute band to ABBA and kept performing.
- b. He formed other bands and competed on Eurovision.
- c. He helped produce the hit musical *Mamma Mia!*
- d. He designed the ABBA museum himself from start to finish.