
Today's Headlines:

Workers' unrest in France

World's longest rail tunnel to open

An unusual kind of race

Transcript:

Rail workers have gone on strike in France as nationwide protests continue over the government's plans to reform labour laws. President Hollande says he won't back down as a **bitter stand-off** with unions continues.

The world's largest railway tunnel opens in Switzerland on Wednesday after nearly two decades of construction. The Gotthard base tunnel, 57 kilometres long, will carry high-speed trains through **the heart of** the Alps.

The annual running of the Tetbury Wool Sack Races: Competitors have to climb Gumstool Hill carrying a sack of wool. The men are lifting 27 kilos – the women carry 16 kilos. They run 220 metres up the hill. Tetbury was once a **thriving** wool town, hence this - a way of showing one's strength.

Words and phrases and definitions:

bitter stand-off

angry or unhappy situation where two groups of people cannot agree

the heart of

the middle or centre of

thriving

very successful

Watch the video online: <http://bbc.in/22xA4uD>

Exercise:

Use one of the words or phrases from Lingohack to complete each of these sentences. Note that you may have to change the form of a word or phrase to complete the sentence correctly.

bitter standoff / the heart of / thriving

1. Having everybody at the meeting meant we could get to _____ the problem and do something about it.
2. We lived in a _____ village until they closed the school and post office.
3. Alleged tax corruption by the president has caused a _____ between the government and the business community.

Answers:

1. Having everybody at the meeting meant we could get to **the heart of** the problem and do something about it.
2. We lived in a **thriving** village until they closed the school and post office.
3. Alleged tax corruption by the president has caused a **bitter stand-off** between the government and the business community.