

Sotos'English

February 2016, n°1

Students from the
Excellence
programme of first
Bachillerato have
become journalists
for the first time

*A very innovative way
to deep in our English*

*Culture, sport,
interviews, pastimes and a
lot of more... will surprise you!*

Finding out about Spanish cities.

Innovating with graphene.

Music, Rock bands...

Films to discover

What about Quentin Tarantino



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Sandra Cejudo.





Editorial

Sotos'English is a new magazine created by the students of first Bachillerato. We have written it in extra afternoon classes. This is part of a program called "Excelencia" where we take a close look at some subjects like maths, Spanish or English.

This program gives us extra work, because of the time it takes. But in the end we all seem to enjoy it. In addition, when we chose this option our purpose was to learn more English grammar, vocabulary and culture in a funny way, different from the way that we are taught in school. We have reached these aims in these extra lessons by elaborating this magazine.

In this first edition of Sotos'English we are trying to show our multiple interests and also help our classmates to discover new hobbies. The project has been divided into different parts in order to satisfy everyone.

This writing team is formed by: María Calero, Javier Chacón, Carlos Colmenero, José Antonio Gómez-Pastrana, Azahara Guillem, Nerea Martínez, Marta Rodríguez, Carlos Ruiz, Lucía Samper, Julia Sánchez and Andrea Taviro.

Lucía and Julia love good films and both have written the top 30 films and Gran Torino synopsis. Andrea and Azahara enjoy gathering information and being informed, so they have done an interview to Sotomayor's headmaster. María and Marta have created the digital format of the magazine due to their interests in graphic design. Apart from that, they have many travelling experiences and they have shown the best places to visit in our country. Nerea is very interested in science and technology and she has worked on these topics. Sports, music and humour are the passion of Carlos R., Carlos C., Javi and Josan, so they have wanted to express it in our pages.

Finally, but not less important, we have to mention the person who came up with the idea of this fantastic project, our English teacher, Sandra Cejudo. She has coordinated us, she has had the main ideas and, most important, she has always encouraged us to work and enjoy English.



Interview to:

*David Abolafia,
IES Sotomayor's principal*

Mr David Abolafia, our headmaster, was very pleased to answer all our questions. In this interview we got to know more about him not only as regards his profession but also as regards his personality and way of thinking.

What is the best satisfaction that you have got from students?

Some students give a lot of satisfactions... If you don't like teenagers' behavior, it is very difficult to be a teacher... I can't tell you that it is wonderful to work with all the groups because there are very problematic or difficult groups but, luckily, my students have given me many rewards and I enjoy my job. I think that working with young people is a nice thing.

So... Is it difficult for you to choose a satisfactory moment or lesson in particular?

I would have to think over to choose the biggest reward... You students give a lot of rewards to me but at the moment I can't choose one of them.

What is the balance of your work in our high school for these years? Which aspects or points are good and which ones should we try to change or improve?

I think the way the high school works is good but we have to improve, as it is always important to improve in everything in life and we must improve everybody, both students and teachers. However, we have already improved in a matter I was worried about when I was a head teacher: the cleanliness.

Some years ago I saw the center very dirty because students didn't take any care.... There were paintings or graffitis in the bathrooms, students didn't use the bins, the classrooms were a complete disaster at the end of the morning... I think that we must improve the vigilance in the playground too. As you can see, I am critical with students but also with teachers, so I see that everybody can change and help to improve our high school.

-Speaking about teaching, what is your subject ?

Philosophy, although we have to take into account that depending on the educational law, we have had different subjects: History of Philosophy, Ethics or Alternative to Religion as it is named in the last educational law, LOMCE.

"I think that working with young people is a nice thing"



Is the high school currently involved in any project?

As you know, Vivi, English teacher, works a lot in organizing international trips and she applied for an Erasmus + project, but we have not been admitted in this one. However, we strongly believe in the importance of cultural exchanges and the learning of foreign languages. It is extremely important that children have the opportunity to go out and then host foreign students since this promotes harmony among European countries and language learning. So... this is the reason why we have decided to organize cultural exchanges in the center on our own. One of these projects is being organized by Nacho and it will be developed with a French school, the other one is being arranged by Vivi and it is a cultural exchange with students from Poland. Apart from this, we also participate in an institutional project that is called « +Activa project » promoted by the Ministry of Education and focused on promoting sports and healthy lifestyles.

