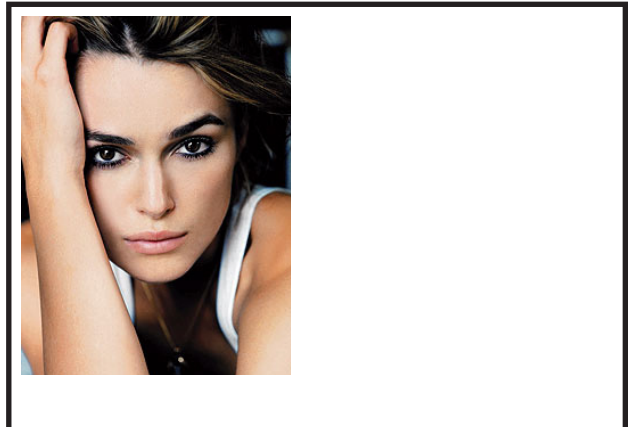
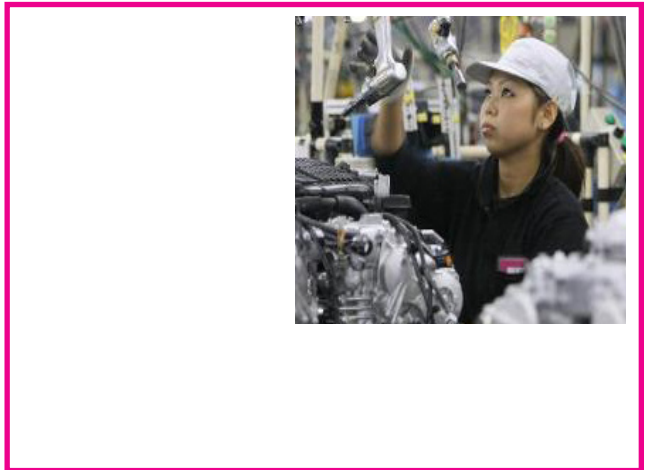
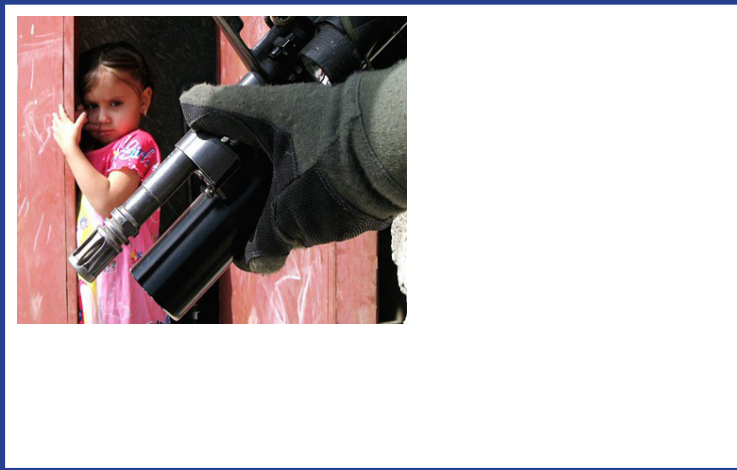
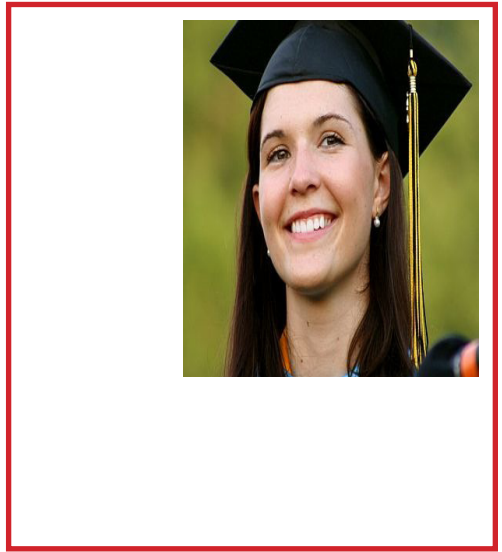
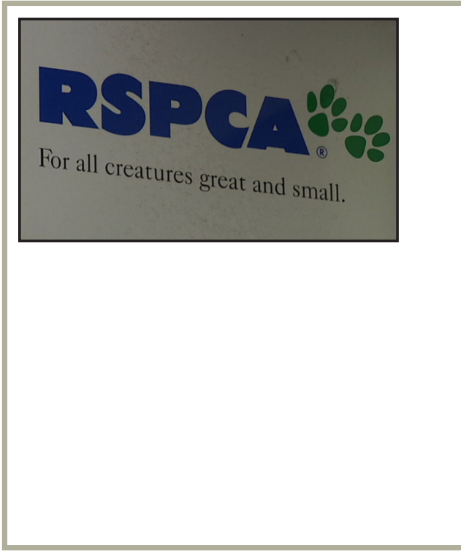
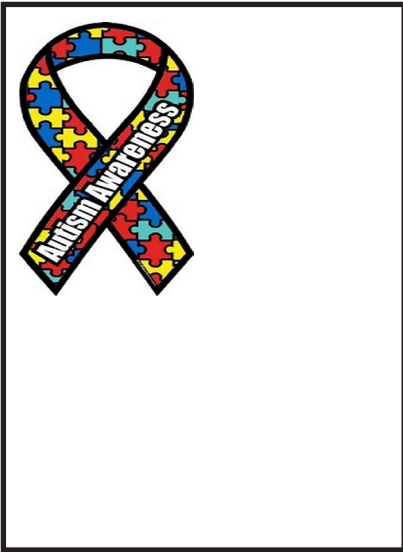


