Lesson 19 14th March 2014

*Adapted from English Result Intermediate*

**World’s oldest primary pupil arrives in New York**

Kimani Ng’ang’a from Kenya, aged 85, is the world’s oldest primary school pupil. He has arrived in New York this week to speak at the United Nations about the importance of free primary education.

Kimani started at primary school last year, when the Kenyan government introduced free primary education. He didn’t go to school as a child because his family couldn’t pay.

*A successful student*

Kimani is a successful student. He is only in the second year but he has achieved a lot since he started. He has managed to become head boy of the school this year. He gives help and advice to the teachers and other pupils in the school. The head teacher is very pleased with Kimani’s achievements – ‘When Kimani started school, he couldn’t hold a pen. Now he has learnt to write a few words in Swahili.’

The Swahili and Kikuyu languages, and Maths, are Kimani’s favourite subjects, and he also enjoys Sicience. He says English is very difficult but he will keep trying. He says he has learnt a lot from the other pupils. ‘They teach me games,’ he says, ‘and I tell them stories of the colonial days.’

*It’s never too late…*

Kenya used to be a British colony, and in the 1950s, Kimani fought for independence with the Mau Mau rebels. He wants to learn Maths to count his compensation money, he says. He also wants to learn to read the Bible. ‘You are never too old to learn,’ he told reporters.

*It’s a record*

Recently, Kimani has achieved a place in the Guiness Book of Records as the world’s oldest primary school pupil. He has 30 great-grandchildren. Two of them are in the same school as him, but they are in higher years.

Kimani waited a long time for his first day at school, but he never gave up and finally he succeeded. He wants to tell world leaders that all children should be able to go to school. ‘To me freedom means going to school and learning,’ he told reporters. But he has other plans for his visit to New York, too. ‘I would also like to marry a rich American woman,’ he said. We wish him every success.

1. *Are these sentences true or false about the article?*

1. Kimani’s parents didn’t have money for his education.

2. Kimani could’t write when he started school.

3. Kimani teaches other children games.

4. He has learnt to read the Bible.

5. There are no primary school students in the world older than Kimani.

6. He has married a rich woman.

1. *Answer these questions for you*
2. How many films **did you watch** last week?

How many films **have you watched** this week?

1. How many times **did you travel** last year?

How many times **have you travelled** this year?

1. How many cups of tea / coffee **did you drink** yesterday?

How many cups of tea / coffee **have you drank** today?

1. **Did you read** a lot of books when you were in primary school?

**Have you read** many books since you left primary school?