What do education surveys reveal about Spanish education in the recent decades?

If you mean the famous PISA reports or reports of this kind, we all know that we stand at a medium-low level. We are below the average among the countries where this test is passed, that is, OECD countries (Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development).

Is that an European study?

This study is not only aimed at Europe. It is organized by the OECD for those countries that are potentially strong and there are countries from all continents.

So our position in the ranking is in the middle. It is also true that these tests also have their trap because when you pass a test, you can prepare students for the test. In addition, these tests enhance some skills in particular, that is to say, skills that have to do with students' creativity and intuition and, perhaps, in our education system these skills are not enhanced. In our education system, we still promote learning by heart and memorising. However, I strongly believe that the analysis made in the PISA report should be deeper because the design of the tests is closely related to the educational system in those countries. There is another thing, education is part of a social network and countries such as Finland has good results but it is important to consider that its economic and cultural level is also much higher. And, actually, this is something that is reflected on the results. Therefore, the education system is not better or worse, but the cultural level is higher. For example, school failure in our country is still very high and the rate of students who retake the same year is still very high compared to these other countries.

Focusing our attention on the « Bachillerato de excelencia », how do you think that it can help students... if you think it can in any way?

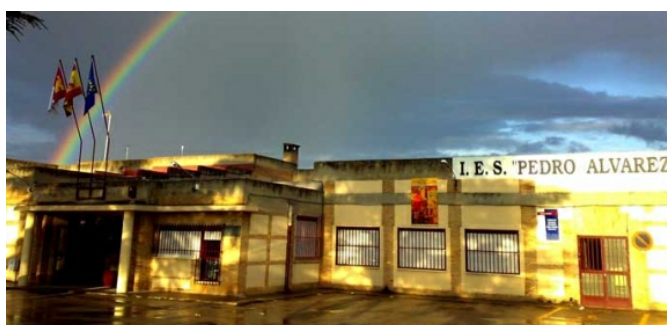
This idea that comes from a school in Castilla-La Mancha, and the idea is that since there is a kind of attention to diversity for students with learning disabilities or difficulties, such as « Programas de diversificación curricular » to help students' learning and performance, schools should also have special programmes to pay attention to students who require a higher level and this is the origin of the « Bachillerato de excelencia ».

Article

Our last year experience with this project was positive but we found some things that needed to be improved. In my opinion, what is interesting about that is not to add an extra hour of class, but to do some things that students do not normally do in the regular lessons and this is the approach teachers are trying to develop this year : to develop practical activities, to show students the professional world outside, for example, how to work in a library, a university, a hospital or how to research ... making you young researchers. I think this project should be aimed at this... that is to say, to teach in a different, more practical way.

To finish, what is your role as headmaster of this high school?

Actually, a highschool headmaster is surrounded by a team that carries out the « hard » work. Headteachers are those who organize groups, organize schedules, although the headmaster sometimes helps. On the other hand, the secretary of the school deals with the whole economic management. The headmaster has a coordinating role, he is the one who coordinates work and represents the school. Thus, the headmaster's work is focused on coordination, organization and representation, but, of course, he does not work properly if there isn't a team that develops all the main tasks.



"Bachillerato de excelencia" students attending Manuel Vincent's conference



"Bachillerato de excelencia" students analysing the water from the Azuer river.



Students participating in "+Activa" project.

TOP TEN CITIES OF SPAIN

Any plans for the next bank holiday weekend? Are you at a loss for ideas for your next trip? Here is a list of the 10 Spanish cities you shouldn't miss!

1. BARCELONA

Located in northeastern Spain, Barcelona is one of the country's top travel destinations because it offers from historical architecture to lively shopping, vibrant culture and buzzing nightlife. Barcelona contains the architectural marvels of Spain's created by the famous architect, Antoni Gaudi, which include the Casa Batllo and the famous Sagrada Familia church.



2. GRANADA

Located at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in the south of Spain. Granada includes the world famous Alhambra and a marvelous Moorish art that involves Andalusia's history. Granada is one of the great architectural places of Europe, and many visitors come to Granada just to see the Alhambra. The Alhambra offers the visitor, ornamental architecture, spectacular gardens and dripping water features including fantastic views of the city below.

