ConverSation Starter

News Stories for Conversation learners with listening, grammar, comprehension, and dictation





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ConversatioN Starter

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This book is designed for Students studying English at an Intermediate Level. The material in this book was specifically chosen to assist students in Advancing their English Conversation.
It Includes Lots of interesting stories and has exercises that include Grammar, Listening, Critical thinking and other fun exercises, geared to get students into discussions and lots of open talking.

Brought to you by

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A Life-Saving Cow

Six consecutive days of spring rain had created a raging river running by Nancy Brown's farm. As she tried to herd her cows to higher ground, she slipped and hit her head on a fallen tree trunk. The fall knocked her out for a moment or two. When she came to, Lizzie, one of her oldest and favorite cows, was licking her face. The water was rising. Nancy got up and began walking slowly with Lizzie. The water was now waist high. Nancy's pace got slower and slower. Finally, all she could do was to throw her arm around Lizzie's neck and try to hang on. About 20 minutes later, Lizzie managed to successfully pull herself and Nancy out of the raging water and onto a bit of high land, a small island now in the middle of acres of white water.

Even though it was about noon, the sky was so dark and the rain and lightning so bad that it took rescuers another two hours to discover Nancy. A helicopter lowered a paramedic, who attached Nancy to a life-support hoist. They raised her into the helicopter and took her to the school gym, where the Red Cross had set up an emergency shelter.

When the flood subsided two days later, Nancy immediately went back to the "island." Lizzie was gone. She was one of 19 cows that Nancy lost. "I owe my life to her," said Nancy sobbingly.



New Words	Translation
acre n.	_____
attach v.	_____
consecutive adj.	_____
hoist n.	_____
immediately adv.	_____
lightning n.	_____
manage v.	_____
moment n.	_____
paramedic n.	_____
raise n & v.	_____
rescuer n.	_____
shelter n.	_____
sob v.	_____
subside v.	_____
support v.	_____
trunk n.	_____
waist n.	_____

Comprehension Exercises

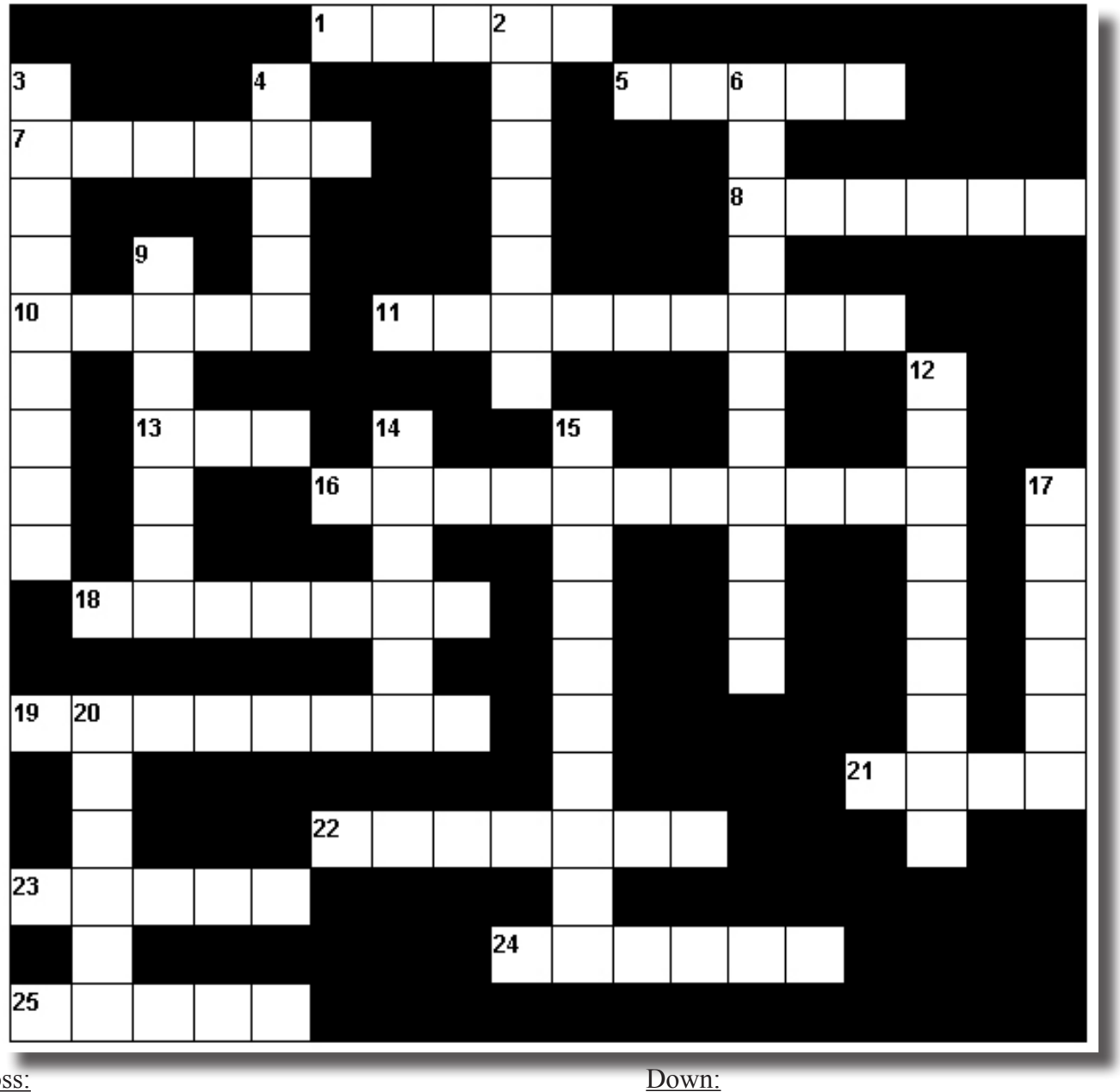
• Making Sentences - Choose 5 words from the new vocabulary :

