

FOR UPPER-INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS

ENGLISH THROUGH READING

КОМПЛЕКСНОЕ ПОСОБИЕ

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Unit 1: California awaits "The Big One"

Back in the 1980s, scientists completed a ten-year survey on the earthquake risk in California; and they came up with an alarming prediction. The next "Big One", that massive earthquake that Californians know is coming, could well strike by or shortly after the year 2018. And Californians well know that this prediction could be right. California often experiences earthquakes, and a "big one" is sure to hit the state again some time soon. Larry Wood, who lives virtually on top of the "Hayward fault", knows what it is like to be in an earthquake.



After the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906

1. California is known all over the world for its size, its sun, and its surf, its glamour and its optimism. But it is known too as "Earthquake Country" — a truly **vulnerable** region where big devastating quakes have occurred in the past and could happen again. It is **unlikely** that a disaster on the scale of recent disasters in Italy or Japan could occur in California; California has learnt from its past disasters, and most buildings are designed to **withstand** major quakes. Nevertheless, Californians are worried. When will the next big quake strike the state, and where will all the shaking and crumbling and rocking begin?
2. Nobody knows for sure, but at all times California is on the alert. The earth is permanently **monitored** with high-tech **seismographs** situated in universities and government research stations; they are constantly watched by highly-trained employees and volunteers from the California Office of Emergency Services; and students in every school receive **training** in what to do in the event of an earthquake.

3. Working at Menlo Park, near Stanford University, in the middle of "Earthquake Country", scientists from the United States Geological Survey are always monitoring and studying fault systems, and trying to predict where earthquakes are going to take place next.
4. Back in 1988, a team of USGS scientists completed a ten-year survey on "earthquake possibilities", and came up with the conclusion that there's going to be a lot of shaking in the years ahead. In particular, they predicted a 50% possibility of an exceptionally big quake of 8.3 sometime before 2018, somewhere along the San Andreas or Hayward faults.
5. In the two centuries from 1812 to 2012, California has suffered dozens of earthquakes. The last seriously damaging earthquake was the 1994 quake in the Los Angeles area, which registered 6.7 on the Richter scale, and did up to \$40 billion worth of damage. A much stronger quake, of 7.2 on the Richter scale, struck Baja California (Mexico) in 2010, doing over a billion dollars worth of damage in this far less populated area.
6. Since 1812, California has experienced 15 major earthquakes of a magnitude of 7.0 or larger. Two of these were the great quake of 1857, with an estimated magnitude of 8.3, and the great earth-quake of 1906, which nearly levelled the port city of San Francisco and had a magnitude of 8.25.
7. Responsibility for California's earthquakes lies in the fact that the state sits atop the famous and terrifying *San Andreas Fault*. This fault rocks and quakes often and unexpectedly as the earth's tectonic plates **shift** along fault lines that run 700 miles from the Mexican border to the north California coast. It is almost unbelievable that more than 20 million people should choose to live along this fault; but because their state has prosperity, an ideal climate, and a wonderful ambiance, Californians take a laissez-faire attitude to the potential danger.
8. Living in the hills above the Hayward Fault, I know all about the danger. Like many Californians, I buy costly earthquake insurance for my home. If I walk along certain streets in the town of Hayward, I can see how the earth **creeps** and shifts. In some places, the town looks as if the architects and builders made big mistakes in construction, because the buildings are **out of kilter**.
9. Actually, what has happened is that the streets have cracked and shifted, so that **curbs** no longer meet. Houses have shifted, so that walls are uneven. Buildings have interior and exterior cracks that can't be prevented, because the slowly shifting earth causes an **inexorable** movement in foundations, walls and streets! Geologists believe that displacements along this fault have been occurring for 15-20 million years. The **drift** can be measured — in the present decades — as a displacement of two inches per year, on average. It doesn't take an expert to figure out what moving part of a building **two inches** a year will do to that structure. During the destructive 1906 earthquake, in some places the earth moved as much as 21 feet!
10. Scientists now know that major earthquakes occur at about 150-year intervals along the San Andreas fault; but in the future, they will probably not happen unannounced. Scientists can now better predict when a quake is coming, by foreshocks and other techniques discovered in the studies they are constantly undertaking, so Californians can normally go to bed at night without worrying whether the house will fall down around them while they are sleeping.

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11. Still, with or without a warning, the next Big One, when it comes, will still do enormous damage. It's something that we Californians just live with.

WORDS

Survey: study - **prediction:** talking about the future - **strike:** hit, happen - **vulnerable:** at risk - **unlikely:** improbable - **withstand:** resist - **monitored:** watched - **seismograph:** apparatus that detects movements in the ground - **training:** instruction - **downtown:** central - **shift:** move - **to creep:** move slowly - **out of kilter:** not in a straight line - **curb:** edge of the road - **inexorable :** unstoppable, inevitable - **drift:** movement - **two inches:** about 5 cm.

California - waiting for the Big One

Words and their endings.

Replace the missing word-endings in the following two extracts from the article.

The earth is permanent ____ **monitor** ____ with high-tech **seismographs** situat ____ in universities and govern ____ research stations; they are constant ____ watch ____ by high ____ - train ____ employ ____ and volunt ____ from the California Office of Emergency Services; and students in every school receive **train** ____ in what to do in the event of an earthquake. Actual ____, what has happen ____ is that the streets have crack ____ and shift ____, so that **curbs** no long ____ meet. Houses have shift ____, so that walls are uneven. Build ____ have inter ____ and exter ____ cracks that can't be prevent ____, because the slow ____ shift ____ earth causes an **inexor** ____ move ____ in found ____, walls and streets! Geolog ____ believe that displace ____ along this fault have been occurr ____ for 15-20 million years. The **drift** can be measur ____ as a displace ____ of two inches per year, on average. It doesn't take an expert to figure out what mov ____ part of a build ____ **two inches** a year will do to that structure. During the destruct ____ 1906 earthquake, in some places the earth mov ____ as much as 21 feet!

Unit 2: The story of the skyscraper

America has given a lot of things to the world; but in terms of urban lifestyle, none is as significant and as visible as the skyscraper

Tall buildings, their tips sometimes hidden in the clouds, skyscrapers have become the symbol of modern urban civilization, and today they are found worldwide. But until the mid-20th century, they were very much a distinctive feature of the American city.



The skyline of Manhattan

1. If you ask a person to describe an American city, the chances are that he will mention the word *skyscraper*. Tall buildings, their tips sometimes hidden in the clouds, have become the symbol of the American **metropolis**, a symbol of twenty-first century urban civilisation. American cities have not always had skyscrapers, but it is now almost a century and a half since the first skyscrapers began to distinguish their skylines.
2. For millions of people coming to America from Europe, the first proof that they had reached a new world was the moment when they first **caught sight of** the **skyline** of Manhattan. Surrealistic, superhuman, the skyline was like nothing they had ever seen in the old world — a concentration of tall buildings, their tops scraping the sky, hundreds of feet above the ground. These were New York's famous skyscrapers! This was America!
3. The first skyscrapers, however, did not develop in New York, but in Chicago, in the late nineteenth century. Chicago at that time was the boom town of the United States — New York was just the front door. Chicago was at the center of the new American adventure, and the new adventure was the West. Chicago was the point at which the West began.
4. In the year 1871, a large part of booming Chicago was destroyed as a major fire engulfed much of the downtown area. The fire, however, was a great stimulus to architects: not only did it show them the need to design modern buildings that would not be liable to burn very rapidly, but it also gave them plenty of opportunities to put their new theories into practice.
5. By the late 1800's architects and engineers had made great steps forwards. Until the nineteenth century, the height of buildings had been limited to a maximum of about ten **stories** as a result of the building materials used — wood, brick or stone. With the

exception of churches and cathedrals, few earlier buildings went higher than this, because they could not do so. And even the great churches of mediaeval Europe had to respect basic mechanical **constraints**. The walls needed to be terribly thick at the bottom, and often supported by complicated systems of **buttresses** and **flying buttresses**, to stop them falling down.

6. In the nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution resulted in the development of new techniques, notably the use of iron. This allowed the building of much bigger buildings, in particular railway stations, the "cathedrals of the Industrial Revolution", and exhibition buildings. Opened in 1889, the nineteenth century's most famous iron and steel structure reached unheard-of new heights. The Eiffel Tower, 1010 feet high, pointed the way to the future: upwards!
7. Yet plain iron and steel structures had their limitations. They were not really suitable for the design of human habitations or offices — and **in the event of** fire, they could collapse very rapidly.
8. It was in fact the combination of the old and the new that allowed the development of the skyscraper: the combination of metal frames and **masonry cladding**. The metal frame allowed much greater strength and height, without the enormous mass and weight of stone-built structures; the masonry cladding allowed traditional features, such as rooms and **partitions**, to be included in the design with relatively few problems. The man generally considered as the father of this new technique was the Chicago architect William Jenney.
9. Though Jenney was the father of the metal-frame building, his own buildings did not go any higher than contemporary brick or stone buildings already going up in Chicago, New York, and elsewhere. Jenney's "Home Insurance Building" in Chicago (photo above) was only ten stories high, and stylistically similar to other buildings which did not use a metal frame.
10. It was left to Jenney's successors, notably Lewis Sullivan and David Burnham, working in Chicago and New York, to go further. Burnham's "Flat-iron Building" in New York, erected in 1902, reached new heights for an office building, with 20 stories; and at 290 feet (about 90 metres), it is known as New York's first skyscraper.
11. The reasons for building skyscrapers were clear, particularly in a city like New York, whose **downtown** district, Manhattan, could not expand very easily on a horizontal plane, limited as it was by the Hudson and East rivers. Apart from upwards, there were not many directions in which Manhattan could grow. And once the building techniques had been mastered, vertical expansion became the most desirable solution for the city's businessmen.
12. Since those early days, and in particular since the Second World War, skyscrapers have **mushroomed** in all the world's big cities; and they keep getting higher and higher. Before the First World War, New York's "Woolworth Building" had reached 792 feet (241 metres) ; and by the Second World War, the Empire State Building —for many years the world's tallest — had actually passed the Eiffel Tower. In the 1970s, the enormous twin towers of the World Trade Center, 107 stories high, went even further. But did they go too far? As bold icons of modern America, they became the target of terrorism when radical Islamic

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terrorists used passenger jets to destroy them, in the terrible events of 9/11 - the 11th of September 2001.

13. Architectural dreamers of a hundred years ago or more imagined cities in the sky, **giant** buildings where people lived thousands of feet above the ground, above the clouds, above the pollution. Today, although some people believe that modern skyscrapers are too high, they now characterise cities all over the world; and they keep getting higher. Fires in a few tall buildings, for instance in Dubai, have led to further questions being asked; but in spite of the occasional disaster, skyscrapers are here to stay — at least for offices and city hotels. Symbols of our civilisation, they are not likely to be replaced.

WORDS :

metropolis : very big city - **catch sight of**: start to see - **skyline**: profile - **stories**: levels - **constraints**: limitations - **buttresses and flying buttresses**: architectural supports used to hold up tall buildings, especially in Gothic architecture - **in the event of**: if there is - **masonry** : stone, bricks or concrete - **cladding**: exterior - **partitions**: non-stress-bearing walls (**stress**: weight, force) - **downtown**: central - **to mushroom**: to appear in lots of different places - **giant** : enormous

Use of articles

Replace the definite articles in the following extract from the text, when they are needed. think of why articles are needed, or **not needed**, in each case : to revise the use of articles, visit the **articles** page of the Linguapress online English grammar.

In _____ nineteenth century, _____ Industrial Revolution resulted in _____ development of _____ new techniques, notably _____ use of _____ iron. This allowed _____ building of much bigger buildings, in particular _____ railway stations, the "cathedrals of the Industrial Revolution", and _____ exhibition buildings. Opened in 1889, _____ nineteenth century's most famous iron and steel structure reached _____ unheard-of new heights. _____ Eiffel Tower, 1010 feet high, pointed _____ way to _____ future: upwards!

Yet _____ plain iron and steel structures had their limitations. They were not really suitable for _____ design of human habitations or _____ offices — and in _____ event of _____ fire, they could collapse very rapidly.

It was in fact _____ combination of _____ old and _____ new that allowed _____ development of _____ skyscraper: _____ combination of _____ metal frames and _____ masonry cladding. _____ metal frame allowed _____ much greater strength and height, without _____ enormous mass and weight of stone-built structures; _____ masonry cladding allowed _____ traditional features, such as _____ rooms and partitions, to be included in _____ design with relatively few problems. _____ man generally considered as _____ father of this new technique was the Chicago architect William Jenney.

Unit 3: Thanksgiving

- A very American festival

Thanksgiving is perhaps the most American of America's festivals. While many countries have days when everyone eats a lot, only the Americans have a day on which they celebrate having enough to eat. Perhaps this may seem rather superfluous in a country whose inhabitants are today among the best-fed in the world; but to Americans, Thanksgiving is a reminder that this was not always the case.



The First Thanksgiving in 1621 - from a painting by JLG Ferris

1. The last weeks of the year are a festive time in most countries; but while Europeans just celebrate Christmas and the New Year, Americans begin their festive season about a month earlier. The feast of **Thanksgiving**, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, is second only in importance to Christmas in the American calendar of feast days.
2. Thanksgiving is the oldest non-Indian tradition in the United States, and was first celebrated in the year 1621. It was in this year that the men and women in Plymouth, one of the first New England colonies, decided to establish a feast day to mark the end of the farming year. As **devout** Protestants, they called their feast day "Thanksgiving", a day on which people could celebrate and give thanks to God for the **crops** that they had managed to grow and **harvest**. This was not in fact an original idea, but was based on the English "**Harvest Festival**", an old **custom** whereby people gave thanks to God once the crops were all in. In America however, a successful harvest was more significant than in England, for any **failure** to bring in an adequate supply of crops could be fatal for a new colony, **struggling** to set itself up in an alien continent. Several early North Americans colonies failed because the colonists were killed off by **disease** or fighting, and others perished because they did not have time to prepare enough land and grow enough food for their

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needs during the long cold winter months. The year 1621 was a particularly **bountiful** one for the Plymouth colonists, so they "gave thanks" for their good fortunes.

3. In the years that followed, other colonies introduced their own Thanksgiving festivals, each one at first choosing its own date, and many varying the date according to the state of the harvests. In 1789, President George Washington gave an official Thanksgiving Day **address** in honor of the new Constitution; and Thanksgiving Day, like Independence Day (July 4th) became one of America's great days. Nevertheless, at first the date was not fixed nationally; indeed, it was not until 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln declared that Thanksgiving Day should be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. Other presidents made similar proclamations, and the date of Thanksgiving tended to move around until the year 1941, when Congress and the President jointly declared that it should **henceforth** be fixed on the fourth Thursday of November. Since then, Thanksgiving Day has remained fixed.
4. Once a communal festival, where whole communities celebrated together, Thanksgiving is today the great family festival; but apart from that, it has not changed greatly.

The heart of Thanksgiving is still the fruit of the land; and the Thanksgiving feast is based, essentially, on the native American foods that allowed the early settlers to survive: turkey, corn, potatoes and **squash**. The wild turkeys, large birds that lived in the forests of North America, were like a miracle for the early colonists who could trap them with ease; and turkey has always been the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving feast. Potatoes were unknown to Europeans before the discovery of North America, and it was Indians who taught the early colonists how to grow them and eat them. Maize, the great native North American cereal, is another ingredient of the Thanksgiving meal, eaten in the form of sweet corn. Finally, for dessert, no Thanksgiving meal is complete without "pumpkin pie", the traditional tart made from pumpkins, enormous round orange types of **squash**.

WORDS:

devout: strict, pious - **crops:** plants that can be eaten - **harvest :** picking of fruit, or cutting of cereal crops - **custom:** something done regularly - **failure (n) :** from the verb to fail, to not succeed - **struggle:** fight - **disease:** sickness - **bountiful:** abundant - **address:** speech - **henceforth:** from that time onwards - **squash:** vegetables such as courgettes (zucchini) and marrows.

Rephrase the following sentences in your own words, starting with the prompt given:

1. Thanksgiving is second only in importance to Christmas in the American calendar of feast days.
Christmas is
2. Any failure to bring in an adequate supply of crops could be fatal for a new colony.
A new colony
3. Turkey has always been the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving feast.
Americans.....
4. Potatoes were unknown to Europeans before the discovery of North America.
Until North America no-one

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Put back the articles - the definite article **the** or the indefinite article *a/an* - when they are required in this extract from the text.

_____ last weeks of _____ year are _____ festive time in _____ most countries; but while _____ Europeans just celebrate _____ Christmas and _____ New Year, Americans begin their festive season about _____ month earlier. _____ feast of _____ Thanksgiving, celebrated on _____ fourth Thursday in _____ November, is second only in _____ importance to _____ Christmas in _____ American calendar of _____ feast days.

Thanksgiving is _____ oldest non-Indian tradition in _____ United States, and was first celebrated in _____ year 1621. It was in this year that _____ men and women in Plymouth, one of _____ first New England colonies, decided to establish _____ feast day to mark _____ end of _____ farming year.

For the rules of article use, see <https://linguapress.com/grammar/article-in-english.htm>

Question forming: Make up questions on the subject of Thanksgiving, beginning with the following openings:

Since when.....

When

Who

How many

How often

Where

Why

What sort of

Unit 4: Citizen Welles

During the 2016 US presidential election campaign, Donald Trump was more than once compared to one of the great fictional characters of American cinema, Citizen Kane. Kane was the creation of Orson Welles, one of Hollywood's greatest - but in the end least successful - movie directors.

Orson Welles was a man who stood head and shoulders above most of his contemporaries, yet he was, in a sense, Hollywood's greatest failed genius..



Orson Wells as Citizen Kane

1. For both Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, Orson Welles was one of the greatest figures in the history of Hollywood. So it is surprising when we learn that Welles was never really accepted by Hollywood. Probably he was too much of a genius, too much of an intellectual for a Hollywood which was interested in money more than in anything else.
2. Hollywood has often been **reluctant to** accept a genius. Charlie Chaplin had to fight to do what he wanted: Welles too, though Welles did not always succeed.
3. Orson Welles was certainly a genius. Born in Kenosha, an industrial town in the American state of Wisconsin on the banks of Lake Michigan, he was the son of a failed inventor and an artistic mother. According to legend, Orson could talk like an intellectual by the time he was only 18 months old. It is said that at this age, he sat up in his bed one day and said to the doctor : "The desire to make medicine is one of the greatest **features** that distinguishes man from animals".
4. The legend is perhaps best **taken with a pinch of salt**, but it illustrates perfectly Orson Wells's reputation. Certainly, by the age of 5, the young Welles was reading Shakespeare, a writer who was to remain one of his principal passions until the end of his life; yet Shakespeare was not to make him famous.

