


# Lip News

LIP SERVICE  
Your Language Consultants

December 2005  
Year 2, Number 5

## THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING

 We've come to the end of the year and it's time to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. This is the season to visit relatives, exchange Christmas wishes, sing carols, and give thanks for all that's been given to us. Looking back over the last twelve months with gratitude let's resolve to do our part to make the world a better place in 2006.

During the holiday break, the school will be closed starting on Dec. 23. We will resume courses on January 9th. Have a good rest and don't forget to study!

Our Warmest Wishes for a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Angela Amigoni & the Lip Service Staff

Once upon a time, there was a kind nobleman whose wife had died of an illness leaving him and his three daughters in despair.

After losing all his money in useless and bad inventions, the nobleman and his daughters had to move into a peasant's cottage. When it came time for the daughters to marry, the father became depressed as his daughters couldn't marry without dowries.

One night after the daughters had washed out their clothing, they hung their stockings over the fireplace to dry. That night Saint Nicholas, knowing the despair of the father, stopped by the nobleman's house after the family had gone to bed. He peeked in the window and saw the daughters' stockings hanging by the fire.

Inspiration struck Saint Nicholas,

and he took three small bags of gold from his pouch and threw them carefully, one by one, down the chimney into the stockings.

The next morning when the daughters awoke, they found their stockings contained enough gold for them to get married. The nobleman was able to see his three daughters marry, and he lived a long and happy life.

That is why we leave our stockings out for Santa Claus. On Christmas eve, Santa fills our stockings with small gifts and candy if we have been good girls and boys. And what do bad children find on Christmas morning? A stocking full of coal!



## TEST YOUR ENGLISH WITH TOEFL

Do you need a certified test result of your English skills? Are you seeking a test result to put on your CV or to qualify you for a Masters or university program?

Now you can have this through Lip Service since we are a Certified Testing Administration Site for the TOEFL test. TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. The TOEFL Internet-based test emphasizes integrated skills and measures all four language areas, including speaking. Test

content is authentic, and the language is consistent with that used in academic settings.

The test has four sections. The reading section measures the ability to understand academic reading matter. Listening measures the ability to understand English as it is used in colleges and universities. Speaking measures the ability to speak English. Writing measures the ability to write in a way that is appropriate for university course work.

The test takes four hours to complete and the cost starts at 120 Euros. Lip Service is administering the TOEFL tests scheduled on January 14th and 21st, February 3rd and 11th as well as on March 3rd and 25th. For fastest and most convenient service, register online at ETS.org. The deadline to register is seven days before the test date.

And if you need to brush up on your skills, we offer a refresher course to prepare you for the test.

### A THOUGHTFUL GIFT IDEA



If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

--Benjamin Franklin

## LIP SERVICE

Centro Direzionale Colleoni  
20041 Agrate Brianza - Milano  
Tel. 039 6899427  
Via Paolo Arlati  
23908 Merate - Lecco  
Tel. 039 9284751  
Email: inglese.usa@lipservice.it



# LE PÈRE NOËL N'EXISTE PAS!



**I**l y a approximativement deux milliards d'enfants (moins de 18 ans) sur terre. Cependant, comme le père Noël ne visite pas les enfants musulmans, hindous, juifs ou bouddhistes (sauf peut-être au Japon), ceci réduit la charge de travail pour la nuit de Noël à 15% du total, soit 378 millions. En comptant une moyenne de 3.5 enfants par foyer, cela revient à 108 millions de maisons, 54 millions en présumant que chacune comprend au moins un enfant sage.

Le père Noël dispose d'environ 31 heures de labeur dans la nuit

de Noël, grâce aux différents fuseaux horaires et à la rotation de la terre, dans l'hypothèse qu'il voyage d'est en ouest, ce qui paraît d'ailleurs logique. Cela revient à 967,7 visites par seconde.

Cela signifie que pour chaque foyer chrétien contenant au moins un enfant sage, le père Noël dispose d'environ un millième de seconde pour parquer le traîneau, sauter en dehors, dégringoler dans la cheminée, remplir les chaussettes, distribuer le reste des présents au pied du sapin, déguster les quelques friandises laissées à son intention, regrimper dans la cheminée, enfourcher le traîneau et passer à la maison suivante. En supposant que chacun de ces 108 millions d'arrêts sont distribués uniformément à la surface de la terre, (hypothèse que nous savons fautive, bien sûr, mais que nous accepterons en première approximation), nous devons compter sur environ 1,4 kilomètres par trajet. Ceci signifie un voyage total de plus de 150 millions de km, sans compter les détours pour ravitailler ou faire pipi. Le traîneau du père Noël se déplace donc à 1170 km/s (3000 fois la vitesse du son). A titre de comparaison : le véhicule le plus rapide fabriqué par l'homme, la

sonde spatiale Ulysse, se traîne à 49 km/s. 600.000 tonnes voyageant à 1170 km/s créent une énorme résistance à l'air.

Celle-ci ferait chauffer les rennes, au même titre qu'un engin spatial rentrant dans l'atmosphère terrestre. Les deux rennes en tête de convoi absorberaient une énergie calorifique de 14.300 millions de joules/s.

En bref, elles flamberaient quasi instantanément. La meute entière de rennes serait complètement vaporisée en 4.26 millièmes de secondes, soit juste le temps pour le père Noël d'atteindre la cinquième maison de sa tournée.

Pas de quoi s'en faire de toute façon, puisque le père Noël, en passant de manière fulgurante de zéro à 1170 km/s en un millième de seconde, serait sujet à des accélérations allant jusqu'à 17.500G's.

Un Père Noël de 125 kilos (ce qui semble ridiculement mince) se retrouverait plaqué au fond du traîneau par une force de 2.157.507,5 kilos, écrabouillant instantanément ses os et ses organes et le réduisant à un petit tas de chair rose et tremblotante.

C'est pourquoi, si le père Noël a existé, il est mort maintenant.

## RUDOLPH WITH YOUR NOSE SO BRIGHT, WON'T YOU GUIDE MY SLEIGH TONIGHT?

Poor Rudolph . . . he had a glowing red nose and all the reindeer made fun of him. Then one Christmas eve, Santa chose Rudolph to be the lead reindeer and guide the sleigh through the foggy night. From that day on, the other reindeer respected Rudolph, even though he was different. But what's the real story behind this reindeer with the red nose?

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was created in 1939 in a book by Robert L. May, a copywriter who worked for Montgomery Ward Department Store as a promotional gimmick to sell a new book and toy for Christmas. Rudolph was an instant success selling 2.4 million copies its first year. Robert May's brother-in-law was a songwriter named Johnny Marks, who then wrote a song to go along with the book. The song, "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" was recorded in 1949 and was followed by a popular TV special in 1964.

And that's how an American marketing invention became a Christmas legend.