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____

• Answer the Following Questions :

1. Why was Nancy saving only the cows?
   _____
2. Why did Nancy slip and fall?
   _____
3. What kinds of animals are on a typical farm?
   _____
4. Why did Nancy grab the cow's neck?
   _____
5. Where was Nancy going with the cows?
   _____
6. Why are helicopters sometimes better than planes?
   _____
7. Where was Nancy's family?
   _____
8. What was Nancy's condition when the paramedic rescued her?
   _____

• Complete the Crossword Puzzle :



Across:

1. Mechanics use a ___ to ___ an engine out of a car.
5. If you know the answer, ___ your hand.
7. Australia is a continent but also an ___.
8. To succeed in almost anything, you must know how to ___ your time.
10. The ___ is the thickest part of most trees.
11. A ___ or two often ride in an ambulance.
13. Many people ___ when friends or family members die.
16. Joe DiMaggio hit safely in 56 ___ baseball games.
18. Mountain towns use trained ___s to find lost hikers.
19. My ___ actress is Jennifer Lopez.
21. 208.7 feet by 208.7 feet = 1 ___ of land.
22. Your home is also your ___ from the weather.
23. For many older men, their ___ is bigger than their chest.
24. Inside, you walk on the floor. Outside, you walk on the ___.
25. Baseball players must know how to ___ and catch the ball.

Down:

2. Our family and friends ___ us when we are having problems.
3. ___ strikes the Earth every second of the day.
4. ___, and the door will open (they say).
6. If you are bitten by a poisonous snake, you should see a doctor ___.
9. When the storm ___s, we will go outside and check the damage.
12. Dial 911 in case of ___.
14. The doctor will see you in a ___ (they say).
15. A ___ needs no runway in order to land or to take off.
17. The doctor will see you in a ___ (they say).
20. People and their pets are very ___ed to each other.

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____
6. _____
   _____
7. _____
   _____
8. _____
   _____
9. _____
   _____
10. _____
    _____

Freeway Chase Ends at Newsstand



A 24-year-old Los Angeles man was taken to a hospital and then to county jail after leading police on a one-hour freeway chase in a stolen SUV. The chase ended in downtown Los Angeles in front of the Spring Hotel. Most of the chase was uneventful, except for an empty bottle of whiskey that the driver threw at one police vehicle.