5. Welles began his career when he was only 16, by leaving the United States and going to Ireland, where he soon got a job as an actor at the Gate Theatre in Dublin. After a while there, he returned to New York, and began building up a certain reputation in intellectual circles in the city. One of his earliest defiant gestures, which helped bring him to the attention of New York critics, was his presentation of Macbeth, with an entirely black **cast**.
6. In 1937, Welles founded his most famous theater group, the Mercury Theater, with whom he worked not only on stage plays but on radio plays too. Ever drawn towards experimenting with Shakespeare, he presented an avant-garde modern-dress version of Julius Ceasar, which he made into a bitter attack on fascism, at a time when Hitler and Mussolini were preparing to subject Europe to their dictatorship. The following year, Welles and his actors went on to radio, and, for the first time the 23-year old director gained a national reputation. On the evening of **Hallowe'en**, a national panic spread across the United States as Welles's dramatization of H.G. Wells's novel "*The War of the Worlds*" convinced millions of Americans that Earth really was being attacked by people from Mars. Listeners who turned on their radios without knowing what was on were terrified to hear the voice of Welles describing, as in a live news **broadcast**, the arrival of the visitors in their "fighting machines"; it just sounded real.
7. When he was 25, Welles went to Hollywood. A year later, in late 1941, he produced Citizen Kane, a film which to this day continues to be considered as one of the greatest films ever made. Directing and acting the leading role, Welles produced a movie that was not only a revolution in cinematographic techniques, but also in a sense a film which analyzed a major aspect of the spirit of America, in the form of the Self Made Man — himself the symbol of 19th Century American capitalism.
8. Kane was based on the rise and fall of the California newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, whose **ruthless** journalistic techniques and **driving quest** for power made him into the most important media figure of his day. The inventor of sensationalizing journalism, Hearst had become at the moment of his greatest power (1937) the owner of 26 daily newspaper, 8 radio stations, 12 magazines, and two film companies. Even in his decline, he was a powerful man, a man who did his best to make sure that Citizen Kane was a failure.
9. In a sense, he succeeded, since the film, after very successful openings in New York and California, was not a big success in the rest of the USA. Still, it is rare for the qualities of "greatness" and commercial success to coexist in the same work of art, even in a film, and Welles was to be victim of this truth.
10. After Citizen Kane, he produced a number of other films, but Hollywood studios did not encourage him: he left behind him a list of films some of which were cut by the studios, others never finished for **lack** of finance, and others produced in a **fashion** that was little more than the shadow of Welles's original idea. The blame was not all Hollywood's: on the contrary, Welles was often considered as a man who lost the ability to finish transforming his dreams into reality. In his final years, Welles was perhaps best known to Americans as the voice in the TV **adverts** for such products as wines and airlines; but even as he recorded these, he was still dreaming of the ultimate masterpiece he would make, a film of *King Lear*: it was the last of his dreams that never came true.

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WORDS :

failed genius : very clever man who did not succeed - **be reluctant to** : not really want to - **feature** : characteristic - **take with a pinch of salt** : not really believe - **cast** : the actors in a play or movie - **Hallowe'en** : All Saints Eve, 1st. November - **broadcast**: transmission, radio program - **ruthless** : without concern for others - - **a driving quest** : an irresistible search - **lack** : absence - - **a fashion** : manner - **advert** : advertisements, commercials, publicity

Question forming : Interview with Orson Welles

Here is a fictitious interview with Orson Welles, in which you are the interviewer. Below you will see Welles's answers; what were your questions?

You : Have

Welles: No, I was born in Kenosha Wisconsin, a small town on the banks of Lake Michigan.

You : And

Welles : Yes, I worked in Ireland when I was a young actor.

You: How

Welles : 16.

You: Who

Welles : Shakespeare.

You : Why

Welles : Well I guess that they believed the program was a real news report. It was very realistic, and people are willing to believe all sorts of things.

You : And what

Welles : Citizen Kane.

You : What

Welles : It's about American capitalism, and the power that can be reached by some self-made men.

You : Was

Welles: Well Kane was modeled on the California newspaper owner Randolph Hearst.

You : Was

Welles: Yes, very powerful indeed. At one point he owned 26 daily newspapers, 8 radio stations, 12 magazines, and two film companies.

You: So

Welles : Yes of course, far too much influence for a man who was not elected.

Unit 5: Who killed Martin Luther King?



1. On the night of April 4th 1968, someone was waiting opposite the windows of the Lorraine Motel, in downtown Memphis. In front of the motel, a big white Cadillac was parked; it was the car in which the Rev. Martin Luther King was being driven round, as he traveled through the southern states, speaking to audiences in towns and cities, promoting the cause of non-violence and civil rights. When King stepped out onto the balcony, to take a breath of fresh air after eating his dinner, a **shot** rang out. The civil rights leader and Nobel-prizewinner, the man who preached non-violence, fell to the ground, fatally wounded. Within minutes, he was dead.
2. The news spread like wildfire round the USA; the man who had done more, perhaps, than any other to further the rights of Black people in the United States of America, had been assassinated, it seemed, by a lone sniper, a white extremist. Weeks later a man by the name of James Earl Ray was arrested and sentenced to 99 years in prison for the assassination. But is that really what happened? Though James Earl Ray initially confessed to killing King, it was not long before he **retracted** his statement; and to this day, there are those who do not believe that Ray was actually guilty of the crime for which he spent almost 30 years behind bars.
3. Indeed, the calls for Ray's **release** grew stronger by the year, to the point that even Dexter King, Martin Luther King's son, now believes that Ray was not his father's assassin.
But if Ray did not do the deed, who did? And why? Was it just a pure racist crime? Or was this a political assassination ordered by some faceless figures in some secret service? The theory that King was really assassinated by the Secret Service has been growing more and more popular over recent years, and was even the subject of an "X-Files" episode. So how real is the conspiracy theory? And what reasons might anyone other than a racist have had to **get rid of** a charismatic and peaceful leader like Martin Luther King? We have to take ourselves back to 1968. Since 1955, King had been at the front of the Civil Rights movement in the USA. He had given great support to the year-long bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, which eventually led to the desegregation of public transportation; he had used his skills as a passionate orator to inspire black people to stand up for their rights, in

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housing, education and other civil rights; and he had gained the **backing** of a growing number of whites. He was in the front line of the anti-segregation demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, which probably did more than any other protest to further the cause of civil rights.

4. During his brief presidency from 1960 to 1963, Kennedy paved the way for a Civil Rights Act, which would officially ban race-based segregation throughout the USA. Though Kennedy was gunned down before he had time to put the act through Congress, Lyndon Johnson completed the job, and by the end of 1964, the Civil Rights Act was law, and Martin Luther King had won the Nobel Prize for Peace. Racism, however, had not disappeared. More laws, including the 1968 Civil Rights Act, were needed to fully **eradicate** all forms of official racism. But even then, laws could not change the deep-seated **bigotry** of many southern whites; the more Civil Rights laws were passed, the more some racist groups felt threatened.
5. 1968 was a crisis year in many countries. The Civil Rights movement in the USA had more or less merged with the anti-Vietnam War movement. Black leaders like King were being joined by the pacifist gurus of a new generation of educated young white Americans, Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. At the same time, in the black ghettos of the **rustbelt** cities, a new and more aggressive movement had emerged: Black Power. In the opinion of some observers, America was slowly sliding towards civil unrest on a large scale. Though King, with his non-violence, was no supporter of civil conflict, he was the no.1 figurehead of black America. Hence the conspiracy theory.
6. According to the theory, King was assassinated by the government (whoever that may have been) to prevent the USA from severe civil conflict. A week before King was assassinated, a peaceful march in Memphis had been provoked into violence by a gang called "the Invaders". Nobody knows who was behind the Invaders - but someone was.
James Earl Ray admitted that he was involved in the assassination of King, but claimed that he was part of a plot, the dumb guy who was used by others who tricked him into it. He claimed that the gun that killed King was actually fired by a man called "Raoul" - but who Raoul was no one knows. Dexter King, who has studied events surrounding his father's death in the minutest detail, now believes that Ray was telling the truth.
7. In July 1997, a judge in Memphis announced that new scientific tests suggest that it was not Ray's gun that fired the bullet that killed King. So if it was "Raoul", not Ray, that really assassinated Martin Luther King, why did he do it, and on whose orders? Was it the CIA, or some other secret organization, nervous about rising black militancy and opposition to the Vietnam war? Or was King's assassination masterminded by some secret white supremacist organisation? Maybe we will know one day, maybe not.

WORDS:

shot: , gunshot, sound of a gun being shot - **retracted** : withdrew, denied, took back
- **release** : liberation, freedom, - **get rid of** : eliminate, kill - **backing** : support, help - **act** : law
- **eradicate** : eliminate, remove - **bigotry** : narrow-mindedness, people with narrow and fixed ideas, extremism - **rustbelt** : The Rustbelt is the part of the USA (from Chicago to Virginia) where old fashioned heavy industries have gone into decline -

Who killed Martin Luther King ?

Vocabulary exercise

Select the best equivalent of the following words used in the article:

wounded: amused, hurt, confused

to further : to promote, to stop, to discourage

like wildfire: very fast, slowly, in an excited manner

behind bars : drinking, working in a pub, in prison

release: liberation, imprisonment, record

deed: action, death, plan

paved the way: seriously opposed, prepared, did nothing about

hence: next, this explains, here

masterminded: analysed, planned, killed

Comprehension questions:

1. Why did more and more people call for the release of James Earl Ray?
2. Why do some people believe King was assassinated by the CIA?

Grammar : Tenses

After listening to (or reading) the article, students should replace the verbs and participles in this extract in the correct form.

On the night of April 4th 1968, someone (wait) _____ opposite the windows of the Lorraine Motel, in downtown Memphis.

In front of the motel, a big white Cadillac (park) _____; it (be) _____ the car in which the Rev. Martin Luther King (drive round) _____, as he (travel) _____ through the southern states, (speak) _____ to audiences in towns and cities, (promote) _____ the cause of non-violence and civil rights.

When King (step) _____ out onto the balcony, (take) _____ a breath of fresh air after (eat) _____ his dinner, a shot (ring) _____ out. The civil rights leader and Nobel-prizewinner, the man who (preach) _____ non-violence, (fall) _____ to the ground, fatally (wound) _____. Within minutes, he (be) _____ dead.

The news (spread) _____ like wildfire round the USA; the man who (do) _____ more, perhaps, than any other (further) _____ the rights of Black people in the USA, (assassinate) _____, it (seem) _____, by a lone sniper, a white extremist. Weeks later a man by the name of James Earl Ray (arrest) _____ and (sentence) _____ to 99 years in prison for the assassination.

But is that really what (happen) _____ ?

Though James Earl Ray initially (confess) _____ to (kill) _____ King, it was not long before he (retract) _____ his statement; and to this day, there are those who (not believe) _____ that Ray (be) _____ actually guilty of the crime for which he (spend) _____ almost 30 years behind bars.

Indeed, the calls for Ray's release (grow) _____ stronger by the year, to the point that even Dexter King, Martin Luther King's son, now (believe) _____ that Ray was not his father's assassin.

Unit 6: America's Amish; model society?

America's Amish communities live a lifestyle that has changed little since the 18th century; but in other respects, they are showing other Americans the way forward into the twenty-first....



1. The road sign is, to say the least, unexpected ; driving through a prosperous rural part of North America, the last thing you expect to see beside the highway is a yellow diamond roadsign with a horse and **buggy** in the middle! Watch out for horses and buggies on the road? What is this? Do they exercise racehorses here, or what? You keep an eye open for horses; for two miles you see nothing, then all of a sudden, look! Coming towards you on the other side of the road, two black horse-drawn buggies! As they go by, your surprise turns to disbelief; what's going on? Are they making a movie about eighteenth century America? The men and the women in the buggy look like they jumped out of a novel by Fennimore Cooper.
2. Then, another mile and things get even stranger; beside a neat-looking farm-house, there is a whole line of buggies. In the door of the house, half a dozen men in black coats, and with long beards, are talking while some women dressed in a curiously ancient fashion are sitting on a bench. Is this 2015 or 1715 ? You drive on, wondering what has happened to this part of the United States of America? Have you driven into a **time-warp**, and without realizing it, gone back 300 years, or is it the people you've just seen who're stuck in a time warp?
3. A quick enquiry at the nearest gas station gives you the answer; you are in Amish country, and the men and women you have just seen are Amish, part of a strange religious group that settled in America in the 18th century, and much of whose lifestyle has changed little since then. If you had seen the movie "Witness", you would have already known something about the Amish, how their community is strictly religious and self-contained, how Amish people **do without** the essentials of modern-day life such as electricity and cars, and how they do not mix with people outside of their own community. It is virtually unheard of for anyone to become an Amish, who was not born an Amish. This is about all that most Americans know about Amish people, unless, that is, they actually live near them and come across them in daily life. So who are they?

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4. In brief, the Amish are members of an ultra-protestant religious movement that first came to America from the upper Rhine valley over three hundred years ago, and have kept their traditions and lifestyles. They are very **law-abiding** citizens, and their community is one in which crime is almost, though not entirely, inexistent; Amish families live strict lives, following the same code of morals as their ancestors. In a sense, they are indeed stuck in a time warp.
5. Yet the most remarkable things to note about the Amish are not their quaint lifestyles and their home-made clothes, but the expansion of their community, its efficiency, its social cohesion, and their recent adoption of "green" technology, including wind-power and solar energy. Although they work the land using traditional horse-drawn machines, and use no chemical fertilizers, their agriculture is - interestingly - among the most productive in North America !
6. While white America is, on the whole, a population that is stable in numbers, the Amish community is growing faster than virtually any other community in the USA. In the 40 years from 1950 to 1990, the number of Amish in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the original and still the largest Amish community in the USA, grew by exactly 400%, all by natural growth, not through the **influx** of immigrants. The Amish do not keep statistics, but it is fairly safe to assume that the total Amish population of the United States in the year 1900 was no more than a couple of thousand; today the Old Order Amish, those who have kept up the strictest traditions of their religion and society, number over 100,000, spread in communities across the eastern US and Ontario. The total number of Amish living in the United States in 2011 was estimated at over 260,000.
7. Amish, who reject modern medicine and all forms of birth control, have some of the biggest families in America, with an average of over six children per family. Few abandon their community. Amish teenagers tend to be as normally rebellious as any other American teens, until they are **baptized**. Until this happens, they are not obliged to conform to the strict Amish codes of dress, hairstyle and behavior, and many make the most of this liberty; before baptism, Amish teenagers behave much like other American teens; up to 30% of older unbaptized Amish teens own cars, and 40% have drivers licences! Amish teens also enjoy baseball, dancing and even alcohol! Amish **baptism** takes place between the ages of 16 and 21, sometimes even later.
8. The fact that only about 18% of young Amish abandon the austere way of life of their ancestors is not the only reason why the community is growing so fast. Other factors include increasing **life-expectancy**, and higher standards of living. As for machines and modernity, Amish families do not live a primitive life; while they reject the use of **mains electricity** in the home, they accept the use of kerosene and efficient wood-burning **stoves** that provide plenty of light and heat and comfort in their homes; and they are certainly not **out of touch with** technology. It was estimated that in 2007, 80% of homes in some Amish communities were using wind or solar power ! In this respect, far from being stuck in the past, they can be considered as one of the most advanced communities in the world !

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9. As for leisure, it is not one of their major preoccupations! While they do not have televisions or radios, they have other social activities; yet Amish leaders actually fear that the development of a **cult** of leisure could rapidly destroy their society.
10. Contrary to popular belief, the Amish are not cut off from the rest of America; like any farmers, they need markets for their products and **suppliers** for their goods; some work for non-Amish employers. Many have non-Amish neighbors. They know what is going on in the rest of the United States, and like many other Americans, they are alarmed by many modern developments.
11. This too explains why most young Amish **opt** to carry on with the hard-working and strict way of life of their community. Though Amish life is hard in many ways, it is free of most of the pressures and problems of the rest of American society. As long as this lifestyle is not forced into radical change, many of those who have been brought up in it will continue to see it as an attractive option.

WORDS

Amish is pronounced "ar-mish" - **buggy**: small carriage - **time-warp**: something not in the correct age - **do without**: do not have - **law-abiding**: obeying the law - **influx**: arrival - **baptism**: Christian ceremony of initiation - **life-expectancy**: average age that people live - **purpose**: reason - **mains electricity**: electricity from the public system - **stove**: enclosed fire - **out of touch**: not in contact - **cult**: tradition - **supplier**: a source, person who supplies - **opt**: choose

Technology and the Amish:

Refused:

Television, radios, telephones in the home, home computers, 110 volt electricity (the standard voltage in North America).

Accepted:

Communal telephones, diesel generators, electric woodworking and metalworking equipment, electric fences, solar power, wind power



Horses are the motive power in Amish farms



Amish family; note how the children are not wearing shoes

Prepositions exercise:

Replace all the missing prepositions in this extract from the article.

The roadsign is, to say the least, unexpected; driving _____ a prosperous rural part _____ North America, the last thing you expect _____ see _____ the highway is a yellow diamond roadsign _____ a horse and buggy _____ the middle! Watch _____ horses and buggies _____ the road? What is this? Do they exercise racehorses here, or what?

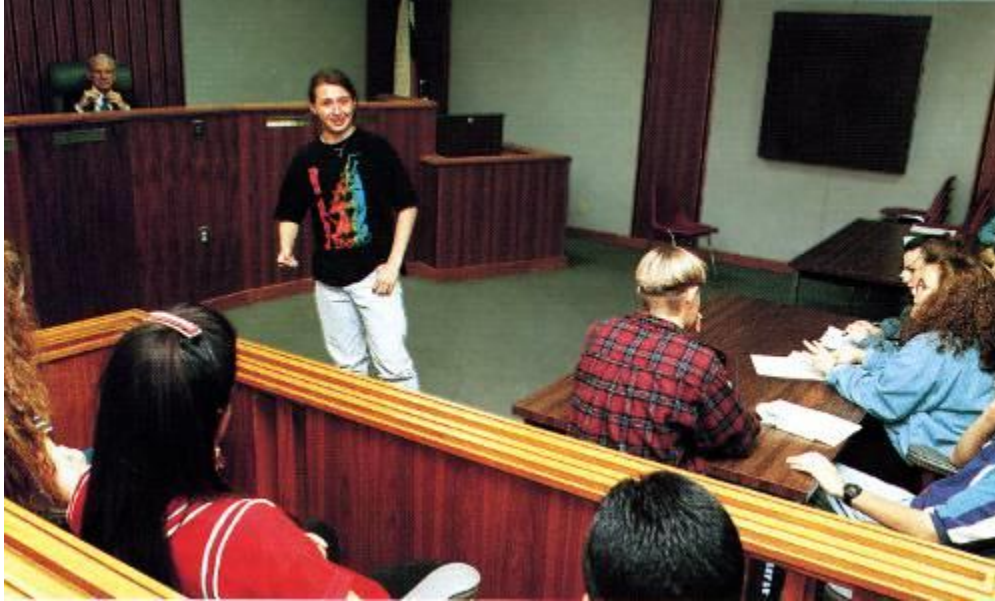
You keep an eye open _____ horses; _____ two miles you see nothing, then all _____ a sudden, look! Coming _____ you _____ the other side _____ the road, two black horse-drawn buggies! As they go _____, your surprise turns _____ disbelief; what's going _____? Are they making a movie _____ eighteenth century America? The men and the women _____ the buggy look like they jumped _____ a novel _____ Fennimore Cooper. Then, another mile and things get even stranger; _____ a neat-looking farm-house, there is a whole line _____ buggies. _____ the door _____ the house, half a dozen men _____ black coats, and _____ long beards, are talking while some women dressed _____ a curiously ancient fashion are sitting _____ a bench. Is this 2015 or 1715?

