

Useful vocabulary for presenting recent news:

Verbs - two-part nouns:

- to update sb – an update (on that story)
- to break out – an outbreak of (some disease)
- to break through – a breakthrough (in talks)
- to come out – an outcome (of the elections)
- to put out – an output (of products)
- to break down – a breakdown (in nuclear power station)
- to crack down – a crackdown (on the publication of offensive literature)

Tragedies:

- a death toll – количество погибших
- relief workers - спасатели
- casualty – жертва
- rubble/destruction – обломки, разрушение
- clashes – столкновения (на улице, столкновения интересов)
- first aid – первая помощь

Politics:

- to ban sth – запрещать что-то (обычно законом)
- trade unions – профсоюзы
- leak of information – утечка информации
- allegations - беспочвенные обвинения
- to step down/ to resign - уйти в отставку
- a turnout (at the conference/elections) – явка

Cultural Events (exhibitions, concerts, plays, stand-up comedy, movies)

- to be on air – идти (о мероприятии)
- to be amazed/shocked/disappointed by – быть в восторге, шокированным, разочарованным чем-то
- to be amused by- развеселиться чем-то
- to get positive reviews

Pay attention to the following grammar:

The exhibition presents/ The play shows ... - На выставке представлены, в пьесе говорилось о

Look at the headlines below and be ready to comment on them:

- 🕒 Children as young as five are being referred for treatment for depression and anxiety
- 🕒 Apple head Tim Cook says he is not the next Steve Jobs
- 🕒 Russia 'categorically against' Syria intervention
- 🕒 Groups of indigenous people in Brazil blocked roads and occupied government buildings to demand better healthcare for their communities.
- 🕒 Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has emphasized the importance of a strong US naval presence in Asia, on the eve of a trip to the region.
- 🕒 Italian PM defends austerity package
- 🕒 The company behind the Blackberry smartphone has warned it will make a loss in its latest quarter and make "significant" job cuts.

Have a look at the articles below:



Russia's Grannies Take 2nd at Eurovision Final

28 May 2012

BAKU, Azerbaijan — Sweden's Loreen won the Eurovision Song Contest in Azerbaijan on Sunday before an international TV audience of 100 million, days after angering Azeri authorities by meeting rights activists critical of the host country's human rights record.

Opposition groups have used the Eurovision spotlight, intended by Azerbaijan to promote the oil-rich country as a destination for tourism and business, to demand democratic reform and the resignation of the government.

Dozens of peaceful protesters have been arrested this month in Baku. Activists say some buildings in the center of the city were torn down to make way for the Eurovision arena, the extravagantly illuminated 23,000-seat Crystal Hall on the shores of the Caspian Sea, and residents were forcibly evicted without proper compensation.

The 28-year-old pop singer won with the song "Euphoria" in the annual competition of 42 countries, delighting viewers and the contest's professional judges and dancing barefoot as she sang. After the show, traditionally heavy on kitsch, bizarre costumes and dramatic presentation but low on politics, Loreen steered clear of any controversial statements.

"This is about all of us! Thank you so very much!" she told a news conference. "Time has stopped," Loreen said about her feelings after she was announced as winner.

Russia's entry, rural folk group Buranovskiye Babushki, dressed in traditional peasant dress and somewhat incongruous in the dancing spotlights, came in second.

The women wept after winning second place.

"Of course, these are tears of joy. The grannies are very happy with their success," the women's spokeswoman, Maria Tolstukhina, said, Interfax reported.

Tolstukhina also said the grannies would give their prize money to build a church in their native village, Buranovo.

From a little-known village in the Udmurtia republic, the group of women — five of whose seven performing members are above the age of 70 — have charmed both Russia and now Europe since being announced as Russia's choice for the contest. Their music features a mix of traditional singing and international music hits sung in both Russian and their region's native Udmurt language.

Last week, Loreen met activists who accuse the government of forcing people from their homes for the building of the hall, an accusation Baku denies. Azeri authorities accused her of making political statements that had no place at a musical event.

"Human rights are violated in Azerbaijan every day," the opposition newspaper Azadliq quoted Loreen as saying after last week's encounter. "One should not be silent about such things."

