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The Guardian Weekly

Topical News Lessons

MACMILLAN ENGLISH

The Guardian Weekly

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Back from the dead

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key words

Fill the gaps by using these key words from the text.

pandemic	virus	lethal	immune
experiment	laboratory	lungs	worried

1. If something is _____, it is very dangerous and could kill you.
2. People use their _____ when they breathe.
3. If you think something bad will happen, you feel _____.
4. A _____ is an infectious disease that almost everyone in a very large area catches.
5. If you are _____ to a disease, you are safe from it and you will not catch it.
6. An _____ is a scientific test to find out what happens to something.
7. A _____ is a building or a large room where people do scientific experiments.
8. A _____ is a simple living thing that can enter your body and make you ill.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. When was the Spanish flu pandemic?
2. How many people died in the Spanish flu pandemic?
3. Where did the scientists produce a copy of the Spanish flu virus?
4. How much weight did the laboratory mice lose?
5. How quickly did the laboratory mice die?
6. What is H5N1?

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Back from the dead

Level 1 | Elementary

Back from the dead
By Ian Sample

Many people today are worried about bird flu. They are afraid that it will pass from birds to humans and that thousands of people will die in a pandemic. In 1918 a flu virus killed about 50 million people around the world. The virus was called Spanish influenza (or Spanish flu, for short) because Spanish newspapers first described the disease. Now, after nine years of work, scientists in an American laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia, have produced a copy of the Spanish flu virus. They are also going to publish the genetic sequence of the virus on the internet and some experts are afraid that other laboratories could copy the virus.

Scientists have copied the virus because they want to understand why the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic killed so many people. In a report in the journal Science, Dr Jeffery Taubenberger and a team of scientists in the USA show that the copied virus is extremely powerful. The scientists injected the virus into mice and the mice began to lose weight very quickly. They lost 13% of their weight in two days and all of the mice died within six days.

"I didn't expect it to be as lethal as it was," Dr Terrence Tumpey, one of the scientists in the team, told the journal Nature. In another experiment, they injected more mice with a normal type of flu. The mice lost weight at first but then they got better and did not die. The experiments showed that the mice with the Spanish flu virus had 39,000 times more flu virus in their bodies than the second group of mice.

The scientists who copied the virus say their work has already provided important information about the virus and helps to explain why it is so lethal. But other experts are worried that the virus could escape from the laboratory. "Some people will think that they have really created a biological weapon," said Professor Ronald Atlas of the University of Louisville in Kentucky. "I am even more worried now than I was before about the possibility of a flu pandemic. The 1918 flu pandemic started with bird flu and that might happen again today with Asian bird flu."

Some scientists are worried about the publication of the genetic sequence on the internet. They are afraid that biologists could copy the virus using the information on the internet. This could be very dangerous.

It took a long time to copy the virus. Scientists used material taken from the lungs of people who died from the flu virus in 1918. In a second report in Nature, Taubenberger and his colleagues analyzed the genetic make-up of the virus. They were surprised to find that it was completely different from all the normal human flu viruses. This probably means that Spanish flu jumped from birds to humans and did not mix with a human virus first. This is very worrying for scientists because in the past everyone believed that a pandemic was only possible if a bird flu virus mixed with a human flu virus.

Taubenberger says it is very important to know what changes in the virus caused the 1918 Spanish flu virus. This will help scientists to work out which viruses might cause a pandemic. The H5N1 bird flu in Asia is already changing and it could infect humans, he said.

Viruses have escaped from high-security labs before. The Sars virus escaped at least twice, once in Taiwan and once in Singapore. But some scientists believe a pandemic will not happen even if the virus escapes, because most people are naturally immune and there are now a lot of drugs which protect people from flu.

The Guardian Weekly XXX, page X

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3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.

1. Some scientists are worried because …
2. They copied the virus because …
3. Some scientists believe a pandemic will not happen because …
4. Scientists copied the Spanish flu virus …
5. The 1918 flu pandemic …
6. Bird flu …

a. … they wanted to find out why it was so lethal.
b. … by using material from the lungs of people who died from the virus.
c. … started with bird flu.
d. … the Spanish flu virus might escape from the laboratory.
e. … might pass from birds to humans.
f. … most people are naturally immune.

4 Vocabulary 1 - Prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions. Check your answers in the text.

1. escape _____
2. inject _____
3. worried _____
4. information _____
5. die _____
6. mix _____
7. protect _____
8. different _____

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5 Vocabulary 2 - Adjectives

Fill in the missing letters to make adjectives from the text.

1. i _ p_ _ t_ _ t
2. w _ _ r_ _ d
3. _ f r _ _ d
4. s _ _ p _ _ s _ d
5. p _ w_ r _ _ _
6. d _ _ g _ _ o _ s
7. d _ _ f _ r _ n t
8. p _ s _ _ b l _

6 Word stress

Put these words from the text into the correct column according to their word stress.

powerful
naturally
internet
publication
dangerous
security
laboratory
influenza
biologist

a. o o O o
information
_____
_____

b. O o o
scientist
_____
_____
_____
_____

c. o O o o
experiment
_____
_____
_____

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Afghanistan's deadly crop flourishes again

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

A Discussion

Poor farmers in Afghanistan grow opium poppies to make money. The opium is then processed into heroin and sold to drug addicts around the world.

Do you agree or disagree with these statements:

1. Poor farmers have to make a living. They should be allowed to grow opium poppies.
2. Rich countries should give money to poor farmers so that they can grow other crops.
3. The United Nations should give money to Afghanistan to destroy the opium plants.
4. Drug addiction in the world is not the fault of Afghan farmers.

B Find the answers

Find the answers to these questions in the text:

1. What colour are opium poppy seeds?
2. Why is the village of Singesar famous?
3. When is the harvest season for opium poppies?
4. Who is the leader of Afghanistan's new government?
5. Where will a lot of Afghanistan's opium be sent this year?
6. What was closed down in Kandahar this month?
7. How much does a kilogram of opium cost this year?
8. How much did a kilo of opium cost last year?
9. How much was the opium trade worth to Afghanistan three years ago?
10. Why does opium grow easily in the dry climate of Afghanistan?

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Afghanistan's deadly crop flourishes again

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Afghanistan's deadly crop flourishes again

When the war in Afghanistan began last year, Fahzel Rahman went to his cellar and got some tiny yellow seeds. He planted the seeds in his garden. Now he has a garden full of poppy plants. "You'd be stupid not to grow opium," he said, looking at the plants growing out of the dry earth. "If the Americans give us some money, we'll stop planting poppy." Mr Rahman lives in Singesar, a dusty village near the southern desert city of Kandahar. The village is famous because Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban's leader, lived here in the past.

Two years ago Mullah Omar stopped opium production in Afghanistan, which was then the world's largest producer of heroin. "I grew tomatoes and other garden vegetables last year," Mr Rahman said.

United Nations officials last month said that poppy production in Afghanistan fell by 91% last year - from 82,172 hectares to 7,606. But now that the Taliban's rule has ended, farmers all over Afghanistan have begun to plant poppy seeds again.

"I can make $1,600 from this small poppy field here," Mr Rahman said, pointing to his small kitchen garden. "If I sell all of the grapes over there, I'll only make a fraction of that," he added. Another opium farmer, Abdul Ali, says the harvest season between May and July is a happy time in Singesar. "We all collect the poppy resin together, including the children. Even women do it, because the crop grows very high and nobody can see their faces. We are pleased to have the money."

Stopping the production of opium is one of the first big tests for Hamid Karzai, leader of Afghanistan's new government. He says he is against drugs and wants all poppy production to stop. But he does not control the whole country, his government does not have much money and people are not afraid of the new police authorities in the same way that they were afraid of the Taliban. United Nations officials think that Afghanistan will produce an enormous opium crop this year.

Mr Karzai's local representatives are doing their best. This month Kandahar's new governor, Gul Agha, closed down the city's opium bazaar. "There is nothing left for us now but to sit and drink tea," said Shau Ali, 35, sitting on the carpet of his empty shop. "We are very sad because we don't have a job any more. We are asking the government to let us sell our remaining stocks of opium." Mr Ali said a kilogram of opium now costs between $2,200 and $2,700, down from last year's price of $3,300 when there was no prospect of a new crop this year.

Gul Agha knows that if he tells his officials to dig up the poppy fields, he will be very unpopular with the farmers. They have already planted this year's crop so it is too late to change the situation. Now that the Taliban are gone, it will be difficult to stop the production of opium in Afghanistan. Three years ago, the opium trade was worth $98m to Afghanistan's farmers. Most of the people who buy the opium are rich businessmen from Iran and Pakistan.

Opium has grown in Afghanistan since the time of Alexander the Great. It needs little water and grows easily in the dry climate. Not many people believe that Mr Karzai can stop its production.

THE GUARDIAN WEEKLY 28-2-2002, PAGE 3

Afghanistan's deadly crop flourishes again

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

C True or false

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Opium poppy production rose by 91% in Afghanistan last year.	☐	☐
2. Opium production was banned by the Taliban.	☐	☐
3. Grapes are more profitable than opium poppies.	☐	☐
4. Hamid Karzai, the leader of the new government, wants to continue opium production.	☐	☐
5. People are afraid of the new police authorities.	☐	☐
6. Opium is cheaper this year than it was last year.	☐	☐
7. Most of the opium is bought by rich businessmen from Iran and Pakistan.	☐	☐
8. Most people believe Mr Karzai can stop opium production.	☐	☐

D Vocabulary work

Find the words that mean:

1. A small room under the house, usually used for storing things.
2. The opposite of 'clever' or 'intelligent'.
3. Covered in dust.
4. 10,000 square metres.
5. A small part of something (for example, a quarter or a tenth).
6. The time of year when crops are collected(fruit, vegetables and so on)
7. Frightened.
8. Very big.
9. A market in Arabic and other Middle Eastern countries.
10. Not popular.

Afghanistan's deadly crop flourishes again

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

E Prepositions

Fill the gaps using a preposition:

1. The farmer planted the seeds _____ in his garden.
2. The garden is full _____ poppy plants.
3. Afghanistan is the world's largest producer _____ heroin.
4. Poppy production fell _____ 91% last year.
5. The harvest season _____ May and July is a happy time.
6. People are not afraid _____ the new police authorities.
7. A lot of the opium will be sent _____ Europe.
8. The governor will be very unpopular _____ the farmers.
9. Opium has grown in Afghanistan _____ many years.
10. It grew _____ the Russian invasion.

Discussion

Should poor Afghan farmers be allowed to grow opium poppies to make money?

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Afghan airlines

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key words

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

employee	corrupt	engine failure	flight simulator
bribe	improve	civil war	sanctions

1. If you pay a _____, you give someone money to help you by doing something illegal.
2. A _____ is a war between different groups of people inside the same country.
3. _____ are an official order to stop trade and communication with a country because it has broken international law.
4. If someone is _____, they accept money from other people to do illegal things.
5. An _____ is someone who works for a company or an organisation.
6. If a plane has _____, its engine stops working.
7. Pilots learn to fly in a _____ before they start flying real planes.
8. If you _____ something, you make it better.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. What is the capital city of Afghanistan?
2. How many employees does Ariana have?
3. How much pay does Dr Atash receive each month?
4. What is the name of the German national airline?
5. When was Ariana founded?
6. When did the Soviet army leave Afghanistan?

Dr Muhammad Atash is the Manager of Ariana, the national airline of Afghanistan. Ariana has a number of "problems", he explains. "Employees steal from the company. They give jobs to members of their family. A lot of our employees have no qualifications and many of them do not want to work. But I think we are starting to make progress."

Ariana has a very bad image. Its history is terrible. During the 25 years of war in Afghanistan, Ariana lost many of its planes. No-one wants to fly

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Afghan airlines

Level 1 | Elementary

Ariana today. Its safety record is very bad and this means Ariana planes cannot fly to most European and American airports. United Nations officials and foreign diplomats never take Ariana flights. Many of Ariana's 1,700 staff are corrupt, Atash says.

Is Ariana the world's worst airline? Possibly. There are many bad airlines in the developing world. "Ariana is not worse than many other airlines," says David Learmount at *Flight International* magazine. "If a country has no safety culture, its airline will have no safety culture." But Ariana is better than many other bad airlines in one way – it has a business plan. Atash, an Afghan-American, returned three years ago from the USA where he had a business. He started work as the manager of Ariana in June.

It is not an easy job. His pay is only $100 a month and he has to use his own mobile phone. But he wants to change things. His assistant is Hanns Marienfeld, one of a team of six people from the German national airline Lufthansa, which are helping to improve Ariana. "When we arrived one year ago, Ariana was not up to international standards," he says. "It had no flight schedule. Customers had to pay a bribe to get a ticket, a second bribe to get a boarding pass and sometimes a third to get a seat in business class. We only flew when the pilots wanted to fly." Safety standards were not good. In 2003 and 2004 Ariana's six planes had six major engine failures. "In Germany our pilots only see engine failures in a flight simulator. In Ariana we do it in real life," says Marienfeld.

Ariana was founded in 1955 as a small regional airline. It flew hippies and adventurers to Kabul from London, Paris and Frankfurt and brought young couples from Pakistan. But in 1978, a civil war began. The visitors stopped coming and Ariana, like the rest of Afghanistan, had terrible problems.

In 1979, the Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan. The roads were very dangerous then and Ariana was the safest way to travel. But flying was still very dangerous. The Afghan fighters who were fighting against the Soviet army had American anti-aircraft missiles. Sometimes they fired their missiles at planes. Some pilots wanted to leave. On a flight to Kandahar in 1989 the pilot and the co-pilot began to fight. The pilot wanted to fly the plane to Iran. The co-pilot did not want to go. While they were fighting, the plane fell out of the sky and crashed into the desert near the Iranian border. Everyone on the plane died.

The Soviet army left in 1989 but the airline's problems became even worse. The Taliban took control of Kabul a year later and brought their 7th century ideas to Ariana's 20th-century business. They sent the stewardesses home, stopped the playing of music in planes, and gave the job of director to a 26-year-old religious fanatic.

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Afghan airlines

Level 1 | Elementary

The United Nations imposed sanctions on the Taliban and this meant that Ariana could not fly to other countries. Its planes got older and older and its image became worse and worse. The former prime minister died in a 1997 crash; two accidents in 1998 killed about 100 people.

In 2001, the US and other countries occupied Afghanistan. Many people thought this was a good thing for Ariana but US planes bombed Ariana's planes and destroyed six of its eight planes. The Taliban stole $500,000 in cash from Ariana and ran away.

Now things are changing. The number of flights has increased from 10 to 15 a week. Ariana management says 85% of flights are on time. Ariana made a $1m profit last year. At Kabul airport the mechanics have new tools and the company is training new pilots. It is also opening a modern sales centre, with young, enthusiastic staff and a computerised booking system.

Now Atash plans to ask half his 1,700 staff to stay at home but he will continue to pay them. "We are building the system with completely new people. We cannot mix them with the corrupt old employees." he says. There is no guarantee of success, however, and there is now a battle to control the company. "We're going to fight," Atash promises. "Because the only other possibility is to sit here and do nothing. And that's not good - either for Ariana or for Afghanistan."

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements True or False?

1. Ariana has a very good safety record.
2. The Soviet army destroyed six of Ariana's eight planes.
3. United Nations officials never fly with Ariana.
4. Many of Ariana's old employees are corrupt.
5. Ariana flies to many European and US cities.
6. Ariana now flies 15 times a week.

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Afghan airlines

Level 1 | Elementary

4 Vocabulary 1 - Noun and noun collocations

Match the words in the left-hand column with words in the right-hand column to make words from the text:

1. mobile	a. standards
2. flight	b. failure
3. boarding	c. phone
4. safety	d. plan
5. engine	e. schedule
6. business	f. pass

5 Vocabulary 2 - Comparatives and superlatives

Complete the table

1.	bad	_____	_____
2.	_____	better	_____
3.	_____	_____	the most enthusiastic
4.	dangerous	_____	_____
5.	old	_____	_____
6.	easy	_____	_____

6 Vocabulary 3 - Puzzle

Rearrange the letters to make words from the text:

1. leafrui
2. topil
3. earniil
4. thesitsicnau
5. easyfat

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The Guardian Weekly

The world's rich nations miss a golden opportunity to back fair trade

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings

1	subsidy	**a**	a meeting between the leaders of important countries
2	aid	**b**	the seeds of plants such as wheat or maize
3	ummit meeting	**c**	grown at home and not imported
4	developing countries	**d**	money which a government gives to producers to make products cheaper
5	locally grown	**e**	poor countries without much industry
6	grain	**f**	the business of farming
7	agriculture	**g**	a terrible situation that kills a lot of people
8	disaste	**h**	money or food which rich countries give to poor countries

2 Scanning: Find the Information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1 Where was the G8 summit meeting last month?
2 What percentage of working people in Africa work on farms?
3 How much is cheap insurance worth to US grain exporters?
4 How much cheaper than the world price is cotton exported by US producers?
5 Which country receives more food aid? The Philippines or Zimbabwe?

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TheGuardianWeekly

The world's rich nations miss a golden opportunity to back fair trade

George Monbiot

Both the European Union and the United States give subsidies to their farmers. This means that they give money to their farmers, which makes it possible for the farmers to produce food at a cheaper price. It also means that they sometimes have too much food. When this happens, they often give this food to poorer countries in Africa and Asia. This is called "food aid". But there is a problem with this food aid. When cheap food from the EU and the US is sold in poor countries, the price of this food is much cheaper than the price of food grown by local farmers. The food aid doesn't help the farmers at all because they cannot sell the food they produce at a fair price. They have to sell their products at a lower price and this means that they remain very poor.

In a speech in October 2001, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said that this situation should change. He said that the food situation in Africa was terrible and that the whole world had to work hard to help Africa.

So what was Britain's prime minister doing at the G8 summit meeting in France last month? A few weeks ago President Jacques Chirac did something very surprising. France was always against changing the European farm subsidy system, but President Chirac told the US government that if the Americans stopped subsidising their food exports to Africa, Europe would do the same.

This was an important offer. The West's agricultural subsidies are a disaster for the developing world, and particularly for Africa. 70% of working people in Africa work on farms, and most of the farmers there are very poor. One reason for this is that subsidised food from Europe and the US is much cheaper than locally grown food.

So did Mr Blair welcome President Chirac's offer? No, he didn't . The reason is, of course, well-known. George Bush receives a lot of support from the US agricultural industry, and he was not willing to remove subsidies to farmers.

So, thanks to Mr Blair and his master President Bush, Africa will continue to suffer. The basic problem is that the rich nations make world trade rules. The current world trade agreement says that the EU and the US are not allowed to subsidise food exports. But both the EU and the US use tricks to avoid this rule. The US gives exporters cheap insurance, for example. This is worth $7.7 billion to US grain exporters. This money means that US exporters can sell wheat and maize at a price 10% to 16% cheaper than the world price. They sell cotton at 40% below the world price.

Many countries give money to poor countries and the World Food Programme can use this money to buy supplies in local markets and this helps local farmers. But the US sends subsidised food instead of money, saying that this programme will "develop markets for US products".

The result is that the countries which receive this aid are not the poorest countries that need the aid most but the ones that could be good markets for American farm products. This is why, for example, the Philippines receives more US food aid than poor countries like Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The US also sends food aid when it is least necessary. When the world price of wheat falls, the amount of food "aid" rises. The programme that is meant to help the poor is in fact making them poorer.

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The world's rich nations miss a golden opportunity to back fair trade

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

1 Why are subsidies bad for farmers in Africa?
- **a** because they make imports more expensive.
- **b** because they make imports cheaper.
- **c** because they are in the form of money.

2 Why did President Chirac's idea fail?
- **a** because the EU did not support it.
- **b** because the Americans did not support it.
- **c** because poor farmers in Africa did not support it.

3 Who makes the world trade rules?
- **a** the rich countries.
- **b** the poor countries.
- **c** the EU.

4 Why does the Philippines receive more US food aid than Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia?
- **a** because it is a poorer country.
- **b** because it is a better market for US products.
- **c** because it pays more money.

4 Vocabulary: Opposites

Find words in the text that are the opposites of these words:

1 more expensive _____
2 rich _____
3 higher _____
4 imports _____
5 unknown _____
6 unwilling _____
7 above _____
8 most necessary _____

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The world's rich nations miss a golden opportunity to back fair trade

Level 1 | **Elementary**

5 Vocabulary: Prepositions

Fill the gaps using a suitable preposition.

1. The EU and the US give subsidies _____ their farmers.
2. The farmers can then produce food _____ a cheaper price.
3. Subsidised food is cheaper than food grown _____ local farmers.
4. Subsidies are a disaster _____ poor countries.
5. 70% of working people in Africa work _____ farms.
6. Bush receives a lot of support _____ the US agricultural industry.
7. The US sends food instead _____ money.
8. The Philippines receives more aid than Zambia, _____ example.

6 Spelling

Re-arrange the letters to make words from the text:

1. reframs _____
2. prussigrin _____
3. cinneraus _____
4. sensecary _____
5. dissisnibug _____

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Airline Security

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Pre-reading activities

1 Vocabulary

Put the words in this list into two groups – one for words connected with travelling by plane and the other for words connected with studying a language.

to learn	passenger	check-in	vocabulary	grammar	bag
dictionary	pronunciation	airline	to board	flight	pen

2 True or false

Read the following statements. Then look at the text to check if they are

	TRUE	FALSE
a. A group of passengers was waiting to fly from Dallas-Fort Worth to Baltimore.	☐	☐
b. It was Christmas Day.	☐	☐
c. One of the passengers was a secret serviceman travelling to the White House in Washington.	☐	☐
d. The man filled in a special form twice.	☐	☐
e. The man had an Arabic name.	☐	☐
f. The airline staff at the check-in desk became very angry.	☐	☐
g. They didn't search the man's bag.	☐	☐
h. Finally he was allowed to board the plane.	☐	☐
i. Since September 11th, people of Middle Eastern appearance are checked more carefully at airports.	☐	☐
j. The man didn't have a gun.	☐	☐

Airline Security

On Christmas Day last year, three months after the attacks on New York on September 11th, a group of passengers was waiting to board a flight from Baltimore to Dallas-Fort Worth. One of the passengers was a secret serviceman, who was on his way to guard President Bush at the "Western White House" in Texas.

Because he was a secret serviceman, the man was carrying a gun. He wanted to take the gun with him onto the plane, so he had to fill in a special form. He filled in the form but he made some mistakes, so he had to fill in the form again. He made some mistakes the second time too. The airline staff at the check-in desk asked him a lot of questions. They also searched his bag. The man's name was Walied Shater, an Arabic name. His parents were from the Middle East. In his bag, the airline staff found a

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book on Arab history. They asked him more questions. Mr Shater became very, very angry. The Secret Service had confirmed that he was a secret serviceman and he did not know why the airline staff were asking him so many questions. In the end they decided that he could not board the plane and he was left at the airport in Baltimore.

There are many questions about this case. Some people say that Mr Shater was not allowed to board the plane because he was an Arab-American and that, after September 11th, people of Middle Eastern appearance are checked more carefully at airports. They say that this is not fair and that this is against civil rights. The airline, American Airlines, says that this is not true and that Mr Shater was not allowed to board the plane because he was angry and aggressive and because he made mistakes when he filled in the form asking for permission to take his gun onto the plane.

Now there is a big discussion in the United States about this question. Some airlines now check passenger lists for Islamic names and many people of Middle Eastern appearance have not been allowed to board planes. The airlines say that this is for "security" but critics say that this is racist and should not be allowed. It is a very difficult question.

3 Vocabulary

Match the verbs on the left with the nouns on the right:

a	to board	a bag
b	to ask	a ticket
c	to search	a mistake
d	to fill in	a flight
e	to make	a question
f	to buy	a form

4 Prepositions

Complete these sentences using a preposition. Check your answers by looking in the text.

a The passengers were waiting _____ a flight to Dallas-Fort Worth.

b Mr Shater was _____ his way to guard the President.

c He had a gun _____ him.

d He wanted to take his gun _____ the plane.

e They asked him to fill _____ a special form.

f They found a book _____ his bag.

g In the end he was left _____ Baltimore Airport.

h Checking some people more carefully may be _____ their civil rights.

Airline Security

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

5 Prepositions.

Look at the second paragraph again.

- He wanted to take the gun with him onto the plane, so he had to fill in a special form.
- He filled in the form but he made some mistakes, so he had to fill in the form again.
- The airline staff at the check-in desk asked him a lot of questions.
- His parents were from the Middle East.
- In his bag, the airline staff found a book on Arab history.
- In the end they decided that he could not board the plane and he was left at the airport in Baltimore.

Prepositions are very common in English. In this paragraph there are many different ways that prepositions are used.

Infinitive → He wanted to take the gun (verb 'He wanted' + (to + verb) 'to take' + object 'the gun')

Phrasal verb → He filled in the form (verb 'filled' + preposition 'in' + object 'the form') there are many phrasal verbs in English. Often adding a preposition, or changing a preposition changes the meaning..

Set phrases → In the end (In set phrases the group of words have a set meaning)

Prepositions → He was left at the airport. In his bag ….

Complete the sentences.,

a He wanted to _____ board the plane but they would not let him.

b He was travelling from _____ to _____

c There was a gun in his _____

d He made some mistakes. They asked him to _____ _____ the _____ again.

e They did not let him travel in _____ _____

f There was a lot of discussion at the _____ desk.

6 Discussion

Is it important to check passengers before they board planes?

What kind of checks do you think should take place?

Should passengers be checked because of their nationality or appearance?

The Guardian Weekly

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Superjet launches sky wars

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

compete	version	long-haul	efficient
aviation	forecast	airliner	profit

1. _____ is the activity of flying or making planes.
2. An _____ is a large plane for passengers.
3. _____ is the money you get when you sell something for a price that is higher than the cost of making it.
4. A _____ is a form of something that is different from the original form.
5. If you _____ with someone you try to be more successful than they are.
6. A _____ flight is one over a very long distance.
7. If something is _____ it works well and produces good results.
8. A _____ is a statement about what may happen in the future, usually about the weather, business or the economy.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. Which company produces the A380?
2. Which company produces the 787 Dreamliner?
3. How many passengers can the A380 carry?
4. How many passengers can the A350 carry?
5. How many planes will Airbus sell this year?
6. How many people can the 747 carry?

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Superjet launches sky wars

Level 1 | Elementary

Superjet launches sky wars

Oliver Morgan

The A380, built by Airbus in Toulouse, France, will be the biggest airliner in the world. It will carry more than 500 passengers and will travel between the world's largest airports. Last month it took off for its first test flight. The A380 flew for four hours. Afterwards, the pilot said that flying the A380 was as easy as riding a bicycle. Airbus believes that the A380 is the airliner of the future. The A380 will cost $15 billion to produce.

At the moment Airbus is the biggest manufacturer of airliners in the world. This year it plans to sell between 350 and 360 new airliners. It sells more airliners than the American company, Boeing, which will sell about 320 planes this year. Boeing's profits are 14% down on last year.

Boeing is planning a new airliner too. It is called the 787 Dreamliner and will carry 200 to 250 passengers over very long distances. Airbus believes that the A380 will be more successful because it is bigger than the Dreamliner and it will carry more passengers but Boeing thinks the 787 Dreamliner will be more successful because it will be more flexible and will fly to smaller airports as well as to the largest ones.

As well as these two new planes, both Airbus and Boeing are marketing new versions of existing products. Airbus is planning a plane called the A350 – which is based on its A330 series and will carry 245-285 people long-haul. This plane will compete with Boeing's 787 Dreamliner. At the same time Boeing is planning a new version of its 40-year-old 747 which will compete with Airbus's A380.

Airbus says that the total market for passenger jets over the next 20 years will be about 16,000. It believes that the market for planes with more than 500 seats will be around 1,400. If Boeing stops production of the 747, which carries about 420 people, the next biggest plane will be the Boeing 777 with only 380 seats. On the other hand, Boeing says the market for planes with more than 500 seats is about 350. It believes the market wants long-range, super-efficient planes flying 200 to 250 people up to 13,000km. It says it will sell about 3,100 787s over the next 20 years.

Experts do not think Airbus will sell 1,400 A380s, but they say it is possible in theory. Chris Avery, an aviation expert, says: "It is difficult to believe the forecasts but don't forget they are talking about 20 years. It might be possible." He thinks Boeing's forecast is better.

But Sandy Morris, another aviation expert, says: "Boeing's is a good model in a growing market but how much will it cost? If you look at the A380 you have a plane costing $225m making 1.5 trips a day, carrying, say, 675 people. The 787 costs $150m and carries 375 people. Which one will make a profit first?" The answer is clearly the A380.

So why is Boeing planning a new version of the 747, carrying up to 450 passengers? Boeing says that, without the 747, there would be nothing in the market between the 777 and the A380. It says it does not want to compete directly with the A380. Airbus does not believe this. An Airbus company official says: "Boeing has been talking about a new version of the 747 for 10 years. This shows that they still believe there is a market for large aircraft."