You drive _____, wondering what has happened _____ this part _____ the United States of America? Have you driven _____ a time-warp, and _____ realizing it, gone back 200 years, or is it the people you've just seen who're stuck _____ a time warp?

Unit 7: America's Teenage courts

Where teenagers are judged by others of the same age group

*In the small city of Odessa, western Texas, local judicial authorities have reinterpreted the old legal principle that **offenders** should be **tried** by a jury of their **peers**. Odessa's "Teen Court" is one of over a thousand such courts in the USA, where teens themselves are responsible for trying and sentencing teenage offenders. And the results are very encouraging..*



The teen court in Odessa, Texas.

1. In the year 1215, the Norman barons of England drew up an ultimatum that they presented to King John and forced him to sign. Among other things, the document, called **Magna Carta**, the great charter, formally recognized basic human rights, and re-established one of the fundamental principles of English law — that a man should be judged by his peers, or equals. Trial by a jury has been a key feature of English law ever since. When Thomas Jefferson and others drew up the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, one of the complaints that they made was that the King of England had **deprived** Americans **of** their right to trial by jury. Twelve years later, this right was **enshrined** in Article III of the new *Constitution of the United States*, where it has remained ever since.
2. But what is a jury of equals? Is a teenager, faced with a jury composed of people his parents' age, being judged by his peers? Most teens would answer "no". The idea of "teen courts" has been around in the USA for many years. It was in the 1980s in Odessa that the Teen Court was first suggested. Realizing that many teenage offenders were **alienated** by a justice system organized and controlled by people of a different generation, the court in Odessa decided to let offenders opt to be tried by other teenagers. Many thousands of teens have since been tried by their peers in Odessa, and almost all agree that it was the right thing to do. Statistics confirm this, as rates of **recidivism** among teens tried in different Teen Courts are under 5% (compared to up to 50% with normal courts).
3. Odessa's Teen Court is one of many now operating in the state of Texas, which in 1990 became the first American state to establish a state-wide organization to develop teen

courts. Until the 1990s, the number of new courts increased slowly; but since the millennium, hundreds more cities all across the USA have seen that the system works, and have introduced it in their own community. In 2007, the idea crossed the Atlantic, with the opening of the first teen court in England, in Preston, Lancashire. Teen courts operate in just the same way as a real court, the major difference being that the only professional in the **process** is the judge. Run by volunteers, the court sits every Tuesday evening under the control of a local judge, also a volunteer; proceedings are conducted as in a real court, with teenagers taking the roles of **prosecution** and defense: a panel of teens sits as jury, and it is they who propose the sentence they consider to be appropriate.

4. While there is no possibility of an Odessa teen jury **fining** an offender or sending him or her to prison, there is a range of punishments available, including community service, driving classes, counseling and also jury service in the Teen Court. The range of sentences available reflects the type of offenses referred to the court, minor misdeeds such as traffic violations, (including speeding), fighting, vandalism and intoxication. Furthermore, the Court only has the right to judge other teens who have (a) decided to plead **guilty**, and (b) agreed to be tried by their peers. Most other Teen Courts that have been set up operate with similar restrictions, though some, more controversially, have been given powers to determine guilt or innocence in certain cases, and even recommend detention.
5. Teens who opt for trial by the Teen Court, thinking that it will be a soft option, are generally surprised. A Los Angeles teen jury recently sentenced 14-year old Michael C. to 600 hours (!) of community service for stealing a car stereo. Judge Jamie Corral, presiding, reduced the sentence to 200 hours, but Michael still had to spend a lot of his free time for six months doing community service as a gardener at Abraham Lincoln High School. "I didn't expect them to be so hard on me, but I deserved it," he said afterwards.
6. In 2015, there are well over 1000 teen courts in operation across the United States, and the number is increasing month by month. Teens, judges and community leaders all agree that the system is good, and especially good at stopping young offenders going any further down the road to a life of crime. Evidence shows that young offenders are much more receptive to warnings and reprimands and punishments delivered by their peers, than to those delivered by "the authorities".
7. Finally, it is not only teens who are benefitting from the Teen Court. In Odessa, teenage offenders have now contributed over 100,000 hours of community service to the city and to volunteer organizations since the Teen Court was first set up, something that has not gone unnoticed by local residents. "Because of these youth giving the community service hours back to the City of Odessa, they have become an effective part of our community," says Tammy Hawkins, the project's coordinator. "We have found that the kids that are active in the Teen Court Program have less of a desire to drop out of school. They've found a purpose in their lives, and in their own neighborhoods they feel safer because they are becoming an active part of the community."

WORDS

offender: minor criminal - **to try:** to judge - **peer:** person of similar situation **deprive of :** take away something - **enshrined:** included - **alienated :** marginalized - **recidivism:** reoffending, committing the same crime again - **process:** system (this word has no judicial meaning) - **prosecution:** lawyers who accuse - **fine:** impose a financial punishment - **guilty:** opposite of "innocence" -

America's Teenage Courts

Word search: Find words or expressions in the text which mean

: .

final warning
to take something away from someone
choose
six
a penalty ordered by a court
the act of damaging property
established
people living nearby
up to the present time
a reason for living

Verbs and verb forms : put the verbs back into the correct form, without consulting the original article

The idea of "teen courts" has (be) _____ around in the USA for many years. It was in the 1980s in Odessa that the Teen Court was first (suggest) _____. (Realize) _____ that many teenage offenders were (alienat) _____ by a justice system (organize) _____ and (control) _____ by people of a different generation, the court in Odessa (decide) _____ to let offenders opt (try) _____ by other teenagers.

.....

Odessa's Teen Court is one of many now (operate) _____ in the state of Texas, which in 1990 (become) _____ the first American state (establish) _____ a state-wide organization (develop) _____ teen courts. Until the 1990s, the number of new courts (increase) _____ slowly; but since the millennium, hundreds more cities all across the USA (see) _____ that the system (work) _____, and (introduced) _____ it in their own community. In 2007, the idea (cross) _____ the Atlantic, with the (open) _____ of the first teen court in England, in Preston, Lancashire.

Unit 8: The Mormons - A curiously American phenomenon

When **Mitt Romney** was designated as the Republican challenger to Barak Obama in the 2012 US Presidential election, Americans were once again talking about the "Mormons". Romney is a Mormon, a member of a strange American church that believes that the Americans are descended from the lost 13th Tribe of the Children of Israel. This religion was founded in the 19th century by a man called Joseph Smith, who said that God had shown him a third testament of the Bible, the "Book of Mormon", written in a strange language, on leaves of gold. Smith translated this divine book into English, and convinced a lot of people that his story was true. Nobody else ever found the books of gold: but Mormonism has become a powerful force in America today.

To Americans, Utah means "Mormons" - one of the most surprising religious groups in the USA. To this day, Mormons largely run Utah, as they have done since their ancestors first colonized the state in the 19th century. And even if, today, there are more and more non-Mormons living in Utah, it is still Mormons who govern many aspects of life in this part of the Mountain West.

Churches tend to play a major role in American life; while religion plays a relatively small part in people's lives in modern day Europe, it is still a major force in the USA - and perhaps no more so than in Utah, in the mountains of America's far west.



The great Mormon temple in Salt Lake City

1. Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah, is a remarkable city, one whose center is not a **high-rise** business quarter, but a temple. The Great Temple, the heart of the city of Salt Lake, is the building around which the whole city was designed, and the spiritual headquarters of one of the strangest, yet most active churches in America, the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*. To many people, this church, which has four million followers in the USA, is considered more as a sect, and better known, simply, as "the Mormons". There are plenty of **weird** and wonderful religious groups in the USA; the **quest** for religious freedom was, after all, one of the reasons that caused the first pilgrims and colonists to leave Europe in search of a new life beyond the Atlantic. Since those days, religious freedom has been a corner stone of American societies, and many unusual religious groups have been established over time.
2. The Mormons are one of the more surprising of these. This church, with its peculiar mixture of Christianity and apparent mythology, has survived and prospered, becoming one of the most powerful churches in America, controlling (as it always has done) the state of Utah, and

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possessing enormous **wealth**. The Mormon church itself has an annual income estimated at \$8.7 billion (enough to make place it among the biggest 60 corporations in the USA!). Furthermore, Mormons control a number of the biggest corporations in the USA, including the Hyatt and Marriott hotel chains. For an outsider, Mormonism may seem like an absurd (or a worrying) joke. The introduction to the "Book of Mormon", the third testament of the Mormon Bible opens with these words: "The Book of Mormon is a volume of **holy** scripture comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God's **dealings** with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas."

3. For a non-Mormon, the story of the book of Mormon is rather hard to believe. According to the legend, the book, engraved on plates of gold, was discovered by a man called Joseph Smith in 1823, on a mountain top near New York. Inspired by God, Smith was able to translate these books written in an unknown language, into English, and bring the translation down from the mountain. Unfortunately for the **credibility** of the Mormon church, Smith then hid the "golden tablets" where he found them, leading many people to concluded that he was really just a rather **slick** power-hungry charlatan. No-one else ever saw the tablets, and no part of the original text in the mysterious language has ever been revealed! Be that as it may, Smith quickly managed to persuade thousands of people that he was authentic, and soon built up a strong band of followers, whose devotion to their leader was total.
4. Persecuted and often ridiculed by other Americans, Smith led the Mormons on one of the biggest and most remarkable internal migrations in the history of the United States. After settling initially in Missouri, he was later forced to move his people on to Illinois, where his megalomania became even more apparent. His decision, in 1844, to run for the US Presidency provoked a **surge** of anger against the Mormons, as well as criticism from his own followers; and after a **riot** in the Mormon city of Nauvoo, the father of Mormonism was executed by local militiamen.
5. Smith's place was taken by a new leader, Brigham Young, revered as a saint by Mormons, mocked as a dictatorial tyrant by their opponents. Saint or tyrant, he was certainly not a calm and gentle man, but a leader who was willing to push his followers to the limits, and would not tolerate opposition to his views. He it was who decided to uproot the Mormons once more, and take them in search of "the new Zion", a land in which they could establish their own independent state, undisturbed by anyone else. And thus, under his orders, thousands and thousands of "Latter Day Saints" trekked on foot with their carts across the American West, eventually reaching one of the driest and most **inhospitable** spots in the whole of North America, the shores of the Great Salt Lake.
6. Here, Young ordered them to establish their new Zion, in the place he named *Deseret*. The Saints were astonished at the news, as they had been led to believe they were going to fine farming country. Yet thanks to Young's determination, and to the streams flowing from the mountains, the settlers did actually manage to turn the desert into green pastures, and before long, a prosperous and well ordered community grew up. In 1853, once the community was well established, the first stone of the great temple was laid: forty years later, in 1893, the building was finally completed.
7. Since then, Utah, largely populated by Mormons, has become a prosperous state, and the Mormon church one of the richest organizations in the USA.

If the **founders** of Mormonism appear to many observers as successful charlatans, their followers tended to be very **devout** people, and remain so to this day. Most Mormons live very sober lives, respect strict codes of moral behavior, and give a tenth of their income to the church. Visitors to Salt Lake City may complain that they find it hard to buy alcoholic drinks, but they appreciate the city's low crime rate and its clean streets, and are full of praise for Mormon hospitality and helpfulness. On the negative side though, Utah has one of the highest rates of

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suicide and depression in the United States. Many non-Mormons find it very hard to understand how it is that so many rational, intelligent and sincere Americans can, in today's world, follow a religion (many call it a "sect") whose beliefs are founded on a basis as **dubious** and **implausible** as the story of Joseph Smith.

WORDS:

Charlatan: *fraud, person who is not what he pretends to be* - **credibility:** *facility of being believed* - **dealings:** *negotiations, discussions* - **devout:** *religious* - **dubious:** *doubtful* - **founder:** *creator* - **holy:** *divine, sacred* - **implausible:** *improbable* - **inhospitable spot:** *place that is not suitable for living in* - **quest:** *search* - **riot:** *public disorder* - **slick:** *smooth, clever, smart* - **surge:** *wave* -- **weird:** *bizarre* - **wealth:** *riches* -

MORE ABOUT THE MORMONS:

The Mormons are the biggest and most dynamic "fringe" church in the USA, with about 4 million members (9 million worldwide), including 69% of the population of today's Utah. Originally ostracized in the USA for their anti-individualistic and cooperative social views, which had overtones of the socialist philosophies of European Utopians like Robert Owen and Fourier, the Mormons are now perceived as a very conservative and rather right-wing group of Americans. It is said that the Mormon church is the fastest growing church in America

They are the most evangelical of American churches, and thousands of young Mormons go abroad for a year or two as part of their training; unlike most Americans who get sent abroad, Mormons are made to learn the language of the country they visit before visiting it. Mormon missionaries can be seen all over the world, including in Europe. As a result, Mormons tend to have a better knowledge of international affairs than average Americans, and speak far more foreign languages which means that they are particularly well represented in professions which require direct contact with people in other countries (such as the CIA and the diplomatic corps).

However, their evangelical activities in Central America have caused serious friction with local populations, Mormons being accused of trying to impose U.S. values and lifestyles on other nations.

There are other problems too. The Original Mormons were all white, and the Book of Mormon refers to the Latter Day Saints as having "white" skin. However, in an attempt to refute accusations of racism and to justify their activities on other continents, the Book of Mormon has recently been rephrased.

Among the Mormons' most controversial activity is their practice of retroactively baptizing non-Mormons who have died. Millions of people have thus been posthumously baptised into the Mormon church, without their knowledge or consent! To allow baptism of the right people, Mormons have the world's biggest genealogical data bank, kept in a nuclear fallout shelter in the heart of a mountain near Salt Lake. The bank contains records compiled from archives in America and all over Europe. According to the Mormons, only those who have been baptised into the Mormon church will be saved on the Day of Judgment.

Finally, as for **polygamy**, that other interesting aspect of the Mormon religion, it was officially banned over 100 years ago. Nevertheless, there are still Mormon men who live with several wives - or concubines. In 2001, after a trial that made national news in the USA, a Mormon man was sent to prison for having three wives.

MORE WORDS (a-z)

to baptize: *christen, accept as a member of a church* - **controversial:** *disputed, not always accepted* - **data bank:** *information bank* - **evangelical:** *proselytizing, trying to convert new members* - **friction:** *tension* - **high-rise:** *with very tall buildings* - **missionaries:** *people who go to another country to spread their religion* - **nuclear fallout shelter:** *underground vault that can resist a nuclear bomb* - **ostracize:** *exclude from ordinary*

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society - overtones of: resemblances to - perceived: seen - polygamy: one man having several wives - posthumously: after they have died - refute: contradict - retroactively: with effect that is pre-dated - trial: legal hearing before a judge.

the Mormons : Exercises:

Make up one correctly structured sentence for each of the groups of words below. Keep as close as possible to the meaning of the original article. You can use the words in any order, but do NOT change the verb tenses.

- a The Great Temple / the Mormons / spiritual headquarters / Salt Lake City / four million followers / considered a sect.
- b church / most powerful / wealthy / controls / Utah / corporations.
- c Joseph Smith / legend / discovered / 1823 / New York / Book of Mormon
- d the fact / "golden tablets" / have never been seen / anyone else / conclusion / Joseph Smith / charlatan.
- e migrated / Missouri / Illinois / local militiamen / executed / Joseph Smith
- f Brigham Young / became / leader / took / trek
- g settler / desert / green pastures / determination / streams
- h forty years / to complete / Temple
- i average Mormon / soberly / respect / a tenth / goes / church
- j visitors / a hard time / alcoholic drinks / however / crime rate / clean streets /

Relative pronouns: Replace the missing relative pronoun in these sentences: (which, or whose?)

1. Salt Lake City is a remarkable city, one _____ center is not a high-rise business quarter, but a temple.
2. The Great Temple, the heart of the city of Salt Lake, is the building around _____ the whole city was designed.
3. To many people, this church, _____ has four million followers in the USA, is considered more as a sect
4. Smith built up a strong band of followers, _____ devotion to their leader was total.

MORE ABOUT THE MORMONS

Comprehension questions relating to the background article.

- 1. In what way have people's perceptions of the Mormons changed over time?
- 2. Why are there a lot of Mormons in the CIA ?
- 3. What problems have Mormon missionaries encountered in some parts of the world?
- 4. Why have Mormons had to rephrase part of their "Book of Mormon"?
- 5. What is hidden deep in a mountain in Utah, and what is its purpose?

Unit 9: Music: the story of the Blues

by Robert Springer

What is - or what are - the Blues? The Blues is a feeling, most African Americans will tell you. If your girl or boyfriend leaves you, for instance, it's quite likely you'll feel sad or **dejected** for days. In other words, you'll feel *blue*; you'll *have the blues*.



1. What few African Americans will tell you is that the origin of the expression isn't black and American, but English, although today it's usually associated with Black Americans. In 16th century England, people who were depressed were said to be **persecuted** by the "blue devils". Later, in 1807, American author Washington Irving already talked about "having a **fit** of the blues". But the blues today is generally understood as being a type of music which expresses the feeling of depression which was once common to Blacks, due to oppression, **segregation** and problems with the other sex. This may be the reason why Blacks used to say "White men can't have the blues", at least not the same kind of blues. The origins of the blues are difficult to retrace because, quite naturally, an oral **genre** like the blues leaves few written traces. It seems to have developed about 100 years ago, though the name "blues" was not yet used at the time. It grew out of black field songs, **negro spirituals** and the white folk ballads imported by British **settlers** and somewhat modified on American **soil**.
2. The first blues recordings appeared around 1920. They were made by black women singers who were actually singing a somewhat **adulterated** form of the music which, strangely enough, was later called "the classic blues". **Ma Rainey** and **Bessie Smith** were the most authentic and popular performers of the genre in the 1920's. The original country or rural blues did not come to be recorded until around 1925, when the record companies realised they could make quite a profit by asking black farmers, who were at best semi-professional musicians, to record a few songs for them in return for a little whisky and about \$5 per song. The lady singers, being professional **entertainers**, of course requested more.
3. Thanks to this fortunate circumstance, we are now reasonably certain that the country blues originated from the Mississippi Delta (an area in the *state of Mississippi* which must not be confused with the Delta of the Mississippi river in *Louisiana*). Blacks here once made up over 90% of the population, and were heavily exploited and oppressed. Typically in this original form of blues, a black **sharecropper** would sing about his **hardships**, while

accompanying himself on the guitar. The rural blues also developed in the cotton-growing region of East Texas, and through much of the South Eastern part of the USA.