3. SPANISH ISLANDS

Spain has some of the most beautiful islands in Europe. The largest Spanish Islands are the Balearic Islands (Ibiza, Formentera, Mallorca and Menorca). Mallorca is the largest and best-known Balearic island while Ibiza is famous as a party destination. The Canary Islands are popular for their beautiful beaches, mild climate and important natural attractions, especially the Maspalomas Dunes in Gran Canaria and the Teide Volcano in Tenerife.



4. MADRID

Spain's capital and largest city, Madrid, is widely known for its sizzling nightlife scene. It is one of Europe's most colorful cosmopolitan cities. Located in the city center are most of Madrid's most popular tourist attractions such as the Royal Palace and the residence of the Spanish monarch. The heart of Madrid is Puerta del Sol, a large square, where many scene of festivals, important gatherings and street performances take place. Another important square is Plaza Mayor, known for the lively San Miguel Market.



5. SEVILLA

Exceptional tourist attractions and lively festivals make Seville one of the best places to visit in Spain. It is the capital city of Andalucía. The city is home to many beautiful and important historic landmarks and the grand Cathedral of Seville, where it is believed that Christopher Columbus is buried. Another significant building is the Real Alcázar, a Moorish palace with luxurious gardens.

6. VALENCIA

One of the largest and most important cities in Spain is Valencia. It is located in the eastern part of the country. The most impressive landmark is a massive cultural and entertainment complex known as the City of Arts and Science. It contains several buildings such as a science museum, planetarium and aquarium that are all artistic marvels. Every March, Valencia hold the "Fallas Festival" where each neighborhood displays papier-mâché figures of all sizes and colors. At the end of the week, the figures are ceremoniously burned.



7. SAN SEBASTIAN

San Sebastian is located in the North of Spain. This beautiful seaside city is loved for its excellent beaches and outstanding culinary tradition. Some attractions for people are the historic buildings reconstructed in the 19th century after the city was destroyed during the Napoleonic Wars. San Sebastian also has some of the best beaches in Europe, the most popular is "Playa de la Concha", which offers sunbathing and water activities.



8. CÓRDOBA

Córdoba is located in Andalucía in the south of Spain. The historic quarter of Córdoba is a maze of small medieval streets and squares, situated around the Mosque. Initially built as a mosque, the Mosque is now a glorious cathedral preserving most of its original architecture. Other places of interest include the Fortress of the Christian Monarchs, the Street of Flowers, and the Old Jewish Quarter.

9. TOLEDO

Located on the top of a mountain in central Spain. It was inhabited by Jews, Christians and Muslims for many centuries, the city is sometimes called the "City of Three Cultures." Today, Toledo is a popular destination due to its historic art and architecture. The best thing to do in Toledo is to get lost through the medieval streets and admire the old architecture of the cathedral, the synagogues and the mosque.



10. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

The capital city of Galicia, in northwestern Spain, Santiago de Compostela, is famous because it is the final destination of the traditional pilgrimage way known as Camino de Santiago. This pilgrimage is important to many Christians because it is believed that Santiago de Compostela is where St. James, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, is buried. The arriving point for most pilgrims is the main square, Praza do Obradoiro.

Music

Foo Fighters New EP

The famous rock band Foo Fighters has launched the new EP "Saint Cecilia" which includes five new songs. This EP is now ready to be listened freely on its official website in streaming. They tried to give hope to the French families which have suffered a loss in the terrorist attack.

Because of the disaster, Foo Fighters have cancelled their last four concerts in Europe.



Music

Guns and Roses come back

The legendary rock band "Guns and Roses" have announced its brand new album. Frontman Axl Rose and its famous lead guitarist Slash are going to perform together for the first time since 1996. The most important fact is that the band has returned to its first formation, that is the one the fans like the most.

We don't know what the new album will be like but we will know about it soon.



TOP 10 BEST CONCERTS IN THE HISTORY OF ROCK

NUMBER 10

Bruce Springsteen at Parc de la Courneuve (Paris, France, 1985)

This concert was performed in the Born In The U.S.A. tour. The great connection that Bruce created with the fans and the great range of music that he played made from this concert the best of his career.