The question is which combination will work best. The A380 with more than 500 passengers and the A350, or the 787 Dreamliner and the 747 Advanced? At the moment no-one knows the answer to this question. Airline experts say that we will know the answer in about 15 years time.

The Guardian Weekly 06/05/2005, page 26

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Superjet launches sky wars

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Decide whether these statements are True or False according to the information in the text:

1. The 747 can carry more passengers than the A380.
2. Airbus will sell more planes than Boeing this year.
3. Each A380 plane will cost $150m.
4. Airbus thinks the total market for airliners over the next 20 years will be about 16,000.
5. Experts think the 787 will make a profit before the A380.
6. The A380 will not fly to smaller airports.

4 Vocabulary - opposites

What are the opposites of these words from the text?

1. long-haul _____
2. possible _____
3. successful _____
4. directly _____
5. flexible _____
6. long-range _____
7. efficient _____
8. better _____

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Superjet launches sky wars

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary - word-building

Complete the table.

	Verb	Noun
1.	combine	_____
2.	forecast	_____
3.	compete	_____
4.	produce	_____
5.	fly	_____
6.	grow	_____
7.	cost	_____
8.	succeed	_____

6 Grammar focus

Comparatives – short and long forms

Look at these examples from the text:

The Dreamliner will be more successful.
The A380 is bigger than the Dreamliner.

Fill the gaps with the correct form of the word in brackets:

1. The A380 is _____ than the Dreamliner. [expensive]
2. The Dreamliner is _____ than the A380. [cheap]
3. Boeing says the Dreamliner will be _____ than the A380. [flexible]
4. Some experts think the A380 will be _____ than the Dreamliner. [successful]
5. The Dreamliner is _____ than the A380. [small]
6. Some experts believe the A380 will be _____ than the Dreamliner. [profitable]

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Demand for beef speeds destruction of Amazon forest

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

cattle	deforestation	logging	rancher
urgent	enormous	satellite	slaughterhouse

1. _____ means 'very, very big'.
2. A _____ is a farmer on a large farm in the Americas.
3. Animals are killed for their meat in a _____.
4. If something is _____, it is very, very important.
5. Cows which farmers keep for their meat or milk are called _____ .
6. _____ is removing all the trees from large areas of land.
7. _____ is cutting down some trees for their wood.
8. A _____ is an object that travels high above the Earth and sends back pictures and other information.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. How much of the Amazon rainforest was lost last year?
2. What is CIFOR?
3. What percentage of Brazil's exported beef do the EU countries buy?
4. What percentage does the US buy?
5. How many cattle were there in the Amazon region in 2002?
6. How much will the Brazilian government spend to save the rainforest?

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The Guardian Weekly

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Demand for beef speeds destruction of Amazon forest

Level 1 | Elementary

Demand for beef speeds destruction of Amazon forest

An international report says that last year was a very bad year for the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. Satellite photographs show that almost 26,000 sq km of the world's largest forest was lost, 40% more than the year before. The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) says that this year's loss could be even greater.

The main reason for the loss of forest, or deforestation, is that farmers are cutting down trees so that they can produce grasslands for their cows. Brazil exports a lot of beef to Europe and Brazilian beef is very popular in Europe because there is no mad cow disease in Brazil. The CIFOR report says that EU countries now buy almost 40% of Brazil's 578,000 tonnes of exported beef. Egypt, Russia and Saudi Arabia import 35%. The US takes only 8%.

"Beef exports are the main reason for the damage to the forest, as cattle ranchers are destroying the rainforests," said David Kaimowitz, the director general of CIFOR. He said that logging is not a direct cause of deforestation. The number of cattle in the Amazon region increased by more than 100% to 57 million between 1990 and 2002, the report says. "[In that time] the percentage of Europe's meat imports coming from Brazil increased from 40% to 74%."

The Americans say that soya farming for the European market causes deforestation. The CIFOR report does not agree with this "Soyabean farming in the Amazon region is increasing but it only causes a small percentage of total deforestation," it says.

The report says that enormous ranching operations are now controlling the beef export market. "In the 1970s and 1980s small ranchers produced most of the beef in the Amazon region. They sold it to local slaughterhouses. Now large commercial ranchers are producing the beef and selling it to European supermarkets."

Last month the Brazilian government said it was going to spend $133 million to help to save the rainforest. This is a very positive step. Without urgent action to save the rainforest, a huge area of forest will disappear during the next 18 months. CIFOR says that the Brazilian government must stop ranchers using government land, stop building roads in the forest, and give money to people to keep land as forest.

John Vidal
The Guardian Weekly, page 3

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Demand for beef speeds destruction of Amazon forest

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Decide whether these sentences are true or false:

1. Logging is the main cause of deforestation.
2. Brazilian beef is not popular in Europe.
3. The US buys more Brazilian beef than the EU does.
4. Soyabean farming causes only a small percentage of deforestation.
5. In the 1970s and 1980s enormous ranching operations produced most of the beef in the Amazon region.
6. The Brazilian government is spending money to help save the rainforest.

4 Vocabulary - animals and meat

Match the animals with the meat:

1. cattle (cows)
2. sheep
3. pigs
4. hens

a. lamb
b. chicken
c. beef
d. pork

5 Vocabulary - prepositions

Fill the gaps with a preposition. Check your answers in the text.

1. Last year was a very bad year _____ the rainforest.
2. Cattle farming is the main reason _____ deforestation.
3. Logging is not a direct cause _____ deforestation.
4. The percentage of imports increased _____ 40% _____ 74%.
5. The report does not agree _____ the Americans.
6. Small ranchers sold their beef _____ local slaughterhouses.

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Demand for beef speeds destruction of Amazon forest

Level 1 | Elementary

6 Grammar focus - present continuous

Look at this sentence from the text:

Soyabean farming in the Amazon region is increasing.

This means that this activity is happening now and is continuing. We use the present continuous to talk about these processes.

Make more sentences using the present continuous from these prompts. You can check your answers in the text.

1.	farmers	cut down	trees
2.	cattle ranchers	destroy	rainforests
3.	enormous ranching operations	control	beef export market
4.	commercial ranchers	produce	beef and ...
5.	... they	sell	European supermarkets
6.	the rainforest	disappear	

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Spare a tear for Argentina

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Pre-reading activity - Key Vocabulary

The following words and expressions are important for understanding the text. Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences:

1 If you suffer from malnutrition …	a … you can't take money out of the bank.
2 If you are wealthy …	b … many people don't like it.
3 If your bank account is frozen …	c … prices are high and money loses its value.
4 If there is high unemployment …	d … you don't have enough to eat and you become ill.
5 If there is high inflation …	e … you feel very ashamed.
6 If a state company is privatised …	f … it is very, very sad.
7 If something is unpopular …	g … it is sold by the government to private companies.
8 If you feel humiliated …	h … a lot of people have no work.
9 If something is a tragedy …	i … you have a lot of money.

Scan reading

Find the answer to these questions as quickly as possible. The answers are all numbers or dates:

1 How many World Cups had Mr Blanco seen as a journalist?

2 What is the unemployment rate in Argentina?

3 How many children are suffering from malnutrition?

4 What was the inflation rate in the late 1980s?

5 What was the inflation rate in the early 90s?

6 When did the dollar begin to rise?

SPARE A TEAR FOR ARGENTINA

The people of Argentina have been watching the Word Cup with great interest. A famous Argentinian journalist, Horacio Garcia Blanco, a reporter at the previous 9 World Cups, was not present at this year's World Cup. Mr Blanco died just two weeks before the World Cup began. He needed a kidney transplant. The operation was expensive but Mr Blanco was quite a wealthy man. The money, he thought, would not be a problem. But the Argentinian authorities have frozen all the private bank accounts in the country. Mr Blanco was not allowed to take out more than 10% of his money. Because of this he could not pay for his operation and so he died.

For many Argentinians Blanco's story is an example of what has been happening to their country over the past four years. During this time Argentina has changed from a successful country into an economic disaster zone. Unemployment is 25%, the economy is getting smaller at a rate of 15% a year, and the central bank has no money to defend the currency. Argentina produces enough food to feed its population ten times over, but almost 25% of its children are suffering from malnutrition.

Every day, outside the Presidential Palace, where Evita Peron waved to the crowds from the balcony, there

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Spare a tear for Argentina

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

are demonstrations against the Peronist president, Eduardo Duhalde. The people in the demonstrations are not young students, but elderly ladies from Buenos Aires' high society. Argentina's middle class is now poor and angry. Very angry indeed.

No one imagined this would happen in the mid-90s, when the Peronist president, Carlos Menem, controlled Argentina's hyper-inflation and introduced many economic reforms. Menem removed exchange controls, privatised large sections of Argentina's state-owned firms and opened up the country to foreign competition. He also fixed the exchange rate against the dollar at one-to-one. As a result, inflation fell from 5,000% a year in the late 1980s to almost zero in the early 90s.

But there was also a negative side. One-to-one with the dollar was good for Argentina when the US dollar was falling, as it did for the first half of the 90s, because that meant that Argentinian exports to the rest of South America and Europe were very cheap. But from 1995, when the dollar began to rise, everything changed. Argentinian exports became very expensive.

President Duhalde now has to find a way to unfreeze bank accounts, give compensation to the banks for the money they have lost, and also satisfy the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that hyper-inflation will not return to Argentina. The IMF wants to help Argentina but, in return, Argentina will have to accept some conditions that will be unpopular with its people.

Argentina is a rich and cultured country. It feels humiliated. People believe that the economic situation will get worse before it gets better. History shows us that the combination of a middle class that has lost its wealth and a working class with nothing to lose can easily lead to revolution. That is the real worry. To lose a football match is not a tragedy. What is happening in Argentina now is a tragedy.

The Guardian Weekly 13-6-2002, page 10

Comprehension check

1 Why did Mr Blanco die?

a because he was poor

b because his bank account was frozen

c because he was rich

2 How much food does Argentina produce?

a enough to feed its population

b enough to feed its population ten times over

c not enough to feed its population

3 Who are demonstrating outside the Presidential Palace every day?

a students

b young ladies

c old ladies

Spare a tear for Argentina

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

4 What happened when President Menem fixed the exchange rate against the dollar at one-to-one?

a inflation fell to almost zero

b inflation increased

c inflation fell a little

5 What happened to Argentinian exports when the dollar was falling?

a they were very expensive

b they were very cheap

c nothing happened

6 How do Argentines feel about the present situation?

a they don't care

b they feel sad

c they feel very ashamed

Vocabulary – Word-Building

Complete the table using words from the text:

	VERB	NOUN
1	to operate	_____
2	to demonstrate	_____
3	to compete	_____
4	to combine	_____
5	_____	defence
6	_____	product
7	_____	imagination
8	_____	introduction
9	_____	satisfaction

Spare a tear for Argentina

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Vocabulary – Prepositions

Fill the gaps using a suitable preposition. Check in the text if you need help.

1 People have been watching the World Cup _____ great interest.

2 Mr Blanco was not present _____ this year's World Cup.

3 Argentina has changed _____ a successful country _____ an unsuccessful one.

4 Many children are suffering _____ malnutrition.

5 People are demonstrating _____ the President.

6 Menem fixed the exchange rate _____ the dollar.

7 Everyone hopes hyper-inflation will not return _____ Argentina.

8 The IMF's conditions are unpopular _____ the people

If + Will. Complete the sentences with an appropriate phrase.

1 If the government in Argentina doesn't do something *soon the people will be very unhappy*.

2 If something similar happens in my country, I will _____ .

3 If the IMF helps, life in Argentina will _____ .

4 If I meet an Argentinian today, I will _____ .

Discussion point

If countries like Argentina produce enough food to feed 10 times their population, why are children suffering from malnutrition?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Axles of Evil

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Complete the sentences using these key words from the text:

environmentalist	truck	fake	military
vehicle	proud	gallon	gasoline

1. A _____ is a machine that you travel in.
2. A _____ is the same as 3.8 litres.
3. The word _____ means 'relating to armies or armed forces'.
4. A _____ is a large road vehicle used for carrying goods.
5. If you feel _____, you feel happy about something you have done.
6. If something is _____, it is a copy of something real.
7. An _____ is someone who wants to protect the environment.
8. In the UK it is called 'petrol'. In the USA they call it _____.

2 Find the Information

Look in the text and find the following information as quickly as possible:

1. What are SUVs?
2. What does Adam Weinstock do?
3. What is a Hummer?
4. Who is Ron DeFore?
5. How much petrol do SUVs use?
6. How much does petrol cost in the USA?

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Axles of Evil

Level 1 | Elementary

Axles of evil

Arnold Schwarzenegger has five sports utility vehicles (SUVs). Mike Tyson has four. 30% of the cars sold in the USA are now SUVs. But now environmentalists are going to war against the SUV.

It's Tuesday night on the Upper West Side in New York and environmentalist Adam Weinstock has a lot of work to do. We turn the corner on 68th and Lexington and we see a whole street full of sports utility vehicles. SUVs are half car, half truck and they have names like Navigators, Excursions, Expeditions and Pathfinders - names that give us a picture of nature and outdoor life. But they are parked in the rich centre of Manhattan. Weinstock puts a fake parking ticket on them. "Open your eyes," it says. "Take a few deep breaths, and be honest with yourself… Why do you need such a huge car? This is not a war zone."

SUVs, and their military version, the Hummer, are very popular and they are making a lot of money for the US car industry. But they also use a lot of petrol. This is why environmentalists hate SUVs. In Pennsylvania protesters set SUVs on fire; in Washington state they smashed their windscreens; in Massachusetts they painted the words "No Blood for Oil" on them.

Ron DeFore, the communications director of SUV Owners of America (SUVOA), says he is tired of environmentalists criticising Americans for their choice of vehicle. He thinks their arguments about the environment and safety are wrong. His message to them is: "Get on with your life and stop complaining."

On the SUVOA website you can read the words: "Is this a Great Country or What? Yes it is." Why? "Because we have the freedom to buy what cars we want and we must not lose that freedom because some people don't like SUVs." During the war in Iraq, Hummer drivers were proud of their vehicles. "When I turn on the TV, I see Humvees everywhere, and I'm proud," Sam Bernstein told the New York Times. "American soldiers in Iraq are not driving Audis!"

The environmentalists say that SUV drivers do not care about the environment. Once again, it is a question of oil. Statistics show that four-wheel-drive SUVs use a gallon of petrol every 17.3 miles and some larger models need a gallon every 12 miles. Hummers use even more petrol. In comparison, the average petrol-fuelled saloon car does 30 miles to the gallon. Each person in the USA consumes about 4.5 times more energy than people in other countries of the world. "You could say that the American way is to do what you want when you want," says Weinstock. "But there's another American way where people work together for the good of everyone and we try to be an example for the rest of the world."

But the protests have not been very successful. Sales of SUVs are still growing faster than any other type of car. One of the reasons is that while the amount of petrol used by SUVs has a big effect on the environment, the cost of this petrol has a very small effect on people's pockets. Gasoline (petrol) in America costs just $1.67 a gallon (3.8 litres), so people would save only $135 a year by buying a car that used less petrol than the SUV.

Guardian Weekly

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Axles of Evil

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension Check

Match the beginnings with the endings:

1. SUVs have names like Excursions and Pathfinders …
2. Environmentalists dislike SUVs …
3. SUV drivers are proud of their vehicles …
4. SUVs use …
5. Americans use …
6. The communications director of SUVOA thinks that …
7. Sales of SUVs are …
8. The protests have not been very successful …

a. … more than 40% more fuel than normal cars.
b. … growing faster than any other type of car.
c. … because their names give us a picture of nature and outdoor life.
d. … because the US army used Hummers in Iraq.
e. … because petrol is so cheap in the USA.
f. … environmentalists should stop complaining.
g. … 4.5 times more energy than people in other countries of the world.
h. … because they use a lot of petrol and damage the environment.

4 Vocabulary | Opposites

Find the words in the text that are the opposites of these words:

1. tiny _____
2. unpopular _____
3. love _____
4. dishonest _____
5. right _____
6. unsuccessful _____
7. real _____
8. poor _____

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Axles of Evil

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary | Prepositions

Complete the sentences using a preposition:

1. The whole street was full _____ SUVs.
2. Protesters set SUVs _____ fire.
3. Be honest _____ yourself.
4. During the Iraq war, many drivers were proud _____ their vehicles.
5. Protesters say SUV drivers do not care _____ the environment.
6. The amount of petrol used has a big effect _____ the environment.
7. SUVs make a lot of money _____ the car industry.
8. 30% _____ the cars sold in the US are SUVs.

6 Puzzle

Rearrange the letters to make words from the text:

1. leivche
2. rolpupa
3. sonpicramo
4. nevnrenimot
5. gransmute

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Back from the dead

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key words

Fill the gaps by using these key words from the text.

pandemic	virus	lethal	immune
experiment	laboratory	lungs	worried

1. If something is _____, it is very dangerous and could kill you.
2. People use their _____ when they breathe.
3. If you think something bad will happen, you feel _____.
4. A _____ is an infectious disease that almost everyone in a very large area catches.
5. If you are _____ to a disease, you are safe from it and you will not catch it.
6. An _____ is a scientific test to find out what happens to something.
7. A _____ is a building or a large room where people do scientific experiments.
8. A _____ is a simple living thing that can enter your body and make you ill.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. When was the Spanish flu pandemic?
2. How many people died in the Spanish flu pandemic?
3. Where did the scientists produce a copy of the Spanish flu virus?
4. How much weight did the laboratory mice lose?
5. How quickly did the laboratory mice die?
6. What is H5N1?

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Back from the dead

Level 1 | Elementary

Back from the dead
By Ian Sample

Many people today are worried about bird flu. They are afraid that it will pass from birds to humans and that thousands of people will die in a pandemic. In 1918 a flu virus killed about 50 million people around the world. The virus was called Spanish influenza (or Spanish flu, for short) because Spanish newspapers first described the disease. Now, after nine years of work, scientists in an American laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia, have produced a copy of the Spanish flu virus. They are also going to publish the genetic sequence of the virus on the internet and some experts are afraid that other laboratories could copy the virus.

Scientists have copied the virus because they want to understand why the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic killed so many people. In a report in the journal Science, Dr Jeffery Taubenberger and a team of scientists in the USA show that the copied virus is extremely powerful. The scientists injected the virus into mice and the mice began to lose weight very quickly. They lost 13% of their weight in two days and all of the mice died within six days.

"I didn't expect it to be as lethal as it was," Dr Terrence Tumpey, one of the scientists in the team, told the journal Nature. In another experiment, they injected more mice with a normal type of flu. The mice lost weight at first but then they got better and did not die. The experiments showed that the mice with the Spanish flu virus had 39,000 times more flu virus in their bodies than the second group of mice.

The scientists who copied the virus say their work has already provided important information about the virus and helps to explain why it is so lethal. But other experts are worried that the virus could escape from the laboratory. "Some people will think that they have really created a biological weapon," said Professor Ronald Atlas of the University of Louisville in Kentucky. "I am even more worried now than I was before about the possibility of a flu pandemic. The 1918 flu pandemic started with bird flu and that might happen again today with Asian bird flu."

Some scientists are worried about the publication of the genetic sequence on the internet. They are afraid that biologists could copy the virus using the information on the internet. This could be very dangerous.

It took a long time to copy the virus. Scientists used material taken from the lungs of people who died from the flu virus in 1918. In a second report in Nature, Taubenberger and his colleagues analyzed the genetic make-up of the virus. They were surprised to find that it was completely different from all the normal human flu viruses. This probably means that Spanish flu jumped from birds to humans and did not mix with a human virus first. This is very worrying for scientists because in the past everyone believed that a pandemic was only possible if a bird flu virus mixed with a human flu virus.

Taubenberger says it is very important to know what changes in the virus caused the 1918 Spanish flu virus. This will help scientists to work out which viruses might cause a pandemic. The H5N1 bird flu in Asia is already changing and it could infect humans, he said.

Viruses have escaped from high-security labs before. The Sars virus escaped at least twice, once in Taiwan and once in Singapore. But some scientists believe a pandemic will not happen even if the virus escapes, because most people are naturally immune and there are now a lot of drugs which protect people from flu.

The Guardian Weekly XXX, page X

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The Guardian Weekly

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Back from the dead

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.

1. Some scientists are worried because …
2. They copied the virus because …
3. Some scientists believe a pandemic will not happen because …
4. Scientists copied the Spanish flu virus …
5. The 1918 flu pandemic …
6. Bird flu …

a. … they wanted to find out why it was so lethal.
b. … by using material from the lungs of people who died from the virus.
c. … started with bird flu.
d. … the Spanish flu virus might escape from the laboratory.
e. … might pass from birds to humans.
f. … most people are naturally immune.

4 Vocabulary 1 - Prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions. Check your answers in the text.

1. escape _____
2. inject _____
3. worried _____
4. information _____
5. die _____
6. mix _____
7. protect _____
8. different _____

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5 Vocabulary 2 - Adjectives

Fill in the missing letters to make adjectives from the text.

1. i _ p_ _ t_ _ t
2. w _ _ r_ _ d
3. _ f r _ _ d
4. s _ _ p _ _ s _ d
5. p _ w_ r _ _ _
6. d _ _ g _ _ o _ s
7. d _ _ f _ r _ n t
8. p _ s _ _ b l _

6 Word stress

Put these words from the text into the correct column according to their word stress.

powerful
naturally
internet
publication
dangerous
security
laboratory
influenza
biologist

a. o o O o
information
_____
_____

b. O o o
scientist
_____
_____
_____
_____

c. o O o o
experiment
_____
_____
_____

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Working the land to feed the people

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Pre-reading

Key Vocabulary

These words are important for understanding the text. Match the words with the definitions.

solution	someone who is expected to be in a place but is not there.
reform	a plant grown for food, usually on a farm.
to occupy	a small hard part produced by a plant that can grow into a new plant.
absentee	to improve a situation by correcting things.
landowner	empty or finished, because a supply of something has all been used.
peasant	a way to solve a problem or deal with a bad situation.
to oppose	the substance in which plants grow.
Crop	to be in control of a place that you have entered by force.
fertiliser	a natural or chemical substance which helps plants to grow.
pesticide	a person who owns land.
exhausted	someone who works on another person's farm or their own small farm
soil	a chemical used for killing insects.
seed	to disagree with or disapprove of a plan or policy.

True or False?

Find the answers in the text.

	TRUE	FALSE
1 Brazil is one of the world's biggest producers of food.	☐	☐
2 Half of the population of Brazil is hungry.	☐	☐
3 Twenty years ago more than 5 million people lost their homes in three southern states.	☐	☐
4 Between 1981 and 1984 277 absentee landlords were murdered.	☐	☐
5 At first the poor families planted food instead of cash crops.	☐	☐
6 The fertilisers and pesticides made them ill.	☐	☐
7 Now people farm in the same way their parents and grandparents farmed.	☐	☐
8 Between 1995 and 1999 260,000 families got land from the government.	☐	☐
9 In the same period nearly 1 million small farmers lost their land.	☐	☐
10 Monsanto is a big biotech company.	☐	☐

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Working the land to feed the people

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Working the land to feed the people

Brazil is one of the world's biggest producers of food but a third of the population is hungry. The governments of the rich countries and the big corporations say that the only solution to this problem is to have free markets and to develop genetically modified food (GM food). But so far this sort of globalisation has only produced more hunger, not less. In Brazil, however, there is a political movement that has a different solution. The Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST) - the Landless Rural Workers Movement – is now one of Brazil's biggest popular movements. The MST wants to give power to the poor people of Brazil through land reform and education. The MST takes direct action – it occupies large farms and organises demonstrations in big cities. Many poor Brazilian families are no longer hungry thanks to the work of the MST.

Twenty years ago there was a secret war in the vast interior of Brazil. The war was not a fair one – it was between poor farmers and rich and powerful landowners. Because of this war almost 5 million people lost their homes in the three southern states of Brazil alone. They became *sem terra* - or landless. They had two choices: to move to the shanty towns of the big cities or to migrate thousands of kilometres north to the government colonies in the Amazon, far from roads, schools and hospitals. Many people who opposed this policy were murdered. Between 1981 and 1984 alone 277 peasant leaders, union officials and rural workers were killed. The MST was born in this climate of violence. Poor families had nothing left to lose so they began to occupy the farms of absentee landowners.

It wasn't easy. At first the families tried to copy the big farmers - planting cash crops instead of food. They used fertilisers and pesticides to try and produce bigger and bigger harvests. But it did not work. Families spent more and more money on pesticides and fertilisers. They became ill from the side effects of the chemicals. The soil was exhausted.

Slowly the families began to use more traditional ways of farming and went back to growing their own food. They believe that chemical farming has no future because it exhausts the soil so rapidly. Families have now begun to remember the way their parents and grandparents used to farm.

The Brazilian government's reform programme gave land to 260,000 families, but in the same period (1995-99) more than 1 million small farmers lost their land because of the pressure of the market. Only the big exporters of soyabeans, coffee, orange juice and poultry and the multinational companies have been successful. If the battle against GM foods is lost, the big biotech companies, led by Monsanto, will dominate farming by controlling the seed companies.

There is no place for small family farms in this situation, unless they are willing to grow seeds for Monsanto. The MST believes that it can confront these forces and win the battle. But the result is still uncertain. If they lose the battle, it will be a revolution that never happened but if they win, they might bring greater equality and less hunger.

The Guardian Weekly 4-7-2002, page 22

Working the land to feed the people

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences:

1 The big corporations say ….	a …. is one of Brazil's biggest popular movements.
2 The MST ….	b …. a lot of peasant leaders were murdered.
3 20 years ago ….	c …. quickly exhausts the soil.
4 Between 1981 and 1984 …	d …. GM food can solve the problem of hunger.
5 Many people became ill ….	e …. gave land to 260,000 families.
6 Chemical farming ….	f …. by controlling the seed companies.
7 The reform programme ….	g …. from the side-effects of the chemicals.
8 Big companies will dominate farming ….	h …. there was a secret war between rich and poor.

Vocabulary Work

Find words in the text which are the <u>opposite</u> of these words:

1 rich	6 near
2 very, very small	7 unfair
3 unpopular	8 difficult
4 to support	9 lose
5 more	10 to forget

Word Building

Complete the table:

	NOUN	**VERB**
1	production	_____
2	occupation	_____
3	_____	to choose
4	opposition	_____
5	_____	to grow
6	control	_____
7	_____	to murder
8	education	_____

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Working the land to feed the people

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Discussion

Which of these will be good for the future of the world?

- small farms
- pesticides and fertilisers
- multinational food companies
- traditional farming methods
- GM foods

The Guardian Weekly

Koreans succeed in cloning human embryos

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

stem cells **organs** **cloning** **disease**
embryo **blatocyst**

1. Copying an animal or a human to make another animal or human is called _____ .
2. The small egg that eventually becomes a baby is called an _____ .
3. _____ change a fertilised egg into 10 trillion cells during pregnancy.
4. Diabetes is a long-term _____ .
5. A _____ is a tiny ball of cells that together become an embryo.
6. The heart, brain, liver and kidneys are all human _____ .

2 Find the Information: Correct the statements

Look in the text and correct the underlined words in these sentences:

1. The first cloned animal was a horse.
2. President Bush is in favour of stem cell research.
3. Scientists have now cloned a human baby.
4. They used 252 eggs from 16 women to clone 30 blatocysts.
5. The scientists were from the US and Japan.
6. The research could lead to treatment for short-term diseases.
7. The first stages for cloning for use in medical treatment and for cloning babies are different.
8. Humans have 10 billion cells.

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TheGuardianWeekly

Koreans succeed in cloning human embryos

Level 1 | **Elementary**

Koreans succeed in cloning human embryos

Cloning is copying an animal or a human to make another animal or human which is exactly the same. Scientists take DNA from one egg and put it into another egg. This then makes a copy which is exactly the same as the first egg. The first cloned animal was a sheep but scientists have also cloned mice, rats, rabbits, horses and even a mule. Now, for the first time, they say they have also cloned a human embryo, the small egg that eventually becomes a baby.

South Korean and American scientists say they have cloned human embryos and taken cells called stem cells from one of them. Stem cells are very important in the development of an unborn baby. They change a single fertilised human egg into about 10 trillion cells during a nine month pregnancy.

The Korean and US scientists used 242 eggs from 16 women to clone 30 blastocysts. A blatocyst is the tiny ball of cells that together become an embryo. Then the scientists took the original DNA out of the egg, and replaced it with chromosomes from an adult cell. "This is not a human clone," said Donald Kennedy, a leading biologist. This research could lead to treatments for long-term diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

American politicians do not allow US government money to be used for stem cell research. Dr Kennedy said he hoped that now they would change their decision. But the White House said that President George Bush is against stem cell research. Leon Kass, chairman of the president's council on bioethics said "The age of human cloning has arrived. Today we have cloned blastocysts for medical research, tomorrow we will have cloned blastocysts for baby-making.".