BBC NEWS PAGE 1

Listen to the news and make notes on each story next to the picture to which it corresponds.



Teacher's notes

Total pages 2 / student pages 1 / week of 11.05.09 / CD track 2 / intermediate+ (B1+)

Post-listening discussion Discuss these questions with the students:

Has your country ever had troops in Iraq? If so, are they still there? If not, when did they leave?

Who do you think should decide what bonuses a company gives its staff?

What are politicians doing in your country to combat the recession? Is it working?

With industrial production in Japan rising, do you think the world is coming out of the recession?

How do you think we can increase food production?

How much does it cost to get a university degree in your country? How easy is it for graduates in your country to find work after graduation?

Which is the most popular pet where you live?

Transcript

The British mission in Iraq is drawing to a close. Over the next few months most of the 4,000 troops will be withdrawn. Just 400 will be left by the end of July to continue training Iraqi forces.

The European Commission has published draft rules to try to curb excessive bank bonuses and impose tighter regulation on hedge funds and private equity groups. Hedge funds use complex investment strategies to return profits, even when markets are falling. They've been criticised for their role in the financial crisis, but managers in the City say the Commission's proposals could be deeply damaging.

President Obama has assured the American people there will be an unyielding effort to restore the nation to prosperity soon. He said he was pleased, but not satisfied, with his performance after 100 days in office.

Scientists in Britain and the United States say they've found the first convincing evidence that autism can have a genetic component. They liken the development to that achieved when the first cancer causing genes were discovered.

Industrial production in Japan has risen for the first time in six months. Output was up in March by more than 1.5 per cent, partly because of a stronger performance by the electronics industry.

The head of Britain's agricultural research body has warned of riots in the developing world unless much more is done to find new ways of increasing food production. Professor Douglas Kell of the Biology and Biotechnology Research Council says funding in the UK alone needs to rise by £100 million.

Many final year students say they face a future of unemployment and debt. More than 16,000 from 30 universities around the United Kingdom were interviewed by a graduate recruitment agency last month. Fewer than one in eight had secured a graduate level job, and a third said that in the current economic climate they would have to accept any work that was offered.

The RSPCA is warning that pets are becoming victims of the economic downturn. It says more than 30 animals were dumped every day in England and Wales in 2008, a 57 per cent increase on the previous year. The charity is expecting fewer donations because of the recession, and is going to consider cutting jobs.

Two of Hollywood's biggest talent agencies are to merge. The William Morris Agency and Endeavor represent some of the best known names in entertainment, including Denzel Washington, Mel Gibson and Keira Knightley.