4. In the 1920s and 1930s, many Blacks migrated to the North and Midwest. They found work in the factories in Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, and other cities; but ghettos formed quite soon, when, by **sheer** weight of numbers, they began to **overwhelm** the whites who left city areas they had once had to themselves. Blacks brought their ethnic culture and their music with them. Blues singers migrated too, especially since, in a lot of cases, they were workers themselves, and like everyone else they were trying to **make a better living**.
5. A certain nostalgia for the south developed; but at the same time, the transplanted Blacks were becoming more sophisticated, preferring to listen to music played by musicians more sophisticated than the rural blues performers. Thus small blues **combos**, with piano, guitar, harmonica and other instruments, began to replace the solo performers. From the 40's onwards, they converted to electric instruments, and began to play a new form of blues, louder, more aggressive, which came to be called "urban blues". In the 50's, *Muddy Waters* and *Howlin' Wolf* were among the major **exponents** of this type of music, and later served as models imitated by many sixties groups such as the *Rolling Stones* and the *Animals*.

After a period of **hibernation** in the 50's, the growing popularity of blues with young white audiences gave a lot of black blues-singers the opportunity to play again on a larger scale, for more money than before.

6. Still, it is quite clear that today the blues, as an independent genre, is no longer considered as very fashionable. Yet with its easy-to-learn three-**chord** structure, it is a convenient **springboard** for musical improvisation. It has had a wide influence on modern popular music of many varieties, and on musicians who wish to return to the roots of modern popular music before jumping off in another, perhaps new, direction.

The Blues Story

Language study, based on the first seven paragraphs of the text:

1. There are words and expressions we use to indicate that what we are expressing is approximate, true to a certain degree, or apparently or generally true. How many words or expressions of this type can you pick out? How does the meaning of each sentence change, if they are eliminated?

2. Explain the use of the following expressions. Is it possible to eliminate them and keep the same meaning?

§ 1; *In other words*. § 2; *said to be* § 4; *quite naturally*. § 5; *actually*. § 6; *at best*. § 7; *heavily, Typically*.

Write short coherent sentences, based on information in the article, to link the following words in the order given:

1. oppression / segregation / the blues
2. traces / genre / origins
3. "classic blues" / adulterated / Bessie Smith
4. blues / sharecroppers / Mississippi delta / hardships
5. cities / Midwest / ghettos / combos
6. 1960's / popular / white / money

Unit 10: Mississippi Music

Though New York and Los Angeles are the current day capitals of the American music industry, it is half way between the two of them, in the Mississippi Valley, that the roots of American popular music are to be found.



Elvis Presley - surely the most famous musician to have his roots in the Mississippi valley

1. There are six classic forms of American popular music; jazz, the blues, bluegrass, soul, rock 'n' roll, and country and western.

With the exception of bluegrass and country and western, the Mississippi valley is the birthplace of them all. Like American culture in general, American music has **evolved** out of the different traditions that reached the New World from the old. But out of all the different types of music that reached the New World - from England, Ireland, Spain, France, Germany, Africa and many other places - one was to have a particularly significant impact: African music. While European influences provided melody and a **lyric** tradition, African influences added a new sense of rhythm and new harmonies, which were to **give rise to** several new forms of music that were different from anything European.

2. New American forms of music developed among the **slave** communities working in the cotton fields near the mouth of the Mississippi; Christianized slaves developed **gospel** music and Negro Spirituals, which soon became popular far beyond the rural states of the South.

Following **emancipation**, Blacks had much more opportunity to develop their musical talents, and many did exactly that, adding instrumentation to the essentially vocal tradition of the spiritual.

From the Spanish musical tradition they added the guitar, a popular instrument in the southern states which had been originally colonized by the Spanish. From a more general European tradition they added **brass** instruments such as trumpets, which were popular with the marching bands used at all kinds of ceremonial events in the American states. It was thus in the late nineteenth century that two new forms of American music began to develop, both of them in the Mississippi valley.

3. Firstly there was the blues. In the cotton-growing Delta region of the state of Mississippi (not to be confused with the Mississippi Delta), the blues appeared in the 1870's, sometimes as a purely vocal tradition, at other times using the guitar as accompaniment. It was a form of music through

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which poor exploited Blacks expressed their sadness and their problems, their "blues". The sadness of the blues is evident both in the music itself, and in the titles of **countless** popular blues songs, such as *Poor Boy Blues*, *Homesick Blues* and many many others.

4. Jazz, on the other hand, developed in and around **New Orleans**, as a type of music for festive moments and dancing. The most famous jazzman of all, Louis Armstrong (Satchmo) was born in New Orleans. Both of these forms of music migrated up the Mississippi valley with the Blacks who went north in search of work in the early twentieth century. Satchmo was one of them; he went north, ending up in Chicago, where his "New Orleans Jazzmen" soon established a national reputation, thanks to the development of both radio and the gramophone.
5. In the 1920's, many of the Blacks who migrated north went looking for jobs in the booming American automobile industry, in and around Detroit, and it was here in "Motown", i.e. mo(tor) town, that soul music and other new varieties evolved. With the advent of radio and records, all varieties of black music became increasingly popular. In the north Detroit became the capital of soul music; in the south New Orleans remained the capital of jazz; and between the two, at the heart of the Mississippi valley, Memphis became the center for an exciting new type of music; rhythm 'n' blues. This music soon attracted the attention not just of Blacks but of Whites too; and with very little change, R& B evolved into yet another new type of music; rock 'n' roll.
6. The man who did most to help rock 'n' roll conquer first America, then the world, was in fact not a black musician, but a white boy from rural Mississippi, by the name of Elvis Aaron Presley. Elvis's family were poor, very poor; as a kid, Elvis lived in a two-room **shack** in Tupelo, Mississippi. There was not much to distinguish the lifestyle of his poor white family from that of the equally poor black families in the region, and young Elvis had plenty of contact with black culture and music.

After making his first records in Memphis, Elvis became the biggest rock star the world had ever seen; "the King". Yet he never abandoned his Mississippi valley roots, and it was in Memphis that he established his famous home, Graceland. In the space of the last forty years, rock 'n' roll has become the basis of popular music worldwide. In this respect, it could be argued that the Mississippi valley is the source of the greatest cultural phenomenon of the twentieth century.

WORDS:

evolve: develop - **lyric:** music that tells a story - **give rise to:** create - **slave:** unpaid worker - **gospel:** parts of the bible - **emancipation:** freeing of the slaves - **brass:** a yellow metal - **countless:** innumerable - **shack:** poorly-built house.

Mississippi Music - Exercises

Read through the article, then decide if these statements are right (R) or wrong (W). Rewrite any wrong statements, correcting them as necessary.

1. The roots of American popular music are mainly African and Caribbean. R W
2. Gospel music first developed in the south of the United States. R W
3. American slaves often played the guitar as they sang in the fields. R W
4. Some of the first blues musicians sang unaccompanied. R W
5. Jazz originated with Louis Armstrong in Chicago. R W
6. Many Blacks headed north to Detroit because it was the capital of soul music. R W
7. Elvis Presley invented rock 'n' roll. R W
8. The city of Memphis can claim to be the birthplace of modern rock music. R W

Unit 11: The Mighty Mississippi



1. For three or four months in the year, you can walk across long parts of the Mississippi; in fact, you can walk along it too, or drive horses across it. Motionless in the winter's icy ***grip***, the surface of North America's most famous river lies hidden for weeks on end beneath a cold white blanket of snow. But below the surface the water flows on in silence, moving ***relentlessly*** through the frozen heartland of North America, towards warmer and more colorful lands.
2. "Old Man River" is no more than a child in the state of Minnesota, where he is born among the lakes and the forests not far from the Canadian border. If he had chosen to move north or west, he would have finished up in the Atlantic Ocean, part of America's other great river, the Saint Lawrence. But the child that is to turn into Old Man River moves south.
3. He makes his way towards the Gulf of Mexico. It's a distance of 1,500 miles as the crow flies, but more like 2,500 miles along the ***meandering*** course that he chooses. It will be several weeks before the waters that rise in Minnesota eventually flow out past the ocean-going ships tied up at ***New Orleans***, and ***mingle*** with the salt of the sea.
4. Of course, Old Man River has been making more or less the same southward journey for thousands of years: long before anyone thought of calling him "Old Man River", he had no name. It was the Algonquin Indians who gave him the name "Mississippi"; in their language, the name meant Great River. The name has stuck.
5. The first European to set eyes on the great river was a Spanish explorer, called De Soto, who came across the mouth of the river in 1541; yet it was not until over a century later that the Mississippi river began to take a significant place in the history of North America. In 1682 a French explorer called La Salle ***set off from*** the Great Lakes region, followed the Ohio river, and eventually reached the coast. Having established an alternate route from the Great Lakes to the sea, La Salle claimed the whole of the Mississippi basin for the French king Louis XIV, and called it Louisiana in his honor.
6. For almost a century, the Mississippi valley was French territory, sandwiched between the British colonies to the east, and "New Spain" and the unexplored prairies to the west. Little French colonies appeared along the banks of the river, but in most cases their names are the only things about them that remain from their early days: St. Cloud, La Crosse, Prairie du Chien, St. Louis, and many more. It is only at the mouth of

the river, round New Orleans and Baton Rouge, that the river's French past still lives on, to a limited degree. New Orleans' "Mardi Gras" celebrations are among the most colorful in the United States, a **hybrid** fusion of old French tradition and Afro-American celebration. In 1783, the land to the east of the Mississippi became the western frontier of the newly born United States of America. As for the much larger area of land to the west, it was sold to the United States by Napoleon in 1803, for the sum of \$11.5 million, in the historic "Louisiana Purchase". Nevertheless, even before the Louisiana Purchase, American settlers had begun pushing across the river, searching for places to **settle** in the virgin territory beyond. And as the great wide valley filled up with more and more farms, towns and markets, so the importance of the river grew.

7. During the cotton boom of the early nineteenth century, the river and its tributaries allowed plantation owners to get their produce easily down to New Orleans, where it could be exported to markets all over the world, and particularly to the textile **mills** of Lancashire, England. The Mississippi drains a basin that covers 41% of the continental United States (excluding Alaska), stretching from Montana in the West to New York in the East. It is the third largest river basin in the world, after the Nile and the Congo.



8. With such a large continental basin, the Mississippi is a river whose **flow** can be **erratic**; at the mouth of the river, the average flow is about 13,000 cubic metres per second. However, experts estimate that the maximum flow could reach 85,000 cubic metres per second under exceptional circumstances; currently, river engineers are working on "Project Flood", to make sure that outlets into the Gulf of Mexico can cope with a flow of this magnitude. The risks of flooding have been clearly understood from the day people first began to settle beside the river. Many of the towns and settlements beside the river are situated on "**bluffs**", others are protected. It was French engineers who first began protecting the land beside the river by building up long **dikes**, which they called "levees", a French word meaning "raised banks"; today, thousands of square miles of farmland and dozens of towns and are protected by levees.
9. Most of the time, the levees do their job; but not always. In 1993, hundreds of square miles of land were flooded, and millions of dollars' worth of damage done when the mighty river became too mighty, and broke through the defenses.

WORDS

grip: hold - **relentless:** unstoppable, irresistible - **meander:** curve continually - **mingle:** mix - **set off:** depart - **hybrid:** mixed - **settle:** establish a home - **mills:** factories - **flow:** flux, movement of water - **erratic:** unpredictable - **bluff:** small hill - **dike:** levee, embankment

The Mighty Mississippi

Blank-fill exercise:

Try to complete this extract from the text using the original words. **Some** of the words you will need are in this list; but not all of them! And be careful: this list also contains words you will not need!

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The Mississippi drains a basin _____ covers 41% of the continental United States (_____ Alaska). It is the third _____ river basin in the world, after the Nile and the Congo. With _____ a large continental basin, the Mississippi is a river _____ flow can be erratic; at the mouth of the river, the _____ flow is about 13,000 cubic metres _____ second. However, experts estimate that the _____ flow _____ reach 85,000 cubic metres _____ second under exceptional circumstances; _____, river engineers are working on "Project Flood", to make sure that _____ into the Gulf of Mexico can _____ a flow of _____ magnitude. _____ of the towns and settlements _____ the river are situated on "bluffs", others are protected by levees. _____ of the time, the levees do their job; but not _____. In 1993, hundreds of _____ of land were flooded, and millions of dollars' _____ of damage done when the mighty river became _____ mighty, and broke _____ the defenses.

Unit 12: Bodie - where the West was Wildest

The spirit of the "Wild West" has been one of the defining themes of American culture - literature, film and art - for the last 150 years. But the great age of the Wild West was actually rather short. It began around 1850, with the opening up of the American west, but by 1900 it was over. Towns appeared one year, and disappeared a few years later. One of the finest examples is the California "ghost town" of Bodie, which was once said to be the wildest town in the Wild West.



Once this was one of the wildest places in the Wild West.

1. Today the second biggest city in California is San Francisco. Once it was Bodie.
"Bodie?", you say. "Where's that?" Good question. But in 1880 in America, reactions would probably have been very different. Then, Bodie, with its population of over 10,000, was one of the most infamous places in the whole U.S.A., reputed as the worst, most violent and most lawless town in the Wild West. Many historians have quoted a letter from a young girl whose parents decided to go and live and work in Bodie; even this 12-year old knew of Bodie well by reputation, and in her **diary** she wrote: "Goodbye God! I'm going to Bodie". Bodie was "hell on earth".
2. In 1859, a gold prospector named William Body (pronounced like "roadie") discovered gold-**bearing** rock in a desolate part of the California desert. Claiming the **stake** in his name, he set up a base cabin there with two friends. Since it was the start of winter, Body and one of his companions then went off to buy **stores** from the nearest shop..... about a hundred miles away. By the time they started back however, the temperature and the winter snows had begun to fall; and as the snow got deeper and deeper, the journey got harder and harder. Though the men were tough and knew how to survive under most circumstances, they had not **reckoned with** the terrible cold in the high California desert, situated at an altitude of over 2,500 metres. A few hundred metres from their cabin, Body collapsed. His friend **struggled** on to get help, but by the time it came, the snow had covered up his **tracks** completely. William Body's body was not found until the following spring.

3. Thus Body never extracted a single **ounce** of gold from his claim; but since it was his **claim**, the mining camp, then town, that grew up on the spot got named after him. **According to** legend, the town's name changed from *Body* to *Bodie* because a sign-writer could not spell correctly. In actual fact, the change was deliberate, the townspeople did not want the name to be mis-pronounced. "Body" (rhyming with "**shoddy**") and implying a dead corpse, sounded rather macabre! At first the town grew slowly, as there was more gold to be found in some other towns in the region, than near Bodie; besides, Bodie was such a desolate **spot**! It was not until some very rich veins of gold were discovered in 1876 that the Bodie gold rush really began.
4. Like most gold rush towns, Bodie grew very fast, then **shrank** again almost as fast, as the gold ran out. Maximum size was reached in 1880, when the town **boasted** 65 saloon bars and its own daily newspaper, in which its violence and lawlessness were reported in fine detail. On 5th September 1880, for example, the *Bodie Standard* reported three shootings, plus two hold-ups of **stage coaches** in one day!
5. By 1885, the town's population had dropped to a couple of thousand, many of the miners having gone off to **seek** better fortunes elsewhere; many of the town's wooden buildings had been burnt down. Fire, indeed, was a permanent risk in Bodie's dry climate, and the town was actually destroyed several times in its history, the last time in 1932. It survived until then as a small town, **providing** services to the local area; but the 1932 fire signed the town's **death warrant**. Many of the facilities were destroyed, as were the homes of many of the surviving residents. After the fire, there was no reason for people to go on living in Bodie. The man who did most for Bodie was Jim Cain, who opened the town's first bank in 1880. He was also one of the most successful of Bodie's miners, and as the town declined, he bought most of the buildings that no-one else wanted — including the principal mine.
6. After Bodie was abandoned by its last inhabitants during the Depression of the 1930's, Cain saved the town from total destruction. A watchman was installed at the mine, and his job was to make sure that no-one came and **dismantled** the remaining wooden buildings (as happened to so many other ghost towns). As a result, the 150 buildings in Bodie that survived the fire have remained standing, as a real ghost town, until this day. Today, the remains of the most lawless town in the West stand exposed to the hot summer sun and the cold winter frosts, as a memorial to one of the most turbulent ages in American history. During the short summer season, a few adventurous tourists drive along the unmade roads, to walk for themselves through the now-quiet streets of this once-active town; but most of the year, the streets are quite empty, and the only noise is the whistling of the cold dry wind as it blows round the corners of deserted buildings. And in the old cemetery, just outside town, the bodies of William Body and others who **perished** in this desolate **spot** now lie in peace.

WORDS

diary: personal journal - **bearing:** carrying - **stake:** to reserve territory - **stores:** necessary things for the winter - **reckon with:** take account of - **struggle:** fight - **tracks:** marks in the snow - **ounce:** a few grams - **claim:** reserve - **according to:** in the words of - **shoddy:** of poor quality - **spot:** place - **shrink:** get smaller - **boast:** be proud of - **stage coach:** passenger coach - **seek:** look for - **provide:** ensure, give, supply - **death warrant:** death order - **dismantle:** take to pieces - **perish:** die

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Say whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Once its population reached about 10,000, Bodie never got any larger.
2. The Bodie gold rush began with William Body's claim.
3. By 1885, not much gold could be found.
4. On September 5th 1880, the stage coach was held up twice, and three people were killed.
5. Jim Cain died before he had time to celebrate his fiftieth birthday.
6. The watchman's job, created before the Great Depression, was to make sure that no-one stole the remaining gold from the mines.
7. Today Bodie has about 150 buildings still standing.
8. William Body died a few hundred yards from his cabin.
9. Within the space of 12 years, Bodie grew to being a big town, then returned back to its original size.
10. Today, Bodie is a major tourist attraction.

Unit 13: *America's Bald Eagles*

A REMARKABLE STORY OF SUCCESS



1. **When it comes to wildlife**, the stories that are told in magazines and on television tend to be stories of catastrophe and destruction – stories about the disappearance of *species* in the face of ever-more destructive human activity. So it comes as nice change to learn that there *are* exceptions - some of them quite remarkable; and as far as the United States is concerned, there can surely be no more encouraging story than that of the famous "bald eagle", saved at the eleventh hour from the possibility of total extinction in all but the most *isolated* of regions.
2. No doubt the fact that this magnificent *bird of prey* is America's national symbol has something to do with it; but for over a hundred years, these great birds' symbolic status did little to save them from destruction. It is estimated that there were in the region of 100,000 bald eagles in the USA in the year 1782, when their image was first adopted as a national symbol by the young States. This great bird, with its *wingspan* of almost two metres, was almost a natural choice for those who were looking for a symbolic beast to stand alongside the lion of England or the Russian bear. After all, it could be found virtually throughout North America, and was also the only eagle *unique to* the continent.
3. Yet although they had chosen it as a proud national emblem, Americans did little to ensure its survival; in the course of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, the bald eagle slowly but surely disappeared from state after state, a victim of spreading urbanization, new farming techniques, and the shotguns of indiscriminate hunters.
4. In 1940, noting that the national bird was "threatened with extinction," Congress passed the *Bald Eagle Protection Act*, making it illegal to kill, harass, possess (without a permit), or sell bald eagles; but that was not enough to save the bird. By the early 1960s there were fewer than 450 nesting pairs in the *contiguous USA*; only in Alaska was their survival still guaranteed.
In 1967, bald eagles were officially declared an endangered species throughout the United States south of the *40th parallel*; and a massive information campaign was launched by the federal government and by wildlife organizations, to try and save the nation's emblem, and

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protect its habitat from further destruction. Among all factors that had led to the eagle's destruction, the greatest was almost certainly the massive use of pesticides by American farmers, from the 1940's onwards. One such pesticide, DDT, was sprayed on **croplands** throughout the USA and its residues washed into lakes and streams, where they were absorbed by fish. The contaminated fish, in turn, were consumed by bald eagles.