Scientists have been working on cloning research for many years and hope that their research will help to treat many different diseases. Now that they have cloned stem cells, they will have to find out how to change these cells into human tissue. They will then be able to use this tissue to treat diseases. In the long term, some scientists believe it could be possible to grow complete human organs, such as livers or kidneys.

Many people are against stem cell research and cloning. They say that it will lead to human cloning and cloned babies. The first stages of cloning for use in medical treatment and cloning to produce a cloned baby are exactly the same.

The Guardian Weekly 20-4-02, page 3

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Koreans succeed in cloning human embryos

Level 1 | **Elementary**

3 Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer:

1. Why are some people against stem cell research?
- **a.** Because it is very expensive.
- **b.** Because it uses human DNA.
- **c.** Because it might lead to cloning babies.

2. What are the possible benefits of stem cell research?
- **a.** It could lead to cloning babies.
- **b.** People could use it to treat serious diseases.
- **c.** They could clone rats, rabbits and horses.

3. What is President Bush's opinion?
- **a.** He is in favour of stem cell research.
- **b.** He is against stem cell research.
- **c.** He doesn't care.

4. What is the next task for scientists?
- **a.** They have to find out how to change stem cells into human tissue.
- **b.** They have to grow complete human organs.
- **c.** They have to get money from the US government.

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Koreans succeed in cloning human embryos

Level 1 | **Elementary**

4 Vocabulary: Prepositions

Fill the gaps using a preposition.

1. Scientists take DNA _____ one egg and put it _____ another egg.
2. _____ the first time, they have cloned a human embryo.
3. They replaced the DNA _____ chromosomes from an adult egg.
4. This research could lead _____ treatment for serious diseases.
5. Scientists have been working _____ cloning research for many years.
6. _____ the long term, it may be possible to grow human organs.

Now check your answers in the text.

5 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table:

	Verb	Noun
1.	develop	_____
2.	decide	_____
3.	research	_____
4.	treat	_____
5.	replace	_____
6.	govern	_____

6 Discussion

Do you think it is morally acceptable to create a human clone?

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The Guardian Weekly

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Drowning in money

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Internet domain names

The two letters at the end of an internet address often show the name of the country where the domain name is registered. Match the letters with the countries:

Tuvalu	South Africa	United Kingdom	Germany
France	Japan	Argentina	China

1. uk
2. ar
3. tv
4. za
5. jp
6. cn
7. fr
8. de

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. Where is Tuvalu?
2. How many people live in Tuvalu?
3. How much money did the Tuvalans earn in 1999?
4. What is the internet domain name for Tuvalu?
5. How much did the Tuvalans receive when they sold the domain name?
6. How high is Tuvalu above sea level?
7. How much did the Tuvalans spend on new roads?
8. How many cars were there on the islands before 1999?

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The Guardian Weekly

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Drowning in money

Level 1 | Elementary

Drowning in money

Daphna Baram

Tuvalu is a tiny country of nine islands in the South Pacific. It has a population of just 11,000. In 1999 it was the third-poorest country in the world. The islanders earned just $1,000 each a year. But then something unusual happened. Tuvalu received an internet domain name - the letters ".tv". These letters were very interesting for many companies around the world.

A communication company from California offered to buy the domain name ".tv" for $40m. For the Tuvalans this was a very large amount of money. The islanders became very rich.

At the same time the islanders received some very bad news. Because of global warming, and because the islands are only 3m above sea level, Tuvalu will probably become the first country in the world that will disappear under the sea. Scientists say that there will be very bad floods during the next 15-20 years and by the end of the century the Tuvalu islands will already be under the sea.

You can already see signs of the rising sea on Tuvalu. There are pools of seawater on the land, some beaches are disappearing and you can see tree roots by the ocean. Cyclones used to be very rare but they now appear a few times a year, and the rains that come with the cyclones cause flooding.

But despite these problems, the Tuvalans had their new money. They could use it to buy themselves a future. Or at least they could use it to buy some time. Paul Lindsay, a documentary film-maker, took these questions with him all the way to Tuvalu, and came back with an incredible story. As the water rises, the Tuvalans are using the money to develop the land. They are building new houses, planning nightclubs, restaurants and hotels and new cars are driving around on new roads. The residents do not think this is strange: "Just because we are sinking, it doesn't mean we don't want to raise our standards of living," Sam Teo, Tuvalu's minister for natural resources, told Lindsay.

Tuvalu received $40 million for the internet deal and used $10m of it to asphalt the islands' 19km of roads. Before 1999 there were four cars on the islands. The Tuvalans used to walk or cycle everywhere. As well as new cars, the Tuvalans also imported a lot of food and other goods. Now they drive everywhere and eat more food than before.

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Level 1 | Elementary

Now many Tuvalans are fat and suffer from high blood pressure and diabetes.

Other Tuvalans discovered that it was too expensive for them to keep their cars, and that anyway cars are not really necessary in a country that is just 26 sq km in area. There is now a huge rubbish dump in the middle of this tropical paradise, full of old cars and other waste.

The Tuvalans also spent large amounts of money telling the world about their situation. Tuvalu joined the United Nations, at a cost of $1.5m a year. The Tuvalan delegation at the United Nations was especially active in supporting the Kyoto protocol to fight global warming. But while the political system argues about global warming, the sea keeps rising, and the Tuvalans keep spending their dollars.

All Tuvalans know that they will probably not die of old age on their islands. The solution to the problem is not so simple, however. They cannot move to the nearby island of Kioa, because it will not take any more immigrants. Australia doesn't want to let the Tuvalans in, and New Zealand will only take a small number each year. When the islands are finally covered in water, the Tuvalan nation will probably be split up.

After the eight months he spent in Tuvalu, Lindsay is not sentimental about white sands and turquoise waters. "There are no more paradises. Tuvalu is trying to keep its sense of social solidarity in the face of progress. Nowadays even paradise has a price".

The Guardian Weekly 25-03-2005, page 18

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Drowning in money

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings with the endings:

1. Before 1999 …
2. The Tuvalans became rich …
3. The biggest problem for the Tuvalans …
4. By the end of the century …
5. The Tuvalans are spending their money …
6. It costs Tuvalu $1.5 million a year …
7. The total area of Tuvalu …
8. When the sea rises …

a. … is global warming.
b. … on roads, cars and new buildings.
c. … is just 26 square kilometres.
d. … Tuvalu was the third-poorest country in the world.
e. … the sea will cover the islands completely.
f. … the Tuvalans will have to leave their islands.
g. … to be a member of the United Nations.
h. … when they sold their internet domain name.

4 Vocabulary - adjectives

Find the words that mean …

1. very, very small
2. very large
3. unusual
4. unbelievable
5. the opposite of ‘passive’
6. the opposite of ‘common’
7. the opposite of ‘poor’
8. easy

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Drowning in money

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary - words and definitions

Match the words with the definitions

1. diabetes
2. flood
3. cyclone
4. rubbish dump
5. immigrant
6. turquoise

a. a very powerful tropical storm
b. a person arriving from another country to live in a new country
c. a disease in which the body cannot process sugar
d. a colour that is between green and blue
e. a place where people put waste
f. a situation where water covers the land

6 Grammar focus - keep + -ing

We use this when we mean that someone continues to do something, often something negative.

Look at this example from the text:

The Tuvalans keep spending their dollars.

Make more sentences using these key words:

1. the sea/rise
2. the Tuvalans/buy/cars
3. they/build/roads
4. the temperature/go up
5. the Tuvalans/spend/their money
6. they/argue/about global warming

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The Guardian Weekly

'Old' Europe reuniting East with West

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings

1. a crisis	**a.** to take the place of something
2. to criticise	**b.** to write to ask for something
3. an effect	**c.** a time of great danger or difficulty
4. to apply	**d.** to make something bigger
5. a warning	**e.** an agreement between countries
6. to replace	**f.** to say that somebody is wrong or bad
7. to enlarge	**g.** saying that something bad will happen
8. a treaty	**h.** a change that happens because of something

2 Who's Who

Fill the gaps using the words in the list

European **foreign** **president** **defence** **minister** **the USA**

1. Jacques Chirac is the _____ of France.
2. George Bush is the president of _____ .
3. Donald Rumsfeld is the US _____ secretary.
4. Romano Prodi is the president of the _____ Commission.
5. Bronislaw Gemerk is the former Polish _____ minister.
6. Adrian Nastase is the Romanian prime _____ .

Now read the text and check your answers:

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TheGuardianWeekly

'Old' Europe reuniting East with West

Level 1 | **Elementary**

Old' Europe reuniting East with West

The crisis in Iraq has created problems for many countries but now it could also have a negative effect on the European Union and, in particular on the plans to welcome the Eastern European countries into the EU in 2004. Jacques Chirac, the French president, criticised the Eastern European countries last week for their support for George Bush's policy on Iraq.

At the end of the EU summit on Iraq in Brussels, Chirac said their behaviour was "childish" and "dangerous". Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and the other EU candidates should keep quiet, he said. "When you are in the family, after all, you have more rights than when you are asking to join the family, and you are knocking on the door." Romania and Bulgaria were particularly careless, he said, because they were still applying to join the EU.

This was a strong warning. France has never really liked the plans to enlarge the EU because it sees the enlargement as a British plan to change the character of the EU. It will be more difficult for French farmers when Polish farmers are in the EU. French has been replaced by English as the main language of the European Union. And, worst of all, the post-communist governments in Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, the Baltics, Slovenia and Slovakia are mostly pro-American.

Last month Chirac was very angry when Donald Rumsfeld, the US defence secretary, criticised France and Germany as "old Europe" in contrast to the friendly countries of "new Europe". The pro-American open letter of five current EU members and three of the new candidates was another example of the division between "old" and "new" Europe..

France is not the only country that has criticised the Eastern European countries. Germany says that it is wrong for these countries to accept money from the EU and then support the Americans. Romano Prodi, the president of the European Commission, said he was "very, very disappointed" by the position of the future member states. Chirac even said there might be a referendum in France on the question of the enlargement of the European Union.

The European Union summit in Copenhagen last December made the final decision on enlargement. The treaty for the 10 new members, which include Poland,Slovakia, Malta and Estonia, will be signed in Athens in April. They should join the EU on May 1st 2004.

The Eastern European countries replied carefully to the criticism. Bronislaw Geremek, the former Polish foreign minister, said that France and Germany had not consulted the other current EU member states over the crisis in Iraq.

Some people recognised that this was not really an attack on the Eastern European countries. "Every time I have an argument with my wife I shout at my sons," explained Romania's prime minister, Adrian Nastase. France has a problem with the US and Britain but it is easier to criticise the Eastern European countries.

The Guardian Weekly 20-3-03, page 6

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TheGuardianWeekly

'Old' Europe reuniting East with West

Level 1 | **Elementary**

3 Comprehension check

Decide whether these statements are true or false. There is one sentence for each paragraph.

1. The Iraq crisis could have a positive effect on the European Union.
2. Romania and Bulgaria are already in the EU.
3. English is now the main language of the EU.
4. France and Germany have been called "the old Europe".
5. France is the only country that has criticised the Eastern European countries.
6. The 10 new members will join in 2004.
7. The Eastern European countries replied to the criticism carelessly.
8. It is easier for France to criticise the US and Britain than to criticise the Eastern European countries.

4 Vocabulary: Opposites

Find the words in the text that are the opposites of these adjectives:

1. positive _____
2. safe _____
3. noisy _____
4. careful _____
5. weak _____
6. easy _____
7. unfriendly _____
8. right _____

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TheGuardianWeekly

'Old' Europe reuniting East with West

Level 1 | **Elementary**

5 Vocabulary: Prepositions

Fill the gaps using an appropriate preposition.

1. France has criticised some countries _____ their support for the US.
2. French has been replaced _____ English as the EU's main language.
3. There is a division _____ "old" and "new" Europe.
4. Some countries have accepted money _____ the EU.
5. Romano Prodi was disappointed _____ the position of some countries.
6. The treaty will be signed _____ Athens.
7. This was not really an attack _____ the Eastern European countries.
8. It was an attack on the US, _____ particular.

6 Complete the table

VERB	NOUN
1. to behave	_____
2. to apply	_____
3. to warn	_____
4. to enlarge	_____
5. to divide	_____
6. to decide	_____
7. to criticise	_____
8. to argue	_____

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The Guardian Weekly

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Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Find the correct word

pack	vote	fox	hound
hunting	barbaric	illegal	ban

1. _____ is the activity of chasing and killing wild animals.
2. A _____ is a wild animal, similar to a small dog, with red fur and a thick tail.
3. A _____ is a hunting dog.
4. A _____ is a large group of dogs.
5. If you _____, you make a formal choice between two or more people or issues.
6. If something is _____, it is violent and cruel.
7. If something is _____ it is not allowed by the law.
8. A _____ is an official statement ordering people not to do something.

2 Find the information

Find this information in the text as quickly as possible:

1. How many people demonstrated outside Windsor Castle?
2. How many hound packs are there in the UK?
3. How many people do jobs connected with hunting?
4. How many other people might have problems because of the ban on fox-hunting?
5. What is the name of the lower house of the British Parliament?

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The Guardian Weekly

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Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting

Level 1 | Elementary

Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting.

Patrick Wintour

Last week the British Parliament decided to end almost 700 years of fox-hunting in England and Wales. Early next year it will be illegal to hunt foxes with dogs. Pro-hunt supporters immediately promised to protest against the decision and on the same day 1,000 people demonstrated outside Windsor Castle where the Queen was meeting the French president, Jacques Chirac, and Tony Blair.

Mr. Blair wanted to delay the ban on fox-hunting until after the next general election in the UK. Many people in the countryside want to continue hunting foxes but many people living in towns and cities are against it. There are 318 registered hound packs in England and Wales. About 8,000 people do jobs connected with hunting, and the ban might also cause problems for 15,000 to 16,000 other people, such as hotel owners. Now the government and the police must prepare for the possibility of protests over the next three months.

There was a long debate in the British Parliament between pro-hunters and anti-hunters. The government tried to find a solution and wanted to delay the ban until 2006 or 2007. But some Labour MPs thought that the government was trying to avoid the promised ban on hunting. After a long discussion, the lower house of the British Parliament, the House of Commons, voted to delay the ban until July 2006.

But a few hours later the upper house, the House of Lords, voted against the 18-month delay. This meant that the House of Commons had to use an old law, the Parliament Act of 1949, to block the decision of the House of Lords.

Tony Blair said he was sorry about the result of the vote. He explained that he wanted to find a middle way between people with very strong opinions on both sides of the argument about fox-hunting. "There are people who feel very strongly that fox-hunting is an essential part of their way of life" he said. There are other people who feel equally strongly that fox-hunting is barbaric and cruel."

There is now the possibility of a conflict between police, hunters and landowners before the next UK general election. One government minister said pro-hunt supporters must accept the decision of Parliament. "People who support fox-hunting say they respect the law, so we expect them to stop hunting foxes when the law says they must stop," he said.

The chief executive of the Countryside Alliance was angry about the ban on fox-hunting. Within 24 hours the group began a legal action against the ban, saying the 1949 Parliament Act was illegal, so the vote in Parliament was not valid.

Meanwhile there was more confusion last weekend when the Home Secretary said police need more time to gather information about pro-hunt protestors. He also said that killing foxes would not be illegal if foxhunters did not mean to kill them. Police say that opposition to the new law will mean a large amount of work for small police forces in the countryside.

The Guardian Weekly 26-11-2004, page 11

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Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

1. When did fox-hunting begin in England and Wales?
a. 70 years ago.
b. 700 years ago.
c. 7,000 years ago.

2. When will the ban on hunting begin?
a. early next year.
b. in the middle of next year.
c. late next year.

3. Why did Tony Blair want to find a middle way?
a. because he is against fox-hunting.
b. because most people support fox-hunting.
c. because there are strong opinions on both sides.

4. What will the new law mean for the police?
a. a lot of work.
b. more respect for the law.
c. more time to gather information about pro-hunt protestors.

4 Vocabulary prepositions

Which prepositions follow these words? Check your answers in the text.

1. protest _____
2. connected _____
3. prepare _____
4. conflict _____
5. angry _____
6. information _____
7. opposition _____
8. ban _____

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Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary - word building

Complete the table

	Verb	Noun
1.	decide	_____
2.	oppose	_____
3.	solve	_____
4.	promise	_____
5.	demonstrate	_____
6.	protest	_____
7.	discuss	_____
8.	argue	_____

6 Grammar focus

Verbs followed by infinitives. Look at this example:

The British Parliament decided to end 700 years of fox-hunting.

Fill the gaps using the correct form of one of these verbs:

promise want try expect

1. Tony Blair _____ to delay the ban on fox-hunting.
2. The government _____ to find a solution.
3. The government _____ people to stop hunting foxes.
4. Mr Blair _____ to find a middle way.
5. Pro-hunt supporters _____ to demonstrate against the decision.

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The Guardian Weekly

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Explosion in the suburbs

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key vocabulary

Match these key words from the text with their definitions.

1. violent
2. riot
3. suburbs
4. immigrant
5. vermin
6. voter
7. scum
8. tense

a. someone who votes in an election
b. an area near a large town or city (but not in the centre) where many people live
c. small animals that cause diseases (if you call someone this, it is a very bad word)
d. nervous and not relaxed
e. involving the use of physical force / the opposite of peaceful
f. someone who comes from another country to live in a country
g. a dirty substance on the surface of a liquid (if you call someone this, it is a very bad word)
h. a violent protest by a crowd of people

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. When were the riots in Lyon?
2. Where did the latest riots begin?
3. What is the unemployment rate in Clichy-sous-Bois?
4. What is Amnesty International?
5. Who is Nicolas Sarkozy?
6. Who is Dominique de Villepin?

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Explosion in the suburbs

Level 1 | Elementary

Comment: Explosion in the suburbs

The riots in France are the result of years of racism, poverty and police brutality.
By Naima Bouteldja

In 1991 there was violence between young men and police in the suburbs of the French city of Lyon. Alain Touraine, the French sociologist, said, "In a few years we will have the same kind of problems the Americans have in their big cities." In the past few weeks there have been many nights of violence in the suburbs of French cities. Perhaps Touraine's pessimistic prediction is now becoming reality.

The violence followed the deaths of two young Muslim men of African origin in a Paris suburb. The two men lived in Clichy-sous-Bois, a poor northeastern suburb of Paris, and this was where the violent riots began. Clichy-sous-Bois was like a time-bomb waiting to explode. Half its inhabitants are under 20, the unemployment rate is more than 40% and police check the identity of young men regularly.

Young French citizens born into first- and second-generation immigrant communities from France's former colonies in North Africa usually lead the riots. The cause is almost always the deaths of young black men at the hands of the police. The reaction of the French government usually makes things worse.

Four days after the deaths in Clichy-sous-Bois, the situation was beginning to calm down when the police fired teargas into a mosque. The official reason for the police action was that there was a badly parked car in front of the mosque. The government has not offered any apology to the Muslim community. But riots have now started in other poor suburbs across France and this is something new. Laurent Levy, an anti-racist campaigner, is not surprised by the situation. "When you do not give any respect to large sections of the population, and when they do not have the right to work and the right to proper accommodation, what is surprising is not that the cars are burning but that it doesn't happen more often," he says.

Police violence and racism are major factors in the riots. In April a report by the human rights group Amnesty International criticized the way in which the French police treated young men of African origin during identity checks. But the actions of the interior minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, have also caused a lot of anger. He called the rioters "vermin" and "scum" and said it was necessary to clean the suburbs with industrial cleaner.

Sarkozy's will probably be a candidate in the French presidential elections in 2007 where his opponent will be the current Prime Minister, Dominique de Villepin. Sarkozy's words might gain him votes from right-wing voters.

What can France do to stop the violence? It would obviously help if ministers stopped talking about "scum" and if Sarkozy lost his job. A simple "sorry" could help to make the situation less tense. The morning after the gassing of the mosque, a young Muslim woman expressed what many people feel, "We just want them to stop lying and to apologize." Then some of these young people might feel they were full and equal citizens of the French republic.

Naima Bouteldja is a French journalist and researcher for the Transnational Institute.

Guardian Weekly, 13/11/05, page 14

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Explosion in the suburbs

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Decide if these sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text.

1. Police stop young men regularly in Clichy-sous-Bois.
2. The riots began after police fired teargas into a mosque.
3. The French government has apologized to the Muslim community.
4. Unemployment is very high in Clichy-sous-Bois.
5. The French Prime Minister called the rioters “vermin” and “scum”.
6. Some young people in France do not feel they are full and equal citizens of the republic.

4 Vocabulary - Collocations

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make collocations. Check your answers in the text.

1. tear	a. bomb
2. immigrant	b. gas
3. time	c. rights
4. presidential	d. rate
5. unemployment	e. communities
6. human	f. elections

5 Word building

Complete the table.

	verb	**noun**
1.	predict	_____
2.	employ	_____
3.	die	_____
4.	act	_____
5.	apologize	_____
6.	offer	_____

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Explosion in the suburbs

Level 1 | Elementary

6 Prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions. Check your answers in the text.

1. The police fired teargas _____ a mosque.
2. There was a badly parked car _____ the mosque.
3. Four days _____ the deaths, the situation was calming down.
4. The two men were _____ African origin.
5. _____ the past few weeks there have been many nights of violence.
6. The government has not offered any apology _____ the Muslim community.

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Level 1 | Elementary

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Explosion in the suburbs

Level 1 | Elementary

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Explosion in the suburbs

Level 1 | Elementary

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Explosion in the suburbs

Level 1 | Elementary

6 Prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions. Check your answers in the text.

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Fur flies as sales take off - Mark Townsend

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Pre-reading activities

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

welfare **in favour of** **popular** **fur**
anti **charity** **cruel** **protest**

1. _____ is the soft, thick hair on animals.
2. A person who is _____ is unkind and likes to hurt other people or animals.
3. A _____ is a group of people who collect money to help other people or animals.
4. _____ is the health and happiness of people or animals.
5. To _____ is to say or show strongly that you do not like something.
6. If something is _____, it means that a large number of people like it.
7. If you are _____ something, it means that you agree with it.
8. If, on the other hand you are _____ something, it means that you do not agree with it.

2 Correct the sentences

The following sentences contain incorrect information. Find the correct information in the text.

1. Sales of fur in the UK have risen by 45%.
2. This is the biggest increase in sales since the 1970s.
3. People threw paint at women wearing fur coats in the 1980s.
4. In the early 1990s the anti-fur movement protested against the sale of fur.
5. About 80% of fur shops had to close down.
6. About 60 animals are killed to make one fur coat.
7. The supermodel Gisele Bundchen received $50,000 for advertising fur coats.
8. She also received three white mink coats.

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Fur flies as sales take off - Mark Townsend

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Fur flies as sales take off

by **Mark Townsend**

In the 1990s not many people bought fur coats. In fact, fur was very unpopular and many people protested against women who wore fur coats. This year, however, sales of fur in the UK have risen by 35%. This is the biggest increase in sales since the early 1980s.

In London no-one has seen so much fur in shop windows for the last 20 years. People selling fur also believe that last month's shocking photograph of the pop singer Sophie Ellis Bextor holding a dead fox will not stop people buying fur. They say that fur has suddenly become popular because there is now a new generation of younger people who want to buy fur.

Leading fashion houses are also helping to sell fur. Many models at this year's fashion shows have worn fur. Stars such as Jennifer Lopez, Madonna, P Diddy, and the model Kate Moss have worn fur in public. This is very different from the 1990s when people threw red paint at women wearing fur coats.

Fashion writer Judith Watt, who specialises in the history of fur, believes that women in their twenties and thirties have opened up this new market for fur. "People that grew up as children of the anti-fur movement are now buying fur", she says.

In the mid-1990s the anti-fur movement protested against the sale of fur and about 90% of fur shops had to close down. However, the increase in the sale of fur this year does not mean that everyone is in favour of using animal skins to make clothes. The animal welfare charity Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), which took the photograph of Sophie Ellis Bextor with the dead fox, said that the fur trade was cruel. It also said that as many as 50 animals are killed by electrocution, poisoning or gassing to make just one fur coat. Dawn Carr, the director of Peta, said "Sophie's picture shows the reality. Cruelty will never be fashionable."

Last month Peta was in the news again when a group of Peta members attacked the fur industry's latest star, the supermodel Gisele Bundchen, at a New York fashion show. They were angry because Bundchen was advertising fur coats for an American company. She got $500,000 and two black mink coats for this work.

The Guardian Weekly 5-12-2002, page 22

3 Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer according to the text:

1. In the 1990s …

a. fur was very popular.

b. a lot of people bought fur.

c. fur was very unpopular.

2. This year …

a. fur sales have fallen.

b. fur sales have risen.

c. fur is still unpopular.

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Fur flies as sales take off - Mark Townsend

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

3. The shocking photograph of the pop singer with the dead fox …

a. will stop people buying fur.

b. will not stop people buying fur.

c. will make fur more popular.

4. In the 1990s …

a. stars like Kate Moss wore fur coats.

b. people threw paint at women wearing fur coats.

c. fur was very different.

5. In the mid-1990s …

a. some fur shops had to close down.

b. most fur shops had to close down.

c. all fur shops had to close down.

6. 50 animals are killed …

a. to make one fur coat.

b. by electrocution.

c. every year.

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Fur flies as sales take off - Mark Townsend

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

4 Language Practice – Irregular Verbs

Complete the table using verbs from the text

	infinitive	past simple	past participle
1.	to wear	_____	_____
2.	to throw	_____	_____
3.	to rise	_____	_____
4.	to sell	_____	_____
5.	to grow	_____	_____
6.	to get	_____	_____
7.	to take	_____	_____
8.	to become	_____	_____
9.	to see	_____	_____
10.	to make	_____	_____

5 Vocabulary Building – Prepositions

Fill the gaps using a preposition. Use the text to help you.

1. Fur was very unpopular _____ the 1990s.
2. This year's increase is the biggest _____ the 1980s.
3. Models _____ this year's fashion shows have worn fur.
4. There is a new market _____ fur.
5. Many people still protest _____ the sale of fur.
6. Many people are not in favour _____ selling fur.
7. Animals are killed _____ poisoning or gassing.
8. The supermodel received $500,000 _____ her work.

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Global warming threatens to kill off a million species

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key vocabulary

Look at these words:

extinct *extinction*

Mammoths lived on the earth thousands of years ago. There are no mammoths now. Mammoths are *extinct*.

The dodo was a strange bird that lived on the island of Mauritius. The last dodo died in the 18th century. Dodos are *extinct*.

Today many animals are in danger of *extinction*.

What does *extinct* mean? Choose the best answer:

a. very large
b. no longer existing
c. interesting

2 Correct the information

Look in the text and correct the information in these sentences.

1. 50% of land animals and plants will become extinct during the next 60 years.
2. More than 10 million plants and animals will become extinct by 2080.
3. More than 20% of all plants and animals will become extinct.
4. They studied 12 species of butterfly in Australia.
5. 80% of the species in the Kruger National Park will die out.
6. They studied 70 species of tree in Brazil.
7. They studied 2,870 species in Mexico.
8. We will not know the true results for 50 years.

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The Guardian Weekly

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Global warming threatens to kill off a million species

Level 1 | Elementary

Global warming threatens to kill off a million species

The earth is getting warmer. People burn coal, oil and gas and this produces carbon dioxide (CO2), methane and nitrous oxide. These gases, called 'greenhouse gases', stop the heat of the sun from leaving the earth's upper atmosphere and this makes the earth warmer, a process called 'global warming'.

A few weeks ago a group of scientists produced a report about global warming and the natural world. They wanted to find out if global warming was dangerous for plants and animals. The scientists were shocked by what they found. They say that during the next 50 years about 25% of land animals and plants will become extinct. More than 1 million plant and animal species will become extinct by 2050.

The head of the research team, Chris Thomas, who is professor of conservation biology at Leeds University, said the results of their research were "terrifying". More than 10% of all plants and animals will become extinct. It is too late to save many plants and animals because of the greenhouse gases that are already in the atmosphere. But the scientists say if we control greenhouse gases now, we could save many more plants and animals from extinction.

The scientists studied some regions of the world with a very rich biology. These regions were Europe, Australia, Central and South America, and South Africa. Their studies showed that species living in mountainous areas had a better chance of survival because they could move uphill to get cooler. In flat areas, such as deserts, plants and animals would have to move very long distances to get cooler, so they are in greater danger of extinction.

The scientists found many shocking things. For example, they found that half of the 24 species of butterfly they studied in Australia would soon become extinct. 60% of the species in the Kruger National Park in South Africa would also die out, and more than 100 of the 300 South African plant species they studied would also become extinct. One of the plants in danger of extinction is the national flower of South Africa, the King Protea.

They studied 163 tree species in the Cerrado region of Brazil and found that 70 would become extinct. Many of the plants and trees that live in this region live nowhere else in the world. In Mexico, they studied 1,870 species and found that more than 30% of these were in danger of extinction.

