



It starts here...



[Lies diesen Text vor. Lass dir bei neuen Wörtern ruhig vom Lehrer helfen:]

Dear Class,

this is your countdown to the holidays. Every day, one student (or sometimes more) will read out a text, a joke, a story or a tip. There are stories of teenagers who did great things, silly winter jokes and ideas that are good for you or our planet. Your teacher can help with difficult words. All of this will hopefully make your winter days a little bit happier and this world a better place. Enjoy!

Here comes the first joke of the day:

A woman sends a text to her husband on a really cold winter morning, "Windows frozen, won't open".

The husband thinks about their car and writes back, "Use hot water!"

His wife's next message is, "I think we need a new computer."



Ron McNair



[Lies diesen Text vor. Lass dir bei neuen Wörtern ruhig vom Lehrer helfen. Den Namen spricht man Ron Mäcnär aus...]

This is the story of Ron McNair

All nine-year-old Ron McNair wanted when he went to the library (=Bücherei) was to take a book home. It was 1959 in South Carolina (USA) where people of colour could not do that. Only white people could take a book home. Ron didn't want to go away without taking a book, like all the white children did. So, the librarian called the police and his mother. But Ron was lucky, the police officers told the librarian that it should be ok for Ron and all children to take books home. Today, this library is a museum about his life.

[Frage die Klasse:] What do you think was Ron McNair's job when he was older?

- a) A good librarian
- b) A rich bookseller
- c) A bestselling author
- d) A famous astronaut

[Hier kommt die Antwort:] Nope, nothing with books! Ron actually became the second African American astronaut and he was very famous. He was also a great saxophone player and wanted to be the first to create music in space but his rocket exploded on the way and he died. He was 36 years old. Now a crater on the moon has his name. People will never forget Ron McNair.



TikTok Teens beat Trump

[Lies diesen Text vor. Lass dir bei neuen Wörtern ruhig vom Lehrer helfen. Viral spricht man etwa „weiral“ aus und racist „reissist“]

How TikTok teens beat [=schlagen] Trump

Donald Trump, the president of America, wanted to meet up with many of his fans in Tulsa in the USA in 2020. Many teenagers don't like Trump because he said and did racist things and nature is often not important to him.

A teenager posted on TikTok how you could get free tickets to see Trump. They said that you could get free tickets and then not go. That way, Trump would not speak in front of many people. There would be many empty chairs. The post went viral. So many teenagers went online and reserved tickets.

Before the day, the Trump team said millions of people had gotten tickets. They thought that many people loved Trump so much and wanted to see him. In the end, more than half the chairs were empty. Trump didn't look very happy that day.

That wasn't the only time. After Trump lost in 2020, he asked people to call a hotline and tell about problems with the election (=Wahl). He wanted to show that there were big problems with the election even though there weren't any. The number was posted on Tiktok and many teens called and said funny things on the phone. That blocked the phones and the workers for hours. When you protest together, you are powerful.



Pay it Forward

[Lies diesen Text vor. Lass dir bei neuen Wörtern ruhig vom Lehrer helfen.]

What's special about April 28th?

It is international Pay it Forward [=zahl es weiter/vorwärts] day. What's that, you ask? Maybe you need some help really badly and someone is so nice as to help you out with money, time or a good tip. Often it is hard to pay that person back. If you needed the money, you maybe can't pay it back for a long time. Also, if this person had money to give away, they maybe do not need the money back. A famous mathematician, Paul Erdős, gave money to a good student who needed money to go to university. The student later wanted to pay him back. Mr. Erdős said he didn't need the money and that the student should help another person to go to university. This is "paying it forward". The people who believe in "Pay it Forward" and "Pay it Forward Day" try to pay it forward to more than one person. They try to help three other people with something those people could not have done themselves. They then tell those people to also pay it forward to three new people. That way help can even go viral and the world can become a much happier place.

[Ask the class:] Have you ever gotten help that you couldn't pay back? And would you want to be paid back when you help someone?



1 Don't trick us!

[Lies die Frage für die Klasse vor und lasse sie dann raten. Lass dir bei neuen Wörtern ruhig vom Lehrer helfen (aber nicht beim Wort Greenwashing!)]

Don't be fooled (=Lasst euch nicht veralbern)! What is Greenwashing?

- When you wash your clothes with washing powder that is not a problem for animals and plants.
- When a country plants lots of trees to make their towns greener and to fight climate change with new forests.
- When a company does many things that aren't good for plants and animals but to look good they do one small good thing for nature. Then people will think the company is good for the planet.
- When dogs' pee helps plants grow.

[Hier kommt die Antwort:] **Now here's the answer:**

Dog pee is actually not very good for plants, so really that's not greenwashing.

Washing your clothes with washing powder that's good for the environment is great, but it's not greenwashing, either.

In the last few years, billions of trees were planted around the world. For example, Ethiopia broke the record in 2019 with 350 million trees being planted in 12 hours. That's three trees per person. But that's not greenwashing either.

So, greenwashing is when a company that wants to look "green" and good for the planet does one small thing for plants or animals. They also like to put pictures of nature and animals on their products even if the products are made in a way that's really bad for nature. Germany's biggest clothing brand for teens made one set of clothes from organic (=bio) cotton (=Baumwolle). They told everyone they now have clothing that's good for nature, but when you look more closely, you see that one kilogram of cotton uses 20.000 liters of water and is not very green at all. So, don't be fooled by greenwashing again!



2 Katie's Story

[Lies diesen Text vor. Lass dir bei neuen Wörtern ruhig vom Lehrer helfen.]

Joke of the day

What do you call it when a German kid plants some vegetables?

- *A kindergarten (English-speaking people say this German word, too)*

Katie's Story

Katie Stagliano started small. She planted a cabbage in her parents' garden. She didn't think it would grow too big for the family to eat! Katie gave the 20 kg cabbage to a soup kitchen. Soup kitchens give free food to people who need it. That felt so good that the next year Katie planted more. She talked to people about her idea and many wanted to help or give money. Would you believe it, now, ten years later, Katie has over 100 gardens all over the United States. In all those gardens, children and teens grow the fruit and vegetables. As in her first garden, the food is given to soup kitchens and other institutions that feed people who go hungry. This is very important work, because in America it is even harder than in Germany to get money when you don't have a job. For the children working in her gardens it is great to learn about how to grow your own food and to do something that really helps people.