5. The chemical interfered with the eagle's ability to develop strong **shells** for its eggs. As a result, bald eagles and many other bird species began laying eggs with shells so thin they often broke during **incubation** or failed to **hatch**. Their reproduction disrupted, bald eagle populations fell sharply. It was not until after the dangers of DDT became known, in large part due to Rachel Carson's famous book *Silent Spring*, that this chemical was banned for most uses in the United States in 1972.
6. As the extent and speed of the decline in eagle populations became apparent, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a captive-breeding program at its Research Center at Patuxent, Maryland. Here scientists increased the species' **breeding** potential by removing each first **clutch** of eggs as soon as they were laid, and incubating them artificially. The bald eagles would usually then lay a second clutch, which they were allowed to incubate themselves. In all, 124 bald eagles were hatched at Patuxent, and subsequently returned to the wild, during the critical years.
7. Today, thanks to years of protection and breeding programs, the decline in the eagle population has been reversed, and numbers have begun to grow again. There are now over 4000 breeding pairs south of the 40th parallel, and the bald eagle has been officially taken off the list of endangered species in the USA. Nevertheless, it remains officially classified as a "threatened" species, and one which is protected by no fewer than three acts of Congress - with two other acts banning **theft**, sale or possession of its eggs.
8. Perhaps that is in the end the only way to ensure the survival of America's most famous bird. Even this high degree of protection is not enough to save the bald eagle from the most **ruthless** or thoughtless of hunters; there are those who will shoot anything for pleasure. Last year, a Florida man was fined \$1500 for shooting an eagle; he **got off** very lightly, given that federal law allows prison sentences and fines of up to \$100,000 dollars for those who **knowingly** kill or capture these magnificent birds.

WORDS

a species: a variety of creature or plant - **isolated:** distant, inaccessible - **bird of prey:** bird that eats small animals - **wingspan:** width across the wings - **unique to:** found nowhere else but in - **contiguous USA:** continental USA excluding Alaska - **40th parallel:** the Canadian border (in the west) - **crops:** plants cultivated as food - **shell:** hard outer casing - **incubation:** period when the mother bird sits on her eggs - **hatch:** produce a baby bird - **to breed:** to produce young - **clutch:** group - **theft:** stealing, taking - **ruthless:** without compassion, determined - **got off:** escaped - **knowingly:** intentionally -

► **Rephrasing.**

What expressions, used in the original article, mean:

To make sure that it survived

It was still certain that they would survive

The number of bald eagles decreased very rapidly

How widely and quickly the number of eagles was falling

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► Word endings.

Add the necessary word endings, and words, to complete this extract from the article. Take care! In four cases, **no** ending or extra word is needed.

The chemic___ interfer___ with the eag___ ab___ to deve___ strong shells for its eggs. As a result, bald eagles and many other bird species be___ lay___ eggs that had shells ___ thin they often br___ during incub___ or fail___ to _____. Their reproduction disrupt___, bald eagle populations fell__ sha_____. It was not until after the dangers of DDT bec___ know___, in large part due ___ Rachel Carson's famous book Silent Spring, that this chem_____ was ban_____ for most uses.

As the ext___ and speed of the decline ___ eagle populations became apparent___, the U.S. Fish and _____ Service developed a captive-_____ program at its _____ Center at Patuxent, Maryland. Here scient_____ increas___ the spec___ breed___ potential by remov___ each first clutch___ of eggs as soon as they were l_____, and incubat___ them artif_____. The bald eagles w___ usually then lay___ a second clutch.

Unit 14: California's Water Wars

Water.....



1. This five-letter word is one that Californians see almost daily in headlines.
How to dam it, how to sell it, how to use it, how to share it, how to keep it pure.... these are just a few of the major problems that face California's people and political leaders. Thousands of dollars are spent annually on studies, and on **lawsuits**, in California's "Water Wars", and the seemingly endless conflict between the **overwhelming** needs of Central and Southern California, and their drain on Northern California rivers.
2. California has what has been called "the biggest waterworks in history". **Dams** in the Sierra Nevada mountains hold back water provided by great rivers fed by rain and snowmelt; they **tame** raging rivers, help prevent damaging floods, generate cheap, pollution-free hydro-electricity, and release a steady supply of water for California's citizens. California's great cities get their water via an immense network of dams, aqueducts, pipelines and wells that is one of the engineering wonders of the world. Part of the water supply for the Los Angeles area comes from a 445-mile long canal running south from the "Delta" area of Northern California. During its long journey, the water is pumped up a 3000 ft. elevation, then enters a tunnel through the mountains, before reaching the Los Angeles area. More water for this thirsty area is brought in along the Colorado River Aqueduct, over a distance of 185 miles; and the City of Los Angeles also takes water from a place called Owens Valley, 338 miles away!
3. Even the city of San Francisco, in cooler Northern California, has long-distance water, its supply being carried almost 150 miles from an artificial lake in Yosemite National Park. Yet **mammoth** as this interlocking system is, in years ahead it is going to be inadequate to handle the state's rapidly growing population. The **prospect** of major water problems in the near future has become particularly alarming. Many California farmers have already had to abandon crops on account of water shortages during recent dry summers; and in many towns and cities, the sprinklers that traditionally keep the **lawns** green round suburban homes have been turned off.
4. As if dry summers and growing needs were not enough problems already, Californians also have problems getting water from outside their state. For instance, the Colorado river provides water to several states, and also to Indian reservations, and there has been a lot of argument about water rights. In 2003, the state of California agreed to take a smaller quota of water from the Colorado

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River - partly to allow the state of Nevada to have more, on account of the dramatic increase in needs of the city of Las Vegas. One of the most serious environmental problems was that of Mono Lake. In 1989, California's State Legislature voted \$65 million to find alternatives to save Mono Lake from evaporating in the desert sun of Eastern California. Since then, the depletion of this unique environmentally-sensitive lake has been reversed, and though the water level today is still some 35 ft. below the natural level recorded back in 1941, it is now 10 feet higher than it was at its lowest point, in 1982.

5. Since the year 2000, California has had a series of **drought** years with below normal rainfall. Emergency water conservation ordinances have made lawns turn brown, cars and sidewalks get dirty. Violators of the ordinances have had their water supply cut to a **trickle**. In Fresno, a city which does not even meter how much water its residents use, the **wells** have already run dry. Water conservation measures are part of the answer; but political analysts predict that it will require many years and some serious and unattractive lifestyle changes to resolve California's Water Wars. The tense competition for a scarce resource, among groups with conflicting interests, will demand **give and take** forever.

WORDS :

Dwellers: residents - **lawsuits:** legal battles - **overwhelming:** enormous - **dam:** barrage - **tame:** conquer - **mammoth:** enormous - **prospect:** image - **blow:** bad news - **lawn:** grass - **trickle:** a very small flow - **meter:** to count - **drought:** period with no rain or very little rain **trickle:** very small flow - **well:** hole in the ground from which water is taken - **give and take:** compromise.

California's Water Wars - Exercises:

Creative writing: Produce projects for authentic documents (in English) for distribution to the public. Try to achieve maximum realism in this task. .

Memory& logic: Fill in the blanks in this extract from the text, using the qualifiers (adjectives, etc.) listed:

alarming / artificial / cheap / cooler / engineering / great / growing / immense / inadequate / interlocking / long-distance / mammoth / major / near / particularly / pollution-free / rapidly / thirsty / water (2) / 445-mile long / 3000 ft. / of 185 miles / 338 miles away.

California's _____ cities get their water via an _____ network of dams, aqueducts, pipelines and wells that is one of the _____ wonders of the world. Part of the _____ supply for the Los Angeles area comes from a _____ long canal running south from the "Delta" area of Northern California. During its _____ journey, the water is pumped up a _____ elevation, then enters a tunnel through the mountains, before reaching the Los Angeles area. More water for this _____ area is brought in along the Colorado River Aqueduct, over a distance _____; and the City of Los Angeles also takes water from a place called Owens Valley, _____ !

Even the city of San Francisco, in _____ Northern California, has _____ water, its supply being carried almost 150 miles from an _____ lake in Yosemite National Park.

Yet _____ as this _____ system is, in years ahead it is going to be _____ to handle the state's _____ population. The prospect of _____ problems in the _____ future has become _____ .

Unit 15: Deserts of America

Large parts of the western USA are covered in desert; and these deserts are growing.

The United States has long been reluctant to follow the lead of other developed countries, in recognizing the threat of global warming; indeed, while things are slowly changing, there is still a strong lobby of conservative climate-change sceptics in the USA - encouraged by the election of Donald Trump - who argue that global warming is not man-made, so there is no point in bothering about it. But as dramatic climatic excesses cause increasing damage on America's coasts, and inland too, the problems are becoming too big to ignore.

1. IF GLOBAL WARMING turns out to be as serious as some scientists are now **forecasting**, camels might become the animals best able to live in much of the American West by the time the present century comes to an end. A mean temperature rise of six degrees, which certain computer models are now suggesting, might leave much of the United States of America, from the Mississippi to the Pacific coast, uninhabitable. In recent years, Americans living in parts of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico have had to **get used to** ever more frequent summer days with temperatures in excess of 100° Fahrenheit (over 38° Celsius); and most years now, long hot dry summers are leading to the destruction by fire of millions of acres of Western forests. Slowly, but perceptibly, the West is already returning to desert; it is a trend that **seems liable to** continue.
2. No one should really be very surprised about this, even without the additional problems due to global warming. Way back in 1878, John Wesley Powell, one of the early explorers of the deserts of the Southwest, warned of the dangers of settling the new lands to the west of west of the 100th meridian. Powell submitted a warning to Congress to this effect ten years later, but as often happens, short-term economic interests, not to say **vested interests**, meant that Powell's warning was not **heeded**.
3. In those days, the area now known as the "Great Plains" was more commonly referred to as the Great Desert. From the Rio Grande to the Canadian border, large parts of this region were virtually uninhabited and uninhabitable. Moving sand dunes were a common feature of the landscape, particularly in years of low rainfall. Yet despite the **inhospitality** of the terrain, from the mid nineteenth century onwards the area was progressively colonized by settlers who made use of any water course possible, to establish farms and homesteads, using irrigation and groundwater to make up for the dryness of the land, or growing plants such as **alfalfa** which did not require too much rainfall. Gradually, like a miracle, the **taming** of the desert began. In the twentieth century, a massive **dam** building programme was set in motion. In many cases, the dam building was on a gargantuan scale: on the Columbia River alone, as many as 55 dams were built, including the colossal Grand Coulee dam; and although a few early environmentalists pointed to the **sheer** folly of many of the projects, theirs were literally voices in the **wilderness**. Many powerful businessmen and speculators, often with friends in Congress, who had much to gain from the dam projects and the generous federal subsidies that often accompanied them, made sure that opposition to their projects was **stifled**.
4. Ironically, 100 years to the day after he explored the spectacular Glen Canyon on the Colorado River, Powell was honored in a manner that must have made him turn in his grave; the 250 kilometer long lake that had drowned the canyon was named Lake Powell. Thanks to the dams and the irrigation, agriculture began to flourish in areas where it should never have

flourished, and millions of settlers moved into the region, establishing towns and cities that put further pressure on the area's **scarce** water resources.

5. Now serious problems are arising; the level of the region's main underground water table, the Ogallala Aquifer, is falling, and its salinity is increasing; tens of thousands of acres of land have already been taken out of agriculture, and the deserts are once again spreading out. Today, the remains of the Great American Desert cover an area of some 227,000 km², mostly in California, Arizona and Nevada; this is the land of cacti and yuccas, "Joshua Trees" creosote bushes, and the other **drought**-resistant plants that can survive in this hot arid region; but the "**sage brush** desert" stretches much further, and sand dunes and "bad lands" are found as far north as South Dakota.
6. At the head of a now fertile valley in Colorado, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, the largest area of dunes in the USA, stands as a very visible reminder that it will not take much to bring back the deserts that once covered a large part of the American West. A six degree rise in average temperatures could be more than enough to do just that.

WORDS

alfalfa: Lucerne - **dam**: barrage - **drought**: dryness - **forecast** : predict - **get used to**: become accustomed to - **heed**: respect - **inhospitality**: quality of being unsuitable for human habitation - **seems liable to** : may perhaps - **sage brush**: a low bush that covers large arid areas of the American west - **scarce**: rare - **sheer**: total - **stifle**: stop - **taming**: domestication - **vested interests**: personal interests - **wilderness**: desert -

Deserts of America

True or false questions

Here are six statements: read the article, and decide which ones are true, and which are false.

1. The western desert was much larger 200 years ago than it is today. (T/F)
2. The main cause of the desertification of the west is global warming. (T/F)
3. "Lake Powell" is named for John Wesley Powell, who first discovered it. (T/F)
4. Grand Coulee dam is one of many dams on the Columbia River. (T/F)
5. Agriculture is not the only big user of water in the American west. (T/F)
6. The Ogallala Aquifer is a large and popular lake. (T/F)

Careful reading for information

*Here now is a parallel version of the three first paragraphs of the article. Read it carefully; in most cases, the information, though expressed differently, has the same meaning as the original; but in ten cases, this is not the case, and the second text says something different. Underline all the cases where the information given **is not the same as** the information presented in the original article.*

IF GLOBAL WARMING becomes as serious as some scientists are now predicting, camels might become the animals most suited to living in a large part of the American West by the year 2200 . An average temperature increase of six degrees, which certain computer models are now suggesting, might leave much of the USA, from the Mississippi to the west coast, uninhabited.

These last few years, Americans living in parts of Texas, Arizona and Mexico have had to accustom themselves to increasingly frequent summer days with temperatures over 100°

English Through Reading for EFL Learners

Fahrenheit (nearly 38° Celsius); and in most years now, long hot summers without rain are leading to the destruction by fire of millions of acres of Western forests. Slowly, but invisibly, the West is already reverting to desert; it is a tendency that seems certain to continue.

No one could really be very surprised about this, even without the big problems caused by global warming. As long ago as 1878, John Wesley Powell, one of the first explorers of the Southwestern deserts, warned of the dangers of cultivating the new lands to the west of the 100th meridian. Powell submitted a warning to Congress on this point ten years later, but as often happens, short-term economic considerations, not to say vested interests, meant that Powell's warning was not read..

Unit 16: PUBS AND THEIR SIGNS

The pub, people say, is the heart of British social life. More than just a place for drinking, it is a place where people gather to talk, to discuss, to do business. Each pub is distinguished by its name, usually displayed on a decorative sign hanging outside the building. Looking at these signs, we can get a fascinating glimpse into local history, as Andrew Rossiter reports



The Olde Trip to Jerusalem is said to be the oldest pub in England.

1. The history of the pub goes back a long way —and of course much further than general literacy. It is only during the last century and a half that the majority of people in Britain have been able to read at least simple words; until then, any commerce wishing to identify itself, be it shop or tavern, had to make use of symbols or sign language. Yet while barbers' shops in Britain were all identified by red and white striped poles, and chemists' by large glass bottles of coloured water, the situation was different with pubs. In the olden days, many "inns" and "taverns", the predecessors of today's pubs, were **catering for** visitors and travellers, as well as local customers. The names they gave themselves, and the signs they hung up in the street outside their **premises** were not just for decoration, but served as publicity, and to clearly identify one pub or tavern from the other.
2. While many of today's pubs are less than fifty years old, almost each one still has its own distinctive name, and in many cases a fine sign to go with it. The oldest named pub in Britain is the **Trip to Jerusalem** in Nottingham, an old inn beneath the castle, where mediaeval **knights** used to gather before setting out on the Crusades. Only a few English pubs, however, have names dating back more than three centuries. One of the more common names that does date back a long way is the **Rose and Crown**, a name first used just after the "Wars of the Roses" in the fifteenth century, when the House of Lancaster (**emblem**: a red rose) fought the House of York (emblem: a white rose) for the English crown. The name **Rose and Crown** has been a popular name for inns and pubs ever since.

3. A lot of older pubs have names reflecting local loyalties or loyalty to king and country. Inns situated near the homes of dukes and lords are frequently named after the duke's or lord's family name — especially when the duke or lord in question **happened to own** the inn, as was often the case. Thus a pub called the **Norfolk Arms**, whose sign shows a heraldic **shield** or the portrait of Duke, is likely to have been named after one of the Dukes of Norfolk (a title created in 1483). As Britain's population expanded in the nineteenth century, so did the number of pubs, many new pubs taking names to celebrate military victories or victorious commanders. Following the Battle of Waterloo, the **Duke of Wellington** became a popular pub name, and fine portraits of the "Iron Duke" still adorn many English pubs.
4. Britain's **status** as an island nation is clearly illustrated by the large number of pubs called **The Ship** — not just in ports, but in inland towns as well. Each **Ship** has its own history; here the **Ship** was founded by a **retired** seaman, there it was an inn popular with seamen, and in other places just a nice name, though certainly not chosen without some justification. In some places, pubs are named after specific ships, or specific incidents related to the sea; two of the oldest pubs in England fall into this category, the **Mermaid** in Rye, named after the mythical figure half-fish, half-woman, about which sailors used to love "spining yarns"; and the **Ship and Turtle** in Chester, which seems to have been named after some mediaeval ancestor of today's mutant ninja heroes!
5. Local industries or activities have given rise to many pub names. Many university towns **boast** a **College Arms**, catering principally for students and staff alike; and many villages contain pubs called the **Plough** or the **Boar's Head**. Not all pubs, however, have ancient names. A pub in Bristol which opened in the 1970's, is called the **Man in Space**, and its sign depicts an American astronaut. In the small town of Boston, in the east of England, there is a pub called the **Boston Blitz**, with a sign showing a man playing American football; though the sign is new, the name of the pub reflects the history of this small town, from which settlers crossed the Atlantic four centuries ago, to found the city of Boston, Massachusetts.
6. Pub signs have been described as Britain's *finest free art collection*, and that is not a bad description. Some, though not all, are real works of art, due to skilled artists and craftsmen. Stanley Chew, one of today's most popular sign-artists, has produced about five hundred signs. Some people are worried, however, about the future of pub signs; the big **breweries**, who own most of Britain's pubs, have begun standardizing some of their **outlets**, and replacing the old names with standard ones, such as the **Harvester**, frequently with no pictorial sign. A minority of pubs have thus lost their identity, as they have been converted into mediocre mass products; yet the majority of English pubs still hold on to their distinctive names, and in many cases their fine signs. English pubs are a fine tradition, with imitations all over the world; and no self-respecting imitation would consider itself authentic without a painted sign!