Global warming is getting worse. Many countries, particularly the USA and the European countries, are continuing to produce greenhouse gases. We will not know the true results of this for 25 years but if people continue to burn oil, coal and gas at the same rate as today, about 30% of all life forms will become extinct by 2050.

The Guardian Weekly, page 3

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Global warming threatens to kill off a million species

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer.

1. Why are greenhouse gases dangerous?

   a. Because people burn coal, oil and gas.
   b. Because they cause global warming.
   c. Because they stop the heat of the sun reaching the earth.

2. Why is global warming bad for animals and plants?

   a. Because many of them will become extinct if global warming continues.
   b. Because it is too late to save many plants and animals.
   c. Because some regions of the world have a very rich biology.

3. Why do animals in mountainous regions have a better chance of survival?

   a. Because they have to move long distances to get cooler.
   b. Because they can move uphill to get cooler.
   c. Because there are no deserts in mountainous regions.

4. What could happen to the national flower of South Africa?

   a. It could become extinct.
   b. It could grow in the Kruger National Park.
   c. People could study it.

5. What will happen if people continue to produce greenhouse gases?

   a. The earth will get colder.
   b. We will not know the true results for 25 years.
   c. 30% of all life forms will become extinct by 2050.

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Global warming threatens to kill off a million species

Level 1 | Elementary

4 Vocabulary

Find the words which mean:

1. Very, very surprised
2. Very, very frightening
3. The opposite of 'poor'
4. A flat, dry area without many plants or water
5. Another expression for 'to become extinct'
6. The opposite of 'downhill'
7. Another word for 'regions'
8. A word which means 'especially'

5 Prepositions

Fill the gaps using an appropriate preposition.

1. _____ example, …
2. They were shocked _____ what they found.
3. They want to save plants and animals _____ extinction.
4. Some species have a better chance _____ survival.
5. The King Protea is the national flower _____ South Africa.
6. Many _____ the plants that live in this region are very rare.
7. 30% of all life forms may become extinct _____ 2050.
8. Global warming is dangerous _____ plants and animals.

6 Puzzle

Rewrite the following to make words from the text.

1. icepess
2. hogneurese
3. atomunusion
4. bogall
5. nitcext
6. futbertly

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The Guardian Weekly

France to ban pupils' religious dress

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words from the text:

secular **commission** **recommendation** **headscarf**
constitution **fundamentalist**

1. A _____ is something which Muslim women and girls wear on their heads.
2. A _____ is someone who believes that old religious laws are absolutely correct.
3. A _____ is a group of people who study a question for a long time and then produce an official report.
4. A _____ country is one without an official state religion.
5. A _____ is a suggestion or piece of advice about how to solve a problem.
6. The _____ of a country is a set of basic laws that describe the rights and duties of the citizens of that country.

2 What do you know?

Match the words with their definitions

1. headscarves	**a.** Religious symbols which some Christians wear.
2. Yom Kippur	**b.** Religious symbols which many Muslim women wear.
3. crosses	**c.** Religious symbols which some Jewish people wear.
4. skullcaps	**d.** A Muslim religious holiday.
5. Eid	**e.** A Jewish religious holiday.

Now read the text.

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The Guardian Weekly

France to ban pupils' religious dress

Level 1 | **Elementary**

France to ban pupils' religious dress

Jon Henley in Paris

France is a secular country. This means that there is no official state religion in France. Recently a commission published a report about religion in French schools and other public institutions. The commission told the French government that new laws were necessary to protect secularism in France. Their report made many recommendations.
First of all, people will not be allowed to wear religious symbols in French schools and other public buildings. These symbols included Muslim headscarves, Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

Secondly, the report said that all public service employees must treat everyone in the same way. Some Muslim women want their husbands to be with them all the time in hospital and will only accept women doctors. The report says that everyone who uses the health service must remember that it is not possible to say which healthcare worker you want or do not want. The report also says that everyone must follow the rules of hygiene.

The report recommended that the Jewish and Muslim holy days of Yom Kippur and Eid should be official school holidays. Employees should be able to choose which religious holiday they wanted to take.

In multicultural societies like Britain or the USA, it seems strange to have a special law to protect secularism, especially as the main aim of this law seems to be to stop Muslim girls wearing headscarves to school. In France, however, the constitution guarantees secularism. According to French law, it does not matter what your religion or ethnic group is – every French citizen is equally French.

The chairman of the commission said the aim of the new law was to protect constitutional secularism and to oppose "people who wanted to destabilise France", in other words Islamic fundamentalists. But he also said that the law was not against the mainly moderate Muslim community of 5 million. "Muslims must understand that secularism is an opportunity for Islam," Mr Stasi said. "Secularism means that the church and the state are separate, but it is also the respect of differences."

The Guardian Weekly 20-12-03, page 4

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TheGuardianWeekly

France to ban pupils' religious dress

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Are these sentences True or False according to the text?

	True	False
1. There is no official state religion in France.	☐	☐
2. The commission recommended that girls should wear headscarves in schools.	☐	☐
3. It also recommended that Muslim women should only go to women doctors.	☐	☐
4. Yom Kippur and Eid are official school holidays in France.	☐	☐
5. At the moment employees are not free to choose which religious holiday they want to take.	☐	☐
6. Britain and the USA have special laws to protect secularism.	☐	☐
7. Under French law, every French citizen is equally French.	☐	☐

4 Word order

Put these words into the correct order to make sentences about the text.

1. lot the recommendations made a commission of
2. allowed symbols to people not wear schools will in be religious
3. rules everyone hygiene follow the must of
4. country Britain multicultural a is
5. in million Muslims 5 France live

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France to ban pupils' religious dress

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Plurals

Complete the table. Two examples are from the text.

	Singular	Plural
1.	headscarf	_____
2.	woman	_____
3.	half	_____
4.	leaf	_____
5.	child	_____
6.	thief	_____
7.	wife	_____
8.	life	_____

6 Puzzle

Complete these words from the text:

1. e___ ___ l ___ y ___ ___
2. h ___ ___ lt ___ ___ a ___ ___
3. c ___ ___ s ___ i ___ u ___ ___ ___ n
4. g ___ a ___ a ___ t ___ ___
5. m ___ d ___ r ___ t ___
6. e ___ ___ o ___ r ___ g ___

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Bali bomber to face firing squad

Level 1 Elementary

Pre-reading

1 Key Vocabulary

guilty	survivor	foot soldier	justified
judge	courtroom	sentence	martyr

1. A _____ is the place where people decide whether someone has done something wrong or not.
2. To _____ somebody is to tell them in a court what their punishment will be.
3. If you are _____, it means that you have done something wrong.
4. A _____ is someone who is in a very low position in an organisation.
5. A _____ is someone who dies for a religious or political reason.
6. A _____ is the person in a court of law who decides how to punish someone.
7. If something is _____ , there is a very good reason for it.
8. A _____ is someone who continues to live after an accident or a dangerous situation.

2 Find the Information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible:

1. How many judges were there?
2. What was the name of the guilty man?
3. What was the sentence?
4. How many people were murdered in the bombing?
5. How many nightclubs were bombed?
6. When was the bombing?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Bali bomber to face firing squad

Level 1 Elementary

Bali Bomber

Amrozi bin Nurhasyim smiled at the five judges in front of him in the courtroom. He then turned round and looked at the hundreds of cheering, clapping and weeping people in the public seats and gave them the victory sign. "Allahu Akbar [God is most great]," he shouted.

Amrozi, a radical Islamist, is a village car mechanic from east Java. The judges decided that he was guilty of taking part in the bombing of two Bali nightclubs last October. Amrozi seemed happy when he heard the decision. The judges sentenced him to death for the murder of 202 people. When he was led out of the courtroom he was still smiling. People shouted “Die, Amrozi!” at him.

Survivors of the bombing and relatives of the people who died said that they were not surprised by his actions in the courtroom. "He's been doing it since the very start." said Natalie Juniardi, from Australia, who lost her Balinese husband, John, and two of her staff when Paddy's Bar and the Sari Club in Kuta were blown up on October 12.

Some relatives of the people who died in the explosion said they were worried that the death penalty would make Amrozi a martyr. "This might cause more fundamentalism," said Susanna Miller, whose brother Dan died in the bombing.

Amrozi has often said he wanted to attack America and its allies, especially Israel. He also said that he hoped "whites" would die. He was found guilty of buying the vehicle used in the main explosion. He was also found guilty of buying most of the chemicals used to make the bombs and helping with other preparations for the terrorist attack.

The judges called Amrozi's actions "extraordinary" and "crimes against humanity". They did not accept his argument that he was only a foot soldier and that his actions were justified by his religion. "Islam never teaches violence, murder or any other crime," the judges said. "You never have the right to kill other people." They decided that the attack had been organised by Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the Southeast Asian Islamist terrorist group, which is connected to al-Qaida.

The Guardian Weekly20-3-08, page 2

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Bali bomber to face firing squad

Level 1 Elementary

3 Comprehension check

1. Why was Amrozi sentenced to death?
a. because he organised the bombing of the nightclubs.
b. because he took part in the bombing of the nightclubs.
c. because he was happy when he heard the decision.

2. Why are some people worried about the death sentence?
a. because it was a surprise.
b. because it might make Amrozi a martyr.
c. because it was not justified.

3. Why did Amrozi take part in the bombing of the nightclubs?
a. because he is a car mechanic.
b. because he wants to become a martyr.
c. because he wanted to attack America and its friends.

4. Why did the judges say that Amrozi's actions were not justified?
a. because they were extraordinary.
b. because Islam never teachers violence or murder.
c. because he was only a foot soldier.

4 Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using the correct form of these words from the text.

cheer clap smile weep shout

1. At the end of the lecture everyone _____ politely.
2. Everyone was very sad and many people were _____ .
3. When the first goal was scored everyone _____ because they were so excited.
4. She's _____ today because she's very happy.
5. He _____ for help but nobody could hear him.

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Bali bomber to face firing squad

Level 1 Elementary

5 Prepositions

Fill the gaps using an appropriate preposition(s):

1. He smiled _____ the judges.
2. He was sentenced _____ death.
3. Then he was led _____ the courtroom.
4. People weren't surprised _____ his actions.
5. He was found guilty _____ buying the chemicals.
6. He helped with the preparations _____ the attack.
7. The judges called his actions crimes _____ humanity.
8. He said his actions were justified _____ his religion.

6 Word Building

Complete the table

	Verb	Noun
1.	decide	_____
2.	survive	_____
3.	explode	_____
4.	prepare	_____
5.	argue	_____
6.	organise	_____

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The Guardian Weekly

America's crude tactics for Iraq war

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the words with their opposites:

1• increase	**a•** expensive
2• export	**b•** quickly
3• defend	**c•** safer
4• cheap	**d•** reduce
5• more dangerous	**e•** attack
6• slowly	**f•** import

2 Find the country

According to the text,

1• _____ has 11% of the world's oil reserves.

2• _____ is a country where the government kills its own people.

3• _____ is a small country with nuclear weapons.

4• _____ is the world's biggest economy.

5• _____ controls 25% of the world's oil.

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The Guardian Weekly

America's crude tactics for Iraq war

Level 1 | Elementary

America's crude tactis for Iraq war

Larry Elliot

The American government says that a possible war with Iraq is not about oil. It is true that Iraq has 11% of the world's oil, but the USA says that an attack on Iraq is to make the world a safer place and not to provide more oil for thirsty car-drivers in the USA.

So, let's be clear. This. Is. Not. About. Oil. Do you understand? Of course you don't! Only a very simple person believes that the Americans would make so much noise about Iraq if the Iraqis did not have something the Americans wanted, in other words oil. There are a lot of other small countries - Zimbabwe, for example - where the governments quietly kill and torture their people. There are a lot of small countries which have nuclear weapons - North Korea, for example. But Iraq is the only small country which kills its own people, has nuclear weapons and also has a lot of oil.

The USA is the world's biggest economy. It uses a lot more oil than it produces so it has to import oil from other countries. Now the world is using oil more quickly than it can find oil. Bush and his team know all this. They have worked for the oil industry, they been given money by the oil industry, and have listened carefully to what the oil industry wants. Bush now has three choices. First, he could listen to those oil companies who think they can find more oil in different parts of the world. This is why Bush has given permission for oil companies to look for oil in Alaska.

The second choice is for the US to take a bigger share of the world's oil. The Americans want to take control of Iraq's oilfields. If they win the war against Saddam Hussein, they will invite the big oil companies to modernise Iraq's oil industry. This might be a good thing. Production might be more efficient and prices might be lower. This could be good for the world economy.

On the other hand, if the Americans occupy Iraq, this might cause problems all over the Middle East. It is possible that America could occupy Iraq and take control of 11% of the world's oil supplies and at the same time a new anti-American government in Saudi Arabia, for example, would control 25% of the world's oil.

The third choice for the US is to reduce the use of oil. Most governments, including the American government, understand that it is important to reduce greenhouse gases (those produced by burning oil). It would be very expensive to introduce a big change in energy policy and to reduce the amount of oil the world needs. But the oil problem will continue for a long time after the death of Saddam Hussein. healthier.

The Guardian Weekly 12-02-2003, *page 12*

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The Guardian Weekly

America's crude tactics for Iraq war

Level 1 | **Elementary**

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings with the endings:

According to the article:

1• The USA plans to attack Iraq …
2• The USA needs more oil because …
3• President Bush has given oil companies permission to look for oil in Alaska because ...
4• The modernisation of Iraq's oil industry might be a good thing because …
5• The USA is not planning to attack Zimbabwe because …
6• Saudi Arabia is an important country because …
7• We must reduce greenhouse gases because …
8• It will be difficult to reduce the amount of oil we use because …

a• … production might be more efficient and prices might be lower.
b• … some oil companies believe there is more oil there.
c• … it controls 25% of the world's oil.
d• … because Iraq has a lot of oil.
e• … they are bad for the environment.
f• … it will be very expensive to introduce a big change in energy policy.
g• … Zimbabwe doesn't have any oil.
h• … it uses more oil than it produces.

4 Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using one of these words:

war **efficient** **nuclear** **permission** **torture**
share **oilfield** **modernise** **reduce** **greenhouse** **gases**

1• President Bush has given _____ for oil companies to look for oil in Alaska.
2• An _____ is a place where you can find a lot of oil.
3• If you improve something which is very old, you _____ it.
4• _____ are very bad for the environment.
5• Many people are against a _____ with Iraq.

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America's crude tactics for Iraq war

Level 1 | **Elementary**

6• The US wants a bigger _____ of the world's oil.
7• Many governments kill and _____ their own people.
8• _____ weapons can kill millions of people.
9• The world has to _____ the amount of oil it uses.
10• If something is _____ it works very well.

5 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table

VERB	NOUN
1• modernise	_____
2• reduce	_____
3• produce	_____
4• choose	_____
5• introduce	_____
6• invite	_____

6 Vocabulary: Word Game

Re-arrange these letters to spell words from the text:

1• ulraenc
2• myocone
3• sprnoieims
4• dtrpnoiuco
5• dtniuysr
6• ssilepup

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TheGuardianWeekly

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We need a total ban on ivory sales

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words:

illegal	ban	habitat	tusks	moratorium
poacher	compensation	ivory	regulated	resources

1. The two long, pointed teeth which elephants have are called _____.
2. Tusks are made of _____.
3. A _____ is an official agreement to stop an activity for a temporary period.
4. If something is _____, it is against the law.
5. If something is _____, it is officially controlled.
6. A _____ is an illegal hunter.
7. Natural _____ are things such as coal, trees, oil and, in this case, animals.
8. The place where an animal lives is called its _____ .
9. If you _____ something, you make it illegal.
10. Money that someone receives because something bad has happened to them is called _____.

2 Find the information

1. How many elephant tusks did the author of the article burn?
2. How much were the tusks worth?
3. What was the elephant population of Africa at the beginning of the 1980s?
4. What was the elephant population of Africa at the end of the 1980s?
5. What percentage of its elephants did Kenya lose?
6. What does 'Cites' mean?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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We need a total ban on ivory sales

Level 1 | Elementary

We need a total ban on ivory sales

Richard Leakey

Fifteen years ago, together with the ex-president of Kenya, Daniel arap Moi, I set fire to 2,000 elephant tusks. Television stations around the world showed pictures of this event. The tusks were worth millions of dollars to Kenya, but it was important to show the world that the only way to save the elephants of Africa was to destroy the ivory trade.

During the 1980s, the number of elephants in Africa fell from 1.3 million to just 625,000. This was a result of the ivory trade. During this period Kenya lost 80% of its elephants. Poachers killed most of these elephants. A few months after we burnt the tusks, the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) banned the ivory trade, and the number of elephants killed fell dramatically.

Recently Cites announced an "action plan" to control the illegal ivory trade. The plan asks African countries with large elephant populations to ban unregulated domestic sales of ivory but to allow regulated sales. But conservationists say the plan does not do enough to protect elephants.

People will only stop killing elephants if they receive money for not killing them. Trade is the main reason for the destruction of animal species. Even a limited legal trade in ivory will allow the illegal market to increase.

It is not surprising that the ban on the ivory trade has ended. Cites agreed to allow countries to sell old stocks of ivory. This followed pressure from a few southern African countries with protected elephant populations, where poaching is not a problem. Since then, poaching has increased again but some countries want to increase the trade in ivory. Namibia is asking Cites for an annual ivory export quota, and also wants to sell worked ivory and elephant hair and, with South Africa, elephant leather.

These countries say they have the right to earn money from their natural resources. This may be true but you must remember that many poorer countries are against this. Kenya, supported by many other African states, is proposing a 20-year moratorium on ivory trade. The economics of the ivory trade do not make sense. Most countries where elephants live are poor, and the even a limited trade in ivory would cause problems. It is already difficult for these countries to protect their elephants and allowing the ivory trade again would bring poachers to these countries.

As the world's human population grows, people are destroying animal habitats in many countries. I am in favour of giving financial compensation to farmers if animals destroy their land. However, as Kenya now has only 20% of the elephants it had in 1970, the answer to this problem is to control the use of land and not to kill animals.

Richard Leakey was director of the Kenya Wildlife Service until 1999

The Guardian Weekly 15/10/2004, page 13

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We need a total ban on ivory sales

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings with the endings

1. The number of elephants in Africa is falling ...
2. Poachers killed ...
3. Some countries want to sell ...
4. Many poor countries are against ...
5. Poaching is not a big problem ...
6. The main reason for the destruction of animal species is ...

a. ... other products, such as elephant hair and leather.
b. ... trade.
c. ... in countries with protected elephant populations.
d. ... because of the illegal ivory trade.
e. ... an increase in the ivory trade.
f. ... most of the elephants in Kenya.

4 Vocabulary - prepositions

Fill the gaps using a preposition:

1. The tusks were worth millions _____ dollars.
2. The number of elephants fell by 50% _____ the 1980s.
3. Kenya lost 80% _____ its elephants.
4. The main reason _____ the destruction of wildlife is trade.
5. Some countries want to increase the trade _____ ivory.
6. Countries want to earn money _____ their natural resources.
7. The author is in favour _____ giving compensation to farmers.
8. Controlling the use of land is the answer _____ this problem.

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We need a total ban on ivory sales

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary - word-building

Complete the table:

	Verb	Noun
1.	destroy	_____
2.	announce	_____
3.	propose	_____
4.	attract	_____
5.	act	_____
6.	increase	_____
7.	protect	_____
8.	ban	_____

6 Grammar focus

The infinitive

Look at this example from the text:

The answer to this problem is <u>to control</u> the use of land.

Fill the gaps using examples of infinitives from the text:

1. The answer to this problem is not _____ animals.
2. Some countries want _____ the trade in ivory.
3. This is the only way _____ the elephants of Africa.
4. Cites announced an action plan _____ the illegal ivory trade in Africa.
5. A limited legal trade in ivory will allow the illegal market _____ .
6. Namibia wants _____ worked ivory, elephant hair and leather.

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The Guardian Weekly

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Aid agencies warn of Iraq pullout

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

hostage	aid agencies	militant
troops	kidnap	withdraw

1. If you _____ someone, you keep them as a prisoner and ask their family or friends for money.
2. _____ is another word for 'remove' or 'take away'.
3. A _____ is a person who uses extreme or violent methods to get political changes.
4. The person held prisoner by a kidnapper is called a _____.
5. _____ is another word for 'soldiers'.
6. _____ are organisations that help people in poor countries.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. What is the name of the Italian prime minister?
2. What does the organisation Bridge to Baghdad do?
3. How many aid workers were kidnapped recently?
4. Find 3 aid organisations mentioned in the text.
5. What is the name of Osama bin Laden's deputy?
6. What is the name of the Australian prime minister?

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Aid agencies warn of Iraq pullout

Level 1 | Elementary

Aid agencies warn of Iraq pullout after kidnappings

Sophie Arie and Luke Harding

International aid agencies work in many countries. They help poor people, sick people and people who have difficult lives.

At the moment the situation in Iraq is very dangerous for the international aid agencies. Because of this many have already left Iraq. Many more will leave in the next few days. Now there are only a few which are operating there.

Recently armed men kidnapped four aid workers from their office in Baghdad. Two of the aid workers were Italian women. This is the first time that militants have attacked aid agencies and the first time they have kidnapped women. Many people now believe that all the remaining aid workers will now leave Iraq because of this kidnapping.

Jean-Dominique Bunel, an aid agency worker, said in an interview with a French press agency: “Most international organisations are preparing to leave Iraq and some foreign workers have already left.” He said he did not know who had kidnapped the Italians who work for an organisation called Bridge to Baghdad, which helps Iraqi children.

An Iraqi group called Ansar al-Zawahri said it had kidnapped the women. In a message on an Islamist website, it said: "This is the first of our attacks against Italy." The name of the group may have a connection with Osama bin Laden’s deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri.

The security situation in Iraq is getting worse and almost all the main aid organisations, including the United Nations and the International Red Cross have now left the country. The people who are still in Iraq now have to think very carefully about the situation after the latest kidnapping. Twenty armed men ran into the organisation's office in central Baghdad and kidnapped the four aid workers.

The Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, said he was "shocked and surprised" that the kidnappers had attacked women because "the Islamic religion protects women". Some Italian politicians, who were against the war in Iraq, said that the most important thing was to save the lives of the hostages.

The kidnapping in Baghdad happened 10 days after the murder of the Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni. Militants kidnapped Mr Baldoni while he was travelling to Najaf with the Italian Red Cross. Italy did not accept the kidnappers' demands for its troops to leave Iraq, so the militants killed Mr Baldoni.

Another militant group released a video. The video shows men wearing masks cutting off the head of a Turkish lorry driver. They kidnapped the driver while he was taking goods to an American army base in Mosul in the north of Iraq.

Militants also kidnapped two Australian hostages. The Australian prime minister, John Howard, said he would not withdraw Australian troops from Iraq as a result of the kidnapping.

The Guardian Weekly 20-09-04

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Aid agencies warn of Iraq pullout

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences:

1. Many aid agencies are leaving Iraq ...
2. The kidnappers killed Mr Baldoni ...
3. The kidnappers kidnapped the Italian women ...
4. Mr Berlusconi was shocked and surprised ...
5. The kidnappers killed the Turkish lorry driver ...
6. The militants kidnapped two Australian hostages ...

a. ... because the Italian government did not accept their demands.
b. ... because the Islamic religion protects women.
c. ... because he was taking goods to an American army base.
d. ... because it is becoming too dangerous.
e. ... because they want Australian troops to leave Iraq.
f. ... as their "first attack against Italy".

4 Vocabulary - professions

Fill the gaps with the names of different professions. All except number 5 are in the text.

1. A _____ is someone who writes for a newspaper.
2. A _____ is someone who transports goods by lorry.
3. A _____ is someone who represents people in parliament.
4. An _____ is someone who works for an aid agency.
5. A _____ is someone who translates from one language to another.

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Aid agencies warn of Iraq pullout

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary - prepositions

Complete the sentences using a preposition. Check your answers in the text.

1. The kidnappings happened 10 days _____ the murder of an Italian journalist.
2. Many Italian politicians were _____ the war in Iraq.
3. More people will leave _____ the next few days.
4. Many people will leave Iraq because _____ the kidnapping.
5. The journalist was travelling to Najaf _____ the Italian Red Cross.
6. The situation is very dangerous _____ the aid agencies.
7. The name may have a connection _____ bin Laden's deputy.
8. Armed men ran _____ the agency's office in Baghdad.

6 Grammar focus - 'the first time' + present perfect

Look at this sentence from the text:

"This is the first time that militants have attacked aid agencies."

The present perfect tense is often use with the expression 'This is the first time ...' (or 'second time' and so on)

For example, 'This is the first time I've been to this restaurant'.

Make similar sentences using these prompts:

1. first time/I/be/Scotland
2. first time/I/see/this film
3. second time/I/fly/with this airline
4. first time/she/be/football match
5. second time/I/see/this programme
6. first time/he/travel/abroad

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Health crisis looms as life expectancy soars

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

1 Pre-reading

Match the words and expressions with the definitions

1. life expectancy	a. the age at which you stop working
2. retirement age	b all the people who live in a city or country
3. a report	c. to rise, to get bigger
4. population	d. the number of years people live
5. to increase	e. the money you receive when you have retired
6. pension	f. a document that gives information about a specific subject

Now read the article

Life expectancy in Britain in 2002 is about 75 years for men and 80 years for women. The retirement age is 65 years for men and 60 for women. One hundred years ago, in 1901, life expectancy was just 48 years for men and 49 years for women. This means that men are now living, on average, 27 years longer than 100 years ago and women are living 31 years longer.

Last week a group of scientists published a report about life expectancy. In the report they said that life expectancy would increase even more in the 21st century. In the United States, for example, the official government forecast is that life expectancy for women will be 83.9 years in the year 2070. The report says, however, that it will be much higher than that – it will be as high as 101 years. The report also says that a baby girl born in France or Japan this year has a 50% chance of living to the age of 100 years. France and Japan have the highest life expectancy in the world.

Life expectancy is an average figure. In the 1880s in Britain, for example, many people lived to the age of 60 or 70, but almost 25% of the population died before the age of 5. So the life expectancy figure for the 1880s was about 46. In the 20th century many scientists said that there was an absolute limit to the human lifespan. The longest time anyone had lived was 122 years. Now, however, many scientists believe that there is no limit to human life and that people in the future will live longer and longer lives.

The report is very important for governments. If life expectancy increases in the 21st century to 85, 90 or even 100, this will cause many problems for the social security, health and pensions systems. There will be more and more old people in the population. If people retire at 65 and live until 100, it will be very expensive to pay pensions and other social costs. Perhaps Western governments will have to increase the retirement age.

The Guardian Weekly 16-5-2002, page 11

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Health crisis looms as life expectancy soars

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

2 Choose the correct answer

1. What is the life expectancy for women in Britain in 2002?
   a. 75 years b. 80 years c. 90 years
2. What is the retirement age for men in Britain?
   a. 65 years b. 60 years c. 75 years
3. What was the life expectancy for men in 1901?
   a. 49 years b. 48 years c. 47 years
4. What is the official forecast for life expectancy for women in the USA for the year 2070?
   a. almost 84 years b. more than 84 years c. 101 years
5. Which country has the highest life expectancy?
   a. Japan b. the USA c. Britain
6. In the 1880s what percentage of the population died before the age of 5?
   a. more than 30% b. more than 25% c. almost 25%
7. What is the longest human lifespan?
   a. 101 years b. 122 years c. 129 years

3. Vocabulary work

Fill the gaps using words from the text.

1. Men in Britain are now living 27 years _____ than in 1901.
2. A report on life expectancy was _____ last week.
3. The official government _____ in the USA says that life expectancy will be 83.9 in 2070.
4. The new report says it will be much _____ than 83.9.
5. France and Japan have the _____ life expectancy in the world.
6. In the 1880s many people _____ to the age of 60 or 70.
7. Many scientists think there is no _____ to human life.
8. People in the future will live _____ lives.
9. In future pensions and other social costs will be more _____ .
10. Perhaps the _____ age will increase.

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Health crisis looms as life expectancy soars

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

4. Grammar focus – comparatives and superlatives

Fill the gaps using a comparative or superlative form (eg higher or the highest)

1 Life expectancy in Japan is _____ than in Britain.

2 Life expectancy in Britain is _____ than in Japan.

3 Life expectancy in Japan and France is _____ in the world.

4 Life expectancy in 1901 was much _____ than it is now.

5 Life expectancy now is much _____ than it was in 1901.

6 Pensions will be much _____ in the future.

7 Life expectancy in the USA will be _____ in the year 2070 than it is now.

8 People today live _____ than they did 100 years ago.

5. Discussion

In future people will live longer and longer lives. Perhaps they will live for 150 or even 200 years. What problems will this cause? What are the advantages and disadvantages of living for 200 years?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Where men are men .... and women don't know the recipe for equality

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

1 Pre-reading discussion

Make a list of 5 different jobs that you do in the home.

Which of the jobs are "men's jobs" and which are "women's jobs"? Which of the jobs are usually done by both men and women?

