**Listening comprehension First year September 2016**

Celebrations for the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death took place on 23rd April, 2016. The celebrations were held not only in London and many other parts of the United Kingdom but all over the world. The main events, however, were around the Globe Theatre in London, on the River Thames. ../

This is the amazing story of an adventurous theatre company from London that played a significant role in this very important anniversary.

The company had just returned to England after spending 2 years on a world tour, visiting almost 200 countries. They had, however, performed just **one single** play – “Hamlet”! What else?! / They managed to give 200 performances all over the world, the last two being in the most obvious place, the Globe itself, in London where Shakespeare died, and not in Stratford-upon- Avon, where he had been born. /

The idea of a world tour had been suggested, back in 2012, by the company members, just as a **joke** at first really. The very successful “Globe to Globe Festival” in London had just ended and the actors wanted to continue this international experience. They had, in fact, brought together acting companies from 37 countries. / The amazing thing was that all the companies performed a play in their **own** language – for example, “Julius Caesar” was in Italian, “The Merchant of Venice” in Hebrew and Macbeth in Polish. /

Their crazy idea was then treated s**eriously** and they finally managed to organise the tour, but not without difficulty. First of all, they desperately needed money, without which they couldn’t even move away from England, or consequently organise other things like accommodation, visas and marketing. / They also had to take their itinerary into consideration since many countries like North Korea, Syria and Libya were not safe to visit. Fortunately they got together a lot of sponsors and finally started their long journey. / They said it was fascinating to act in the most **diverse l**ocations, from luxurious auditoriums in front of a rich audience in Qatar, for example, to also entertaining children sitting in groups on the sand in the desert. /

The tour was planned to last two years, too long a time for many members of the company, so those who actually went on tour were volunteers who had no family obligations or immediate career plans. What they did need, though, was curiosity and enthusiasm! And they certainly had a good time! / It was extremely exhausting for them at the same time, though, since they were constantly moving around, rarely spending more than 2 days in one place. They did succeed, however, in seeing the Pyramids in 3 hours and having a very quick look at the Great Wall of China and the Mayan Temples! /

And then back to London for the final act!!!!