

Skills 中級 Week 1: Canadians start 'caremongering' trend

A new term has emerged with the (1) _____ of the coronavirus outbreak. The word "caremongering" started trending after acts of kindness in Canada. The word comes from the (2) _____ positive word "scaremongering" which is a recognised part of the English lexicon. It is not yet known (3) _____ the word "caremongering" will stay around long enough for dictionary editors to include it in future editions of their word lists. "Caremongering" (4) _____ after Canadians found new ways of helping vulnerable people during the COVID-19 virus. Social media is helping to spread the (5) _____ across Canada. Within 72 hours of the term trending, over 35 Facebook groups were set (6) _____ with more than 30,000 members.

The (7) _____ of the first caremongering group spoke about the meaning of the name. Valentina Harper told the BBC: "Scaremongering is a big problem. We wanted to switch that around and get people to connect (8) _____ a positive level, to connect with each other." She added: "Caremongering has spread the opposite of panic (9) _____ people, brought out community and camaraderie, and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at risk." Ms Harper explained why caremongering was (10) _____ in society. She said: "Anxiety, isolation and lack of hope affects you.... This (11) _____ community...is really showing people there is still hope for humanity. We haven't (12) _____ our hope."

Which of these words go in the above text?

1. (a) vent (b) advent (c) venting (d) venture
2. (a) fewer (b) reduced (c) smaller (d) less
3. (a) what (b) whether (c) should (d) regardless
4. (a) arouse (b) arose (c) rouse (d) risen
5. (a) concept (b) contraption (c) concern (d) contact
6. (a) up (b) in (c) on (d) down
7. (a) findings (b) finders (c) flounders (d) founders
8. (a) in (b) on (c) of (d) up
9. (a) in (b) on (c) as (d) up
10. (a) import (b) importance (c) important (d) importantly
11. (a) vacuum (b) vitality (c) virtual (d) vat
12. (a) hoped (b) lost (c) vented (d) wished

Discussion Topics

1. Do you think the media in Japan were propagators of scaremongering?

2. In times of mass fear, what can we do to put people's minds at ease?

3. Do you think scaremongering is necessary? Should we be very concerned about COVID-19 in Japan?

4. Can you think of a time when the media blew a problem out of proportion, therefore causing unnecessary fear among people?

5. Why do you think scaremongering exists?

6. Have you experienced any "scaremongering" and camaraderie since the outbreak of the coronavirus?

7. Do you think that Japan will eventually enter a quarantine mode similar to that of heavily affected countries?
