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WEIRD Teen Trends

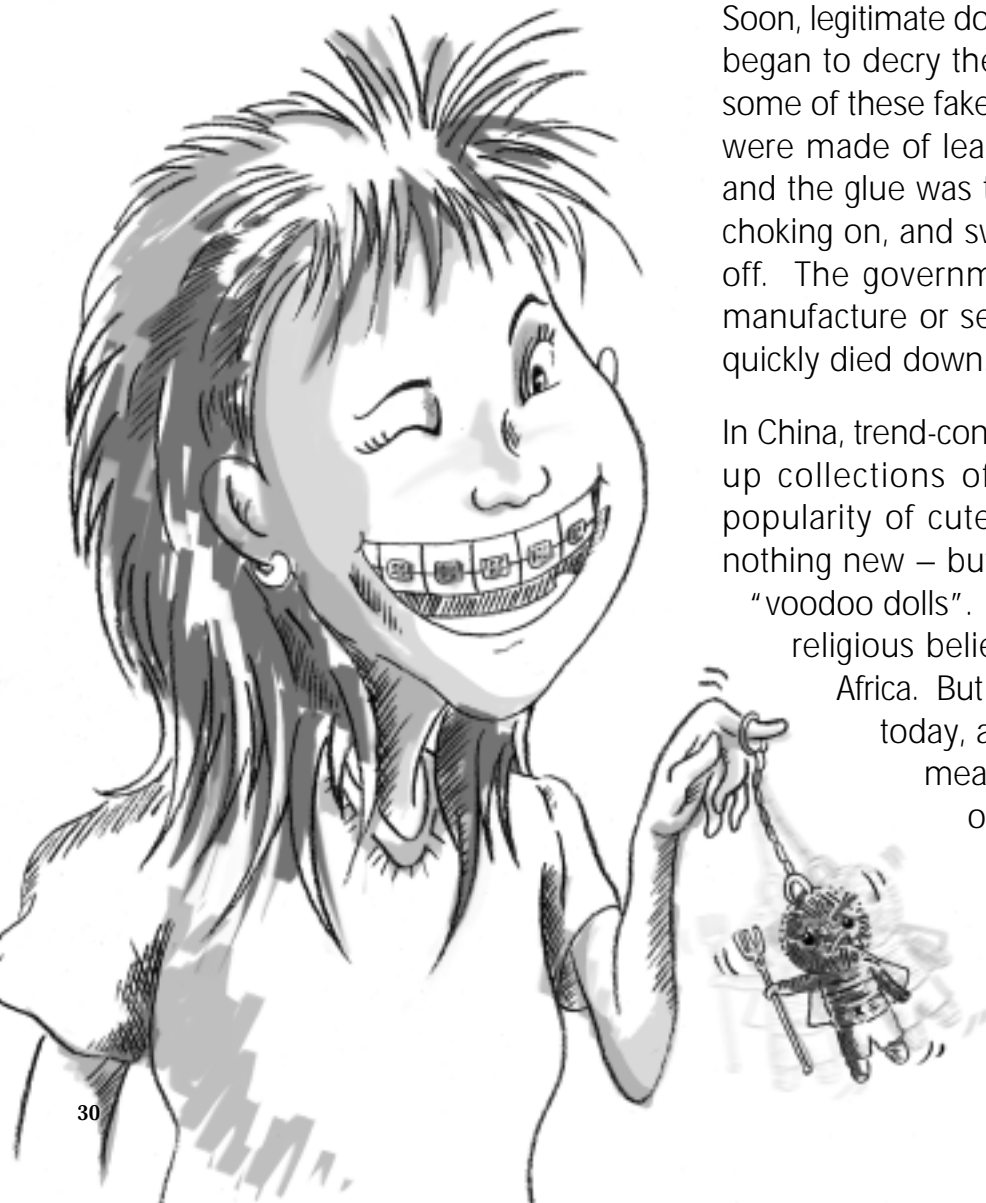
Do you think one of the most important things to a teenager is to be trendy? How important is it to be a part of what other people think is hip or cool? The thing is, what is fashionable and all the rage one week can be very out of style the next. It takes a lot of effort to stay on top of the current trends. Sometimes, too, these trends can be silly or downright dangerous. Take a look at the following two teen trends and decide for yourself.

Recently in Thailand, it was a big fad among young people, especially teenaged girls, to wear fake orthodontic braces. Soon shops everywhere in Thailand, from the cities' shopping malls to small village stores, were stocking fake braces in an assortment of bright colours. These bits of metal were sold in do-it-yourself kits, along with glue. The trendy teens would glue these bits onto their teeth, or some would take them to people who claimed they were dentists and orthodontists, and who were happy to put the fake braces on, for a fee.

Soon, legitimate doctors, dentists, and orthodontists began to decry the trend. Studies carried out on some of these fake decorative braces showed they were made of lead and other harmful materials, and the glue was toxic. There were cases of girls choking on, and swallowing, metal bits that came off. The government declared it an offence to manufacture or sell the fake braces, and the fad quickly died down.

In China, trend-conscious teenagers were in buying up collections of cute dolls. Of course, the popularity of cute dolls or the newest game is nothing new – but these dolls were marketed as “voodoo dolls”. Voodoo is an ancient system of religious beliefs and practices, originating in Africa. But voodoo dolls, as we know them today, are considered by some to be a means by which we can inflict harm on others.

Soon, voodoo dolls were being brought to schools in China, and students were using them to, among other things, wish bad luck on their



fellow students during exam time. All this voodoo doll activity was disrupting school life. Again, the government stepped in and banned the sale of these voodoo dolls, and school staff was given the authority to confiscate them.