NUMBER 9

Metallica w/ The San Francisco Symphony at the Berkeley Community Theatre (California, 1999)

They gave a frenetic 2 hours concert inspired in Cliff Burton's classical music likes. (For those who don't know Cliff, he was the first bassist in Metallica). It was a huge success because of their perfect combination between Heavy/Trash Metal and Classic music.



NUMBER 8

Daft Punk at Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival (California, U.S.A., 2006)

The fact that made this concert to stay in more than one fan's mind was that they didn't expect what they were going to see. The combination of visual elements like thousands of lights and their perception of electronic music kept the fans jumping all the concert long.



NUMBER 7

Nirvana at Reading Festival (England, 1992).

They blew up the stage because it was the pure era of grunge music and as their inventors, they dominated it as no one did. They played old songs like Smells Like Teen Spirit, Drain You, Breed or Lithium, but they also played new songs like All Apologies or Dumb.



NUMBER 6

The Sex Pistols at Lesser Free Trade Hall (Manchester, England, 1976)

What made this concert a super one was that there were less than 40 people. As one of the pioneer punk bands, they captivated their few fans with their lyrics and their distort sound.

NUMBER 5

The Who at the Isle of Wight Festival (England, 1970)

They are one of the most successful rock bands in the history. This massive event, in which about 600.000 people were reunited, was the last edition of this festival for 32 years. Songs like Pinball Wizard and My Generation were played during their performance.



NUMBER 4

The Beatles at the Shea Stadium. (New York, 1965)

This performance was the most highlighted of their tour. About 55.600 people were present in the concert. There is a documental named The Beatles at Shea Stadium, which includes all the Beatles songs from this performance.



NUMBER 3

Led Zeppelin at Royal Albert Hall. (London, 1970)

The band played a nearly two-hour long concert, material from the band's first two albums was played and they also managed to play songs from their unreleased LP like: Since I've Been Loving You.



NUMBER 2

Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock. (U.S.A. 1969)

One of the most iconic moment of the gig, was the U.S.A. anthem: Star Spangled Banner played with Hendrix's energy. Woodstock is one of the most crowded festivals in the history with more than 400.000 assistants. Despite Jimi's performance was on Monday, about 100.000 people camped to see him act.

NUMBER 1

Queen Live Aid (Wembley Stadium, 1985)

In our opinion it's the most energetic live performance in rock history. The duration of the performance is of about 20 minutes, it is just a curious fact. About 74.000 people attended this amazing moment. And some of the songs played were: We Will Rock You and Bohemian Rhapsody.



GRAPHENE: THE MATERIAL THAT WILL CHANGE OUR LIFE

"Graphene is a material resulting from graphite that was already known in 1930 but its true utility was discovered some years ago. "

CHARACTERISTICS

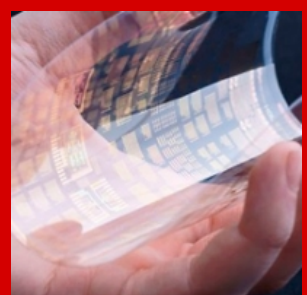
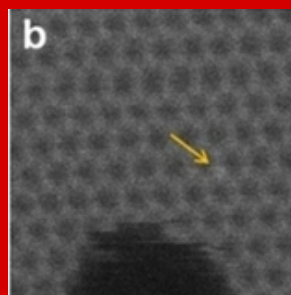
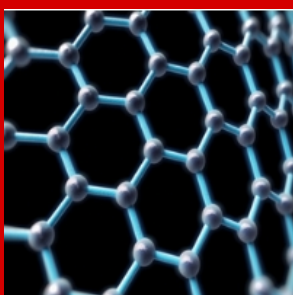
Graphene, with a hexagonal molecular structure, mix many properties other materials don't have, being very hard (even more than diamond), light (more than the air), ductile, antibacterial and impermeable among many others. It drives electricity as well as heat and it produces electricity through solar energy. It can also accumulate energy providing batteries with more duration and less time to charge, even overtaking copper as electricity driver. It can regenerate itself too.

APPLICATIONS

Nowadays, technological applications are very limited, now it's just possible to develop new superficially modified textile with graphene and a couple of more things with clothing.

However, in a near future, it is thought to carry out many developments both in technological fields and in medicine.