Opposition activists and international rights groups accuse President Ilham Aliyev of stifling dissent in the southern Caucasus nation, which became independent of the Soviet Union in 1991. Aliyev, who denies the accusation, has run the country since 2003, when he succeeded his father.

After the result was announced, hundreds of people poured onto a roundabout in central Stockholm, dancing in a fountain, honking horns and waving flags and playing the winning song.

“This is historical and magical! I think I’m going to die. This is the best thing that has happened to Sweden in 13 years!” said 20-year-old Tanja Tuuliainen, wearing a Swedish flag and drinking from a bottle of champagne with her girlfriends on the edge of a fountain in downtown Stockholm.

Sweden’s entry last won the Eurovision competition in 1999.

Celebrants bathed in their underwear in the fountain, where Swedes traditionally celebrate major sporting event wins.

Hundreds sang “We’re going up up up up up!!!” repeating a line from Loreen’s song.

The Eurovision Song Contest has been a launching pad for international careers. Swedish pop group Abba became famous after winning in 1974 with “Waterloo,” and Canada’s Celine Dion took top honors in 1988 for Switzerland.

To promote talent over politically and geographically motivated bloc voting, professional judges now account for 50 percent of a performer’s score.



The other half comes from telephone and SMS votes received by each contestant, with fans unable to vote for their own country’s entry. As winner, Sweden will host the next Eurovision contest.

Obama honors 13 with Medal of Freedom at White House

29 May 2012



Describing himself as “a big fan”, a star-struck President Obama honours the ‘Tambourine Man’

nation's highest civilian ceremony at the White

President Barack Obama has bestowed the honour on political and cultural figures in a House.

Musician Bob Dylan, astronaut John Glenn, and Israeli President Shimon Peres were among the Medal of Freedom recipients.

The award is given to people from all walks of life who have made exceptional contributions to society.

It was established by former President John F Kennedy in 1963.

Dylan was born Robert Allen Zimmerman on 24 May 1941 and began his musical career in 1959, playing in Minnesota coffee houses.

He took his stage name from the poet Dylan Thomas and, not coincidentally, paid as much attention to his lyrics as his music.

Much of his best-known work dates from the 1960s, when he became an informal historian of America's troubles.

Songs such as Blowin' In The Wind and The Times They Are a-Changin' became anthems of the anti-war and civil rights movements.

His move away from traditional folk songwriting, paired with a controversial decision to “go electric”, proved equally influential - his confessional, introspective lyrics were undoubtedly absorbed by The Beatles in their later work.

He continues to record and tour, expanding his horizons with a US radio show and a recently signed six-book publishing deal.

Morrison is renowned for her portrayal of the African-American experience in novels such as Song Of Solomon, and Beloved, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.



by STAR TALK Language School
www.start2talk.ru

Born Chloe Anthony Wofford in 1931 in Ohio, she went on to become a senior editor at publishers Random House before pursuing her writing career.

Outside of novels, she has written literary criticism and even lyrics for operas, including *Honey and Rue*, with music by Andre Previn.

Once asked by a student who she wrote for, Morrison replied: "I want to write for people like me, which is to say black people, curious people, demanding people..."

"People who can't be faked, people who don't need to be patronised, people who have very, very high criteria."

The 13 people awarded the Medal of Freedom at [Tuesday's ceremony in the East Room of the White House](#) included:

- 🕒 Madeleine Albright, secretary of state from 1997 to 2001 and the first woman to hold that post
- 🕒 John Doar, assistant attorney general in charge of civil rights at the Department of Justice during the 1960s
- 🕒 William Foege, physician and former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who led the campaign to eradicate smallpox
- 🕒 Gordon Hirabayashi, who fought the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and died in January
- 🕒 Dolores Huerta, community activist and co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association in 1962
- 🕒 Jan Karski, officer in the Polish Underground in World War II and later a professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, who died in 2000
- 🕒 Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts in 1912, who died in 1927
- 🕒 John Paul Stevens, associate justice of the US Supreme Court from 1975 to 2010
- 🕒 Pat Summitt, basketball coach who has won more games than any other coach, and spokeswoman against Alzheimer's disease

Previous honourees include Mother Teresa, Margaret Thatcher, Stephen Hawking, Walt Disney, Doris Day, Duke Ellington and Aretha Franklin