		MEN	WOMEN
1.	_____	☐	☐
2.	_____	☐	☐
3.	_____	☐	☐
4.	_____	☐	☐
5.	_____	☐	☐

2 Pre-reading questions

You are going to read a text about men helping with jobs in the home.
Are these sentences true or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
a. Many Spanish men think that jobs in the home are women's work.	☐	☐
b. Spanish men enjoy cooking.	☐	☐
c. Women do not need to work at home in the evening.	☐	☐
d. Spanish men usually do the shopping in the market.	☐	☐
e. On the Day of the Book you give all your friends a book as a present.	☐	☐

Now read the text to check your answers.

Where men are men ….. and women don't know the recipe for equality

In Granada in Southern Spain, there are some new advertisements which ask men to help their wives with jobs in the home. These jobs include cooking, washing-up, cleaning and ironing clothes. In Spain, as in many other countries, many men think that jobs in the home are women's work. Many women, especially older women, like to serve the rest of the family. They work very hard to make the rest of the family comfortable.

Maria is nearly 60 years old and works full-time. She cleans the large building where I work, and she also works in the cafeteria. Her husband works there too, although his job is not so difficult. When Maria arrives home, very tired after a long day, her work starts again. The rest of the family can relax but she has to work. She cooks a meal and then does the ironing. Most of the clothes she has to iron belong to her five adult children, who still live at home with their parents.

"It's not fair," Maria says, "but what can I do? When I ask them to help, they always have something more important to do – going out with friends, making phone calls."

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Where men are men .... and women don't know the recipe for equality

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

On the other hand, it is not true to say that all Spanish men are lazy at home. They also have their duties. My landlord, Pablo, is retired and does a lot of work at home but his wife never asks him to buy food at the market! The jobs in the home are clearly divided between Pablo and his wife. Pablo carries the washing up to the terrace but Emilia hangs it on the washing-line. Pablo waters the garden but Emilia cleans the house.

Younger people are beginning to change but it is a slow process. I asked the men in my class of adult students to tell me how to cook a meal but they couldn't do it. "But I've never cooked anything," said 27-year old Javier. "My mother always cooks."

Here in Southern Spain men are men and women are women. There is no unisex fashion. Boys and girls do not wear the same clothes.

In the summer, on warm evenings, the people of the town meet to talk together. The men stand on one side of the square and the women stand on the other. This is the tradition.

In Spain there is a special celebration on April 23rd. It is called the Day of the Book. On this day you give books to your male friends as presents. To your women friends you give a rose.

Letter from Spainfrom Barbara Lamplugh
The Guardian Weekly Dec 6 2001

3 Vocabulary Work 1

Choose the correct answer to fill the gaps:

a Women spend a lot of time _____ clothes.

cleaning **ironing** **preparing**

b Maria is a _____ .

gardener **cleaner** **manager**

c Pablo is _____ .

very young **young** **quite old**

d Pablo _____ the washing up to the terrace.

carries **brings** **hangs**

e On the Day of the Book people give _____ to women.

books **chocolates** **roses**

Where men are men .... and women don't know the recipe for equality

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

4 Vocabulary Work 2

Complete the following table

VERB	NOUN
to clean	_____
to cook	_____
to work	_____
to shop	_____
to teach	_____
to drive	_____
to write	_____
to paint	_____
to fish	_____

5 Discussion Points

Who does the housework in your home? _____

Do you enjoy doing housework? _____

Do you think women should receive pay for doing housework? _____

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The Guardian Weekly

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Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

Croat and Muslim politicians in Mostar create divisions.

1 Key vocabulary

Fill the gaps using one of these words from the text:

united (adj)	attend (vb)	destroy (vb)	remove (vb)
separate (adj)	remarkable (adj)	optimistic (adj)	divided (adj)

1. A _____ city is a city in two or more parts.
2. A _____ city is one where everyone lives together in peace.
3. If you _____ something, you damage it so seriously that it no longer exists.
4. An _____ person is one who always believes that good things will happen.
5. In most countries children _____ school from the age of 6.
6. If you _____ someone from power, you take away their power.
7. _____ means 'not together'.
8. If something is _____ it is very unusual or very surprising.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. When was the Bosnian war?
2. When did the Turks build the Old Bridge in Mostar?
3. When did the international governor introduce new laws in Mostar?
4. How much did the new bridge cost?
5. How long is the new bridge?
6. How high is the bridge?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

Bridge cannot span the divide

Ian Traynor in Mostar

The city of Mostar lies on the River Neretva in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Before the Bosnian war of 1992-95, the Croats and Muslims of Mostar lived in a united city. Since the war, however, the city has been divided. The Croats live on the west bank of the river and the Muslims live on the east bank. Croats and Muslims go to different schools. They have different mobile telephone systems. Buses do not cross the river. If you live on the east bank of the river you cannot order a pizza from the pizza restaurant on the west bank.

During the war the Croats destroyed the famous old stone bridge over the Neretva, which the Turks built in 1566. The bridge fell into the river. Many people saw this as a symbol of the division of the city into two parts.

In March 2004, the international governor of Bosnia introduced some new laws for the city. He removed the old Croat and Muslim town councils and formed a new single council for the city. In June 2004 the Croat and Muslim firefighting services joined together and became a single firefighting service. Then in July the two ambulance services joined together and became a single ambulance service.

Then last week something remarkable happened. Milan Milesovic, a Croat ambulance driver from the Croat west side of Mostar, drove his ambulance across one of the bridges over the Neretva River to help a sick Muslim on the other side. "I'm just doing my job. It's normal", he said.

The Croats have also said that Muslim schoolchildren can attend the beautiful old grammar school in September. They will, however, be on a separate floor and will have a different educational programme from the Croats.

Finally, last week, the Old Bridge reopened again. The work took many years and cost $9m. The bridge is a perfect copy of the old Turkish bridge and is 27m long and stands 18m above the river. Princes, presidents and prime ministers from all over Europe attended the opening of the "new Old Bridge". Many people see the opening as a symbol of hope for the future.

But one western official, who has been in Bosnia for more than five years, is not so optimistic. He says that the Croat and Muslim politicians in Mostar are making the divisions between the Croats and the Muslims even greater.

The Guardian Weekly 20-07-04, page 3

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Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer.

1. The city of Mostar is ...
a. united
b. divided
c. optimistic

2. Milan Milesovic is ...
a. an ambulance driver
b. a firefighter
c. the international governor of Bosnia

3. In 1566 the Turks built ...
a. Mostar
b. a huge mosque
c. a stone bridge

4. The new bridge is ...
a. a perfect copy of the old bridge
b. a concrete bridge for buses to use
c. a symbol of the division of the city

5. The Muslims of Mostar live ...
a. on the west bank of the river
b. on the east bank of the river
c. on both banks of the river

4 Vocabulary 1 - Find the Verbs

	Noun	Verb		Noun	Verb
1.	division	_____	5.	formation	_____
2.	introduction	_____	6.	attendance	_____
3.	education	_____	7.	destruction	_____
4.	order	_____	8.	copy	_____

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Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary 2 - Prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions:

1. Mostar lies _____ the River Neretva.
2. Mostar has been divided _____ the Bosnian war.
3. _____ the war it was a united city.
4. The Croats live _____ the west bank of the river.
5. The new bridge is a perfect copy _____ the old bridge.
6. The bridge is a symbol of hope _____ the future.
7. The Turks built the Old Bridge _____ 1566.
8. Very few people travel _____ the river.

6 Grammar Focus - Irregular Past Tenses

Look at this example from the text:

*He **drove** his ambulance over one of the bridges...*

'drove' is the irregular past simple of the verb 'drive'

Complete the table with the past simple forms of these other irregular verbs from the text:

1. lie	_____	2. build	_____
3. see	_____	4. become	_____
5. cost	_____	6. make	_____
7. stand	_____	8. fall	_____

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TheGuardianWeekly

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NASA gladly loses a spacecraft

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key words

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text.

comet	orbit	crater	spacecraft
solar system	copper	mothership	enormous

1. _____ is a reddish-brown metal. Its chemical symbol is Cu.
2. The path which a planet or comet follows around the sun is called its _____ .
3. In space travel a _____ is a rocket that carries smaller rockets.
4. A _____ is a vehicle that travels through space.
5. A _____ is a ball of ice and dust that travels through space.
6. Volcanoes and explosions often leave a large round hole in the earth. This is called a _____ .
7. _____ means 'very, very big'.
8. The _____ consists of the sun and nine planets, including Earth.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. How far is Tempel 1 from Earth?
2. How much did the space mission to Tempel 1 cost?
3. How fast was the spacecraft travelling when it hit Tempel 1?
4. What was the name of the space mission?
5. How far was the mothership from the explosion?
6. What are the four organic elements mentioned in the text?

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NASA gladly loses a spacecraft

Level 1 | Elementary

Nasa gladly loses a spacecraft
By Tim Radford

For thousands of years comets have been a mystery to man. They travel across the sky very fast and have a bright 'tail' of burning gas. The comet Tempel 1 has an orbit far outside the orbit of the furthest planet in our solar system, Pluto. It has been there for 4.6 billion years, 133 million kilometres from Earth. Last week a little American spacecraft crashed into Tempel 1. The spacecraft had a camera and it took a photograph of the comet every minute before it finally crashed into its surface.

The space mission to Tempel 1 cost $335 million and was called Deep Impact. The spacecraft was travelling at 37,000 kilometres per hour when it hit the comet and the crash completely destroyed the spacecraft. But before it hit the comet, the spacecraft took some amazing photographs. The last one was a close-up picture which the spacecraft took just 3 seconds before it crashed into the comet.

"Right now we have lost one spacecraft," said a delighted NASA engineer. Deep Impact was like an American Independence Day fireworks display. It took many years to plan and ended in an enormous explosion.

The spacecraft which crashed into the comet was made of copper and was the size of a washing machine. It was dropped from a mothership into the path of the comet and the mothership then photographed the cloud of ice, dust and organic chemicals that rose from the surface of the comet after the crash.

The crash completely destroyed the spacecraft but nothing really happened to the comet: experts believe that the crash slowed the comet down by no more than 1/10,000th of a millimetre a second. The aim of the mission was to study for the first time the interior of a comet.

The mothership was 480km from the explosion and observed the crash and the explosion with instruments for 800 seconds. Seven satellites, including the Hubble space telescope, watched the moment of drama, and over the next day and night about 50 telescopes on Earth were watching the distant comet.

The first people to produce pictures in Britain were pupils from King's school, Canterbury. They used information from the 2m Faulkes telescope in Hawaii, a telescope used by schools. Scientists from the US and around the world were delighted. For the first time, they had clear and close-up pictures of a comet.

Comets like Halley's Comet which visit the Earth frequently are not so interesting for scientists. But comets like Tempel 1 are so distant that they could hold the secrets of the planets, the Earth's oceans and even of the original organic chemistry from which life developed. "If you are thinking of comets as possible sources of organic material, then you are looking for the organic elements carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen," said John Zarnecki of the Open University.

For Andrew Coates of the Mullard space science laboratory of University College London, Deep Impact was a fantastic success. "You have the comet getting bigger and bigger in the field of view, the level of detail on the comet getting better and better," he said. "We know that comets produce jets. What we have now is the first artificial jet from a comet," he added. "The fact that there are craters tells us the surface must be solid in some way. This is going to be really exciting."

The Guardian Weekly 15/07/2005, page 19

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NASA gladly loses a spacecraft

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and the endings of the sentences.

1. Scientists are very happy because …
2. Tempel 1 is interesting for scientists because …
3. The aim of the mission was …
4. Instruments on the mothership …
5. The last picture was taken …
6. Scientists know the surface of Tempel 1 must be solid because …

a. … its orbit is outside the solar system.
b. … studied the clouds of dust, ice and organic chemicals that rose from the surface.
c. … 3 second before the spacecraft hit the comet.
d. … they have close-up pictures of a comet for the first time.
e. … they can see craters.
f. … to study the interior of a comet for the first time.

4 Vocabulary 1 - Opposites

Find the words in the text that are the opposite of these words.

1. nearest _____
2. tiny _____
3. nearby _____
4. unhappy _____
5. unclear _____
6. rarely _____
7. boring _____
8. liquid _____

5 Vocabulary 2 - Game

Unscramble the letters to make words from the text.

1. tomce
2. pscae
3. tibor
4. tapnel
5. sismion
6. sceletope

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NASA gladly loses a spacecraft

Level 1 | Elementary

6 Grammar focus - Irregular past tenses

Complete the table.

1. take _____
2. rise _____
3. hold _____
4. tell _____
5. hit _____
6. say _____

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The Guardian Weekly

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Gun lobby fires shot for 'free speech'.

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key words

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

own	election	broadcast	support
amendment	individual	balanced	get around

1. An _____ is one person.
2. If you _____ something, it is legally yours. You can _____ a house or a car, for example.
3. An _____ is a time when people choose their prime minister or president.
4. If a news report is _____, it gives the opinions of both sides.
5. An _____ is a change made to a law or an agreement.
6. If you _____ a law or a rule, you find a way of not following it.
7. If you _____ someone, you offer them help.
8. Radio and TV stations _____ programmes.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. How many people have a gun in the USA?
2. How many people can receive NRA News?
3. Who is Wayne LaPierre?
4. What does the first amendment do?
5. How many hours a day will NRA News broadcast?
6. Who is the Democratic presidential candidate?

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Gun lobby fires shot for 'free speech'.

Level 1 | Elementary

Gun lobby fires shot for 'free speech'

People in the USA can own and carry a gun. There are 80 million people in the USA who have a gun. The National Rifle Association is a group that supports the gun-owners of America. The NRA says it is the right of every individual to buy and keep a gun. Last week the NRA started its own radio station, called NRA News. The station broadcasts programmes about guns and the right of Americans to own a gun.

It is election year in the USA and the government has just introduced some new laws to control political advertising. These laws stop special interest groups like the NRA from buying radio and TV advertising to support a candidate in the election. So the NRA started its radio station. It says that the radio station is a media organisation, so the programmes are journalism not advertising.

NRA News broadcasts via a satellite network and around 400,000 people can receive the broadcasts. According to Wayne LaPierre, the vice-president of the NRA, politicians in Washington want to control who can broadcast and who cannot broadcast. Mr LaPierre says this is against freedom of speech. The first amendment of the US constitution protects the freedom of speech. The second amendment gives US citizens the right to own and carry guns.

The NRA says the second amendment is an individual right. People who believe it is wrong for people to carry guns say that the second amendment is not an individual right. They say it gives the US army the right to carry guns. They say it does not give individuals the right to carry guns.

NRA News will only broadcast for three hours a day. Mr LaPierre said that the US media's reporting of the firearms industry was incorrect. He said that his radio station would tell the truth about guns and would be "balanced". Soon after this, NRA News broadcast a programme about John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate. The programme strongly criticised Mr Kerry. It also broadcast an interview with a college student who received a C grade for writing a pro-gun essay.

Robert Ricker, used to work for the firearms industry but he now works for an anti-gun group. He said the NRA just wanted to get publicity. "Do you think John Kerry could suddenly say he was a journalist, start his own newspaper and then say he was a news organisation and not a presidential candidate?" he said. Mr Ricker thinks the NRA is using NRA News to get around the new law.

The NRA says that big business owns a lot of news organisations. Time Warner owns CNN, Disney owns ABC and General Electric owns NBC. The NRA says that these companies give money to political parties but they can also own news organisations.

The Guardian Weekly
20-06-04, page 6

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Gun lobby fires shot for 'free speech'.

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer to each question:

1. What does NRA News mainly broadcast?
a. programmes about the first amendment
b. programmes about politics
c. programmes about guns

2. What do the new laws control?
a. guns
b. political advertising
c. radio stations

3. What does the second amendment do?
a.. It protects freedom of speech.
b. It gives people the right to own and carry guns.
c. It gives radio stations the right to broadcast news.

4. According to Robert Ricker, what does the NRA want to do?
a. start a newspaper
b. give money to political parties
c. get publicity

5. Who owns ABC news?
a. Disney
b. General Electric
c. Time Warner

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Gun lobby fires shot for 'free speech'.

Level 1 | Elementary

4 Vocabulary - find the word

1. Find a word that means 'someone who writes for a newspaper or a radio or television station'.
2. Find a phrase that means 'someone who wants to be US president'.
3. Find a word that means 'against guns'.
4. Find a word that means 'in favour of guns'.
5. Find a word that means 'someone who owns something'.
6. Find a word that means 'a short piece of writing by a student on a particular subject'.

5 Vocabulary - verbs and nouns

Fill the gaps using a verb from the text:

1. to _____ the truth
2. to _____ a radio programme
3. to _____ a gun
4. to _____ freedom of speech
5. to _____ publicity
6. to _____ a law

6 Grammar focus - 'there is' and 'there are'

Look at this example from the text

'There are 80 million people in the USA who have a gun'.

Fill the gaps using 'there is' or 'there are'

1. _____ 400,000 people who can receive NRA News.
2. _____ some new laws in the USA to control political advertising.
3. _____ many people in the USA who think it is wrong to carry guns.
4. _____ a new radio station in the USA called NRA News.
5. _____ a presidential election in the USA this year.
6. _____ several big companies that own news organisations.

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The Guardian Weekly

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Portuguese nurse who ran abortion clinic jailed

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Pre-reading activities

A Discussion point

Do you agree with abortion?

If yes, why do you agree? If not, why don't you agree?

B Questions

Find the answers to these questions as quickly as possible:

1. How many women were on trial.
2. What was the maximum sentence for this crime?
3. How old is Sandra Cardoso?
4. What was the prison sentence for the nurse who performed the abortions?
5. What did Maria do Ceu steal?
6. How much did an abortion cost?
7. Where do rich Portuguese women go for abortions?
8. How many Portuguese women visit illegal abortion clinics each year?

Portuguese nurse who ran abortion clinic jailed

Last week the trial ended of 17 Portuguese women who were accused of having abortions at an illegal clinic. The nurse who ran the clinic was sent to prison but only one of the 17 women was found guilty.

Sandra Cardoso, 21, said that she went to the illegal clinic in Maia three years ago because she was very poor, her partner was violent and her daughter was sick. She was ordered to pay a small fine or spend four months in prison. The maximum possible sentence for this crime was three years in prison.

The nurse who ran the clinic was called Maria do Ceu. She was sentenced to eight-and-a-half years in prison. Three of those years were for breaking the very strict abortion laws in this strongly Roman Catholic country. The other five and a half years were for stealing morphine and other dangerous drugs from a hospital. The panel of three judges said: "We understand the political, social and scientific questions in this case, but we must follow the law." The trial was held in a large tent at the tennis club in the town of Maia, because the law court was not big enough.

Supporters of the accused women were both happy and angry. "We are glad for these women, because none of them will go to jail now," said Silvestrina Silva, of the Right to Choice group. "But it is terrible that they were put on trial. The trial shows that illegal abortions in this country are a fact, and that people are still punished for having abortions in this country," she said. Dina Nunes, a psychologist, said: " This is the 21st century, but women in Portugal still do not have the right to decide what they do with their own bodies and lives."

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Portuguese nurse who ran abortion clinic jailed

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Women who became pregnant in Maia or nearby Oporto and did not have enough money to travel to abortion clinics in Spain were told about the secret clinic by hospital personnel, chemists, taxi drivers or their own friends or relatives. The pregnant women had to pay $450 for the operation but none of them had enough money. They all left items of jewellery - wedding rings, necklaces or earrings – while they tried to find the rest of the money.

The case divided Portuguese public opinion. Most of the women come from very poor districts. All of them were arrested because of the jewellery they gave the nurse who ran the clinic. "They are all poor. If they had money, they would have gone to Spain or somewhere else," said Ms Silva, whose group helped to organise international support for the Maia women.

Supporters say the women are victims. "There is evidence that pregnancy is a significant factor in suicides in young people," said Milice Ribeiro, a psychologist.

Some people demanded a new abortion law for Portuguese women last week, saying that the current law was ignored by almost 40,000 women who visited illegal clinics every year. Duarte Vilar, the director of Portugal's Family Planning Association, said: "Illegal abortions have caused a number of deaths and thousands of hospital admissions. We must treat this as a matter of public health."

The Guardian Weekly 24-1-2002, page 4

C Detailed questions

1. How many of the 17 accused were found guilty?
2. Why did Sandra Cardoso go to the illegal clinic?
3. Why was the trial held at the tennis club?
4. Who told the women about the illegal clinics?
5. What items did they leave while they tried to find the money to pay for the abortions?
6. Where do most of the women come from?
7. Why were they arrested?
8. What, according to the article, is a significant factor in suicides in young people?

Portuguese nurse who ran abortion clinic jailed

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

D Vocabulary practice

Complete the table

VERB	NOUN
punish	_____
_____	accusation
operate	_____
_____	organisation
_____	theft
decide	_____
divide	_____
_____	treatment

E Grammar – The Passive.

Read the notes below, and then answer the following questions.

The past simple passive form: *Was started* *Were started* (regular)
Was eaten *Were eaten* (irregular)

Examples of the past simple passive:

a) *The women were accused of having abortions*

b) *The nurse was sent to prison*

Uses

- bii) (He/she) sent the nurse to prison,
- In sentence b the nurse is the subject of the sentence. In bii the person who sends her to prison is the subject. In the passage the writer chooses to use the passive, as the nurse is more important in subject position.

Portuguese nurse who ran abortion clinic jailed

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

1. Underline all of the examples of the past simple passive in the text.
2. Complete each sentence in the passive.

a) The police arrested many protesters.
Many protesters were arrested (by the police)

b) They sent the protesters to jail.
The protesters _____

c) The scientists discovered a new cure for the disease.
A new cure _____

d) The teacher told students to read this book.
Students _____

e) They built this library in 1987.
The Library _____

f) Someone fixed the broken window.
The broken window _____

F Discussion

Should abortion be legally available everywhere? Why do some people think abortion should be illegal?

The Guardian Weekly

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Rebirth of the Reich land

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words:

reputation	attractive	federal
Holocaust	unemployed	skinheads

1. If something is _____ it is very pleasant in some way.
2. If a person is _____, he or she has no job.
3. The _____ was the organised killing of millions of people during World War II.
4. _____ are young men who cut off all their hair.
5. _____ is the opinion other people have about how good or bad someone or something is.
6. _____ means connected to the national government of a country.

2 Find the information

Find the answers to these questions in the article:

1. Where is Saxon Switzerland?
2. What is the NPD?
3. How many NPD MPs are in the Saxon parliament?
4. How many people died in the bombing of Dresden?
5. When was the bombing of Dresden?
6. When did Adolf Hitler come to power?

Now look in the text and check your answers.

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Rebirth of the Reich land

Level 1 | Elementary

Rebirth of the Reich land

Luke Harding

The German region of Saxon Switzerland is very attractive with many hills, rivers and forests. During the communist period, Saxon Switzerland was in East Germany and was well known as a centre for walking and water sports like kayaking. Now it is famous for a different reason. Sixty years after the end of the Second World War, Germany's neo-Nazi political party is coming back.

Last September there were federal elections in the Saxony region. The neo-Nazi National Party of Germany (NPD) won 9.2% of the vote, giving it 12 MPs in the new Saxon parliament in Dresden. Now members of the NPD are trying to do things which make people notice them. Last month, for example NPD MPs walked out of the parliament during a one-minute silence in memory of the victims of the Holocaust in the Second World War. Last weekend the party and its supporters marched in memory of the 35,000 Germans killed during the attack on Dresden 60 years ago by British and American planes. According to Holger Apfel, the NPD's 33-year-old leader, the attack on Dresden during February 13-14, 1945, was a war crime.

Most German politicians are surprised by the success of the NPD but this success has been at a time when more than 5 million Germans are unemployed. Many people do not trust the main political parties. Edmund Stoiber, the conservative leader of Bavaria's CSU party, says that the situation in present-day Germany is like the situation in 1932, when millions of people were unemployed. One year later Adolf Hitler came to power.

Frieder Haase is the mayor of Koenigstein, a town 30km south of Dresden. He says the situation is different now and it is not like 1932. He says he wants to stop 1933 from happening again. Koenigstein, with a population of 3,200, is a small town in the middle of Saxon Switzerland. During last September's elections almost 20% of its population voted for the NPD. Who, then, are the NPD's supporters? "They look like you and me. They are completely normal," says Haase. "They work on building sites. They are women shop assistants. They don't look like skinheads."

German newspapers have different explanations for the success of the NPD. They say it is because Saxony was communist until 1989 or because 18% of the population is unemployed. They also say that many people do not like the red-green government in Berlin. The NPD, meanwhile, is working hard to increase its support, particularly among young people - with barbecues, discos and canoeing trips.

The NPD's new MPs don't look like skinheads either. They wear suits; they are in their 30s; and they are very polite. Holger Apfel says that other political parties do not take him seriously. "We have very good local structures" he says. The NPD's views are popular with some German voters – and above all its argument that it is time Germans stopped feeling guilty about being German.

Frieder Haase and other Koenigstein citizens are fighting against the town's reputation as a neo-Nazi centre. "The Nazi period is not going to happen again," Haase says. "Germany lost the First World War and in 1933 it was a broken country. Then a big, powerful man arrived - Adolf Hitler. Things are different now."

The Guardian Weekly 18-02-2005, page 20

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Rebirth of the Reich land

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings with the endings.

1. The NPD has many supporters …
2. NPD MPs …
3. Many people vote for the NPD …
4. German newspapers say the NPD's success ….
5. Almost 20% of the people of Koenigstein …
6. The mayor of Koenigstein …

a. … because they do not like the red-green government in Berlin.
b. … does not think the Nazi period will happen again.
c. … do not look like skinheads.
d. … voted for the NPD at the last election.
e. … among young people.
f. … is because of high unemployment.

4 Vocabulary - find the words

1. Find two water sports in the text.
2. In the first paragraph, find a word that means 'well-known'.
3. In the third paragraph, find an adjective and two nouns beginning with 's'.
4. In the fourth paragraph, find a word meaning the number of people living in a town.
5. In the fifth paragraph, find a word for a meal cooked outside.
6. In the sixth paragraph, find an adjective that is the opposite of 'rude'.

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Rebirth of the Reich land

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5 Vocabulary - puzzle

Reorder the letters to make words from the text:

1. ssseccu
2. tciimsv
3. eeyluompnd
4. desurrpsi
5. ltnoceei

6 Grammar focus - *there is/ are/ was/ were*

Look at this example:

There are 12 NPD MPs in the Saxon parliament.

Complete these sentences using the correct form of the verb 'to be':

1. Last September there _____ federal elections in Saxony.
2. There _____ a lot of unemployment in Germany.
3. There _____ many hills and rivers in Saxon Switzerland.
4. There _____ many NPD supporters in Koenigstein.
5. There _____ 35,000 victims of the 1945 attack on Dresden.
6. There _____ a lot of unemployed people in Saxony.

7 Discussion

Do you agree with the main idea of the text that cultural and economic forces are more powerful than conventional military forces?

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Police accused of Rio massacre

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words:

admire	tough	mask	random
vendetta	weep	victim	shanty town

1. A _____ is an area where poor people live in badly built houses.
2. A _____ is a piece of cloth you wear to cover your face.
3. A _____ is a situation in which one group tries to take revenge against another group and tries to kill or harm its members.
4. If you look _____, you look strong and you do not look afraid.
5. You _____ when you are very sad. It is another word for 'cry'.
6. If you _____ someone, you think they are special and you have respect for them.
7. If something is _____, it has no plan or system.
8. A _____ is a person who suffers in a crime or an accident.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. How many people did the murderers kill in Nova Iguacu?
2. How many people did the murderers kill in Queimados?
3. How many bodies were outside the bar in Queimados?
4. What is the murder rate in Queimados?
5. What is the murder rate in Rio?
6. How old was Julinho when he died?

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Police accused of Rio massacre

Level 1 | Elementary

Police accused of Rio massacre

Gareth Chetwynd in Rio de Janeiro

Sixteen-year-old Marcelo Julio Gomes do Nascimento lived in Queimados, a poor suburb of Rio de Janeiro. Julinho, as his friends called him, secretly admired the local police. They had powerful guns and looked tough. One warm evening last week, Julinho saw the reality of this image of the police when he was standing outside a bar talking to some of his friends.

An unmarked car came around the corner. The people in the car were wearing masks. They fired shots at Julinho and his friends. The shots were so accurate that they didn't leave any marks on the walls of the bar. Who were the men in the car? Were they just petty criminals and was this another random shooting? People in Queimados now believe that the murderers were off-duty policemen. They think that the murders were part of a vendetta between the policemen and their boss.

A short distance from the bar Adriana Paz Gomes sits on the steps of her modest home weeping for the loss of her son. "I was watching a soap opera when I heard the shots. I knew immediately what it was," she says. Ms Gomes ran into the street and found four bodies in the road. Then someone pointed to a fifth body, the body of her son. "I have such lovely memories of my son. He seemed to be sleeping and I took him in my arms, but he didn't wake up," she says.

