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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Lingohack

### 24 August

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The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white box above the words 'LEARNING ENGLISH' in white text on a teal background.

#### Today's Headlines:

**China opens longest glass bridge**

**HRT increases risk of cancer**

**Hindu monk claims to be 120 years old**

#### Transcript:

China has opened the world's longest glass-bottomed bridge, connecting two cliffs. The structure is suspended 300 metres above a canyon in Hunan province. Visitors can **peer** into the abyss through reinforced glass panels. The bridge is only open to pedestrians – a maximum of 8,000 people can enter a day.

New research suggests the risk of developing breast cancer for women who take combined hormone replacement therapy may have been **underestimated** in earlier studies. A report by the Institute of Cancer Research found women taking the drug are almost three times more likely to develop cancer than those that are not on it.

Well, I don't know about you but this gentleman looks pretty good for what he claims is his age. He's a Hindu monk from India and says he is 120 years old! According to his passport, Swami Sivananda was born on August the 8<sup>th</sup> 1896. And he **put** his long life **down to** celibacy, no spices and daily yoga. India's passport authorities confirmed his age from a temple register, but it hasn't been possible so far to independently verify his age.

#### Words and definitions:

##### **peer**

look carefully or closely

##### **underestimated**

thought something was lower than it really was

##### **put down to**

(phrasal verb) gave something as a reason for something else

**Watch the video online:** <http://bbc.in/2bmF3eh>

### 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.

#### **peer / underestimated / put (something) down to**

1. Hanna should have studied harder. She \_\_\_\_\_ the difficulty of the Maths exam.
2. I had to \_\_\_\_\_ into the distance to read the road sign, but I'm glad I was following the correct route to town.
3. How did I achieve my great figure? Well, I \_\_\_\_\_ diet and exercise.

### Answers:

1. Hanna should have studied harder. She **underestimated** the difficulty of the Maths exam.
2. I had to **peer** into the distance to read the road sign, but I'm glad I was following the correct route to town.
3. How did I achieve my great figure? Well, I **put it down to** diet and exercise.