WORDS

cater for: provide what is necessary for - **premises:** buildings - **knight:** soldier on horse - **emblem:** symbol - **happened to own:** by chance owned - **shield:** coat of arms - **status:** condition - **boast:** have - **boar:** wild pig - **settler:** person who establishes his home in a place - **brewery:** firm or building where beer is made - **outlets:** points of sale - **to harvest:** to bring in agricultural produce when it is ready

Pub signs - definite and indefinite article usage

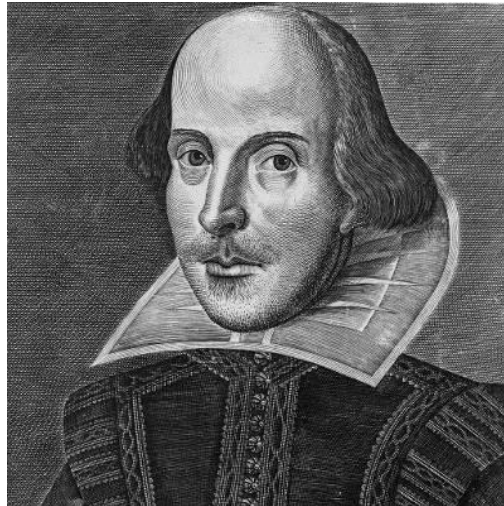
*Complete the following extract from the text, adding articles whenever they are **necessary**. Note any cases where you have a choice..*

Only (.....) few English pubs, however, have (.....) names dating back more than three centuries. One of (.....) more common names that does date back (.....) long way is (.....) **Rose and Crown**, (.....) name first used just after (.....) "Wars of (.....) Roses" in (.....) fifteenth century, when (.....) House of Lancaster ((.....) emblem: (.....) red rose) fought (.....) House of York ((.....) emblem: (.....) white rose) for (.....) English crown. (.....) name Rose and Crown has been (.....) popular name for (.....) inns and pubs ever since.

(.....) lot of older pubs have (.....) names reflecting local loyalties or (.....) loyalty to king and country. Inns situated near (.....) homes of dukes and lords are frequently named after (.....) duke's or lord's family name — especially when (.....) duke or lord in question happened to own (.....) inn, as was often (.....) case. Thus (.....) pub called (.....) Norfolk Arms, whose (.....) sign shows (.....) heraldic shield or (.....) portrait of (.....) Duke, is likely to have been named after one of (.....) Dukes of (.....) Norfolk ((.....) title created in 1483).

Unit 17: Shakespeare 400 years on

Four hundred years after he died, in 1616, William Shakespeare, the "bard (poet) from Stratford" is still one of the most influential forces in the world of theatre and cinema today. As more than one critic has said, if he were still around today, he would quite likely be one of Hollywood's top movie directors. Back in 1999, people in Britain chose Shakespeare as the "Man of the Millennium" – the greatest Briton in 1000 years. So how is it that this writer has established a reputation as the greatest writer the world has ever known?



Portrait of Shakespeare made six years after his death.

1. The works of Shakespeare have been translated into all of the major languages in the world – over 80 languages; 400 years after he died, Shakespeare is studied in schools and universities worldwide, and throughout the world he is still considered by many as the greatest writer of all time. Shakespeare's plays have been made into over 420 films – far more than any other author – and each year there are hundreds of Shakespeare festival's worldwide, including many in non-English-speaking countries like Poland, Germany, France, Spain, Japan or Argentina. For a writer who died 400 years ago, this volume of attention and respect is incredible, almost unbelievable. So how has Shakespeare managed to establish such an immense reputation?
2. In short, Shakespeare is seen as the world's greatest writer because he was.... an incredibly good writer. Even in his lifetime, Shakespeare was a star. He was the most popular **playwright** of his age, at a time when the theatre was very popular indeed in England. Indeed, Shakespeare was very lucky to be born at just the right time in history, when the theatre was becoming a very popular art for the first time, and - in England at least - writers were exploring all sorts of new ideas and techniques.
3. Shakespeare distinguished himself from other writers of his time, in that while many other writers mastered one side of dramatic art, Shakespeare mastered them all. He could write amazing poetry, but he was also a master of ordinary **prose** dialogue; he could write lines of the most tragic sincerity, but he was also a master of comedy... and he could even mix comedy and tragedy in the same **play**, inventing the dramatic technique known as "comic relief". He wrote some very funny comedies such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the world's most

famous romantic tragedy in *Romeo and Juliet*, some of the darkest tragedies ever written in *King Lear* or *Othello*, and a number of the greatest historic dramas ever written.

4. One surprising thing about Shakespeare's plays is that few of the stories were original. Most frequently, Shakespeare took well-known stories, or stories from history, and even classic **plots** of situational comedy, and retold the stories in his own words. Even *Romeo and Juliet* was not "invented" by Shakespeare; several versions of the story were published in Italy and England in the sixteenth century, **from 1530 onwards**; but Shakespeare took the story, reworked it, and transformed it into a masterpiece that is now known worldwide. As for his history plays, Shakespeare took the details mostly from Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland* published in 1577. Even the famous "three **witches**" in *Macbeth* were not invented by Shakespeare, but borrowed from Holinshed; but while Holinshed called them "nymphs or fairies", which sounds nice and attractive, Shakespeare transformed them into "secret, black, and midnight **hags**".
5. On the other hand, one area in which Shakespeare was amazingly original was in his use of the English language; literally hundreds of words and expressions that are still in common use today were invented by Shakespeare. In a recent and very readable study of the life of Shakespeare¹, Bill Bryson picks out a selection of well-known **idioms** that can be attributed to Shakespeare, even if few people today actually realise this; these include **vanish into thin air**, *the milk of human kindness*, **foul play**, *a tower of strength*, *the wish is father to the thought*, *pomp and circumstance*, and **a foregone conclusion**. Many of these expressions have since been translated into other languages too, showing just how universal the influence of the bard from Stratford upon Avon has been in the four hundred years since his death.
Indeed, universality is Shakespeare's greatest strength, and the reason for his **enduring** success. His tragedies are not just about the characters in them; they are about **humanity**.
6. *Romeo and Juliet* is not just a story about impossible love in sixteenth-century Italy; remodelled as *West Side Story*, it became a story about impossible love in twentieth-century New York, or in the 1949 film *Les Amants de Vérone* impossible love in **postwar** Italy. *Hamlet* is not just a play about the troubles of a Danish prince, but a tragedy about **revenge** and being true to oneself. Shakespeare's history plays are not just stories; in them he explores the universal themes of loyalty and **treachery**, power and the abuse of power, strategy and choices. And in *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* and other plays too, he even **highlighted** the questions of race and culture which, in the sixteenth century Age of Discovery, were becoming increasingly **relevant** and intriguing **topics** of interest.
7. In 2016, a worldwide **survey** by the British Council, marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, found that Shakespeare is actually more popular today outside Britain than in Britain itself. This is surely due to the fact that in many parts of the world, Shakespeare's plays are read in modern translations which are understandable by all. In Britain, Shakespeare is usually studied and presented in the original 16th/17th century English in which it was written, which is not always easy to understand, specially for teenagers in school. In 400 years, the English language has changed quite a lot; but it is probably true to say that without the continuing influence of Shakespeare, it would have changed even more.

WORDS

be around : be present - **playwright** : person who writes plays, dramatist - **prose** : the opposite of poetry : **play**: drama - **plot** : story, storyboard - **from 1530 onwards**: **after 1530** - **witches** - **sorceresses** - **hag** : **ugly old woman** - **idiom**: **expression** - **vanish** : disappear - **foul** : horrible - **foregone**: predetermined - **endure**: last - **humanity**: the human race - **postwar** : after the war - **revenge** : retribution - **treachery**: treason, turning against one's friend - **to highlight** : to give prominence to - **relevant** : appropriate - **topic** : subject - **survey** : study

Shakespeare 400 years on

Text study.

In the first paragraph, find three words/phrases that are synonyms

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In the second paragraph, find two words that are synonyms

- 1
- 2.

In the third paragraph, find expressions that mean;

1. While he was still living
2. Fortunate

In the fourth paragraph, find two pairs of words that can be considered as opposites or antonyms.

1. and
2. and

From the sixth paragraph, explain the meanings of these idiomatic expressions in your own words

vanish into thin air,

a tower of strength,

the wish is father to the thought

Unit 18: Stephen Hawking; the world's finest mind

Stephen Hawking has died. Doctors said he would die before he was 25 the British physicist , subject of the award-winning 2014 movie **The Theory of Everything** lived on and worked on until 2018 at the University of Cambridge, where he spent most of his life. He died on 14th March 2018. This text is updated from a portrait of Stephen Hawking first published by LinguaPress in 2001.



Stephen Hawking at the 50th anniversary of NASA in 2008

1. A few years ago, the description of an episode of the American cult TV cartoon show *The Simpsons* went as follows: "The world's smartest man saves the daughter of the world's dumbest man!" The dumbest man was of course Homer Simpson; the smartest man, making a guest-star appearance in his favourite cartoon show, was Stephen Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, England. Many people would agree with the producers of *The Simpsons* that Hawking, one of the most **eminent** scientists in the world, has indeed the most brilliant **mind** of any living person today; yet it is a bitter irony that such a brilliant mind should be housed in a visibly **disabled** body.
2. There are a lot of people who would very much like to know how Hawking can manage to be such a great scientist, while being incapacitated by "motor neurone disease", which not only leaves him confined to a wheelchair, but also means that he cannot speak without the aid of a voice-synthesizing computer. Though it is a question that no interviewer has ever dared to ask Professor Hawking, Hawking's answer can be imagined; clearly, there is no necessary **correlation** between the two.
"My body may be stuck in a chair," he has said, "But my mind can go to the ends of the universe."
3. Stephen was born in Oxford, the son of a specialist in tropical medicine, and naturally perhaps, given the circumstances, he became interested in science at a very young age. By the time he was 15, he had decided to become a physicist, because physics, as he said, was the most fundamental of the sciences.
4. After three years at Oxford University, when, as he himself admits, he did not work very hard, Hawking got a first class **degree** in natural sciences; he then moved on to do **postgraduate** study in cosmology at the university of Cambridge. He seemed to be destined to a brilliant future. However it was at this point that doctors diagnosed Stephen as suffering from motor neurone disease, a **crippling** illness that usually leads rapidly to death. Doctors could see no reason why he would be any different from other sufferers, and he was told that he had little hope of living beyond the age of 25; it looked as if the finest mind of his generation was about to be snuffed out. This was not to be the case. Hawking is now (2015) seventy-three years old, and still working at the University of Cambridge - living proof, is such were needed, of the power of mind over matter.
5. *Against all the odds*, Hawking completed his doctorate at Cambridge, then went on to a research post, firstly in the Institute of Astronomy, and then in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.

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In 1974, at the age of 32, he had the great honour of being made a **fellow** of the Royal Society, Britain's oldest and most prestigious scientific association whose past presidents have included Newton, Lister and many other great names. When Hawking was **inducted** into the Society, the centuries-old induction ceremony, **whereby** new members come on stage to sign the historic **ledger**, was changed for the first time. In Hawking's case, it was the president of the Society, Sir Alan Hodgkin, who brought the ledger to him. As well as the prestige of being a *Fellow of the Royal Society*, Hawking has won a whole **string** of international prizes, including the Albert Einstein Award in 1978, and has received honorary doctorates from 12 universities.

6. Even though he is frequently referred to as the cleverest man on earth, in spite of his high profile, he is a man who is very much in touch with ordinary people. At Cambridge university, his professorship does not require him to teach classes or supervise students - but he insists on doing both. And students who have the great fortune to study under him know that they have a professor who can communicate on their level.
7. As well as being a professor, Hawking is also a best-selling author, whose "Brief History of Time", written in 1988, is probably the most widely-read scientific book of all time. In it he managed to put over his thoughts about such esoteric concepts as time, gravity, relativity and the origin of the universe, in a style and a language that any educated person could understand.
8. Besides making a guest appearance in an episode of *the Simpsons*, Hawking also played himself in Episode 252 (Descent) of *Star Trek; the Next Generation*, a series of which he is - perhaps rather naturally - a great fan! The episode showed him playing a game of poker in the Holodeck, with Data, Einstein and Newton. Apart from that, Hawking enjoys Formula One racing, classical music and also pop - a clear sign perhaps that great minds are not people with narrow interests. Perhaps that's why Hawking chose the universe as his field of study.

WORDS:

correlation: *relationship* - **crippling**: *disabling, incapacitating* - **degree**: *university diploma* - **disabled** : *physically handicapped* - **eminent**: *highly respected* - **fellow**: *member* - **inducted**: *received, welcomed* - **ledger**: *book of names, of official records* - **mind** : *brain* - **postgraduate**: *higher level* - **string**: *collection, succession* - **whereby**: *in which, by which*.

Phrases:

Explain the following expressions in your own words:

snuffed out

the power of mind over matter

Against all the odds

In touch with

Unit 19: Britain's Chinese come out Top !

Just behind Trafalgar Square, not far from Piccadilly Circus, lies Soho, famed as the centre for London's night life, with its bars and restaurants and theatres. But these days Soho is famed too as the heart of London's "Chinatown". Walk down Gerrard Street, where the road signs are in Chinese and the phone boxes have tiled roofs, and you could easily imagine yourself in Hong Kong. Britain's Chinese community has taken root in the heart of the capital, and is doing very well, thank you.



1. Martin Chow, a student at London University, is perfectly **frank**.
2. "My parents came to Britain over 25 years ago, from Hong Kong. My dad couldn't speak much English, and my mum couldn't speak a word. She still doesn't speak it very well. But they pushed me through school, and made sure I got to university. In June, I'll be graduating with a degree in computer engineering. I should be able to get a very good job quite quickly." In a year's time, Martin will almost certainly have joined the ranks of the well-educated well-paid Chinese British, who make up one of the biggest success stories in modern Britain. Forty years ago, most of the Chinese immigrants in Britain were poorly educated, and worked in **arduous** conditions in relatively poorly paid jobs, notably in **catering**; but according to a survey published last Spring, Britain's 170,000 Chinese are now the best qualified, most highly educated and most economically successful ethnic group in the United Kingdom.
3. Over 50% of all young Chinese British now get university degrees or other higher education diplomas — about double the national average; and unemployment among Chinese British is lower than for any other ethnic group. Martin Chow has good reason to be confident. Like many of the Hong Kong Chinese who came to Britain in the 1960's and

1970's, Wu Chow, Martin's father, arrived almost penniless. Working long hours as a cook in a restaurant, and living very **frugally**, Wu nevertheless managed to save up some of his **meagre earnings**, and within five years had enough money in the bank to be able to open his own restaurant. Wu's Chinese Takeaway was certainly not luxurious; however, situated near the middle of a small town in the English Midlands, it provided a service that no other local restaurant (except for a fish 'n' chip shop) was providing : carry-out food at affordable prices; it soon became popular.

4. The takeaway was very much a family business, the Chows lived in a **flat** near the shop, and Wu and his wife served Chinese food from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. six days a week. Sometimes, the shop would stay open later, till 11 or midnight. Martin and his brother Brian would help out after school most days, **running errands**, chopping vegetables, or washing the pans. In spite of this, Wu made sure that his children did their schoolwork properly; if something had to be learned for homework, Martin and Brian were not allowed to go to bed until they knew it. "Yes, we had to work hard even when we were quite small," says Martin, "But it seemed quite normal to us. Everyone in the family worked hard. Chinese people believe in hard work and in family values; it's part of our tradition, and I think that's why we're successful."
5. The experience of the Chow family was mirrored by thousands of other Chinese immigrant families all over Britain. While most Asian and **West Indian** immigrants tended to group together and form concentrated ethnic communities in specific towns and cities, the first generation of Chinese immigrants dispersed nationwide , specializing in restaurants and takeaways, and determined to make sure that their own children would never experience the poverty and hardship that they often had to **endure**.
6. Sociologists point out that other immigrant groups in history have followed the classic "rags-to-riches" path; but none before has ever done so in the space of a single generation. Today's young Chinese British are ambitious and hard-working; and it is not just the young men. Unlike some other ethnic groups, Chinese parents in Britain are as keen to encourage their daughters as their sons, and plenty of young Chinese women are now graduating as lawyers, doctors and **accountants**. Indeed, the differences in qualifications and earnings between men and women among "second generation Chinese British" are less than they are for any other ethnic group, including "ethnic British". Martin's girlfriend, Tania (born to Chinese parents in Singapore) should qualify as a lawyer next year. "I think we can look forward to a fairly comfortable life, for us and our children" says Martin. "That's the reward for hard work , and its part of our way of life. Look at Hong Kong and Taiwan and Singapore, and look at the way China's booming now people have a bit more freedom!"
7. "Would you go back and live in the Far East?" "Maybe, but I don't think so. After all, I was born in England, and I like it here. I know I'm Chinese, but I've got a British passport! I feel I'm English too!"

English Through Reading for EFL Learners

Blank-fill exercise:

Complete these extracts from the article, filling in the blanks with **alternative** expressions to those in the printed article. Think creatively in order to find appropriate alternative expressions to use.

"My parents came to Britain _____, from Hong Kong. My dad couldn't speak much English, and my mum _____. She still doesn't speak it very well. But they pushed me through school, and made sure I got to university _____. I'll be graduating with a degree in computer engineering. I should be able to _____, a very good job quite _____"

In a year's time, Martin _____ have joined the ranks of the well-educated well-paid Chinese British, who _____ one of the biggest success stories in _____ Britain.....

(one paragraph omitted)

Over _____ of all young Chinese British now get university degrees or other higher education diplomas, about _____ the national average; and unemployment among Chinese British is lower than for any other ethnic group. Martin Chow has _____ reason to be confident.

Like many of the Hong Kong Chinese who came to Britain in the 1960's and 1970's, Wu Chow, Martin's father, arrived almost penniless. Working long hours as a cook in a restaurant, and living very frugally, Wu nevertheless managed to _____ some of _____, and within five years had enough money in the bank to be able to open his own restaurant. Wu's Chinese Takeaway was certainly not luxurious; however, _____ near the _____ of a small town in the English Midlands, it provided a service that no other local restaurant (except a fish 'n' chip shop) was _____, carry-out food at affordable prices.