Julinho's murder was the last in a series of shootings that night. In total 30 people died. The shooting began in the town of Nova Iguacu, where 18 people were killed. Some were in the street when the killers drove past, while nine of the victims, including three teenagers, were in a bar playing video games. The gunmen then moved on to Queimados where they killed 12 more people.

Local people believed the killers were members of the local military police force and Rio de Janeiro authorities quickly arrested 11 police officers and charged six of them with murder. Off-duty police officers are often members of death squads in the poor suburbs to the northwest of Rio de Janeiro, in a region known as the Baixada Fluminense. Here the murder rate is 76 per 100,000, compared with 50 per 100,000 in metropolitan Rio, which is one of the highest rates in the world.

In some communities people accept these death squads because they kill criminals and stop the drug-trafficking gangs taking power in the shanty towns. But last week's murders were different because most of the victims were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Some people think the killers were protesting against a new commanding officer who wants to stop illegal activities by police officers.

Two days before the shootings, two men, one of them a drug dealer, were taken from a bar and killed. Someone threw a human head into the police-station compound. Then hidden cameras filmed police officers in uniform as they were trying to take some bodies away. Eight police officers are now in prison because of this. The authorities believe that last week's murders were a protest against these arrests.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has demanded rapid action. "They say they are making arrests, but this is just for show. I know that one day I'll see the man who killed my son driving past me in the street," Ms Gomes said.

The Guardian Weekly 15/04/2005, page 7

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Police accused of Rio massacre

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

1. Who killed Julinho?
   a. drug-traffickers
   b. uniformed police officers
   c. off-duty police officers

2. Why did the policemen murder these people?
   a. they thought they were drug-traffickers
   b. it was a protest against their new commanding officer
   c. they thought they were criminals

3. What does Julinho's mother think will happen to the police officers?
   a. they will go to prison
   b. nothing will happen to them
   c. they will lose their jobs

4. Why did Julinho die?
   a. he was in the wrong place at the wrong time
   b. his friends were drug-traffickers
   c. he was a murderer

4 Vocabulary - prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions. Check your answers in the text.

1. protest _____ something
2. fire shots _____ someone
3. talk _____ someone
4. move on _____ another place
5. charge someone _____ murder
6. compared _____
7. _____ the wrong place
8. _____ the wrong time

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Police accused of Rio massacre

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Collocations

Match the adjectives with the nouns. Check your answers in the text.

1. warm	a. criminal
2. powerful	b. shooting
3. random	c. activities
4. short	d. evening
5. petty	e. distance
6. illegal	f. guns

6 Grammar focus

Look at this example from the text:

Julinho was standing outside a bar.

Make more sentences like this using the prompts

1. he/talk/to his friends
2. the men in the car/wear/masks
3. Julinho's mother/weep
4. the men in the car/carry/guns
5. the teenagers/play/video games
6. some victims/stand/in the street

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Rwanda

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

1 Pre-reading activities

The text is about an International Court in Africa. Before you read the text you need to know the meanings of some important words.

Chose one of these words to fill the gap in each sentence:

trial	genocide	court	survivor	corruption	prosecutor

1. A _____ is a place where legal cases are decided.
2. Dishonest or illegal behaviour by people in official positions is called _____ .
3. _____ is the murder of large numbers of people from a particular race.
4. A _____ is the process of deciding whether someone is guilty or innocent.
5. Someone who is still alive after other members of his group or family have been killed is called a _____ .
6. A _____ is a lawyer whose job is to prove in court that someone is guilty.

2 Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

1. When did the genocide in Rwanda begin?
2. Who, according to some people, organised the murders?
3. Where is the International Tribunal for Rwanda located?
4. How many people are in prison waiting for their trials?
5. Who is Jean Kambanda?
6. Where is the trial of Slobodan Milosevic taking place?
7. Find five reasons why the Rwanda tribunal is working so slowly.
8. Why do the survivors of the genocide not have confidence in the tribunal?
9. What might happen to the soldiers who carried out the murders?
10. What are the two major successes of the Rwanda tribunal?

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Rwanda

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

Second-class justice system

In April 1994 the genocide began in Rwanda. Hundreds of thousands of people from the Tutsi tribe were murdered by soldiers from the Hutu tribe. People say that Theoneste Bagonora, an army colonel, was the man who organised the murders. Now he is on trial at the International Tribunal for Rwanda, a court which is located at Arusha in Tanzania. Bagonora was arrested for his crimes six years ago. Since then, he has been in prison waiting for his trial.

More than sixty other people are also in prison waiting for their trials. They include many of the politicians who allowed the murders to happen. One of them is the former Prime Minister of Rwanda, Jean Kambanda. Progress with the trials is very slow.

It is interesting to compare the Rwanda Tribunal with the trial of Slobodan Milosevic, the former President of Yugoslavia. This trial is taking place at the International Court in The Hague. The Chief Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, is responsible for both these courts. Milosevic was arrested last year in Yugoslavia and brought to The Hague. His trial began a few months later. Progress has been very fast with this trial. A lot of money has been spent on the Milosevic trial but not much has been spent on the trials in Rwanda.

There are many other reasons why the Rwanda tribunal is working so slowly. Apart from the question of money, there has been bad management, corruption, problems of internal politics and racial tension between Western prosecutors and African tribunal managers.The survivors of the genocide and other citizens of Rwanda do not have a lot of confidence in the tribunal. They do not believe that justice will de done. They are also angry that Bagosora, Kambanda and the other politicians accused of genocide will only be sentenced to life in prison if they are found guilty by the tribunal. The soldiers who followed the orders of the politicians and murdered thousands of people could face the death penalty in ordinary courts in Rwanda. So people believe that the politicians are receiving special treatment.

However, the Rwanda tribunal has had two important successes. It is the first international tribunal in history to convict anyone of genocide, and it also declared for the first time in legal history that rape can be an act of genocide.

THE GUARDIAN WEEKLY 18-4-2002, PAGE 11

3 Word Partnerships

Match the beginnings on the left with the endings on the right:

1. Theoneste Bagonora was arrested....	a. ....for both tribunals.
2. Many people were killed....	b. ....of genocide.
3. Carla del Ponte is responsible....	c. ....for genocide.
4. A lot of money has been spent....	d. ....to life in prison.
5. Many people have no confidence....	e. ....the death penalty.
6. Kambanda has been accused....	f. ....by soldiers.
7. He may be sentenced....	g. ....in the tribunal.
8. The soldiers could face....	h. ....on the trial of Slobodan Milosevic.

Rwanda

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

4 Key Words

Rearrange the letters to form key words from the text:

1. cegindoe _____
2. erarsdet _____
3. ibnrtula _____
4. liatr _____
5. oporciurtn _____
6. soorttucper _____
7. cjsutie _____
8. dasucce _____

5 What do you think?

Should war criminals be tried in their own countries or by International Courts?

The Guardian Weekly

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Doctor who identified SARS becomes its victim

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words

virus	infectious	severe	sample
praise	isolate	spreads	expert

1. A _____ illness is one that is very serious.
2. If a disease _____ , it passes quickly from one person to another.
3. Doctors often _____ people with infectious diseases. They keep them alone and away from other people.
4. A _____ is a very small living thing that can enter your body and make you ill.
5. An _____ disease can spread easily from one person to another.
6. An _____ is someone who knows a lot about a particular subject.
7. If you _____ someone, you say many positive things about them.
8. A _____ is a very small amount of something which can be used for scientific or medical tests.

2 Find the answer

Look in the text and find the answers to these questions as quickly as possible.

1. What is SARS?
2. How many people has SARS killed?
3. What was the name of the doctor who first identified SARS?
4. What are the 3 main symptoms of SARS?
5. According to the article how many countries has SARS infected?
6. What do people in Hong Kong wear when they go out?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Doctor who identified SARS becomes its victim

Level 1 | Elementary

Doctor who identified SARS becomes its victim

SARS is like flu. It is also a virus but it is much more dangerous than flu. It has now killed hundreds of people in different parts of the world. It has also infected thousands of other people. Recently the doctor who first identified SARS, Dr Carlo Urbani, died from SARS. Dr Urbani worked for the World Health Organisation in Vietnam. An American businessman was taken to hospital in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, with a strange illness. Dr Urbani was the first person in the world to notice that this was a new disease. He called it SARS, which means 'severe acute respiratory syndrome'.

The SARS virus can move very quickly. People who suffer from SARS have a high temperature, a cough and difficulty in breathing. Dr Urbani's colleague Pascale Brudon said: "Carlo was the first person to see that this was something strange. When people became very worried in the hospital, he was there every day, collecting samples, talking to the staff and trying to control the infection."

In a statement, the World Health Organisation praised Dr Urbani, an expert in infectious diseases. "Because of Dr Urbani's work with SARS, we were able to identify and isolate many new cases before they infected hospital workers," they said in the statement.

The virus is still spreading very quickly across East Asia. Most of the cases are in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam.

Hong Kong has closed schools for a million students for 10 days, but some doctors say they should be closed for a month. Normal daily life has changed completely for the people of Hong Kong. They do not go to restaurants or theatres and they do not take taxis. They wear special face masks and even chemical protection suits when they go out.

The Chinese government now publishes a daily report on the spread of the disease, but some experts in Hong Kong say the Chinese government did not provide enough information about SARS and how quickly the disease can spread.

When the virus reached Hong Kong, it infected a lot of hospital workers. A doctor from Guandong province in China first brought SARS to Hong Kong in February.

The Guardian Weekly

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Doctor who identified SARS becomes its victim

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension Check

Match the beginnings and the endings of the sentences.

1. SARS …
2. SARS has infected …
3. SARS means …
4. The SARS virus can …
5. People with SARS …
6. Dr Urbani was …
7. People in Hong Kong and other countries …
8. A doctor from China …

a. …severe acute respiratory syndrome.
b. …have a high temperature and a cough.
c. …wear special face masks.
d. …move very quickly.
e. …is much more dangerous than flu.
f. … an expert in infectious diseases.
g. …first brought SARS to Hong Kong.
h. …thousands of people.

4 Vocabulary Work - Word Building

Complete the table

Verb	Noun
1. infect	_____
2. collect	_____
3. identify	_____
4. isolate	_____
5. treat	_____
6. protect	_____
7. state	_____
8. praise	_____

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Doctor who identified SARS becomes its victim

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary Work - Prepositions

Without looking at the text, fill the gaps using a suitable preposition:

1. He was the first person _____ the world to identify SARS.
2. People have difficulty _____ breathing.
3. Dr Urbani was an expert _____ infectious diseases.
4. The virus is spreading very quickly _____ East Asia.
5. Schools have been closed _____ 10 days.
6. There is not enough information _____ SARS.
7. A Chinese doctor first brought SARS _____ Hong Kong.

Now look in the text and check your answers.

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Send Julia Roberts, not tanks

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words.

insurgent	skilful	regime	military
guerrilla	wealthy	pessimistic	failure

1. If you are _____, you always think bad things will happen in every situation.
2. A _____ is a government that controls a country.
3. If you are _____, you are very good at doing something.
4. An _____ is someone who fights to take control of a country.
5. A _____ is another word for insurgent.
6. _____ is another word for rich.
7. _____ means relating to armies or armed forces.
8. _____ is the opposite of success.

2 Find the information

Find the answers to these questions in the article.

1. When did the Korean War start?
2. When did the Korean War end?
3. When did the Vietnam War start?
4. When did the Vietnam War end?
5. When did the Americans leave Vietnam?

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Level 1 | Elementary

Send Julia Roberts, not tanks

Max Hastings

Many American soldiers are beginning to think that the US will not win the war in Iraq. They remember what happened in Vietnam. In recent years the US army has become a very effective army for big military operations in other countries, but it has never been effective against insurgents. It is very difficult for regular armies to fight against guerrillas and suicide bombers.

Some years ago, I heard an American general talking about the US army. He said to me: "We went into Korea in 1950 with a very poor army, and came out of it in 1953 with a very good one. We went into Vietnam in 1964 with a fine army, and came out in 1975 with a terrible one." Some American officers think the same thing is happening in Iraq. The US armed forces are fighting a difficult war. It is now possible that it will have to leave Iraq without winning this war.

Other people think that America will win in the end but not with its army. Edward Luttwak, an American military expert, has said that the US began to win the Vietnam War the day after it left Vietnam in April 1975. The US military lost the military battle but, Luttwak says, it began to win culturally and economically. In theory Vietnam is still a communist state, but in reality capitalism is everywhere. American values are winning in Vietnam just as they are present in other nations which want to be wealthy.

Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaida group are fighting against this cultural and economic invasion but it is a very difficult battle. It is more difficult to fight against Bill Gates and Steven Spielberg than it is to fight against a regular army. Recent history shows us that America is more skilful in using economic and cultural power than it is in using military power.

Last spring in a refugee camp in Gaza, I asked a group of children what they enjoyed watching on television. Immediately they all said: "Rambo! Rambo!". This was a surprising answer not because of the character of Rambo but where Rambo comes from. The parents of these children hated America but Hollywood has a much greater power than the power of President Bush and the Pentagon. Young Palestinians may hate the US, but American culture is everywhere.

To return to Iraq: even if the insurgents force the Americans to leave the country, they have much less chance of winning a war against Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts and so on, because people can now watch satellite TV easily all over Iraq.

Powerful armies might become less important in the 21st century than cultural forces. We had examples of this in the last part of the 20th century. It was not Ronald Reagan's American armies that destroyed the Soviet Union, but economic failure, and the apartheid regime in South Africa ended for the same reason.

Unfortunately, in the poorest countries, military power will still be important, but in countries where external cultural influences are strong, soldiers will have a less important role to play. I do not think the US armed forces will win the war in Iraq. The pessimistic soldiers are probably right. But in the end, Microsoft and DreamWorks could succeed where George Bush and his military forces might fail.

The Guardian Weekly 2005-28-01, page 13

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Send Julia Roberts, not tanks

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

1. At the end of the Korean War
   a. the USA had a very good army.
   b. the USA had a terrible army.
   c. the USA had a very poor army.

2. The author of the article believes
   a. the USA will win the military battle in Iraq.
   b. the USA probably will not win the war in Iraq.
   c. the USA will certainly lose the war in Iraq.

3. 'Rambo' was a surprising answer because
   a. American culture is everywhere.
   b. Rambo is an American character.
   c. Hollywood has greater power than President Bush.

4. Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts will 'win the war' because
   a. many people in Iraq can watch satellite TV.
   b. the Americans will leave Iraq.
   c. they are American.

4 Vocabulary - opposites

Find the opposites of these words in the text.

1.	optimistic	_____	5.	love	_____
2.	success	_____	6.	internal	_____
3.	easy	_____	7.	boring	_____
4.	poor	_____	8.	weak	_____

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Send Julia Roberts, not tanks

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Prepositions

Fill the gaps with a preposition.

1. _____ theory, Vietnam is still a communist state.
2. The US army has never been effective _____ insurgents.
3. America went _____ Korea in 1950 with a very poor army.
4. The children enjoyed watching Rambo _____ television.
5. America may have to leave Iraq _____ winning the war.
6. They have little chance _____ winning the war.
7. _____ the end Microsoft and DreamWorks could succeed.
8. People can watch satellite TV all _____ Iraq.

6 Grammar focus - irregular past tenses

Complete the table with the past tense of the verb.

1. win won
2. hear _____
3. lose _____
4. fight _____
5. think _____
6. become _____
7. leave _____
8. begin _____

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The Guardian Weekly

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Safety fears over Europe's busy skies

Level 1 | Elementary

Boom in budget flights means that system will soon be unable to cope.

1 Key vocabulary

Fill the gaps using the key words from the text:

airspace	coordinate	forecast	budget airline
fatal	congested	air traffic controller	near-miss

1. _____ is the sky above a particular country.
2. An _____ is someone whose job is to organise the movement of aircraft by giving radio instructions to pilots.
3. A _____ is an airline that sells very cheap tickets.
4. A _____ is an occasion when an accident almost happens, but does not happen.
5. If you _____ something, you organise different parts into a system.
6. If a place is _____ it is very, very crowded.
7. A _____ accident is one where one or more people die.
8. A _____ is a statement about what will probably happen in the future. A good example is the weather _____ .

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. When will Europe's skies become "full"?
2. How many people died in the Lake Constance crash?
3. How many flights does Eurocontrol coordinate every day?
4. How many flights will there be in Europe by 2020?
5. What is the new minimum height distance between aircraft?
6. How many planes are in the sky over Europe at any time of the day?
7. How many people are these planes carrying?
8. What will the increase in the number of flights over Ukraine be?

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Safety fears over Europe's busy skies

Level 1 | Elementary

Safety fears over Europe's busy skies

Every day there are more and more budget aircraft flying over Europe. But these cheap flights are causing a real problem for air traffic controllers. The skies above Europe are becoming more and more congested. If the number of flights continues to increase, Europe's skies will become "full" in just over ten years time. Current air traffic control systems will not be able to handle so many aircraft.

Many people are worried about the safety of Europe's crowded skies. Two years ago two planes crashed over Lake Constance in Germany and 71 people died. The official report on the accident will probably say that a mistake by air traffic control caused the crash.

An air traffic control agency in Brussels called Eurocontrol coordinates all the take-off and landing times in 33 European countries. Every 24 hours, Eurocontrol looks after 29,000 flights. Air travel decreased after September 11 2001, but Eurocontrol says that the amount of air traffic across Europe will increase from 8 million flights a year to 16 million flights a year by 2020.

A few years ago the minimum height distance between aircraft in the sky was 2,000 feet. It is now just 1,000 feet because of the large number of flights. At any time of the day there are 3,500 aircraft flying over Europe, carrying about 400,000 people. Budget airlines operate 10% of these flights. Some experts are worried that a lot of new budget airlines will come from east European countries where the quality of air traffic control is not so good.

A large number of companies have entered the budget airlines market, including nine budget airlines in Germany alone. Next month a new Hungarian airline, Wizz, will start operating flights from Luton in England to Budapest and to Katowice in Poland. The forecast is that there will be an increase in flights of 3% in Britain and 2.9% in France, but flights over Ukraine will increase by 7%, over Belarus by 5.5%, over Turkey by 5.9% and over Bulgaria by 5%.

Eurocontrol believes that six countries have poor safety management. One problem is that European Union laws allow workers to move to other countries to get better pay. Some people believe that many air traffic controllers will move from east European countries to west European countries because pay is higher in Western Europe. Air-traffic control in Eastern Europe could have more problems because of this.

Swiss air traffic control said last week that there were four near-misses in its airspace in April alone. According to a Swiss newspaper, there was a near-miss between an Iberia passenger plane and a business jet over Zurich. In the Lake Constance crash a DHL freight aircraft crashed into a charter flight full of Russian schoolchildren. The official report on the accident will probably say that the crash was the fault of an air traffic controller called Peter Nielsen. A Russian father who lost his wife and two children in the crash murdered Mr Nielsen in February.

After 16 years without any deaths, the Lake Constance crash was the third fatal accident in three years that happened because of mistakes by air traffic control. Eurocontrol says it is very worried about this.

The Guardian Weekly Andrew Clark

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Safety fears over Europe's busy skies

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Decide whether these statements are true or false:

1. Europe's skies will become "full" in less than 10 years.
2. A mistake by a pilot caused the Lake Constance crash.
3. Eurocontrol looks after 29,000 flights a day.
4. The minimum height distance between aircraft is 2,000 feet.
5. There are nine budget airlines in Germany.
6. There will be a bigger increase in flights in Western Europe than in Eastern Europe.
7. Pay is higher in Western Europe.
8. There were four near-misses over Zurich in April.

4 Vocabulary 1 - opposites

Find the opposites of these words in the text:

1. maximum
2. take-off
3. decrease
4. expensive
5. empty
6. less and less

5 Vocabulary 2 - prepositions

1. Cheap flights are a real problem _____ air traffic controllers.
2. Skies will become "full" _____ just over ten years time.
3. People are worried _____ safety.
4. Eurocontrol looks _____ 29,000 flights.
5. Air traffic will increase _____ 8 million _____ 16 million flights.
6. There was a crash _____ a freight aircraft and a charter flight.
7. This was the third fatal accident _____ three years.
8. According _____ a Swiss newspaper,...

6 Grammar focus - forecasts

Look at this sentence from the text:

Europe's skies will become "full" in just over ten years time.

Look in the text and underline or highlight seven more examples of forecasts using the 'will' form of the future.

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The Guardian Weekly

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Angry Spain ousts ruling party

Level 1 | Elementary

Aznar is punished for bloodshed and for 'hiding the truth'.

1 Key vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings.

1. to lie
2. busy
3. to arrest
4. an election
5. separatist
6. a shock
7. a victim
8. a commuter

a. the time in a democracy when everyone can choose the government
b. a very big surprise (usually something bad)
c. not to tell the truth/to say things which are not true
d. someone who travels to work in another city every day
e. to take someone to a police station because they have done something wrong
f. someone who is injured or killed in an accident or an attack
g. a person who wants part of a country to be independent
h. full of people

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find the answers as quickly as possible.

1. When did the terrorist bombs explode?
2. How many people died?
3. How many people were injured?
4. When was the election in Spain?
5. How many Spanish soldiers are in Iraq?
6. How many explosions were there?

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Angry Spain ousts ruling party

Level 1 | Elementary

Angry Spain ousts ruling party

On 11th March ten terrorist bombs exploded at railway stations in Madrid, the capital of Spain. The terrorists planted the bombs in busy trains. More than 200 people died in the terrorist attack and 1,500 were injured.

At first the Spanish government said that the Basque separatist group Eta planned the attack. Many Spanish people did not believe the government. They did not think that Eta was the group which planted the bombs in the trains. They believed that it was Al-Qaeda, the Islamist terrorist group, the group which attacked the World Trade Center in New York on September 11th 2001.

Then the police found a videotape in Madrid. In the video a man said Al-Qaeda planted the bombs in the trains. Then the police arrested 3 Moroccan men. Now everyone knew it was Al-Qaeda and not Eta.

On 14th March, three days after the terrorist attacks in Madrid, the Spanish people voted in a general election. Before the election everyone thought that the People's Party, led by the Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, was going to win the election. But people were very angry about the terrorist attacks. They were also angry because they thought that the government was not telling the truth. When the government said that Eta was the group which planted the bombs, many people believed that the government was lying.

The result of the election was a shock for many people. The Socialist Party, led by Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, won the election. This was a shock for President Bush and the American government too. The new Spanish government immediately promised to bring the 1,300 Spanish soldiers in Iraq back to Spain. Mr Zapatero also said that President Bush and Tony Blair were lying about Iraq. In his first radio interview he said: "Mr Blair and Mr Bush must do some thinking... you can't organise a war with lies."

Mr Zapatero began his victory speech with a minute's silence for the victims of the attacks – a series of ten explosions on commuter trains at Atocha, El Pozo and Santa Eugenia stations in the south of Madrid. "Together we will defeat [terrorism]," he told his supporters. He also said that he wanted to end Spain's close relationship with the USA and to start up its former friendship with France and Germany again.

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Angry Spain ousts ruling party

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Are these sentences True or False according to the text?

1. Most people believe Eta planned the attack.
2. Ten bombs exploded at railway stations in Madrid.
3. No one was surprised by the result of the election in Spain.
4. Mr Zapatero wants to send more soldiers to Iraq.
5. He wants to end Spain's close relationship with France and Germany.
6. People voted for the Socialist Party because they did not believe the government.

4 Vocabulary - collocations

Fill the gaps in numbers 1 to 4 using verbs. Check your answers in the text.

to _____ a bomb
to _____ an election
to _____ an attack
to _____ the truth

Fill the gaps in numbers 5 to 8 using nouns. Check your answers in the text.

the _____ of the election
the _____ of the attacks
a radio _____
a minute's _____

5 Vocabulary - prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions.

1. The bombs exploded _____ three railway stations in Madrid.
2. The result of the election was a shock _____ many people.
3. The attack happened _____ March 11th.
4. Mr Zapatero said Bush and Blair were lying _____ Iraq.
5. The People's Party was led _____ Mr Aznar.
6. They promised to bring the soldiers back _____ Spain.

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Angry Spain ousts ruling party

Level 1 | Elementary

6 Grammar focus

Irregular past simple. Look at this example from the text:

Then the police found a videotape.

Now complete the table. The first seven are from the text.

	Verb	Past simple
1.	begin	_____
2.	lead	_____
3.	think	_____
4.	win	_____
5.	say	_____
6.	tell	_____
7.	know	_____
8.	teach	_____
9.	fight	_____
10.	buy	_____

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The Guardian Weekly

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Firms tag workers to improve efficiency

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words from the text:

warehouse	workplace	delivery	vest
shelf	wrist	theft	measure

1. A _____ is a shirt with no sleeves that people often wear under an ordinary shirt, especially in winter.
2. The joint between your hand and your arm is called your _____.
3. _____ is stealing things from another person or from a company.
4. People often keep books on a _____ .
5. A _____ is a large building used for storing goods and food.
6. A _____ is an action which a government takes.
7. _____ means taking goods from one place to another.
8. The place where people work is called their _____ .

2 Scanning

The text talks about the use of computers in supermarkets. How many of the uses of computers below can you find in the text?

1. to reduce costs
2. to increase the efficient delivery of goods and food to stores
3. to supply prisons
4. to send messages to workers
5. to check what workers are doing
6. to find out what time workers finish work
7. to send orders to workers' computers
8. to check if workers are taking breaks without permission
9. to control humans
10. to remove waste and reduce theft

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Firms tag workers to improve efficiency

Level 1 | Elementary

Firms tag workers to improve efficiency

David Hencke

Some British supermarket companies are asking their warehouse workers to wear small computers, called “electronic tags”. The companies say that these tags will help them to reduce costs and increase the efficient delivery of goods and food to stores. The system uses American satellite and radio technology to send messages to the workers. In a report Professor Blakemore from the University of Durham said that the use of these tags was making some workplaces more like prisons.

The technology arrived from the US at the start of the year and more and more companies are using it. Almost 10,000 employees are using it to supply goods to well-known British supermarkets. Trade unionists representing workers are worried that companies could use the technology to check what workers are doing. They are asking for special measures to make sure that this does not happen.

Under the system workers have to wear computers on their wrists, arms and fingers, and sometimes they have to wear a special vest containing a computer that instructs them where to go to collect goods from warehouse shelves. The system also allows the store to send orders to workers’ computers. The computer can also check if workers are taking breaks without permission and can calculate the shortest time a worker needs to complete a job.

Britain already has more street security cameras than any other country in the world, and some experts are worried that this new system could make Britain the most watched country in the world.

In his report Professor Blakemore said there was a danger that computers were controlling humans rather than humans using computers. Some people are also worried that the new technology could cause industrial injuries because workers had to make the same movements with their arms and wrists again and again.

But the companies say that the system makes the delivery of food more efficient. It also removes waste, reduces theft and can reorder goods more quickly. A spokeswoman for a supermarket said that the company was not using the technology to check what its staff were doing. She said it was making employees’ work easier and reducing the need for paper.

But a trade union spokesman, Paul Campbell, said: “We are getting reports of people leaving their jobs after just a few days and in some cases just a few hours. They are all saying they don’t like the job because they have no input. They are just following a computer’s instructions”.

American companies are working on new computer equipment that can check what workers are doing. One system will check how many times secretaries hit the keys on their word processors, and another will check how much work workers are doing.

The Guardian Weekly 10/06/2005, page 9

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Firms tag workers to improve efficiency

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer

1. Trade unions are worried about the new technology because
a. it removes waste and reduces theft
b. it could cause industrial injuries
c. companies could use it to check what workers are doing

2. Supermarket companies like the new technology because
a. it makes the delivery of food more efficient
b. it is cheap and easy to use
c. workers have to follow a computer's instructions

3. The new technology could cause injuries because
a. people have to wear a special vest
b. people have to make the same movements again and again
c. it is very heavy

4. Some people are leaving their jobs after just a few hours because
a. they don't like the jobs
b. they don't like following instructions from a computer
c. they have industrial injuries

4 Vocabulary - Collocations

Match the verbs with the nouns. Then check your answers in the text.

1. wear	a. goods
2. reduce	b. a job
3. supply	c. a message
4. send	d. a vest
5. take	e. an injury
6. complete	f. costs
7. cause	g. instructions
8. follow	h. a break

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Firms tag workers to improve efficiency

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary - Find the word

Look in the text and

1. Find a verb which is the opposite of 'increase'.
2. Find three parts of the body.
3. Find a verb which means 'to order again'.
4. Find a noun which means 'workers'.
5. In the third paragraph, find 5 verbs beginning with the letter 'c'.

6 Grammar - Prediction and possibility

Look at these examples from the text:

These tags <u>will</u> help companies to reduce costs. (prediction)
Companies <u>could</u> use the technology to check what workers are doing. (possibility)
Fill the gaps in these sentences using *will* or *could*

1. The new technology _____ cause industrial injuries.
2. The new system _____ remove waste and reduce theft.
3. Britain _____ become the most watched country in the world.
4. Trade unionists think companies _____ use the technology to check what workers are doing.
5. Companies say the new technology _____ increase the efficient delivery of food to stores.
6. New American computer equipment _____ check on how much work workers are doing.

