

Kedves Olvasó!

Az Új Szó és a British Council együttműködésében hat héten keresztül – a SME napilapban korábban sikeresen megjelentetett – angol nyelvtanfolyamot közlünk 12 lelkében. Hetente kétszer – csütörtökön és szombaton – ezen az oldalon érdekes témákat talál, melyek segítségével nemcsak szókincsét bővítheti, hanem angol nyelvtani tudását is tökéletesítheti. Minden lecke egy kvíz kérdést is tartalmaz. Ha 2008. május 29-ig a quiz@britishcouncil.sk e-mail címre elküldi mind a 12 helyes választ, átruházható tanfolyamot illetve nyelvtankönyveket és szótárakat nyerhet. A játékot 2008. június 2-án értékeljük ki. A játékszabályokról és a díjakról a www.britishcouncil.sk címen talál további információkat.

Reading Article

What did a dinosaur look like?

Can we believe what we see?

Dinosaur art has a long history. Life-size models in natural history museums, paintings and drawings, children's toys, and of course, the recent spate of computer generated films. It captures the imagination, popularises the science and raises money for museums to support more research. We love looking at dinosaurs. But what are we seeing? The real thing? Or a little fact and a lot of imagination? Did the velociraptor look like a giant lizard? Or like a snake with long legs? Or did it look more like a bird with feathers but no wings?

Bones

All dinosaur reconstruction begins with bones. The good news is that more and more fossils of different types are being discovered all over the world. The bad news is that we don't have complete skeletons for all the species that are being discovered. And it can be surprisingly difficult to work out where all the bones are supposed to go. One of the first reconstructions of the Iguanodon, over a hundred years ago, had a small horn on its nose. It was actually the creature's thumb. Nowadays, we have multiple examples of complete sets of bones for some species, but that doesn't mean that everyone agrees about their skeletal structure. Scientists are still arguing about whether the triceratops family had straight legs like a rhinoceros or

bent legs like a lizard. And you'll see both versions in dinosaur art. There are things that bones don't tell us.

Muscles

The next step is to put muscles onto the skeleton. Muscles make marks on the bones that they are connected to, so we can study these marks in existing animals and draw conclusions about dinosaurs. But there are large parts of bodies without any bones – the whole abdominal area for example. How much muscle is there? A lot, like a horse? Or a little like a bird? Computer modelling can help with this problem, but not everyone reaches the same conclusions. A computer model has been produced that shows that Tyrannosaurus Rex didn't have big enough leg muscles to run very fast. And scientists are still arguing about it. There's other evidence to show that he could run very fast indeed.

Soft tissue

Who could guess from its skeleton that an elephant has enormous ears and a long trunk? Soft tissue doesn't fossilise. Some imprints of dinosaurs' soft tissue have been found in rock possibly showing humps, or frills on the back of the creature or on the top of its head, but not in much detail. There really isn't enough evidence for a lot of the additional features that we see in our

favourite images of some dinosaur species. Scientists are studying soft tissue to try to find out what organs dinosaurs had and what they used them for. If you examine an elephant's skull, you'll find evidence that it has a long trunk – spaces for passages for blood and nerves and tiny muscle connections for example. This research will be able to give us a lot of information about dinosaurs' outward appearance.

Skin

Some preserved imprints of dinosaur skin show reptile-like scales, but it isn't clear if they covered the whole body. Dinosaur fossils with feathers have been found in China and more and more scientists are now accepting that many dinosaurs, including T Rex, probably had primitive feathers as a way of keeping warm. And maybe primitive fur. That's certainly a revolution in the traditional depiction of dinosaurs. The colour of the skin, or scales, or feathers or fur, is another problem. There is no evidence at all from the fossils. The colours that are traditionally used are based on what we know of the animal's natural habitat and whether it needed to hide for protection. But we could be completely wrong. We don't even know how well dinosaurs could see colour. Most of the assumptions are based on what we know about birds and reptiles today.

Faces

We don't know the shape of dinosaur eyes. Were they thin and slit-like, like reptiles? Or round, like birds? In traditional dinosaur art, the dangerous, predatory dinosaurs often have slit-like eyes because it makes them look nastier. The gentle vegetarians are given soft, round eyes. And what about nostrils? Traditionally, dinosaur nostrils have been placed quite high on their heads. But it's now believed that they were much lower down, closer to the mouth. This discovery has a lot of implications for how the animals lived and breathed. It's a big change for the artists to consider too.

So what's the conclusion?

A 77 million-year-old mummified dinosaur (Brachylophosaurus) was found recently, and scientists are hoping that he (or she) will answer a lot of questions, particularly about skin, scales, muscles and soft tissue in general. Only a handful have ever been found before and this is the first one that can be studied in detail with modern technology.

Until then, the fact remains that a lot of very different looking dinosaurs can be drawn from the same basic scientific evidence. And I think that the dinosaur-loving public should get to see all of them.

