

Annual Examinations for Secondary Schools 2016

FORM 2

ENGLISH  
COMPREHENSION TEXTS

Passage A

**Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year**

The Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year is a word that attracts a great deal of attention during the year. Candidates for Word of the Year are discussed annually by experts who choose a word they think can become of great importance.

**The Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2013 is...**

It's that time of the year again. It's time to announce the Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year. The votes have been counted and I can reveal that the winner is....**selfie**



**Definition of Selfie in English:**

Pronunciation /'selfē/

Noun (**plural selfies**)

*Informal*

A photograph that one has taken of oneself, usually one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media.

**Earliest Known Usage of Selfie**

[ABC Online Forum](#), Australia - 13 September 2002:

**From:** Hopey ® 13/09/2002 15:19:29

**Subject:** re: Dissolvable stitches

At a party I tripped over and landed lip first on a set of steps. I had a hole about 1cm long right through my bottom lip. And sorry about the focus, it was a selfie.

## Passage B

A Japanese tourist recently died after slipping down the stairs at India's Taj Mahal monument. An **eyewitness** said that the tourist fell while taking a selfie at the Taj Mahal's Royal Gate.

5 Police said the tourist lost consciousness immediately after the fall and died of head injuries in hospital. The Taj Mahal, a 17th Century monument built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan after his wife's death, attracts about 12,000 visitors a day.

10 A tourist police officer said that the Japanese tourist had been with three other people when the incident **occurred**. One of his colleagues **fractured** his leg, after both fell from the staircase of the monument in the afternoon, police said. The Japanese embassy has been informed about the death, and an investigation into the incident is being conducted.

15 There have been several accidents and deaths linked to selfies in recent years. In May, a 21-year-old woman was attacked by a bear while she was posing for a selfie in Moscow. There have also been several cases of children being electrocuted while taking selfies on top of railway carriages in Russia. In August, a man in Spain was gored to death by a bull while taking a selfie at the annual bull running festival in the town of Villaseca de la Sagra.

20 Earlier this year, the Russian government launched a campaign to make young people think twice before snapping selfies in risky situations. The Safe Selfie campaign in Russia was an answer to a **series** of incidents in which youngsters were seriously injured, or in some cases killed, while trying to take pictures of themselves. The campaign's motto is: "Even a million 'likes' on social media are not worth your life and well-being."

An illustrated booklet has been issued warning people about dangerous selfie situations, including snapping a photo while halfway up an electricity pole, standing in front of an oncoming train, or while in the company of a wild animal. Officials from the Ministry of the Interior also said that police officers will also hold selfie-safety lessons at schools.

25 "Today technical advances do not stand still, but with all the advantages there are new challenges," ministry official Yelena Alekseyeva told reporters during the campaign's launch on Tuesday. "Our booklet reminds you of how to take a safe selfie, so it is not the last one you will ever take."

30 Concern about selfies has not been limited to the serious risks that some persons run when taking photos of themselves. In an article in the British newspaper The Guardian, Jonathan Freedland writes that the selfie invites judgment based on appearance alone. You post a picture of yourself and wait for people's comments. At least on Twitter which usually has few pictures, he says that people judge each other by their ideas, rather than by their looks.