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TheGuardianWeekly

The 'Dirty War'

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading: Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using one of these key words from the text:

guilty **murder** **torture** **military coup**
guerrilla **investigation** **punish** **acceptable**

1. If you decide to kill someone and then you kill them, this is called _____.
2. If you _____ someone, you make them suffer because they have done something wrong.
3. A _____ person is someone who has done something wrong.
4. In an _____ people try to find the answers to a lot of questions.
5. When the army removes the government, this is called a _____.
6. If something is _____ it is allowed by most people.
7. A _____ is a person who is not in an army but who fights against an army or government.
8. _____ means to cause pain to someone to make them give information.

2 Find the Information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. In which country was there a "dirty war"?
2. When was the "dirty war"?
3. When was the military coup in Chile?
4. How many people died or "disappeared" in Peru?
5. How many people did the military kill in Chile?
6. How many people did the guerrillas kill in Argentina?

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TheGuardianWeekly

The 'Dirty War'

Level 1 | **Elementary**

The "Dirty War"

In the last few weeks some important changes have happened in Latin America. In Argentina the government has introduced some new laws. In the past, people who took part in the "dirty war" against the left in the 1970s and 1980s remained free. Even if they were guilty of murder and torture, nothing happened to them. Now the new law means that these people might go to prison. The people of Argentina will also be able to examine what happened during those dark years. They will see who was responsible for the terrible crimes and they will learn why the authorities did not punish them. The new president of Argentina, Nestor Kirchner, supports these new laws.

In Chile last month President Lagos announced plans to investigate a similar period in Chilean history that followed the 1973 military coup. Chile will not punish some of the people who took part in murder and torture if they give information to the authorities about what happened to the 3,000 people killed by the military.

In Peru last month the authorities published a new report about the 1980s, when 60,000 died or "disappeared." In Peru too an investigation will probably follow and people will have to answer for their crimes.

People have reacted to these changes in different ways. The 1970s and 80s were an extremely painful time in these three countries. Some conservative journalists say it is better to forget the past and to think about the future. Other people agree with President Bush and say that all 'terrorists' are "evil" and that when you are fighting terrorists, they say, all methods are acceptable and you have to fight fire with fire. These people believe that the military should not answer for their crimes because they were fighting extremists – people the military thought of as 'terrorists'. Many say that the people killed were not terrorists and that all they did was oppose the military governments.

The military killed a lot more people than the extremists did. In Argentina, for example, leftist guerrillas were responsible for about 600 deaths. The Argentinian military was responsible for 15,000 killings and disappearances. In Chile the guerrillas killed 150 people and the military killed 3,000. In Peru the guerrillas killed a lot more, but the military killed about 20,000 people. In all three countries the government allowed murders and torture to happen.

In 1974 there was a large advertisement in the streets of Buenos Aires. It said, "Silence is Health". The advertisement was to stop drivers using their car horns but many people thought it had a different meaning. Now people are finally breaking the silence.

The Guardian Weekly 20-09-03, page 14

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The 'Dirty War'

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences:

1. In Argentina, people guilty of torture and murder ....
2. In Chile, people guilty of torture and murder ....
3. In Peru, people guilty of torture and murder ....
4. Some conservative journalists say ....
5. President Bush says ....
6. Some people say ....
7. In Argentina, the military ....
8. The purpose of the advertisement was ....

a. .... that all terrorists are evil.
b. .... will have to answer for their crimes.
c. .... that you have to fight fire with fire.
d. .... to stop people using their car horns.
e. .... might go to prison.
f. .... killed 15,000 people.
g. .... that it is better to think about the future and forget about the past.
h. .... will not go to prison if they give information to the authorities.

4 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table. Use your dictionary to help you.

	Verb	Noun
1.	investigate	_____
2.	punish	_____
3.	examine	_____
4.	react	_____
5.	publish	_____
6.	agree	_____
7.	mean	_____
8.	disappear	_____

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The 'Dirty War'

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary: Prepositions

Complete the sentences using a preposition:

1. Many people were guilty _____ murder and torture.
2. They were responsible _____ terrible crimes.
3. They took part _____ the war against the left.
4. They will have to answer _____ their crimes.
5. People have reacted _____ the changes in different ways.
6. Some journalists say it is better to think _____ the future.
7. You have to fight fire _____ fire.
8. People are calling _____ justice.

6 Vocabulary: Puzzle

Rearrange the letters to make key words from the text.

1. ugitly _____
2. imarlity _____
3. antsevitgei _____
4. perbionless _____
5. stijuce _____
6. ritahisueto _____

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Savouring the whale

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions:

1. whale
2. whaling
3. whale meat
4. whaleburger
5. anti-whaling campaigners
6. whale sushi

a. hunting and killing whales
b. a burger made with whale meat
c. meat from whales
d. a dish made with rice and whale meat
e. people who protest against whaling
f. a very large sea animal that looks like a fish but breathes air through a hole on the top of its head.

KEY WORD: check that you understand the meaning of *ban*. If there is a *ban* on an activity it means there is an official statement ordering people not to do it. In New York City, for example, there is a *ban* on smoking in all workplaces, including bars and restaurants.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. How much did the writer pay for his whaleburger?
2. What time of day was it when he bought it?
3. How many different kinds of hamburger does the restaurant serve?
4. What kind of meat is in a “Ghengis Khan” burger?
5. What percentage of Japanese people are against a whaling ban?
6. What percentage of Japanese people are in favour of a whaling ban?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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Savouring the whale

Level 1 | Elementary

Savouring the whale
By Eric Johnston

Foreigners who visit Japan can find a variety of sandwiches which they cannot find in fast food restaurants back home, but one group of restaurants called Lucky Pierrot in the port of Hakodate is now selling whaleburgers, burgers made with whale meat.

The restaurant serves 16 different varieties of hamburgers and 10 different kinds of curry and 12 different kinds of ice cream. It's nearly 3.30pm and almost everyone in the shop, near the waterfront in Hakodate, is young.

I go to the counter and order a whaleburger. After paying for the order and receiving a ticket (number 97), I sit down and wait for my number to come up. When the whaleburger arrives, it is fried and on a bun with lettuce and mayonnaise. It is black and tough. The cost is 380 yen ($3.35). I look around to see if I am the only one eating a whale. Yes, I am the only one. Later I tried whale sushi. It was red, tender, juicy and tasty.

Earlier this year Lucky Pierrot sent out a letter to ask customers what new foods they wanted to see on the menu. Most people replied that they wanted "Ghengis Khan" burgers. In Japanese-English, this means barbecued lamb, which is very popular in Japan. The second choice was whale.

Whaling has a long history in Japan, and it is easy to find whale meat in any port, such as Hakodate. Now the city is very popular with Japanese tourists, who want to escape the very hot summers in other parts of the country. Coastal cities such as Hakodate have always been the main market for whale meat. But many older Japanese living in the big cities also have good memories of whale meat. Just after the Second World War, there wasn't much food and people were dying of hunger in cities like Tokyo. Whale meat kept many people alive.

Hakodate fish merchants know that people in some parts of the world do not agree with the killing of whales but they do not understand it when anti-whaling campaigners protest against the killing of whales and the sale of whale meat. When Lucky Pierrot decided to sell whaleburgers, the restaurant's management received hundreds of angry letters and emails. "We're not the only ones selling whalemeat. You can buy whale meat at many places in Japan," said Miku Oh, a spokesman for Lucky Pierrot. Most Japanese are against a ban on whaling. According to one survey, only 22.6% were in favour of a complete whaling ban, while 39% were against a ban.

However, not everyone likes the taste of whale meat. Most young people in Japan eat fast food and do not like whale meat. "Most of my friends prefer other forms of seafood, like salmon and crab, to whale," said Jun Matsuda, a college student from Tokyo who was visiting with his friends. "Whale meat is what my parents ate when they were young, and they said it wasn't very good. I've haven't seen a whaleburger, but I don't think I want to try one."

The Guardian Weekly 22/7/2005, page 17

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Savouring the whale

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and the endings of the sentences:

1. The writer didn't like his whaleburger because …
2. The writer liked the whale sushi because …
3. Many older Japanese have good memories of whalemeat because …
4. Most younger Japanese do not like whale meat and …
5. Coastal cities like Hakodate …
6. Not many Japanese people …

a. … have always been the main market for whale meat.
b. … it kept people alive after the Second World War.
c. … are in favour of a ban on whaling.
d. … it was black and tough.
e. … prefer other forms of seafood.
f. … it was tender, juicy and tasty.

4 Vocabulary 1 - Find the word

Look in the text and find these words:

1. A person who buys something in a shop or a restaurant.
2. The place in a shop or a fast food restaurant where you buy something or order something.
3. A small round piece of bread, often served with burgers.
4. A thick white sauce made from eggs and oil.
5. A person who buys and sells fish.
6. A set of questions that you ask a large number of people.
7. An adjective meaning the opposite of 'tough'.
8. An adjective meaning 'full of juice'.

5 Vocabulary 2 - Game

Rearrange the letters to make words from the text:

1. ughot
2. ferrep
3. rapulop
4. seacep
5. hergun
6. veyrus

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Savouring the whale

Level 1 | Elementary

6 Grammar focus - Irregular past tenses

Complete the table:

1.	send	___*sent*_____
2.	make	_____
3.	eat	_____
4.	keep	_____
5.	find	_____
6.	buy	_____
7.	sell	_____
8.	understand	_____

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The Guardian Weekly

Offshore wind farms in Britain

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions:

1. to provide	**a.** a 10-year period
2. offshore	**b.** power from electricity that is used to make heat and light
3. decade	**c.** to make electricity
4. network	**d.** to give something to someone who needs it
5. to develop	**e.** a large group of things that are connected to one another
6. energy	**f.** to get something
7. to obtain	**g.** to improve or make something bigger
8. to generate	**h.** on the sea, not on the land

2 Natural sources of energy

Match the terms with the definitions:

1. solar power	**a.** This type of power comes from running water.
2. wind power	**b.** This type of power comes from the sun.
3. tidal power	**c.** This type of power comes from the wind.
4. hydro-electric power	**d.** This type of power uses high tide and low tide in the sea.

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The Guardian Weekly

Offshore wind farms in Britain

Terry Macalister

This week there was some very good news for members of ecology groups, the so-called "greens". The British government said that it is going to spend £6 billion to develop wind power. This could create 20,000 new jobs and it could provide electricity for 15% of the population by 2010. The government announced that it would give licences to companies which wanted to develop offshore wind power. They said that they planned to generate 10% of the country's electricity from wind power and other "green" sources of energy such as solar power and tidal power by the end of the decade.

The wind power projects will produce about 6,000 megawatts of electricity. The cost of developing 6,000 MW will be about £6 billion and will create 20,000 engineering and construction jobs.

The British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) welcomed the news. "The UK is sixth in the world in the use of wind power behind countries such as Germany, Spain and Denmark, but at the same time the UK is the windiest country in Europe. We have the best offshore experts and workers, and all of this means that Britain could be the world leader in this new industry," said a BWEA spokeswoman.

But BWEA also said that there could be problems connecting some wind power projects to the national electricity network. There could also be political problems and the Ministry of Defence might be against plans to build wind power turbines. The BWEA wants the government to confirm plans that the UK will obtain 20% of its electricity from wind power and other "green" methods by 2020.

The Guardian Weekly 20-3-0717, page 10

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Offshore wind farms in Britain

Level 1 | **Elementary**

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

1. Why were the "greens" happy this week?
- **a.** because the government is going to spend £6 billion.
- **b.** because there will be 20,000 new jobs.
- **c.** because the government will spend money on wind power.

2. Apart from wind power, what are the other "green" sources of energy?
- **a.** solar and tidal power.
- **b.** oil.
- **c.** coal and gas.

3. How many jobs will the wind power projects create?
- **a.** 6,000
- **b.** 20,000
- **c.** 26,000

4. Which is the windiest country in Europe?
- **a.** Germany
- **b.** Spain
- **c.** The UK.

5. How much of its electricity will the UK get from "green" sources by 2020?
- **a.** 15%
- **b.** 10%
- **c.** 20%

4 Vocabulary: Collocations

Match the verbs with the nouns then check your answers in the text:

1. to generate	**a.** jobs
2. to develop	**b.** money
3. to create	**c.** wind power
4. to spend	**d.** electricity

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Offshore wind farms in Britain

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary: Word-Building

Complete the tables. Use your dictionary to help you.

Verb	Noun	Noun	Adjective
1. announce	_____	6. wind	_____
2. develop	_____	7. tide	_____
3. create	_____	8. sun	_____ _____
4. connect	_____	9. rain	_____
5. generate	_____	10. ice	_____

6 Vocabulary: Puzzle

Rearrange the letters to make words from the text:

1. leriyeticct _____
2. tevogremnn _____
3. rownewpid (two words) _____
4. greeny _____
5. greentea _____

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TheGuardianWeekly

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$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

200,000 troops 10,000 killed 1 (old) bottle of botulinum

1 Vocabulary

Match the words or phrases with the definitions:

1. weapons of mass destruction
2. cosmetic surgery
3. wrinkles
4. poison
5. banned
6. evidence
7. justify
8. UN resolution

a. not allowed; forbidden
b. a decision made by the United Nations
c. something that will kill you or make you very ill if you eat or drink it
d. something that makes you believe that something has happened
e. weapons that can kill thousands of people
f. to give a good reason for doing something
g. lines that appear on your face as you get older
h. medical operations to make people look younger or more beautiful

2 Find the information

1. What does ISG mean?
2. What did the ISG search find?
3. Where did they find the bottle?
4. How long will a complete search take?
5. How much will it cost?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

$300m search for WMD finds nothing

The Iraq Survey Group (ISG) has been looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq for the last three months. Last week the leader of the ISG, David Kay, presented a progress report to the US Congress. In his report he said that the ISG had not found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. In fact, he said, the only thing they had found was a small glass bottle containing a poison that is often used in cosmetic surgery. Mr Kay also said that Saddam Hussein had not tried to restart his nuclear weapons programme since 1998 and had stopped his chemical weapons programme more than 10 years ago. He said that a complete search would take another six to nine months.

The glass bottle contained a poison called botulinum. They found the bottle in the home of an Iraqi scientist, among some other biological samples. It was known that the Iraqi regime experimented with botulinum as a weapon. However, the botulinum found was not very strong. It was probably used to vaccinate farm animals. In the form of Botox, it could also be used in cosmetic surgery to remove wrinkles.

"We don't know if this scientist wanted to remove Saddam's wrinkles or kill people," said Joseph Cirincione, a weapons expert. Later the ISG learned that the bottle had been in the Iraqi scientist's refrigerator at home for 10 years. The report is very different from the UK government's report on Iraq's banned weapons programme which was published last September. The UK report said that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons "ready to use". The ISG found no evidence of that.

But the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, said that the report justified the war, He said that it contained "evidence" that Saddam was breaking UN resolutions. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said before the report was published that the ISG had only been looking for weapons for three months and they would need more time.

In the USA the report disappointed both Democrats and Republicans. However, the US Congress could not agree on whether to spend another $600m to continue the ISG's work for another six to nine months.

The leading Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, Jay Rockefeller, said: "We are now asking for another six to nine months. I think we need to think seriously about our policies in Iraq. We also need to think seriously about why we decided to go to war".

No one is sure whether Iraq's weapons of mass destruction exist or not.

Julian Borger, Ewen MacAskill and Richard Norton-Taylor

The Guardian Weekly

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$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true or false?

1. After three months the ISG found absolutely nothing.
2. The ISG said Saddam Hussein stopped his chemical weapons programme in 1998.
3. Botulinum can be used to treat farm animals.
4. The ISG report said that Iraq had biological weapons "ready to use".
5. Tony Blair believes the ISG needs more time.
6. The US Congress agreed to spend another $600m to continue the ISG's work.

4 Vocabulary - prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions

1. The ISG has been looking _____ weapons of mass destruction.
2. The ISG presented a report _____ the US Congress.
3. A complete search will take six _____ nine months.
4. The Iraqi regime experimented _____ botulinum.
5. The report is different _____ the UK government's report.
6. The US Congress could not agree _____ whether to spend more money.
7. They are now asking _____ another six to nine months.
8. They need to think seriously _____ their policies.

5 Vocabulary - collocations

Find words in the text that go together with these words:

1. _____ weapons
2. _____ weapons
3. _____ weapons
4. _____ surgery
5. _____ report
6. _____ animals

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$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

6 Vocabulary - puzzle

Rearrange these letters to form words from the text:

1. pedidastipon
2. torifgerrear
3. pleams
4. denviece
5. illnetcigeen
6. metmetioc

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The Guardian Weekly

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Women MPs bullied and abused in Commons

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words:

sexist	gesture	MP	astonished
childcare	old-fashioned	election	parental leave

1. _____ is the opposite of 'modern'.
2. If someone is _____, they say negative things about the opposite sex.
3. An _____ is a time when people choose the members of the government.
4. _____ means 'very, very surprised'.
5. _____ means looking after young children.
6. _____ is time off work for mothers and fathers of babies.
7. An _____ is a member of parliament (in the UK).
8. A _____ is a movement of the hand or hands that has a meaning.

2 Find the information

Find the answers to these questions in the article.

1. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons?
2. How many MPs did the authors of the report interview?
3. When did Tony Blair become Prime Minister of the UK?
4. How many women MPs arrived in the House of Commons in 1997?
5. Find the names of 3 British political parties.
6. What is the other name for the British Conservative Party?

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Women MPs bullied and abused in Commons

Level 1 | Elementary

Women MPs bullied and abused in Commons

Jackie Ashley

The British Parliament has two chambers, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. There are 659 members of parliament (MPs) in the House of Commons. Most of them are men but the number of women MPs is increasing all the time.

Professor Joni Lovenduski of Birkbeck College, London, and Margaret Moran MP recently published a report called *Whose Secretary Are You, Minister?*. The report shows that many male MPs have very old-fashioned opinions about women. The authors of the report spoke to 83 women MPs. Many of them said that their male colleagues often made sexist remarks and even made gestures when women MPs were speaking in the House of Commons,

When Gillian Shephard arrived in the House of Commons as a new Tory (Conservative) MP in 1987 she was confused when a male Conservative MP called her Betty. “He also called other women MPs Betty,” said Mrs Shephard. "When I said, 'Look, you know my name isn't Betty', he said, 'Ah, but you're all the same, so I call you all Betty because it's easier'." Another woman MP, Barbara Follett, says: "I remember some Conservatives saying sexist things and making gestures every time a Labour woman got up to speak."

After Tony Blair’s election win in 1997, 120 new female MPs arrived in the House of Commons, but many of them still had problems. One new MP, Yvette Cooper, says that House of Commons officials did not believe she was an MP. They thought she was a secretary or a researcher. Jackie Ballard, a Liberal Democrat who left parliament at the last election, remembers a well-known Tory MP who always made sexist remarks, "maybe about someone's legs or something like that". The same MP once said, when he was drunk in the House of Commons, that he would like to "make love to" a nearby woman MP.

Some male MPs think that women should concentrate on "women's issues", such as health and education. Many women MPs were astonished by the negative reactions of their male colleagues, especially when women MPs got a more senior position. It seems that some male MPs and officials did not want to accept the new Labour women MPs, many of them in their 30s and 40s. Some did not believe that such young women could be members of parliament.

Many female MPs say the situation is better now because of the new "family friendly" working hours. But it isn't perfect yet. Sarah Teather, the new Liberal Democrat MP, says: "A lot of people say it's similar to an old boys' club. I think it feels rather more like a teenage public school* - you know, a public school full of teenage boys."

Women MPs are really angry that they often do not get any recognition for their successes. They say that they have brought a new feminised agenda to British politics, in particular, the fact that childcare is now an important political issue. They also mention several other successful policies, in particular parental leave.

The Guardian Weekly 2004-12-10, page 11

* *Note: In the UK, so-called ‘public’ schools are not public at all. They are private schools for the children of rich parents.*

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The Guardian Weekly

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Women MPs bullied and abused in Commons

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text:

1. Why do women MPs feel really angry?
   a. because male MPs make sexist remarks.
   b. because there are more men than women in the House of Commons.
   c. because they often do not get any recognition for their successes.

2. Why do some male MPs react negatively?
   a. because they don't like it when women MPs get a more senior position.
   b. because they don't believe such young women could be members of parliament.
   c. because they don't like the new working hours.

3. Why did the Conservative MP call all the women Betty?
   a. because he didn't know their real names.
   b. because he didn't like them.
   c. because it was easier for him.

4. What problem did Yvette Cooper have?
   a. people made sexist remarks to her.
   b. House of Commons officials did not believe she was an MP.
   c. she didn't get any recognition for her successes.

4 Vocabulary - opposites

Find the opposites of these words in the text:

1.	decrease	_____	2.	female	_____
3.	modern	_____	4.	difficult	_____
5.	sober	_____	6.	junior	_____
7.	private	_____	8.	unsuccessful	_____

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Women MPs bullied and abused in Commons

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Prepositions

Fill the gaps with a preposition.

1. Most _____ the MPs in the House of Commons are male.
2. Many MPs have old-fashioned opinions _____ women.
3. Gillian Shephard arrived _____ the House of Commons in 1987.
4. Some people think women MPs should concentrate _____ health and education.
5. The situation is better now because _____ the new working hours.
6. It's similar _____ an old boys' club.
7. _____ particular ….
8. Many were astonished _____ the reaction of their male colleagues.

Now check your answers in the text.

6 Grammar focus - irregular past tenses

Complete the table:

1. bring _____
2. think _____
3. say _____
4. leave _____
5. make _____
6. choose _____
7. speak _____
8. feel _____

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A woman's talent is to listen, says the Vatican.

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

document	*author*	*personality*	*humble*
faithful	*effect*	*mature*	*statement*

1. A _____ person does not think he or she is better or more important than other people.
2. A _____ person is one who is fully grown, like an adult.
3. A _____ person is one who always does what they have promised to do.
4. A _____ is a paper with important information in it.
5. If something has an _____ on something else, it makes it change in some way.
6. An _____ is a person who writes books, stories or documents.
7. A _____ is something that you say or write.
8. Your _____ is the kind of person you are.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find the answers to these questions:

1. How many pages are there in the document?
2. Who published the document?
3. Who wrote it?
4. Who is Erin Pizzey?
5. Who is Catherine Pepinster?

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TheGuardianWeekly

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A woman's talent is to listen, says the Vatican.

Level 1 | Elementary

A woman's talent is to listen

John Hooper and Jo Revill in Rome.

Last week the Vatican published a 37-page document about women in society. The author of the document was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the most important theologian in the Vatican. In the document, Cardinal Ratzinger writes about the typical characteristics of women. He says that women have the same positive characteristics as the Virgin Mary.

According to the cardinal, women are humble, faithful and welcoming and they know how to listen, how to praise and how to wait.

The document is an official Vatican statement, so it is probable that the Pope himself read it and perhaps made some changes to it. Many people will probably disagree with some of the things the document says. For example, it says that the fact that women can give birth to children has an effect on their personality. Women have the ability to give life so they are able to help others to grow and are able to protect them.

The document is called the *Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World*. In the document Cardinal Ratzinger also attacks ideas that are not good for "the true progress of women". One of these ideas, he says, is the belief that some people think women are less important than men. This idea causes problems, he says, because it seems to mean that if women want to be equal they must become enemies of men. Ideas like this could have a negative effect on the structure of the family, according to the cardinal.

The cardinal says that in this "war" between the sexes, the differences between men and women are becoming less and less clear. But the fact that women can give birth is a very important one, he says. This means that women become mature very quickly and are serious and responsible in their lives. Because of this they should be "present in the world of work and in the organisation of society".

The document received a mixed reaction from feminists and women writers. Erin Pizzey, the founder of the international women's refuge movement, said: "Catholic priests and bishops cannot marry so I don't think the Catholic Church should make statements like this."

But Catherine Pepinster, the editor of the British Catholic journal The Tablet, said many women would understand the feelings in the document. "It is typical of feminists to criticise this document without thinking. The document looks at differences between the sexes, but it also says that women have a big role to play in society."

The Guardian Weekly 20-06-04

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A woman's talent is to listen, says the Vatican.

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.

1. Women become mature very quickly ...
2. The "war" between the sexes ...
3. The cardinal says that women ...
4. Some people say that if women want to be equal ...
5. Erin Pizzey criticised the document ...
6. Catherine Pepinster agrees with the document ...

a. ... means that differences between men and women are becoming less clear.
b. ... they must become enemies of men.
c. ... because she thinks many women will understand the feelings in it.
d. ... because she doesn't think the Catholic Church should make statements like this.
e. ... because they can give birth to children.
f. ... are humble, faithful and welcoming.

4 Vocabulary development - collocations

Find verbs in the text that go with the following nouns

1. _____ a document
2. _____ a document
3. _____ a document
4. _____ a statement
5. _____ problems
6. _____ birth
7. _____ a role
8. _____ changes

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A woman's talent is to listen, says the Vatican.

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Word building

Complete the table. Use your dictionary to help you.

	Verb	Noun
1.	publish	_____
2.	organise	_____
3.	state	_____
4.	disagree	_____
5.	protect	_____
6.	react	_____
7.	move	_____
8.	feel	_____

6 Grammar focus - irregular past tenses

Complete the table. Use your dictionary to help you.

	Present	Past simple
1.	read	_____
2.	say	_____
3.	make	_____
4.	understand	_____
5.	give	_____
6.	write	_____
7.	feel	_____
8.	become	_____
9.	grow	_____
10.	think	_____

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TheGuardianWeekly

Words are weapons

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading: Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

crusade	**independence**	**liberation**	**hero**	**martyr**
autocratic	**rogue state**	**resistance**	**occupation**	**propaganda**

1. A _____ is someone who dies for a religious or political reason.
2. A _____ is someone who does something very brave.
3. A _____ is a country that does not behave in the same way as other countries.
4. A _____ is a holy war against another religion.
5. An _____ government is one which is not democratic.
6. If a country has _____, it has freedom from control by another country.
7. _____ is false information which governments and media use to change people's opinions.
8. If a country is under _____ it is under the control of another country's army.
9. _____ is when you fight against the army of another country that is in your country.
10. _____ is when you are finally free from the control of another country.

2 What do you know?

1. When was the attack on the World Trade Center in New York?
2. Who organised the attack?
3. Where does the US government keep al-Qaida prisoners?
4. What are WMD?
5. Who is Donald Rumsfeld?

Now look in the text and check your answers.

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The Guardian Weekly

Words are weapons

Level 1 | **Elementary**

From 'civilisation' to 'WMD', words are weapons

Simon Tisdall

Sometimes politicians use words that could be dangerous. Soon after September 11, President Bush spoke about a "crusade" against al-Qaida. This word has a very negative meaning for Muslims. It made them think that the Christian world wanted to attack them. So Bush's use of language was very careless.
Now Bush does not use the word "crusade". But he still talks about the need to defend "civilisation" and "the civilised world" against "dark forces". He never explains which part of the world is the "uncivilised" or "dark" bit. Perhaps he means Kandahar in Afghanistan. Or Eastbourne in the south of England. It is not clear.

Words are important in how a people sees itself: the US declaration of independence is one example. Modern-day Palestinians also see themselves in a battle for "independence" and "freedom". Words like "imperialism" and "liberation" influence the way people write history. The word "terrorism" is a good example. In general, "terrorism" is a terrible thing; everybody hates it; nobody likes it. Why then is there so much "terrorism"? Because people cannot agree what the word means. It depends on their point of view. Terrorism is a word that people often use incorrectly.

For the US Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, for example, the recent helicopter attack at Falluja in Iraq was the work of "terrorists". To the people on the other side, however, the men who attacked the helicopter are freedom-fighters, heroes or martyrs. The real terrorists always belong to the "other side".

When Bush declared his world "war on terror", autocratic rulers all over the world began to do terrible things in the name of "security". From Chechnya to Colombia, Pakistan to the Philippines, the anti-terror "war" grows every day. It is difficult to believe that there are so many terrorists.

With this careless use of language, prisoners locked up in places like Guantanamo Bay are, of course, "evil". The latest word in this political language is WMD, or weapons of mass destruction. Everyone has heard of WMD and they are now the reason why there is an attack on civil liberties everywhere. They are the reason why military spending is rising, why the developing world is not developing, and why politicians don't listen to public opinion. Rich countries have their own WMD, of course, but their weapons are somehow "OK". WMD in developing countries or "rogue states" on the other hand, are not OK. These WMD are dangerous.

There are some words, on the other hand, that Western leaders do not use. These include "resistance" and "occupation". Resistance is a positive word and they do not use it to talk about the people in Iraq who attack American forces. Also they do not use the word "occupation" when they talk about Iraq; they prefer the word "liberation". "Occupation" sounds illegal. It makes Iraq sound like Palestine, Tibet, Afghanistan or even Vietnam. That really is careless talk.

