

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

Stop Picking on Santa

Do-gooders and political correctness fanatics have gone too far. They've picked on Santa Clause and the Christmas tradition. For hundreds of years, jolly Santa has worked hard, persuaded his elves to complete the toys by the December deadline, and checked his naughty and nice list twice. On Christmas Eve, he has managed without fail to circle the globe and visit every home. His "ho ho ho!" echoes through the night, while his belly jiggles like a bowl full of jelly. But now, some have suggested that an overweight Santa provides an unhealthy image for kids. Equally ridiculous, "ha ha ha!" may be better than "ho ho ho!" because the latter terms means "prostitute" in American slang.

Let's face it: It's mom and dad's eating habits, not Santa's, that influence children. And although many First World countries are facing more and more obese children, which then creates alarming health problems, few kids want to have a large stomach because of Santa Clause. Parents and educators should take more responsibility for the diets of the young. Healthy choices should be recommended and regularly eaten.

Equally troublesome are the attacks on Santa's laugh. Although "ho" may have a negative meaning, only an adult would understand the reference. It's American slang as well, so kids (and possibly adults) elsewhere in the world won't likely understand the problem. If a child still believes in the big guy, the boy or girl will only associate "ho ho ho!" with Santa's laugh.

Will this madness never end? Leave Santa Clause's weight and laugh alone.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in **red typeface** are the answers.

the ARTICLE (for students)

reference	political	jiggles	picked on	overweight
leave	fanatics	responsibility	associate	influence
managed	latter	troublesome	naughty	persuaded

Stop Picking on Santa!

Do-gooders and (a. _____) correctness (b. _____) have gone too far. They've (c. _____) Santa Clause and the Christmas tradition. For hundreds of years, jolly Santa has worked hard, (d. _____) his elves to complete the toys by the December deadline, and checked his (e. _____) and nice list twice. On Christmas Eve, he has (f. _____) without fail to circle the globe and visit every home. His "ho ho ho!" echoes through the night, while his belly (g. _____) like a bowl full of jelly. But now, some have suggested that an (h. _____) Santa provides an unhealthy image for kids. Equally ridiculous, "ha ha ha!" may be better than "ho ho ho!" because the (i. _____) terms means "prostitute" in American slang.

Let's face it: It's mom and dad's eating habits, not Santa's, that (j. _____) children. And although many First World countries are facing more and more obese children, which then creates alarming health problems, few kids want to have a large stomach because of Santa Clause. Parents and educators should take more (k. _____) for the diets of the young. Healthy choices should be recommended and regularly eaten.

Equally (l. _____) are the attacks on Santa's laugh. Although "ho" may have a negative meaning, only an adult would understand the (m. _____). It's American slang as well, so kids (and possibly adults) elsewhere in the world won't likely understand the problem. If a child still believes in the big guy, the boy or girl will only (n. _____) "ho ho ho!" with Santa's laugh.

Will this madness never end? (o. _____) Santa Clause's weight and laugh alone.

STEP ONE

Define: What does "political correctness" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

STEP TWO

Word Search: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take to find all the words?

persuaded	fanatics	jiggles	reference	managed
latter	associate	troublesome	picked on	influence
V E F Z A P A R D R D A W D R S P C L W E J M E U E P N E G N O I N A R I A T F V T F N S M U X X E S G T Z O R E T C Q T T S E I U G S R L R E I A R R R G C T A L S W E Y T N Z L E K O N Z D E F N F A K L C C T K M U N E S C N N X B T I E A H W E B D E T A I C O S S A L N P L Q L K F D E G A N A M J A W F M E E P I C K E D O N W A N N Z A A S G U O R U U A B Q R I L U H F O L B X J K M T R O U B L E S O M E F D D I U G S G K N N U W B R Q V A L				

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

persuaded	fanatics	jiggles	reference	managed
latter	associate	troublesome	picked on	influence
a.	Do-gooders and political correctness () have gone too far.			
b.	They've () Santa Clause and the Christmas tradition.			
c.	Jolly Santa has worked hard and () his elves to complete the toys by the December deadline			
d.	On Christmas Eve, he has () without fail to circle the globe and visit every home.			
e.	His "ho ho ho!" echoes through the night, while his belly () like a bowl full of jelly.			
f.	"Ha ha ha!" may be better than "ho ho ho!" because the () terms means "prostitute."			
g.	It's mom and dad's eating habits, not Santa's, that () children.			
h.	Equally () are the attacks on Santa's laugh.			
i.	Only an adult would understand the () "ho ho ho!" may have.			
j.	A boy or girl will only () "ho ho ho!" with Santa's augh.			

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	According to the article, what does Santa Clause do all year?
b.	What have some people suggested for Santa?
c.	According to the article, who is responsible for obese children?
d.	What should parents and educators do for obese children?
e.	Who will understand the negative reference of Santa's laugh?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article
b.	What do you think about do-gooders? How about in this instance? Why?
c.	Is Santa's current image harmful to children? Why/not?
d.	Which has a greater influence on children, parents, educators, or the media? Why do you think so?

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.