Was it worth it to be “trendy” for a little while? How important is it to get the newest “must-haves”? Are you a follower, or do you lead your own life?

A. Read each of the following sentences. Write what happened as a result.

1. Teenaged girls in Thailand liked wearing fake orthodontic braces.

2. Studies carried out on some of these fake decorative braces showed they were made of lead and other harmful materials, and the glue was toxic.

3. All this voodoo doll activity was disrupting school life.



Which of these two teen trends is weirder, wearing fake orthodontic braces or collecting voodoo dolls? Explain why you think so.

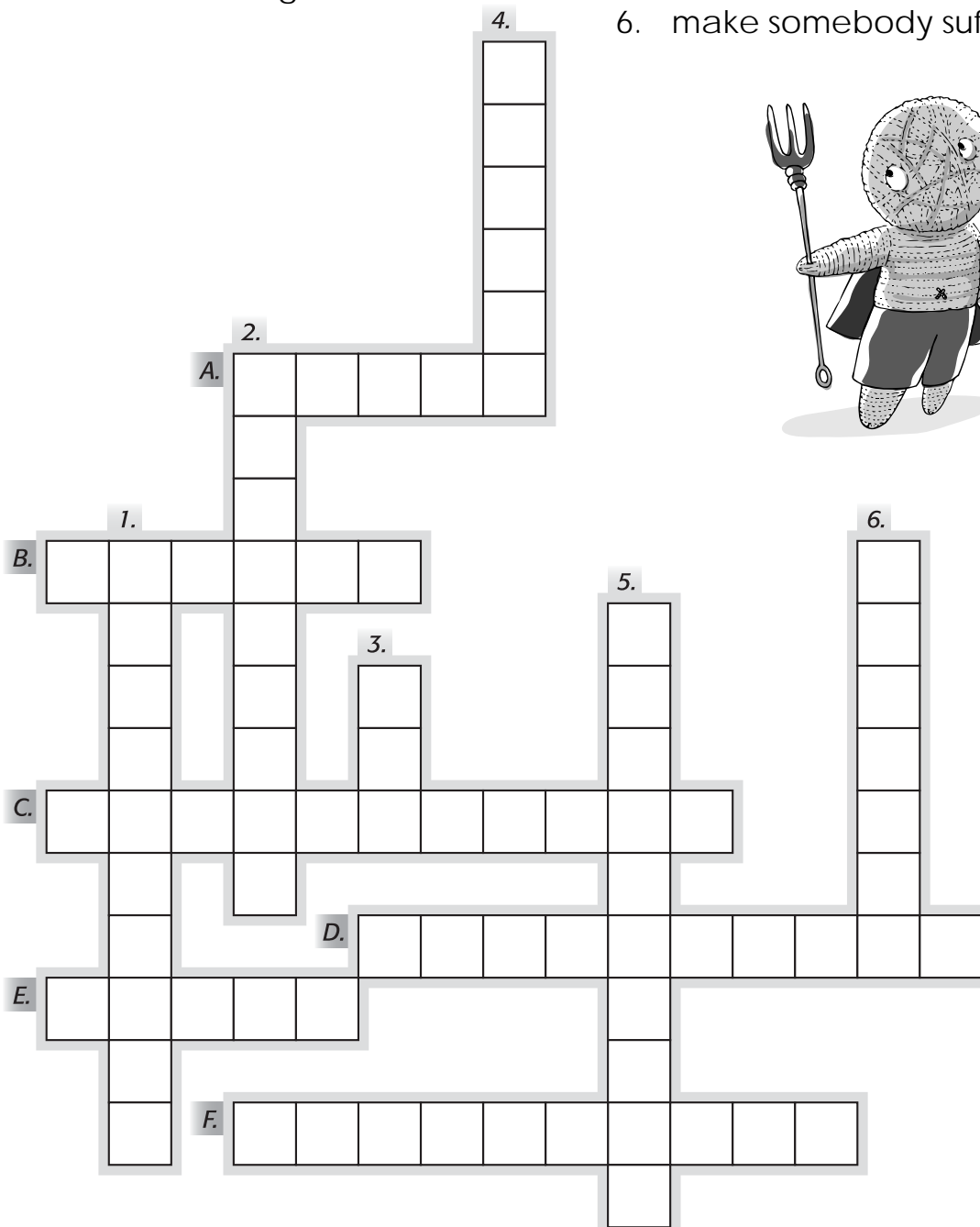
B. Read the clues and complete the crossword puzzle with words from the passage.

Across

- A. criticize strongly
- B. officially forbidden
- C. dental
- D. seize
- E. strange, odd
- F. preventing something from continuing

Down

- 1. variety
- 2. positively
- 3. something that is very popular for a short time
- 4. very modern
- 5. something acceptable according to the law
- 6. make somebody suffer



C. Read the example. Then compose a short paragraph based on each of the following topic sentences.

Recently in Thailand, it was a big fad among young people, especially teenaged girls, to wear fake orthodontic braces.

← Topic sentence

Soon shops everywhere in Thailand, from the cities' shopping malls to small village stores, were stocking fake braces in an assortment of bright colours. These bits of

← Supporting sentence to illustrate the fad

metal were sold in do-it-yourself kits, along with glue. The trendy teens would glue these bits onto their teeth, or some would take them to people who claimed they were dentists and orthodontists, and who were happy to put the fake braces on, for a fee.

← Details about the fake braces

← How teens had the fake braces put on their teeth

1. People today are more health-conscious than before. _____

2. We are planning to stage a variety show on Saturday evening. _____

3. The weather suddenly turned nasty. _____