Graphene will allow computers to be a hundred times faster and use a hundred times less energy. It will also make touch screen ductile, optic fiber faster and batteries with ten times more capacity of energy storage. Apart from that, graphene will be able to reduce the charging time and high quality headphones will see their size reduced. Finally, it could help to improve for example house painting because it can absorb energy or photographic cameras could be a thousand times more sensitive. And there are many many other applications for this unknown material till now.





Gran Torino

For the first edition of Sotos'English we are going to present a special section about cinema... And here we show one of the best films in the history of cinema: Gran Torino.

Walt is an elderly American who becomes a widower and his family does not take care of him although they pretend they do... just for interest. Consequently, he lives resentful. Walt lives with some Asian neighbours for a few years. He hates them, since he participated in the war in Vietnam and he does not keep a good memory considering the atrocities that were made. Problems arrived in a night when the son of his Asian neighbours was persuaded to steal Walt's car, a Gran Torino.

The boy, Tao, was caught in the garage but he escaped. Walt, after showing and releasing his hatred, he receives apologies from his neighbors, and he forgives them. However, the child's family feels that they owe "something" to Walt and they make Tao work for him. Tao learns from this old veteran and, apart from that, he has fun with him. However, what is really important is that Walt learns to open his heart and he discovers the kindness of this family.

Problems re-emerge soon when Tao's cousins gang reappears and they want Tao to join them. Now, something terrible happens to the family and it is time for Walt to do justice for their Asian neighbours.

Ranking: Test yourself! 30 best films

1. The Godfather
2. Schindler's list
3. The Sting
4. Pulp Fiction
5. The Shawshank Redemption
6. Casablanca
7. El Verdugo
8. Nouvo Cinema Paradiso
9. To kill a Mockingbird
10. Some like it hot
11. Forrest Gump
12. Gran Torino
13. The Silence of the Lambs
14. Rear Window
15. Apocalypse now
16. The Wild Bunch
17. Lawrence of Arabia
18. The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
19. Inception
20. Million Dollar Baby
21. Django Unchained
22. The Matrix I
23. The Untouchables
24. Breakfast at Tiffany's
25. Relatos Salvajes
26. Jeremiah Johnson
27. Planet of the Apes
28. E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial
29. V for Vendetta
30. Out of Africa



Sport nowadays

The word "sport" is very often used or listened to in our lives. Most people who practise sport do it because they enjoy performing it, but we know that practising a sport is very good for our organism and it has lots of benefits. Some of these benefits are:

- If you practise sport you will have less possibilities of suffering a cardiovascular illness. Sport helps you to control your weight and the level of fat in your organism too.

- Sport helps us to have a good development and to strengthen our muscles and bones.

- The third advantage of sport is that it improves our concentration, spirit and it makes us more ambitious because we try to reach new goals. It avoids the risk of suffering stress.

The way to practise sport has changed through time. When our parents were young they used to play in the street with a ball or they played popular games which are lost now. Then, there were less health problems caused by the lack of sport because the main way of enjoying was playing in the street, and nowadays most teenagers have video games and they play with them frequently.

It is true that a lot of young people practise sport in their lives because most of them are in sport clubs like football, basket or handball clubs... But the reason for that is maybe that the sport that we practise at high-school is not enough in order to have a good health. Nowadays there are young people who dream about becoming important and successful athletes. This idea goes beyond professional success, because in some sports a lot of money is involved. In addition, young people dream about becoming rich and being well-known all over the world. And, of course, famous athletes earn enormous quantities of money depending on the team where they play, their image and media rights or the brands they sponsor. The worst part of sport today is that it has been "splashed" by corruption in several ways. There are Olympic athletes who doped themselves and people who have hidden them; there have been "fixed" matches; players, coaches and referees who have been bought. Even the raffles in some competitions have been "agreed" too. In conclusion, sport is healthy and it is relevant to practise it regularly. However, unluckily, some sport institutions are spoiled and they have committed fraud. However, it is important to point out that we should never forget the essence of sport.