Unit 20: All you need is Love - A (true) Celtic Fairy Story

1. **Angela's Ashes**, the autobiographical novel by Irish writer Frank McCourt, was a **runaway** bestseller; McCourt told of the terrible misery and suffering of his childhood in the poor district of Limerick; but was it really as bad as that?
Here writer Leanne Meyer tells the true story of another large Irish family, and how they **coped with** life. The first thing you notice is the fire. And then you realise that this has more to do with the family than the outside temperature. Their father used to **stoke** the fire each morning to warm them up before school, and this was also where he would toast the bread which would blacken their faces and taste like **charcoal**.
Sadly, their father died a year ago. But as we speak "Mammy", at sixty-five, is walking to town to buy the **goodies** her boys need for the weekend.
2. What makes their mother remarkable is that she bore six boys, four of whom still live at home, along with 12 girls, two of whom are also still at home. Yes, Mammy was **pregnant** for 18 years of her life and almost produced a child a year. All the babies arrived naturally with the smallest weighing a good seven pounds and Owen, the biggest, registering a whopping 13 pounds on the **scales**. After the birth of Susie (the youngest) however, Mammy moved out of the marital bed and into the "girls room." As **committed** Catholics, who ensured that their family went to confession every Saturday and mass each Sunday, this was the right and only way.
3. All eighteen children still live in Waterford, Ireland. Not one child has been lost. Twelve of them have their own families, making Mammy a grandmother forty-eight times over, with three great grandchildren as well. One daughter-in-law claimed that she would break Mammy's record. Not surprisingly she gave up after the birth of her tenth child.
4. Mammy on the other hand **revelled** in raising her **brood** with not even the assistance of a disposable **nappy**. Meals were cooked in a pot "big enough to bath a baby in", using all four **plates** on the cooker. The twelve girls shared a room and the six boys shared another. Each room had a double bed, where on average six kids slept. If you were small enough you slept in the chest of drawers which has only recently been sold. Otherwise you had to find your own spot somewhere between the bed and the chest. When it came to personal hygiene, you just made sure that you got into the bath or sink (depending on your size) first. Understanding the scale of what it means to have twenty people in the house, had to lead to the question, "How did your father afford it?"
This stops the conversation immediately.
5. "Daddy was a block layer (a builder) which was a very good job in those days." They truly believe that they were **blessed**; that they did not **want for** anything. Yet they tell stories that fellow countrymen have written books about, lamenting the conditions in which they grew up. Firstly there was the food. They reminisce about how their father used to make the most delicious chicken soup. But how all that changed when Carole found the rabbit carcasses in the shed. Their father also later admitted to using **sweetbreads** when no rabbit could be found. "You know testicles form part of sweetbreads."

6. Then **gales** of laughter are the only response to what some would consider **a gourmet horror**. Then there had to be the pig's head. These girls, however, are quite practical about how pigs tongue really tastes like corned beef, and then proceed to **tease** Susie because their father used to give her cooked pigs tails to suck on as a baby, and she apparently "loved it". Even in midwinter when building work was scarce and there often wasn't enough money for electricity, they spent time in the upstairs room telling ghost stories, which in retrospect, they point out is quite silly as they would all be terrified but could not switch the lights on. When sleep came there was always a fight about who would sleep in the middle, as this was the warmest place to be.

The only thing the children say they missed while growing up was being Mammy or Daddy's **"pet"**. There was never space for one child to be treated differently from another; but that, no doubt, was actually the key to this abundant family's remarkable coherence.. All this joy in living may sound the stuff of fairy tales; but this is the story of a real family that is solidly anchored in reality, with moments of drama and pain.

7. Often the children missed out on school trips as there was not enough money to pay for the outing. In fact, daughter Carole was once so keen to go on a trip that she encouraged her teacher to come and speak to her parents. Proud Mammy told the teacher that Carole was ill and would not be able to **attend**; but, unfortunately for Mammy, Carole was listening upstairs and shouted down that she was not sick. She went on that trip and still remembers it as "one of the best days of my life." Susie is still recovering from the loss of her fiancé at sea. Carole can recall the horrors of the convent she was sent to when, unmarried, she announced that she was expecting a baby. Yet it seems that it is all a question of attitude and approach to life. In this family, it was all a matter of love, with no room for **self-indulgence** and **self-encompassing privacy**. All you need is love.

1. Comprehension questions:

Students can either answer these questions in writing, or the teacher can ask them orally, for oral answers.

1. How old was Mammy when she spoke to the writer?
2. How many children did she have?
3. How many grandchildren does she have?
4. How many sons does she have?
5. Who is the youngest child?
6. How heavy was the heaviest baby at birth?
7. What town does Mammy live in?
8. How big was Mammy's cooking pot?
9. How many bedrooms did the children have?
10. Where did the smallest kids sleep?
11. What was the father's profession?
12. How do the children feel about their childhood?
13. What did their father make his so-called "chicken soup" with?
14. What did Susie do with pigs' tails?
15. Why did the girls tell ghost stories in the dark sometimes?
16. Why did they fight after telling ghost stories in the dark?

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17. What did the children miss most about their childhood?
18. What else did they regret?
19. Why did Carole ask her schoolteacher to talk to her Mammy?
20. What did Mammy tell the schoolteacher?
21. Why was Carole sent to a convent?
22. What tragedy affected Susie's life?

Unit 21: Interview: the Bird-Man of the Isles

A hospital for birds on the Scottish island of Skye

Andrew Rossiter talks to Graham Ross, who runs a one-man wildlife hospital on the wild and beautiful Scottish island of Skye.



1. **ANDREW:** Graham; people call you the "bird man of the Isles"; so can you tell me what exactly is it that you do with birds? **GRAHAM:** Well I take in injured birds, mainly birds of prey; I fix them, and hopefully return them to the wild. These injuries would be broken wings, or starvation, or whatever. **Are there a lot of birds of prey on the Scottish isles, or are there less than there used to be?** The Scottish islands are still a stronghold for a lot of birds of prey. There are probably as many as there ever were. **When you get a bird in, what do you do to it? Do you keep it in a bird's hospital, or do you send it out to a doctor? Or are you the doctor yourself?** I'm not the doctor! But the veterinary surgeons here tend to be more acquainted with sheep and cattle, rather than birds. And I tend to look after the bird side of it. In fact, some of the veterinary surgeons here refer patients to me!
2. **You get in falcons and eagles here! How does an eagle manage to get here? How do people find eagles to bring to you?** Somebody'll maybe come across an injured eagle, for example, on the hill; and report it to somebody. And more often than not it's the police that contact me and tell me there's an injured bird, eagle or whatever, at such and such a place. And I usually go for it if it's an eagle, but if it's something like a smaller bird, I ask people just to put a box over it and bring it to me.

3. **Do all the birds you have come from the island of Skye? Or do people bring them in from further afield?** *All the ones I have at the moment come from the Isle of Skye. I have had them from further afield; from the mainland of Scotland, and from some of the other islands nearby.*
4. **And after you've had a bird, what do you do with it? Do you release it into the wild? And if so, how many of your birds can you release into the wild? Or do you have to keep some of them because they're unable to fly?** *The majority of the birds are released back into the wild. I do have some that over the years I've had to keep, because they were unable to fend for themselves in the wild.? **Are there a lot of people doing this kind of rescue work for birds of prey in Scotland? Or are you one of the few?***
5. *There are a few throughout Scotland; and most areas are covered by somebody who will take in birds and attend to them as best as possible. **Is the situation for birds of prey or eagles still getting worse, or is it improving in this part of the world, would you say?** I think compared to the situation in the sixties, when they had a pesticide problem, the situation is improving. **Would you say it's going to go on improving? Or have we reached a sort of equilibrium now?** As far as Skye's concerned, I think probably that the numbers of birds of prey are about as high as we could expect; as high as the habitat will stand. **You sometimes breed birds, I believe, in particular owls. What do you do with these? Do you put them back in the wild, or do you send them to other parts of Britain, or what?***
6. *We've been breeding barn-owls for several years now, and we release them into the wild on Skye. **Have you got any plans to breed any other types of bird?***
7. *No plans immediately. It just depends on what I might have; and if I had a pair... the buzzard*, for example. There's no point in breeding buzzards; they're so common. Peregrine*; there's not many peregrines in the area, but to breed them and release them could improve the natural stock. But I think they're doing quite well naturally, and I think if they reach their own levels, that's quite sufficient. Kestrels*, sparrowhawks* are fairly common throughout Skye and the country, so there's no point in breeding them.*

WORDS

bird of prey: *carniverous bird; these include hawks, falcons and eagles* - **the wild:** *nature* - **vetinerary surgeon:** *vet, animal doctor* - **be acquainted with:** *be familiar with, know about* - **starvation:** *having nothing to eat* - **release:** *let go* **fend for themselves:** *live without help* - **attend to:** *help, pay attention to* - **stand:** *support* - **breed:** *reproduce*.

* Kestrels, buzzards, peregrines and sparrowhawks are four different types of birds of prey found in Britain and Europe.

The Bird man of the Isles

Pair work, oral: Have students recreate this interview in their own words, working in pairs. In each case, the student taking the role of the interviewer should read the questions, the other student answer them as best as he can. **Writing:** Imagine that this interview is to be used as the basis for an article , and write this article in 400 words or more.. **Discussion:** perhaps you have some keen ornithologists in your class; if so, get them to talk about the questions raised by this interview.

Comprehension: true or false?

Read through these true/false statements, then listen to the interview and try and answer them:

1. Graham Ross sends as many birds as possible back to nature.
2. There are more birds in Scotland now than ever before.
3. Vets on Skye are more specialized in large animals.
4. The only birds that Graham actually goes out to get are eagles.
5. People send birds from all over Britain to Graham Ross.
6. He only keeps weak birds.
7. The environmental situation has improved since the sixties for birds.
8. There are not enough birds of prey on Skye.
9. Barn owls are released after several years on the island.
10. It is impossible to breed Peregrine Falcons in captivity

Unit 22: Smugglers; old activity, new phase

The European Union is a "single market"; since 1992, goods have been able to move freely from the Continent of Europe to Britain. But this has not stopped the ancient tradition of cross-Channel smuggling! For almost a thousand years, the cross-Channel trade in contraband has been a lucrative business, often involving criminal gangs; but in recent years, its nature has changed...



1. March 28th 1690. It is *dead of night*; in the small creek near Dymchurch, a village on Romney Marsh, a dark boat approaches a well-hidden **landing stage**. It moves noiselessly across the water, slows down, and ties up. Immediately, but without a sound, some thirty figures emerge from the bushes and approach the water. A horse and cart appear from nowhere, and the work begins. In the space of quarter of an hour, the boat's cargo is totally **unloaded**, carried up the bank and loaded onto the cart, and onto another one that follows it. Twenty minutes later, the boat, with darkened sail, is turning round and heading back out to sea whence it had come. Its cargo, a hundred barrels of finest cognac, is on its way to a hiding place, for later **dispatch** to London.
2. The smugglers have succeeded again; as they usually do. For in this part of south east England, smuggling is a **lucrative** business, and has been so for centuries. In fact, in the seventeenth century, it is one of the most profitable professions in the region. From the eleventh to the eighteenth century, cross-Channel smuggling was a busy activity, providing a living for hundreds of people round the English coast. It began in serious shortly after the Norman conquest of England in 1066, when William the Conqueror brought over thousands of his men from France. They brought with them a taste for French wine and other continental products, and these tastes soon spread among the English population. To **supply** their own tables and those of their courts, the Norman kings imposed a **duty** on imported products, taking a percentage of everything that came in. It was to avoid this loss that smuggling first developed.

3. Long before the seventeenth century, smuggling had become a major industry; and indeed, until this period, there was virtually nothing that could be done to effectively stop it. Tax collectors, or revenue men, were not generally well respected people in those days, and whole communities, from the local priest to the ordinary folk, would work together to outwit any officials who came along. The eighteenth century saw the **climax** of the smuggling trade; it also saw its worst horrors. During this century, when Britain really began to expand as an inter-national trading nation, the rise in imported goods was spectacular; so too was the rise in the number of different products on which the government imposed taxes. Tea, coffee, silk, spices, tobacco, and other luxuries from round the world; all became subjected to sometimes very high dues. With so much *at stake*, it was not surprising therefore that smugglers *went to great lengths* to ensure that their operations ran smoothly. Armed gangs of men were paid to keep the King's officers well away from what they were looking for. They did not hesitate to beat up, or even torture or kill those who tried to get in their way; and customs officers soon realised that it was not in their interest to intervene, unless they wanted to *come to a sticky end*.
4. It is estimated that three quarters of the tea imported into England at one **stage** was brought in by smugglers. It was Napoleon, in the end, who brought the great age of English smuggling to an end. Fear of invasion from France led the government to establish a permanent **watch** round the south east coast of England, a watch which later developed into the Coast Guard service. Confronted with this alert and respected force, smugglers were no longer able to go on *ruling the roost* as they had done for so long; and subterfuge and **cunning** came to replace force and threats. From then on, organised smuggling became a minor activity, perceived more and more as a criminal activity like any other. Of course, smuggling has never stopped, and today there are still active smugglers in operation; their methods, however, have changed. From time to time, **the odd** small boat still comes in furtively to a small English harbour, to discharge a cargo of brandy, or more likely drugs or arms; but most contraband now comes in hidden in personal luggage, or in legally imported consignments of goods; containers from Columbia, or trailers from Turkey, for instance.
5. But **in the event**, the worst form of modern smuggling across the Channel is the smuggling of people; or "people trafficking" as it is often called. The last twenty years have seen a massive increase in the number of people from distant countries trying to enter Britain illegally. They come from Africa, from Iraq, from China, from Afghanistan, from all over the world.... some speak a couple of words of English, others speak good English, and they all imagine that a life in Britain will be their **Eldorado**. But these are people who have no visa; often they have paid lots of money to criminal gangs, who have promised to smuggle them into England. Occasionally, the people-traffickers succeed, but for many of the **would-be** immigrants, the journey to England ends in disaster, sometimes death. Customs and immigration officials are increasingly vigilant in their fight against this kind of contraband, and "illegal immigrants" as they are known cannot hope to live a normal life if they reach England. At best, they will live a life in the shadows, hiding from the authorities, hoping that no-one will discover them. At worst, they will end up in a life of misery, exploited as virtual slaves by the gangs that brought them to England in the first place. The men will be used as cheap **labour**, little paid, and living and working in bad

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conditions. The women will be forced to work as prostitutes, if they are young, or work and live in miserable conditions if they are older.

6. The coming of the Single European Market has changed the nature of smuggling, and the customs men still remain vigilant. So do the coast guards. The fight against smugglers may not be the same as it once was; but if the coast guards ceased to exist, the door would be open to the new age of smuggling. It is certain that a new generation of smugglers would *quickly make the most of it!*

WORDS:

smuggle: *to import/export contraband* - **landing stage:** *small jetty, place where people can get out of a boat* - **unload:** *discharge* - **dispatch:** *send* - **lucrative:** *profitable* - **supply:** *provide* - **duty:** *tax* - **climax:** *highest point* - **stage:** *point* - **watch:** *guard* - **cunning:** *clever, astute* - **the odd:** *the occasional* - **in the event:** *in reality* - **Eldorado:** *land of gold* - **would-be:** *hopeful, wanting-to-be* - **labour:** *workers* -

Comprehension:

Explain the meaning of the italicized expressions in the article; then make up sentences reusing the same expressions in entirely different contexts.

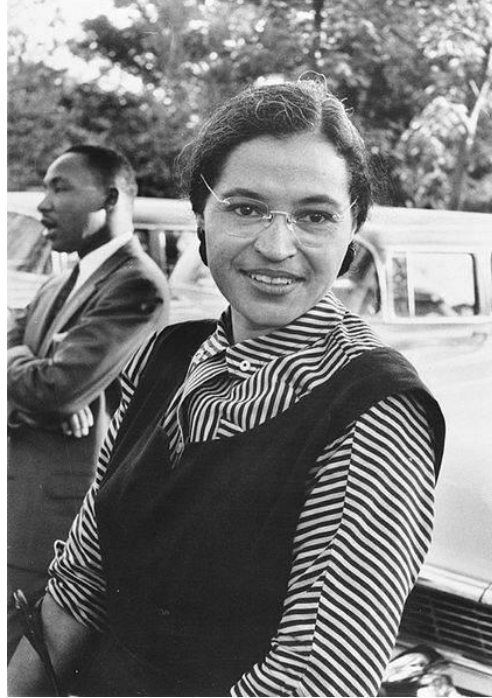
Text correction:

Correct the mistakes in this badly copied extract from the article. This can be done with or without the original article. If you compare the two texts, this is an exercise in careful reading (a highly useful exercise!); if you look at the text below without looking at the original article, it will be an exercise in grammar, memory and logic. The second variant of this exercise can usefully be done by students working in pairs; you will need to argue with each other in order to reach agreement over what is wrong, and what the original text actually said.

March 28th 1960. It is death of night; in the small stream near Dymchurch, a city on Romney March, a black ship approaches a well-built landing strip. It moves noisily across the fields, speeds up, and ties down. Immediately, but without a pound, some thirteen figures converge from the bar and approach the waiter. A horse and car appear from somewhere, and the walk begins. In the place of quarter of an hour, the boat's captain is totally undone, carried into the bank and loaded into the car, and onto another one that follows him. Twenty seconds later, the goat, with opened sail, is turning round and driving back out to see whence it had come. Its captain, with a hundred bottles of finest cognac, is on his way to a hiding place, for latest dispatch to London.

Unit 23: The story of Rosa Parks

How one young lady's defiance helped ignite the whole American Civil rights movement in the 1950s



Rosa Parks, with Martin Luther King and a bus.

1. **Society goes forward more thanks to people who refuse authority, than to those who respect it.** While some people might consider this idea as a recipe for anarchy, it is an idea that is highly respected in the culture of the English-speaking countries. It is rooted in a historic tradition of tolerance, and expressed in attitudes to difference, to originality, even to eccentricity. It does not mean that English speaking countries have always been tolerant: that is certainly not the case; but those who react against intolerance or just against senseless authority can easily become heroes. Rosa Parks is a classic example. As a young woman in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, in the Deep South of the United States, Rosa became a heroine and role model for millions because she **defied** authority.
2. Traveling home on a Montgomery bus one day in 1955, Rosa had the gall to sit down in one of the empty seats at the front, seats reserved for Whites only. When the driver noticed, he immediately stopped the bus, and ordered Rosa to go to the back of the bus. Rosa defied his authority. The driver repeated his order "Go to the back!" Again, and again Rosa defied him; in the end, the police were called, and Rosa Parks was **hauled** off the bus and arrested. She was fined \$10 - a large sum in those days.
3. Yet Rosa's defiance of authority was to have repercussions throughout the USA; it was this act that ignited the whole Civil Rights movement in the United States of America, and gave hope to similar movements in other parts of the world. As Rosa **faced down** authority on that city over half a century ago, little did she imagine that she would one day receive the highest honor of the

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State of Alabama, and that that honor would be **bestowed on** her personally by the Governor. Yet that is exactly what has happened. At the end of the year 2000, Rosa Parks, then an elderly lady, became the first recipient of the "Governor's Medal of Honor for Extraordinary Courage", a new **award** designed to honor those who demonstrate extraordinary acts of courage that have a lasting impact on the lives of others.