Politicians and the media need to be more careful in their use of language. They should not use words that have a strong political or cultural meaning or words which have unclear meanings. Sometimes it is difficult to know what is truth and what is propaganda.

The Guardian Weekly 20-11-03, page 14

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Words are weapons

Level 1 | **Elementary**

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer to each question:

1. Why is 'crusade' a dangerous word?
- **a.** Because it has many meanings.
- **b.** Because it means 'careless'.
- c. Because it has a negative meaning for Muslims.

2. What is the problem with the word 'terrorism'?
- **a.** People cannot agree what it means.
- **b.** Everybody hates it.
- **c.** It is a good example of the way people write history.

3. What is the difference between WMD in "rogue states" and WMD in rich countries?
- **a.** They are the reason why military spending is rising.
- **b.** They are the reason why politicians don't listen to public opinion.
- **c.** In the first they are "not OK" and in the second they are "OK".

4. Why don't Western leaders use the word "occupation"?
- **a.** Because it is like resistance.
- **b.** Because it sounds illegal.
- **c.** Because it is propaganda.

4 Vocabulary: Prepositions

Complete these sentences using prepositions

1. The meaning of the word 'terror' depends _____ your point of view.
2. Everyone has heard _____ WMD.
3. President Bush declared a war _____ terror.
4. Politicians don't listen _____ public opinion.
5. Bush wants to defend the world _____ "dark forces".
6. The real terrorists always belong _____ the other side.
7. Politicians do many things _____ the name of security.
8. _____ the other hand, ….

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Words are weapons'

Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table

Verb	Noun
1. mean	_____
2. defend	_____
3. liberate	_____
4. agree	_____
5. destroy	_____
6. develop	_____
7. resist	_____
8. occupy	_____

6 Pronunciation: Mark the stress

Put these words into the correct box according to their stress pattern

recent **occupy** **terrorist** **resistance** **prisoner** **destruction**
difficult **attack** **depend** **important** **September** **crusade**
careless **martyr** **Iraq** **reason**

1. o 0 o	2. 0 o o	3. o 0	4. 0 o

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The Guardian Weekly

Giving power to the people

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using one of these words from the text

boycott **campaign** **dump** **sweatshop** **owe**

1• If you _____ someone money, you have to give them a particular amount of money because you have bought something from them or borrowed money from them.

2• If you _____ something, you throw it away because you don't need it any more.

3• A _____ is a factory where people work very hard for very little money.

4• If you _____ a company's products, you don't buy or use them because you are angry about something the company has done.

5• A _____ is a number of actions to produce political or social change.

2 Find the Information

1• How much money did Nestle ask Ethiopia to pay back?

2• When did Greenpeace ask people to boycott Shell?

3• How much was the fall in sales of Shell products in some countries?

4• When was the National Union of Students boycott of Barclays Bank?

5• How many people were in favour of the Esso boycott?

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The Guardian Weekly

Giving power to the people

Level 1 | Elementary

Giving power to the people

Ethiopia is a very poor country. It owes millions of dollars and many people there are dying of hunger. Recently the multi-national company Nestle asked Ethiopia to pay back $6 million dollars. This made a lot of people very angry. Some shoppers decided not to buy their usual KitKat chocolate bars or Perrier mineral water, both products made by Nestle. In other words, they decided to boycott Nestle products.
Boycotts have been very successful in the past. In June 1995 Greenpeace asked people to boycott Shell because Shell wanted to dump an old oil platform in the Atlantic Ocean. As a result of this boycott, sales of Shell products fell by 70% in some countries. A few days later Shell changed its decision to dump the oil platform.

During the 1980s, many people were angry about the apartheid government in South Africa. After a boycott by Britain's National Union of Students a lot of students moved their bank accounts from Barclays Bank to other banks. People were also asked not to buy South African oranges or South African wine and this boycott caused a lot of problems for the South African economy.
British comedian and activist Mark Thomas has made two television programmes about Nestle. He says that boycotts must have a clear aim and they must also be morally correct. "Each person has to feel that if they do not buy something they will make a difference", he says. "Boycotts can make companies really angry. You can boycott all kinds of products and this can give the company a negative image."
Scott Clouder, research manager of Ethical Consumer magazine says that boycotts are not always the best solution. "Groups campaigning against sweatshops, for example, do not ask people to boycott companies like Gap or Nike. They prefer to ask the companies to improve conditions for their workers. If you boycott their products, the companies will close the factories and the workers will lose their jobs".
Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth organised the Stop Esso campaign. This began because people were angry when President Bush did not sign the Kyoto Agreement. Many people thought that Esso was the most active anti-Kyoto company. Sales of Esso petrol fell by 7% in Britain as a result of the Stop Esso campaign and 47% of people said they were in favour of the boycott.

The Guardian Weekly 20-1-2003, *page 21*

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer

1• Why are people boycotting Nestle products?
- **a•** Because Nestle makes chocolate bars and mineral water.
- **b•** Because Nestle wants Ethiopia to pay $6 million.
- **c•** Because Nestle is a multi-national company.

2• Why did Greenpeace ask people to boycott Shell products?
- **a•** Because boycotts have been very successful in the past.
- **b•** Because sales of Shell products fell by 70% in some countries.
- **c•** Because Shell wanted to dump an oil platform in the Atlantic Ocean.

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Giving power to the people

Level 1 | Elementary

3• Why did the National Union of Students ask people to stop buying South African wine?

a• To protest against the apartheid government in South Africa.

b• To protest against Barclays Bank.

c• To help the South African economy.

4• Why is a boycott of Nike or Gap a bad idea?

a• Because they will improve conditions for their workers.

b• Because they might close their factories and the workers might lose their jobs.

c• Because it would be very expensive.

5• Why did the Stop Esso campaign begin?

a• Because people thought Esso was the most active anti-Kyoto company.

b• Because President Bush signed the Kyoto Agreement.

c• Because many people were in favor of the boycott.

4 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table

VERB	NOUN
1• decide	_____
2• solve	_____
3• produce	_____
4• sell	_____
5• agree	_____
6• boycott	_____
7• campaign	_____
8• work	_____

5 Vocabulary: Opposites

Find the words in the text that are the opposites of these words

1• rich _____

2• unsuccessful _____

3• new _____

4• wrong _____

5• positive _____

6• worst _____

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The Guardian Weekly

‘America wants war with all of us’

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Key words

Match the words with their meanings:

1• nationalism	**a•** a situation in which people, groups or countries join together
2• colonialism	**b•** a system in which people vote to choose their government
3• fundamentalism	**c•** a situation in which one country rules another country
4• unity	**d•** the wish for political independence for a group of people with the same language, history and culture
5• democracy	**e•** the belief that religious laws should be followed very strictly

2 Prefixes

Match the prefixes with their meanings:

1• pan-	**a•** for/in favour of
2• neo-	**b•** against
3• pro-	**c•** all
4• anti-	**d•** earth
5• geo-	**e•** new

‘America wants war with all of us’

If you want to know what Arab people think, Cairo is the perfect place. The former Egyptian leader, President Nasser, was the founder of pan-Arab nationalism and Cairo was also the birthplace of “political Islam”. Today everyone in Cairo is talking about two things: the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and the possibility of a war between the United States and Iraq.

Dia Rashwan, an expert on Islamic fundamentalism, believes that Bin Laden is not as popular now as he was last year. “But that doesn’t mean that people don’t hate the US,” he says. “Now they hate the US even more than before.” After the attacks of September 11th, things seemed very bad for the Arabs, but now they seem even worse. After September 11th, the US began its “war on terror”. Many Arabs think that this is a war on all Arabs. They think that in George Bush’s simple world of good and evil, the Arab countries and Iran are the evil ones.

Most Arab countries were under foreign rule for hundreds of years and their people wanted independence and the unity of the greater Arab “nation”. Now there is a danger that these dreams will be destroyed again. They have many social, economic and cultural problems and this means that it is very difficult for them to defend themselves against attacks from outside. The Americans say that these problems were the cause of the attacks on the US last year and many Arabs agree that this is true. They say that their countries need to change in order to have democracy and human rights.

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The Guardian Weekly

'America wants war with all of us'

Level 1 | **Elementary**

Muhammad Said is a journalist from al-Ahram, the best-known newspaper in Egypt. He believes that 90% of the problem comes from the Arab-Israeli conflict, which reminds Arabs that in the past they were colonies. Arabs think that the US only acts in favour of Israel. So the Arab world, says Said, is now in danger of "direct or indirect colonialism".

This kind of neo-colonialism means that the US will try to change the governments of countries they think are unfriendly to the US. The US will force "friendly" countries to introduce reforms. The plan, says Said, is to solve" the Palestinian question by war and the Arabs as a national group will suffer. After they have removed Saddam Hussein, the Americans want to make Iraq the centre of a new pro-American geo-political region.

Other countries will then have to do what the Americans tell them to do or they will suffer the same fate as Iraq. This will happen to unfriendly countries such as Syria, or traditional friends, such as Saudi Arabia.

If Arabs believed that the Americans wanted to introduce democracy to Iraq, they would support their actions against Saddam Hussain. But they don't believe this.

"The US may be preparing a big surprise for the region," says Lebanese journalist Saad Mehio, "but the Middle East may also be preparing a big surprise for the Americans."

The Guardian Weekly 12-9-2002, *page 7*

3 Comprehension

Decide whether these sentences are True or False (according to the article):

	True	False
1• President Nasser was the founder of political Islam.	☐	☐
2• Many Arabs hate the US more this year than they did last year.	☐	☐
3• Things seem better for the Arabs than they were just after September 11th last year.	☐	☐
4• Many Arabs think the "war on terror" is a war against them.	☐	☐
5• Most Arab countries are under foreign rule.	☐	☐
6• The attacks on the US last year were caused by social, economic and cultural problems.	☐	☐
7• Al-Ahram is the best-known Egyptian newspaper.	☐	☐
8• Many Arabs believe the US is trying to change the governments of friendly countries.	☐	☐
9• The Americans want to make Egypt the centre of a new pro-American region.	☐	☐
10• The Americans think Syria is a friendly country.	☐	☐

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The Guardian Weekly

'America wants war with all of us'

Level 1 | **Elementary**

4 Comparatives

Decide whether these sentences are True or False (according to the article):

	Comparative	Superlative
1• bad	_____	worst
2• well-known	better-known	_____
3• good	_____	best
4• friendly	friendlier	_____
5• popular	_____	most popular

5 Opposites

Put these 10 words into 5 pairs with opposite meanings:

good
friendly
love
war
better
hate
evil
unfriendly
worse
peace

6 Word Building

Complete the table. Use the text to help you.

Adjective	Noun
1• independent	_____
2• _____	economy
3• _____	friend
4• _____	foreigner
5• _____	culture
6• dangerous	_____

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The Guardian Weekly

World's richest man gives $100m 'gift'

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings:

1• a virus	**a•** to say that something will happen in the future
2• a donation	**b•** a special hospital for people who are dying
3• panic	**c•** now; at the moment
4• a hospice	**d•** a feeling of fear
5• a patient	**e•** a very small living organism that causes disease in people
6• to predict	**f•** something that makes you extremely angry or worried is _____
7• a pandemic	**g•** money given to an organisation to help people
8• unpopular	**h•** a disease which almost everyone in a large area catches
9• shocking	**i•** a person who receives medical treatment in hospital
10• currently	**j•** not liked by many people

2 Find the Information

Read the text and find the answers to these questions as quickly as possible:

1•How much money did Bill Gates give to fight HIV/Aids in India?

2•How many people in India will probably have the Aids virus by 2010?

3•How many people could die from Aids in India, China and Russia by 2025?

4•What percentage of the adult population of India has the HIV virus?

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The Guardian Weekly

World's richest man gives $100m 'gift'

Level 1 | Elementary

World's richest man gives $100m 'gift'

Luke Harding

Bill Gates is the richest man in the world. Recently he said that he would give $100 million to help people in India who have the HIV virus. The Indian government was unhappy about this, however. It said that Mr Gates' gift would cause "panic" in India because people would think that the problem of HIV/Aids in India was getting worse. Mr Gates was not worried by this reaction, however. "There is a big, big problem with Aids in India", he said. "And we have seen in other countries what happens with Aids if you don't take early action."

While he was in India he visited an Aids hospice in Delhi. Earlier, the Indian government said that it was very unhappy with a report which predicted that 20 million to 25 million Indians would probably have the virus by 2010. The report also said that India would soon be the country with the largest number of Aids cases. At the moment South Africa has most cases of Aids in the world.

A new, shocking report says that Eurasia - India, China and Russia – will soon have the same kind of Aids pandemic that is destroying sub-Saharan Africa. In these three countries Aids could kill between 43 million and 105 million people by 2025, it says. The report, published in an American magazine, will probably be very unpopular with India's rulers, who, as Bill Gates has found out, do not like listening to advice from foreigners.

Last week India's health minister, Shatrughan Sinha, said that it was not true that India would soon have an Aids epidemic. He said that these reports were completely wrong. The Indian government says that Aids prevention programmes are working and that the number of people with the HIV virus is around 4 million - 0.7% of India's adult population. Other experts say that 5 million to 8 million Indians are already infected.

India is a conservative, mainly Hindu country and people do not talk openly about sex.

In Indian films Indians are not even allowed to kiss each other. In a country like this, Bill Gates' donation to help fight Aids is certain to be unpopular with many people.

The Guardian Weekly 14-11-2002, *page 2*

3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings of the sentences with their endings:

1• Bill Gates gave $100 million to India…
2• The Indian government said Mr Gates' gift …
3• While Bill Gates was in India …
4• South Africa …
5• The new report says that …
6• India's nationalist rulers …
7• The Indian health minister said …
8• People in Indian films …

a• … he visited an Aids hospice.
b• … up to 105 million people will die of Aids in India, China and Russia by 2025.
c• … India would not have an Aids epidemic.
d• … to help fight HIV/Aids.
e• … has the largest number of Aids cases in the world.
f• … are not allowed to kiss each other.
g• … do not like listening to advice from foreigners.
h• … would cause panic in India.

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The Guardian Weekly

World's richest man gives $100m 'gift'

Level 1 | **Elementary**

4 Vocabulary Building I: Opposites

Find words in the text which mean the opposite of these words:

1• poorest **2•** happy **3•** popular **4•** better
5• late **6•** correct **7•** false

5 Vocabulary Building II: Prepositions

Fill the gaps using an appropriate preposition.

1• Bill Gates is the richest man _____ the world.
2• He sat _____ the floor.
3• The report was unpopular _____ the government.
4• They do not like listening _____ advice.
5• People do not talk openly _____ sex.
6• Up to 25 million people will have the Aids virus _____ 2010.
7• Aids could kill _____ 43 million and 105 million.
8• The report was published _____ an American magazine.

6 Review

These letters spell key words from the text. Rewrite them in their correct form.

1• otonaidn
2• ttnepai
3• mecdiieep
4• ntoeepvinr
5• dinteefc

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TheGuardianWeekly

Getting medicine for the poor

Level 1 | **Elementary**

1 Key Verbs

Fill the gaps using one of these words from the text:

suffer treat publish allow(ed) afford
agree protect develop save receive(d)

1• Scientists are trying to _____ a new drug against AIDS.

2• Special drugs are used to _____ malaria.

3• Millions of people _____ from malaria in poor countries.

4• Poor people cannot _____ to buy expensive drugs.

5• Drugs can _____ people from diseases.

6• Cheaper drugs could _____ lives in poor countries.

7• You are right! I _____ with you.

8• You are not _____ to smoke in here.

9• I _____ an important letter this morning.

10• They are going to _____ the report next week.

2 Vocabulary: Find the Word

1• Find a word which means the opposite of 'poor'.

2• Find a word which means 'illnesses'.

3• Find a word which means 'a special licence for a product'.

4• Find a word which means a serious disease caused by mosquitoes.

5• Fine a word which means the opposite of 'cheap'.

6• Find a word which means 'the detailed study of a subject in order to find out new information'.

7• Find a word which means 'someone with special knowledge of a subject'.

8• Find a word which means 'someone who writes a book or a report'.

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The Guardian Weekly

Getting medicine for the poor

Level 1 | **Elementary**

Getting medicine for the poor

Most of the news in the newspapers is bad but sometimes there is a story with good news. This is one of those stories. Millions of people around the world suffer from AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other serious diseases. There are medicines to treat these diseases but, for people in poor countries, these medicines are too expensive to buy. When a pharmaceutical company produces a new medicine, they receive a special licence called a patent. This licence means that the new medicine or drug is protected for a period of 20 years. The company that produced the drug can fix the price of the drug and no other company is allowed to produce the same drug or a copy of the drug for 20 years. At the moment, these patents operate all over the world, both in rich countries and in poor countries. The drugs companies say that they need patents so that they can get the money to pay for research to find new drugs and medicines. In rich countries people usually have enough money to pay for these drugs, but in poor countries people cannot afford to buy them and cannot treat diseases like AIDS and malaria.

Last month, however, a group of experts published a report which says that patents are very bad for poor countries. The report says that drug companies do not want to find new medicines for diseases of poor people in poor countries. It says that poor countries should be allowed to make copies of drugs and that if they cannot produce these copies themselves, they should be allowed to buy cheap drugs without patents from other countries.

The authors of the report were lawyers, scientists and a senior director from the drug company Pfizer. Of course, the pharmaceuticals industry does not agree with the report. "We need patents so that we can develop new medicines to fight disease both in the developed and the developing world", said a spokesman. But the report is the first sign that there might be a change in the patent system. This change could save millions of lives in the world's poorest countries. This really is good news!

The Guardian Weekly 3-10-2002, *page 24*

3 Comprehension check

1• Why are medicines expensive for people in poor countries?

a• Because they are protected by patents.
b• Because they are produced in rich countries.
c• Because they are imported.

1• How long do patents last?

a• 5 years.
b• 10 years.
c• 20 years.

3• Why do drugs companies need patents?

a• To get money to produce new drugs.
b• To sell drugs in poor countries.
c• To sell drugs in rich countries.

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Getting medicine for the poor

Level 1 | **Elementary**

4• What does the report say?
- **a•** Poor countries should spend more money on drugs.
- **b•** Poor countries should be allowed to make copies of drugs.
- **c•** Poor countries should import drugs.

5• What might happen if the patent system is changed?
- **a•** Drugs companies will stop producing drugs.
- **b•** Millions of lives will be saved in poor countries.
- **c•** Drugs companies will make more money.

4 Word Building

Complete the table. Use a dictionary to help.

	VERB	NOUN
1•	treat	_____
2•	produce	_____
3•	agree	_____
4•	develop	_____
5•	protect	_____
6•	operate	_____
7•	change	_____

5 Prepositions

Fill the gaps using a preposition. Check your answers in the text.

1• Millions of people suffer _____ AIDS.
2• Many people have no money to pay _____ expensive drugs.
3• People _____ poor countries cannot afford expensive drugs.
4• The pharmaceuticals industry does not agree _____ the report.
5• Patents are bad _____ poor countries.
6• Millions _____ lives could be saved.
7• Drugs are protected by patents _____ a period of 20 years.
8• These patents operate all _____ the world.

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The Guardian Weekly

A big clean-up

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading | Key Verbs

Fill the gaps using these key words:

waste rotten bin bury
incineration pollution recycling leak

1• Burning waste at very high temperatures is called _____ .

2• _____ is another word for rubbish.

3• _____ means using waste materials again.

4• If you put something in a hole in the ground and cover it with earth, you _____ it.

5• People usually put rubbish in a rubbish _____ .

6• When fruit becomes very old, it goes bad and becomes _____ .

7• Water and other liquids can _____ through holes.

8• The process of damaging the air, water or land with chemicals is called _____ .

2 Find the Info

Find the information in the text as quickly as possible.

1• What are the 3 usual ways of dealing with waste?

2• How much waste does the UK produce each year?

3• How much waste will the UK produce by the year 2020?

4• Why do European Union countries have to reduce landfilling?

5• What percentage of towns and cities in New Zealand have introduced zero waste?

6• How much household waste does Britain recycle?

7• What are dry recyclables?

8• What percentage of waste is difficult or expensive to recycle?

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The Guardian Weekly

A big clean-up

Level 1 | Elementary

A big clean-up

Joanna Collins

Waste is a big problem for many towns and cities. Usually, there are 3 ways of treating waste. One way is to burn it. This is called incineration. The waste is burned at very high temperatures. The second way is to put it in large holes in the ground and cover it with earth. This is called landfilling. The third way is to use waste products again. For example, it is possible to re-use glass bottles, paper and some kinds of plastic. This is called recycling.

The UK produces more than 20m tonnes of waste each year and by the year 2020 it will produce more than 40m tonnes. What will towns and cities do with so much rubbish? A new law from the European Union means that all European Union countries have to reduce landfilling because it is very bad for people's health and for the environment. Incineration is a possibility but there are problems with this. It is an expensive way of treating waste and it also produces pollution which is bad for health and the environment.

Now there is a new idea. It is called zero waste. With this method everything we buy will be made from materials that we can repair, re-use or recycle. Governments and industry must work together to introduce zero waste programmes.

In New Zealand 45% of all towns and cities have introduced zero waste policies. In Canberra, Toronto and California they believe that zero waste is a target that they can reach by the year 2015 at the latest

At the moment Britain recycles 11% of household waste, burns 8% and buries the rest in landfills. Canberra is already recycling 59% of its waste and Edmonton, Canada, recycles 70%. Most waste in our rubbish bins is organic waste and this can be very dangerous to our health because it becomes rotten and can then leak into the water system. Many towns and cities now separate organic waste, dry recyclables such as bottles and plastics, and dangerous materials such as batteries. Supporters of zero waste also say it can make money. Small businesses that recycle waste can create jobs in places where there is high unemployment. "This is a quiet revolution," says Warren Snow, of the New Zealand Zero Waste Trust. "Local people are turning waste into jobs".

15%-20% of waste is difficult or expensive to recycle. In the zero waste system, industries will not use these materials any more. Perhaps in twenty or thirty years time, we will all have zero waste and the world will be cleaner and healthier.

The Guardian Weekly 3-10-2002, *page 25*

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

1• What is landfilling?

a• Burning waste at very high temperatures

b• Treating waste materials so that they can be used again.

c• Burying waste in the ground.

2• Why is incineration a problem?

a• Because it produces dangerous smoke.

b• Because the European countries have to reduce incineration.

c• Because it is difficult to use.

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3• What is zero waste?
- **a•** It is the same as incineration.
- **b•** Recycling everything.
- **c•** Repairing, re-using or recycling everything.

4• When do the authorities in Canberra, Toronto and California believe they can reach the target of zero waste?
- **a•** Probably before 2015
- **b•** After 2015
- **c•** Many years before 2015

5• What happens to most household waste in Britain?
- **a•** It is burned
- **b•** It is buried
- **c•** It is recycled

6• Why is organic waste dangerous?
- **a•** Because it smells bad.
- **b•** Because it rots and can leak into the water system
- **c•** Because it cannot be recycled.

4 Vocabulary: Find the Word

Find:

1• A verb which means the opposite of 'increase'.
2• A noun which mean the air, water, land, animals and plants around us.
3• A verb which means 'to use again'.
4• A verb which means 'to divide people or things'.
5• An adjective which means the opposite of 'safe'.
6• A noun which means that there are not enough jobs for people who want to work.

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5 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table

	VERB	NOUN
1•	treat	_____
2•	produce	_____
3•	reduce	_____
4•	introduce	_____
5•	employ	_____
6•	support	_____ (person)

6 Vocabulary: Puzzle

Rearrange the letters to make key words from the text:

1• EZRO STEWA
2• CLERICYNG
3• CIGARNO
4• VEINNORMENT
5• NORATEINCINI
6• BIBRUSH

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Battle of the colas

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1 Key words and phrases

Fill the gaps using these key words and phrases from the text:

worth	stock market	rival	brand	consumer
fizzy	quarter	profit	snack	concentrate

1. A _____ drink has gas bubbles in it. Another word for this is 'carbonated' drink.
2. The _____ is the place where you can buy and sell shares in companies.
3. A _____ is 3 months of the year. January to March is the first _____.
4. A _____ is a small amount of food you eat between meals.
5. If you say how much something is _____, you state its value in money.
6. A _____ in business is another company selling the same products.
7. A _____ is someone who buys and uses goods or services.
8. _____ is money that you make by selling something.
9. If you _____ on something, you give all your attention to that thing.
10. A _____ is a product that has its own name. Coca-Cola is an example of a _____ .

2 Scanning

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. Which company is now worth more – Coca-Cola or PepsiCo?
2. How much was PepsiCo worth on December 12 2005?
3. What was the market value of Coca-Cola in 2000?
4. When did PepsiCo buy the fruit juice business Tropicana?
5. What percentage of its profits does Coca-Cola get from fizzy drinks?
6. How much were Coca-Cola's profits in the third quarter of last year?

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Battle of the colas

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Pepsi and Coca Cola are probably the most famous soft drinks in the world. For years Coca-Cola has been number one. Its sales have always been much higher than sales of Pepsi Cola. However, on December 12 2005 something changed. For the first time ever the Pepsi Cola company was worth more on the stock market than Coca-Cola. Pepsi Cola's market value was $98.4bn on December 12 while Coca-Cola was worth $97.9bn. The "real thing" was suddenly number two not number one.

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have been great business rivals for many years. Marketing students always study these two companies because they are examples of how to create a powerful brand from something very simple - both drinks are made of brown carbonated water mixed with caffeine and vegetable extracts. Now marketing students study them for another reason: PepsiCo because it can change its business when people's tastes change; Coca-Cola because it often cannot do this.

At the beginning of 2000 Coca-Cola's market value was about $128bn, almost three times more than PepsiCo, whose market value was $44bn. In developed markets like the US and Europe sales of fizzy drinks are not increasing. The main difference between the two companies now is that PepsiCo is moving away from sugary carbonated drinks because it realises that consumers are worrying more and more about their health.

In 1998 PepsiCo bought the fruit juice business Tropicana. Three years later it bought the energy drink Gatorade. Coca-Cola had the opportunity to buy Gatorade but its directors said the price was too high. That was a bad decision. Today PepsiCo has about 81% of the fast-growing sports drink market in the US. It has the number one fruit juice brand in Tropicana and the number one bottled water brand in the US, Aquafina. In last quarter of last year, sales of PepsiCo's non-carbonated drinks increased by 24%.

PepsiCo gets about 23% of its worldwide profits from the fizzy drinks sector while Coca-Cola gets 85% of its profits from fizzy drinks. PepsiCo also owns snack foods including Walkers Crisps and Doritos, and these different products help it to sell to supermarket chains.

Now Coca-Cola is trying to do the same. In June it started to sell Minute Maid fruit juice in Britain. It has also introduced the Dasani bottled water brand and the Powerade energy drink. Powerade is about one-fifth as big as Gatorade in the US. Dasani was not a success in Britain because it was made of ordinary tap water and consumers did not buy it.

Coca-Cola's problems probably started when its chief executive Roberto Goizueta died in 1997. Many people then lost their jobs and there were a lot

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of changes in the management of the company. In May 2004 the Irishman Neville Isdell became chief executive.

Mr Isdell was open about Coca-Cola's mistakes. He said there were no easy answers. He said that Coca-Cola had missed consumer trends and that its advertising was not effective. He promised an extra $400m for marketing and promised to sell more in growing markets such as China and India. The company is now spending more money on developing new products.

Now it seems that Mr Isdell is making some progress. Coca-Cola's profits have increased over the past year. In the third quarter of last year profits increased by 37% to $1.28bn, with very good sales in developing markets such as China, Russia and Latin America.
In the meantime PepsiCo is continuing to do well. It is concentrating on healthier products including Tropicana fruit bars and a carbonated version of Tropicana fruit juices.

3 Comprehension check

Answer the questions using either Coca-Cola or Pepsi:

1. Which company has 81% of the sports drinks market in the US?
2. Which company gets 85% of its profits from fizzy drinks?
3. Which company sells the sports drink Powerade?
4. Which company sells Aquafina bottled water?
5. Which company owns Walkers crisps and Doritos?
6. Which company made a profit of $1.28bn in the third quarter of last year?

4 Vocabulary 1: Money and numbers

Match the symbols and abbreviations with the words

1. $	a. pound(s)
2. %	b. million
3. £	c. billion
4. bn	d. euro(s)
5. €	e. per cent
6. m	f. dollar(s)

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5 Vocabulary 2: Words with market

Put the following words with the word 'market'. Do they go before 'market' or after it?

1. stock
2. value
3. sports drink
4. developed
5. growing
6. research

6 Vocabulary 3: Word building

Complete the table:

	Verb	Noun
1.	manage	_____
2.	develop	_____
3.	decide	_____
4.	sell	_____
5.	increase	_____
6.	produce	_____
7.	introduce	_____
8.	promise	_____

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