Pastimes

Word search

Find the words hidden among the letters.

heel - calf - fist - wrist
eyelash - humerus -
nostrils armpit - knuckle-
dimple shinbone - freckle
thighbone- thorax - tonsil

"You can find out the meaning of these words at the end of the magazine"

Sudoku

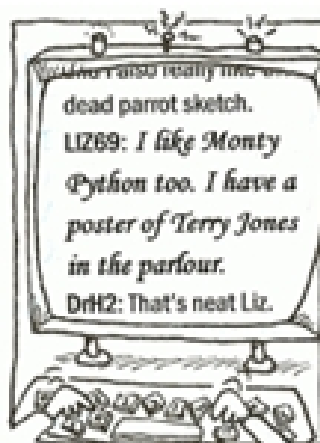
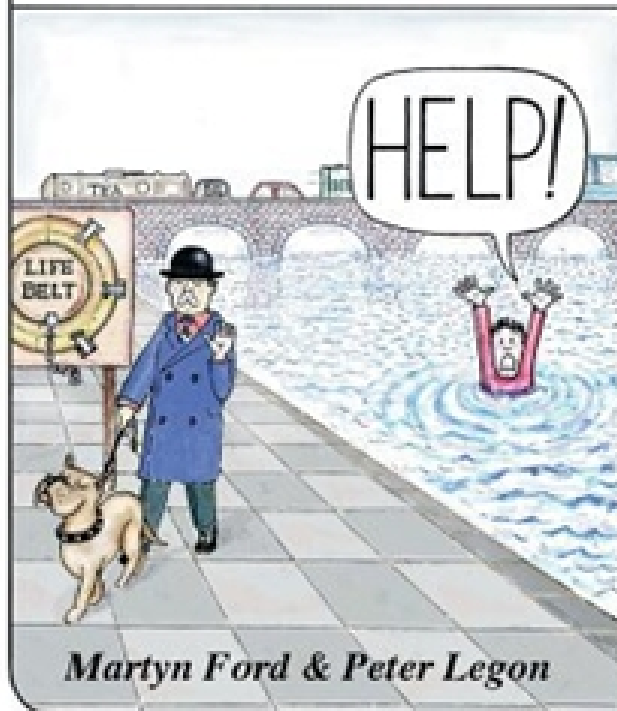
Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the

Every Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically.

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

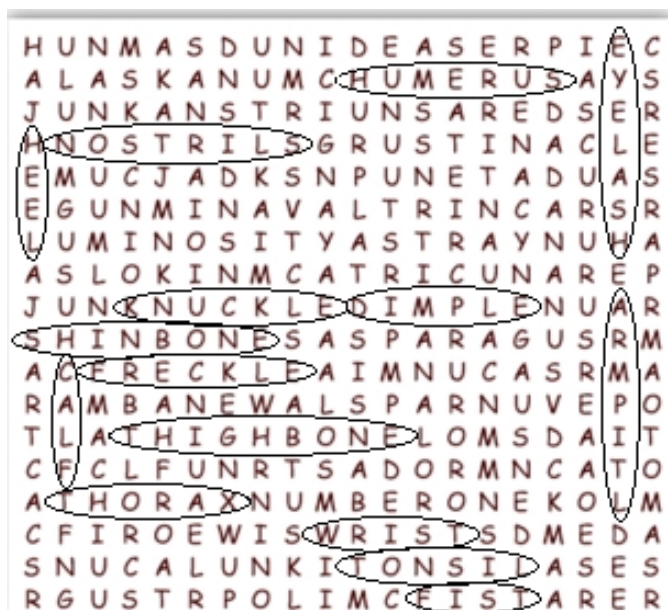
ENGLISH HUMOUR

The **HOW TO BE BRITISH** Collection





Pastimes solutions



5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

HEEL: the back part of the foot in humans.

CALF: the young of the domestic cow or other cow like animal.

FIST: the hand closed tightly with the fingers doubled into the palm.

WRIST: the part of the end of the arm where it joins the hand.

EYELASH: any of the short hairs growing in a fringe on the edge of an eyelid.

HUMERUS: the long upper bone extending from the shoulder to the elbow.

NOSTRILS: either of the two external openings of the nose.

ARMPIT: the hollow place under the arm at the shoulder.

KNUCKLE: any joint of a finger, esp. where a finger bends, or where it meets the hand.

DIMPLE: a small natural hollow on the surface of the human body, esp. one formed in the cheek in smiling.

SHINBONE: the tibia.

FRECKLE: a small brownish spot on the skin that may darken on exposure to sunlight.

THIGHBONE: a nontechnical name for the femur

THORAX: the part of the trunk of the body between the neck and the abdomen, containing the heart and lungs

TONSIL: a mass of soft, pink tissue on each side of the throat