4. At the presentation ceremony, Governor Siegelman said: "As governor, I am proud to bestow this highest honor on Rosa Parks, a woman who, in 1955, **stared down** injustice by sitting firmly to take a stand against the inequality of that day. Mrs. Parks' simple act of civil disobedience sparked a global revolution that began with the Montgomery Bus Boycott and forever changed our nation. Every American is indebted to this daughter of Alabama, who refused to bow to injustice and who personifies extraordinary heroism. May her profound courage and tenacious **will** for social justice infuse our hearts and forever inspire us all. "I can think of no one who has demonstrated more individual courage or a willingness to stand up for what is right than Mrs. Parks, and I am proud to name her as the first recipient of this award."
5. Though Blacks and Whites had, in theory, been equal citizens in the USA since the days of **emancipation**, even in 1950 they did not benefit from equal rights. Segregation was particularly severe in the states of the Old South, those states that had fought a civil war in defense of **slavery** less than 100 years previously. In Alabama, things were as bad as anywhere. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme court had ruled that "separate but equal" education policies were illegal, but little had been done in the southern states to change the situation. Yet Blacks - "Negroes" as they were called in those days - were becoming more determined to challenge White power. The famous "Montgomery Bus **Boycott**", **triggered** by Rosa's act of defiance, lasted for almost a year. In defense of equal rights, Montgomery's whole black population - representing the majority of bus travelers - boycotted public transport, and by so doing demonstrated, in the heart of Alabama, that Blacks were a fundamental part of local society.
6. Without black passengers, the white-owned and **run** bus company got into serious financial difficulty, and had to reduce services, causing problems for the remaining white passengers and job losses for white employees.
7. In December 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that Alabama's segregation laws were unconstitutional; and another big fight in the struggle for Civil Rights had been won. A few days later, a young black **minister**, the Reverend **Martin Luther King**, sat just where Rosa had sat a year earlier in a Montgomery bus, and no one told him to move. The long struggle for Civil Rights was not over, but a major battle had been won.

WORDS

award: honor, prize - **bestow on**: give to - **bow to**: submit to - **to boycott** : refuse to use something - **defy** (pronounced [di'fai])- resist - distrust : questioning, suspicion - **emancipation**: liberation, the end of slavery - **face down**: resist - **gall**: impudence, boldness - **hauled**: pulled - **infuse**: move into - **minister**: churchman - **run**: managed - **slavery** : a slave is a person who is not free, but owned by another person - **spark**: ignite, set light to - **stare down**: confront -- **trigger**: start - **will**: determination -

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Select the best alternative for the following words or phrases that occur in the article, from those suggested:

repercussions: repetitions / consequences / reactions

designed: drawn / illustrated / intended

lasting: long-term / final / significant

take a stand: resist / stop sitting / promote

is indebted to: owes money to / owes respect to / owes nothing to

previously: later / ago / earlier.

Find the opposites of the following words, in the article:

trust / tolerance / sensible / traveling to work / equality / obedience / constitutional

Imagine the conversation that took place between the bus driver and Rosa, that day in 1955.

Tell the story from Rosa's point of view

Unit 24: Meet Robodog

THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST ADVANCED COMMERCIAL LEGGED ROBOT RE-WRITES ROBOTICS RULEBOOKS

1. RoboScience, a UK company specialising in commercial robotic technology, recently launched its RS-01 RoboDog - the world's most powerful, most advanced and largest commercial legged robot. Compared to other robotic animals, such as those produced by Sony, this new invention is the "Formula 1" of robotic pets.
2. Technical and design breakthroughs made during the creation of this remarkable new robot will form the platform for next-generation lightweight robots that will automate many ordinary tasks and eliminate human involvement in high-risk commercial and military environments. Nick Wirth - formerly a designer of Formula One racing cars and co-founder and technical director of RoboScience - and a small team of highly-skilled specialists created the RoboDog in only seven months using a state-of-the-art computer-aided design tool provided by software house UGS.
3. Mark Oates, co-founder and marketing director of Northamptonshire based RoboScience, said, "All legged robots now for sale are nothing more than entertainment. This is an advanced computer in animal form - it's history in the making. We have done what was thought impossible - creating a robot that is light and strong, yet large enough to show the true potential of legged robotics that are genuinely useful to human life." The RoboDog will be sold as a hand-made limited edition product tailored to the customers' requirements. A maximum of 200 robots will be offered for sale worldwide over the course of this year at a price of £20,000.
4. The RoboDog is the size of an adult Labrador and is powerful enough to raise itself from the ground carrying a five-year old child. Its sophisticated motor capabilities and balancing software allow it to climb obstacles and perform handstands, and its motion and colour detection sensors enable it to find and kick a football. It connects to the Internet via a wireless network, and can be controlled from a PC. It can also recognise sixty oral commands.
5. Production versions of the RoboDog will allow owners to view locations remotely via an on-board camera or have the RoboDog access and read aloud e-mails. The RoboDog is 820mm long, 670mm tall and 370 mm wide and thanks to its advanced carbon-fibre and Kevlar construction, it weighs only 12kg (26 lbs) and can operate independently for 1.5 hours.
6. The manufacturers intend to licence elements of the RoboDog technology to companies in fields as diverse as industrial automation, special effects, security and military services. Mark Oates adds, "For companies struggling with the limitations of current robotics technology, this is - quite literally - tomorrow's world today! This RoboDog also proves that legged robots can now have the size and power to perform in high-risk environments, whether that is a power station or a mine-field. After all, the loss of a robot is an inconvenience; the death of a human being is a tragedy." The Robodog has been designed and developed in a remarkably short space of time. Nick Wirth says "This is breakthrough technology created at breakneck speed."

WORDS:

breakthrough: *new development* - **co founder:** *one of the creators* - **customer:** *client* - **formerly:** *who used to be* - **genuine:** *real, authentic* - **highly skilled:** *extremely competent* - **in the making:** *taking place* - **inconvenience:** *pity, disadvantage* - **involvement:** *participation* - **launch:** *put on the market, begin to sell* - **lbs:** *pounds* - **licence:** *allow the use of* - **limited edition:** *made in a limited number of units* - **location:** *site, situation, place* - **motor capabilities:** *ability to move* - **perform a handstand:** *stand on one's hands, or one's front feet* - **pet:** *domestic animal* - **platform:** *basis* - **power station:** *place where electricity is generated* - **remotely:** *from a distance* - **state-of-the-art:** *most modern possible* - **tailored to:** *adapted to*.

Rephrasing:

Explain the meaning of the following expressions:

commercial robotic technology

Technical and design breakthroughs

Next-generation lightweight robots

High risk military environments

Computer aided design tools

Northamptonshire based Roboscience

Worldwide

Balancing software

Motion and colour detection sensors

High risk environments

Reading for information:

Answer these questions....

1. Why is Robodog an important technological breakthrough?
2. What is perhaps its most significant feature?
3. How does one operate a Robodog?
4. Why is Robodog useful for military purposes?

Unit 25: Flying Times

The story of the jet airliner - an invention that has changed the way we live

For millions of people, particularly in the United States of America, boarding a jet plane for a quick journey to a city many hundreds or even thousands of miles away, is very much a routine act. More than any other object, the jet airliner is the machine that has served to “shrink the globe”, bringing in the modern age of international travel and international economies; yet it was only in the 1950s that the first commercial jet passenger plane took to the skies.



1952 - The world's first commercial jet service prepares to take off.

1. **Radlett**, near London; April 1951; with a *deafening* roar, a great shining silver aeroplane *hurtles* down the runway outside the De Havilland Company's huge *hangars* on this airfield just north of London; a minute later, the world's first *jetliner*, the *Comet*, is *airborne* for the first time as the property of a commercial airline, B.O.A.C, the precursor of today's British Airways. At that moment, few of those on the ground watching the historic take-off could have had any idea of the impact that this new invention was going to have on civilisation in the second half of the twentieth century. Yet without the jet plane to carry passengers over vast distances at high speed, be they businessmen, holidaymakers, politicians or even whole armies, the world in which we now live would be a very different place.
2. The *Comet* that took to the skies that day in 1951, after a year of test flights, was of course not the first jet plane. It was in the year 1930 that an English engineer called Frank Whittle had *patented* the first jet engine; but in an all-too common British twentieth-century manner, Whittle and others failed to *grasp* the commercial and military potential of his invention, and it was a German company, Heinkel, who actually produced the first jet aircraft, in 1937. The first British jet aircraft to fly was an adapted version of the Gloster E-28 in 1941; but in the fever of the war years, priority was given not to developing experimental aircraft, but to mass producing those propellor planes, such as the famous *Spitfire*, whose performance was guaranteed. So it was not until 1944 that the world's first two real jet aircraft appeared, the Messerschmitt *Me 262* in Germany, and the Gloster *Meteor* in England.

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3. In the immediate post-war years, with the German aircraft industry out of action, development of jet aircraft technology progressed rapidly in Britain, as did aircraft design in general; and within three years of the ending of the war, the De Havilland company was working on its great project, the first passenger jetliner. A year after being handed over to BOAC, the *Comet* entered commercial service, with a flight from London to Johannesburg; but it was a premature beginning. Within two years, two Comets crashed in mysterious circumstances, and all existing planes were grounded. The cause of the problem was soon identified: it was metal fatigue, a problem that had not existed with the smaller lighter aircraft of earlier times. By 1955, a solution had been found, *Comets* were able to take to the skies again, and transatlantic jet services were reintroduced between London and major destinations; this time, the age of jet air travel had really begun.
4. A pioneering aircraft, the Comet however was not a big commercial success. Over in the USA, Boeing had been working on an American jetliner, and within weeks of the reintroduction of Comet services by BOAC, the first Boeing 707's came into service. Stimulated by sales on the vast North American market, the 707 was soon established as the world's leading jetliner, pushing Boeing to the top as undisputed world leader in its field. The *Comet*, France's *Caravelle*, and later Britain's *Vickers VC 10*, products of sophisticated but small national aerospace industries, could not hope to compete in the world markets against the domination of Boeing; and it was their relative failure that eventually forced national governments to support the creation of Europe's first really successful manufacturer of jetliners, the **Airbus** Consortium. Today, thanks to a steady increase in the size of aircraft and an improvement in their efficiency, the cost of air travel has fallen by over 80% since the first Comet flights half a century ago. Once the exclusive reserve of a privileged few, air travel has become a very ordinary event, and in North America at least, something that is considerably more of a part of everyday life than taking the train.
5. Thanks to cheap and rapid air travel, allowing businessmen and politicians to travel vast distances at relative ease, the nature of **trade** and international relations has changed profoundly. Sixty years ago, international meetings of heads of state were rare events; today they are daily **occurrences**; sixty years ago, few people from Northern Europe had ever seen the Mediterranean, and today's holiday resorts like Torremolinos or Cap d'Agde were just sleepy fishing ports; in military terms, the idea of a "rapid reaction force" was unheard of.

If so much has changed since 1950, it leaves one wondering what people will be doing in 2050....

WORDS

airborne: *in the air* - **deafening:** *very loud* - **grasp:** *understand* - **hanger:** *enormous garage for aeroplanes* - **hurtle:** *go very fast* - **jetliner:** *passenger plane* - **occurrence:** *event* - **patent:** *register a new invention* - **shrink:** *make something get smaller* - **trade:** *commerce* - **usher in:** *introduce, bring in*

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Replace all the missing -ing and -ed endings (or other past participial forms), after first studying the text carefully

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Can you **explain** and **justify** each correct answer ?

Unit 26: Lucky Jim

An original short story by Walda Cameron

1. Lucky Jim Conley had **raked in** millions at the gaming tables, quadrupled his winnings **in the stock market**, won a fortune in the state lottery. Jason, the only child of Lucky Jim and his beloved Myrna, **was used to having his own way**. During the two years since Mom's death, Jason had waited patiently for Lucky Jim to **follow suit** and **bequeath** him full control of the family wealth. Jason was **eager to be a high roller** in his own right. But Jim's luck was **outlasting** Jason's patience. After his last medical exam, Lucky Jim's doc had proclaimed the old man to be **fit** as a forty-year-old. "Lucky Jim'll outlive us all, Jason." Not if I have my way, Jason thought. **No way**.
2. He breathed in the fog that hung like ghostly **sails** around the *Lucky Too*, as they made their way out to the **lobster** grounds. **Jim claimed** that that was where the biggest and **best fish hung out** too. She was a **sturdy** boat. Twelve black numbers shone against her white **hull**. Jason and Lucky Jim sat in chairs on the bridge. Lucky Jim leaned toward his son and **yelled** over the engine's noise: "Fog hanging light makes hungry fish bite." "Same old **crap** every time," Jason thought. "But, hey, that's what gave me my plan. Fishing in the fog....". Jason smiled at his father and nodded. He wouldn't attempt a reply since the old man's hearing was **his only failing faculty**. "Mind the lobster pots," the old man **hollered**.
3. Jason nodded again. He knew exactly where the trap **buoys** were located. He'd come here every day for the past two weeks, drawn diagrams, memorized **bobbing** floats and channel markers. He'd **disabled** the maritime radio, **concealed** his weapon, left nothing to chance. They were almost there. The buoy's fog horn **blasted** its rude warning every fifteen seconds.
"I'll tie up at the buoy," Jason called to Lucky Jim. "You get the lines over."
Lucky nodded and moved to the **stern**, carrying two fishing poles.
4. Jason put in **ear plugs** before tying a heavy rope over the buoy's flashing light. He pulled it tight under a square metal box half-way between light and water. A wave **gauge**? Weather predictor? Battery casing? The current swung the stern around. Jason turned toward Lucky Jim. The old man stood at the side of the deck, profile toward Jason, head bent, **intent on** preparing his lines. Jason reached behind him and lifted a three-foot length of **two-by-four**. **BAM!**
Lucky Jim never knew what hit him. Jason dropped the bloodied weapon **overboard**, grasped Jim from behind, tossed him over the side. The satisfying splash **soaked** Jason. He untied the vessel from the buoy and headed home, **full-throttle**. Damn the fog! Lucky Jim's good fortune had **reverted** to him. At least the fortune itself had. He smiled.
5. The perfect crime. No **witnesses** to contradict his story that Lucky Jim had slipped on the deck, bumped his head, fallen overboard, been swept away before his valiant son could save him. Poor Jim was lost. "Yes, Officer," Jason **rehearsed**, "Dad and I always fished in the fog. Lucky Jim thought the fishing was better when clouds met water, but everyone knew it was Jim's luck that made the fishing good." As Jason **eased**, bow-first, into his docking **berth**, he saw two uniformed figures on the dock. He cut the engine and climbed from the boat, his eyes wide with alarm.
"Thank God, you're here, Officers! There's been a tragic accident."
"We know," the taller cop said.
"My fath..." Jason pulled out the ear plugs. "What did you say?"

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They **cuffed** Jason's hands behind his back and **frisked** him. "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you..."

"Wait! Wait! What's going on here?"

"**Don't waste your breath**, buddy." said the shorter cop, a woman with hard eyes.

"But, my father's just fallen overboard, I gotta get help....."

"Yeah son, we know all about it.....?"

Jason's **jaw** fell. His eyes glazed with disbelief. He never even noticed when the female cop **cradled** his head and **shoved** him into the back seat of the car.

6. "But honestly he fell in, I didn't push him," said Jason feebly.

"Yeah," she said. "That might of made a convincing story last week, but I guess **you didn't notice** the infra red camera they just set up on the buoy out there to catch the lobster **thieves**.... It can see through the mist and the night like it's **broad daylight**.... The moment you reached those lobster grounds, they had you under surveillance. They thought you were the guys who've been taking their lobsters...." "But you're a lucky guy," the male cop continued as he climbed behind the wheel.

"Coast Guard just picked him up." "And alive!" his partner said as she took her place beside him.

"Alive?" Jason croaked from the back seat. "**Yup**," said the driver. "Unconscious, he was, but, last I heard, his heart was still pumping. Good luck for you. You'll be charged with attempted murder rather than murder. You'd better pray some of *your* luck rubs off on the old man and keeps him kickin'."

WORDS A-Z:

bequeath: leave, give - **berth:** place where a boat ties up - **blast:** make a loud noise - **bob:** go up and down on the surface of the water - **bow** (rhymes with cow): front end of a ship or boat - **buoy:** large floating marker - **conceal:** hide - **cradle:** took hold of - **crap:** rubbish, shit - **cuff:** handcuff, tie - **disable:** disconnect - **eager:** keen, wanting - **ear plug:** an ear plug stops you hearing noises - **ease:** maneuver, move - **fit:** in good form, healthy - **follow suit:** do the same - **frisk:** check that someone is not hiding weapons - **full throttle:** full speed - **gauge** (rhymes with page): meter, measurer - **have one's own way:** get exactly what one wants - **holler:** shout - **hull:** the main part of a boat - **in the stock market:** on Wall Street - **intent on:** concentrating on - **jaw:** bottom half of the mouth - **lobster:** a large and expensive crustacean, like a long crab - **no way:** certainly not - **outlast:** last longer than - **rake in:** win - **rehearse:** prepare a speech - **revert to:** come to - **sails:** a sail catches the wind, and makes a sailing ship move forwards - **soak:** wet - **stern:** back end of a boat - **sturdy:** tough, resistant - **was used to having:** was in the habit of having (do not confuse with **used to have**) - **witness:** person who sees a crime - **yell:** shout - **yup:** yes

Lucky Jim:

Words and meaning:

Select, logically, the nearest equivalent to each of the words or phrases indicated, from among those proposed:

1. **high roller:** a) a pilot, b) a big player, c) a top sportsman
2. **if I have my way:** a) if things happen as I want, b) if I go away and live my own life, c) if I take charge of this boat.
3. **Jim claimed:** a) Jim pretended, b) Jim shouted, c) Jim believed.
4. **The best fish hung out:** a) the best fish lived, b) the best fish disappeared, c) the best fish could be dried
5. **his only failing faculty:** a) almost the only thing he could do easily b) the only function of his body that was not still as good as ever c) the only thing he had never done well.
6. **two-by-four:** a) two feet by four feet b) eight feet long c) two inches by four inches.
7. **overboard:** a) into the boat, b) as fast as possible, c) into the water.
8. **Don't waste your breath.** a) Stop talking b) Don't breathe too hard c) Speak louder!
9. **Shoved:** a) guided, b) pushed, c) helped
10. **You didn't notice.** a) you didn't see, b) you didn't pay attention to c) you didn't think about
11. **thieves:** a) people who take things that are not theirs b) fishermen c) guards
- 12 **broad daylight:** a) just daylight b) full daylight c) night.

Lucky Jim:

Reusing information:

After Jason's arrest, the local coast guard chief had to write a report explaining the events that took place. Here is the report he wrote, complete it as appropriately as possible.

On Thursday morning, I was in my office as usual. At 9.15, I looked at the closed-circuit TV monitor, that we had recently installed in order

I noticed

At 9.21 the boat, which I recognized as

I knew that Jim Conley and

I did not think that

Nevertheless, I continued watching, as

At 9.23, I saw Jason Conley take

The old man

Jason

I could see

So immediately I ordered one of our boats to

Thanks to the camera, I was able to

The victim was

My officers applied first aid, and brought

I also phoned the police, who immediately sent a patrol car to

Mr. Jason Conley

Comprehension questions:

1. Why did Jason commit this crime?
2. Why was he caught?
3. Why did Lucky Jim go out in the fog?
4. Why do you think that Jason had "disabled the maritime radio"?
5. Can you explain the difference between Lucky Jim's "fortune" and his "good fortune"?