

HERE IS WHAT IS NEW...

03/08/2015

Hello students! Welcome back to another week of your classes. Can you believe we're now just one year out from the Olympics? That's right – this time next year, there will be tens of thousands of athletes, supporters and tourists in Rio de Janeiro for the world's biggest sporting event, and many millions more will be watching at home. Start the countdown clock, and have a blockbuster week!

VERB OF THE WEEK

To Scratch, Scratched [skrach]

verb (used with object), scratched, scratching

- 1. to break, mar, or mark the surface of (something), by rubbing, scraping, or tearing with something sharp or rough: *to scratch one's hand on a nail*.
- 2. to rub, as with the fingernails, to relieve itching: the dog scratches its flea bites.
- 3. to rub or draw along a rough, grating surface: to scratch a match on the sidewalk.
- 4. to erase, cancel, strike out, or eliminate (a name, something written, etc.) by or as if by drawing a line through it (often followed by out): *scratch out the third name on the list*.
- 5. to withdraw (an entry) from a race or competition.

verb (used without object), scratched, scratching

- 6. to use the nails, claws, etc., for tearing, digging, etc.
- 7. to relieve itching by rubbing or scraping lightly, as with the fingernails.
- 8. to make a slight grating noise, as a pen.
- 9. to earn a living or to manage in any respect with great difficulty: We scratched along that year on very little money.

WORD OF THE WEEK

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Scratch:

[skrach]

noun

- 1. a slight injury, mar, or mark, usually thin and shallow, caused by scratching: *I have three scratches on my leg; There is a noticeable scratch on the table.*
- 2. a rough mark made by a pen, pencil, etc.; scrawl.
- 3. an act of scratching.
- 4. the slight grating sound caused by scratching.
- 5. Billiards, Pool: a shot resulting in a penalty, especially a pocketing of the cue ball without hitting the object ball; a fluke or lucky shot.
- 6. (in certain card games) a score of zero; nothing.

PHRASAL VERB OF THE WEEK

Itching for...

A strong desire to do something.

The team's substitutes are itching for a chance to get onto the pitch to show off their footballing skills.

Chris is itching for the opportunity to show his boss his new invention, which could see vehicles running on compost instead of gas! His laboratory has been working around the clock to find new, renewable solutions to the world's demand for fossil fuels, but this idea might be too far-fetched.

After they'd had a few drinks, some of the guys were itching for a fight. They're always getting into trouble on Friday and Saturday nights!

EXPRESSION OF THE WEEK

To do (something) from scratch: from the very beginning or starting point; from nothing or without resources.

The Wilsons lost everything in the tornado that hit their town last autumn. They've had to rebuild their lives from scratch.

Bruno finally decided to follow his dream of becoming a pastry chef. He dropped out of law school and enrolled in a cooking course last week. His change of heart means he's starting again from scratch, but he couldn't be happier.

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Helen's baking was a disaster! She wanted to make a cake from scratch, but accidentally bought baking soda instead of baking powder. Next time, she'll just buy a box of cake mix!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge." – Stephen Hawking

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know there are several factors which make mosquitos bite some people more than others? Scientists believe blood type, genetics, clothing colour, and even your diet and exercise regime can make you more appealing to these bloodsuckers.

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