Vocabulary

5 words/phrases from the text

- thumb: short, thick inner digit of the hand
- evidence: something which proves or disproves a theory
- imprints: marks made by the pressure of something
- feathers: light structures that birds are covered with
- vegetarian: person who does not eat meat

Vocabulary

Vocabulary gap fill. Now use the 5 words/phrases to fill the gaps in the sentences below:

- We had a hamburger, but David just had chips because he's a
- The police have found that proves the suspect was in the country on that day
- She hurt her when she was using a heavy tool to mend the car
- It is an exotic bird with multi-coloured
- Our feet left in the snow as we were walking

Reading Comprehension

Answer the 5 questions using information from the article.

- What do scientists use to reconstruct a dinosaur?
- How do scientists know where the muscles were connected to the bones?
- Why can't an elephant's skeleton tell us it has a trunk and big ears?
- What purpose did a dinosaur's feathers serve?
- What are scientists hoping to learn from Brachylophosaurus?

Quiz Question 12

In which street in Bratislava is the British Council located?

Grammar

Verbs & Prepositions

Some verbs are usually followed by prepositions before the object of the verb. These are called dependent prepositions and they are followed by a noun or a gerund ('ing' form).

He's **waiting for** a bus.

For is the dependent preposition for 'wait'

We can use other prepositions with 'wait' – e.g. He waited at the bus stop – but 'for' is the dependent preposition.

Here are some other verbs with their dependent prepositions.

Verbs with 'for'

- He **apologised for** being late. You can also 'apologise to someone'
- I **applied for** the job but I didn't get it.
- How do you ask for a coffee in Polish?
- She spent many years **cares for** her aged parents.
- I can't go out tonight because I have to **prepare for** my interview tomorrow.

With 'from'

- This spray should **protect you from** mosquitoes.
- Has he **recovered from** his illness yet?
- He won an award because he **saved someone from** drowning.
- I suffer **from** hay fever.

With 'in'

- She **believes in** ghosts.
- Our company **specialises in** computer software.
- You have to work hard if you want to **succeed in** life.

With 'of'

- I don't **approve of** your language, young man.
- Our dog **died of** old age.
- This shampoo **smells of** bananas.

With 'on'

- The film is based **on** the novel by Boris Pasternak.
- If you make so much noise I can't **concentrate on** my work.
- Come on! We're **relying on** you!
- We don't **agree on** anything but we're good friends.

With 'to'

- Can I **introduce you to** my wife?
- Please **refer to** the notes at the end for more information.
- Nobody **responded to** my complaint.

With 'with'

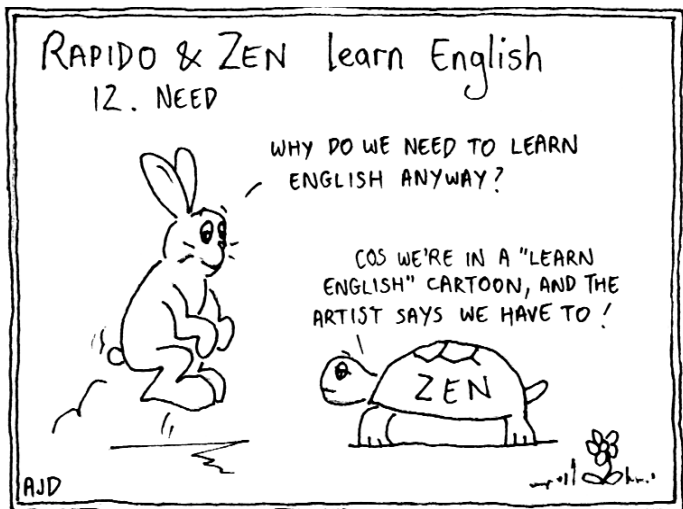
- I **agree with** everything you've said.
- My secretary will **provide you with** more information if you need it.

There are many more verb + dependent preposition combinations – make a note of them as you meet them.

Exercise

Complete the sentences with the appropriate preposition.

- It smells [1] coconut in here.
- Tax is based [2] how much you earn.
- We promise to respond [3] all emails within 3 days.
- I'm doing a law degree – specialising [4] commercial law.
- Our staff will provide you [5] protective glasses on request.



What did dinosaurs look like? - Key
 Vocabulary 1. vegetarian, 2. evidence, 3. thumb, 4. feathers, 5. imprints
 Comprehension 1. They use bones, 2. There are marks on the bones where the muscles used to be attached, 3. Because the soft tissue of ears, etc. does not fossilise, 4. The dinosaurs' feathers were to keep the animal warm, 5. Scientists are hoping to learn about skin, scales, muscle and tissue, Grammar 1. of, 2. on, 3. to, 4. in, 5. with

Megrendelőlap

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A nyelvtanulás akkor a leghatékonyabb, ha olvassa és hallgatja is a szöveget.

A British Council nemzetközi nyelvvizsgák széles skáláját kínálja. A Cambridge ESOL vizsgán kívül más brit egyetemek nyelvvizsgái közül választhat, melyeket a világ számos országának egyetemei, vállalatai és nemzeti oktatási intézményei is elismernek.

Jelentkezzen a Cambridge-i nyelvvizsgák bármely fajtájára - FCE, CAE, CPE, ICFE, ILEC vagy BEC - és emelje angolnyelv-tudásának szintjét.

Részletes információk a www.britishcouncil.sk honlapon.
 British Council, Panská 17, Pozsony, info@britishcouncil.sk