When the driver got into downtown, things started to happen. He ran over a fire hydrant. The water spewed out of the hydrant, causing a geyser that ruined all the books in several carts that a vendor had put outside to attract customers into his bookstore. The driver hurriedly turned west onto Grand Avenue and managed to bang into three parked cars on one side of that street and two cars on the other side. The driver also tried to run over a police officer, who was standing in the crosswalk ordering him to halt.

Turning north, the driver caused a bus to slam on its brakes to avoid a collision. The bus was empty, and the bus driver was uninjured. However, two police cars that were pursuing the SUV from different directions were not so lucky. One of them ran into the front of the bus, and the other into the back. Because the drivers had braked early enough, the damage to their cars was minor. Both officers resumed the chase.

They only went two blocks north to find that the SUV had come to a full stop because it had plowed into a newspaper stand. The driver, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was slumped behind the steering wheel. The proprietor of the newsstand was yelling at the driver and shaking a magazine at him. The police called for the ambulance. They charged the driver with failure to yield to a police officer and driving under the influence.



Comprehension Exercises

• New Words - Translation :

chase	*v.*	_____	*pursue*	*v.*	_____
collision	*n.*	_____	*resume*	*v.*	_____
damage	*n.*	_____	*ruin*	*v.*	_____
failure	*n.*	_____	*slump*	*v.*	_____
geyser	*n.*	_____	*spew*	*v.*	_____
halt	*n.*	_____	*uneventful*	*adj.*	_____
hydrant	*n.*	_____	*vehicle*	*n.*	_____
minor	*adj.*	_____	*vendor*	*n.*	_____
plow	*v.*	_____	*whiskey*	*n.*	_____
proprietor	*n.*	_____	yield	v.	_____

• Making Questions :

Instructions: Write the questions for the following answers. Begin each question with the "Hint" word.

1. He was taken to a hospital. (Hint: Where)

_____

2. The chase ended in downtown Los Angeles. (Hint: What)

_____

3. The driver threw an empty bottle at a police vehicle. (Hint: What)

_____

4. When the driver got into downtown, things started to happen. (Hint: When)

_____

5. The water spewed out of the hydrant. (Hint: What)

_____

6. He hurriedly turned west onto Grand Avenue. (Hint: How)

_____

7. The driver tried to run over a police officer. (Hint: Who/Whom)

_____

8. Two police cars were not so lucky. (Hint: Which)

_____

9. The SUV went two blocks north. (Hint: Where)

_____

10. They charged the driver with failure to yield to a police officer. (Hint: What)

_____

• Critical Thinking - Open Questions :

Instructions: Answers to the following questions will vary.

1. How do the police notify drivers to stop?

_____

2. Why does a suspect start a freeway chase?

_____

3. What is the difference between a highway and a freeway?

_____

4. Why didn't the police shoot during the chase?

_____

5. What is a newspaper stand?

_____

6. What does "driving under the influence" mean?

_____

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____
6. _____
   _____

• Writing - Short Paragraphs :

Instructions : Look at the picture and create your own short story. Try to use some of the Vocabulary from the Main article. Remember to always check your Spelling and Grammar!!!



Title: _____

Grammar Exercise - 1

- Confusing Words :

Choose the correct answer - { big, great, high, large or tall } -

1. There is a nice house with a _____ garden.
2. Albert Einstein was a _____ physicist.
3. She is a very _____ child for her age.
4. A _____ rate of inflation makes exports uncompetitive.
5. My mother is six feet _____ .
6. He is making a _____ mistake.
7. Can you see the _____ trees behind the lake?
8. The city has a _____ level of pollution.
9. This pullover isn't _____ enough.
10. My grandfather lived to a _____ age.

Choose the correct answer - { there, their or they're } -

1. Where are your parents? _____ out.
2. The children did _____ homework yesterday afternoon.
3. _____ is a cat in the garden.
4. The boys are playing football with _____ ball.
5. Where are the CDs? _____ in the box.
6. _____ brother is a car mechanic.
7. Have you seen my book? - Yes, it's over _____
8. Mandy and Tom are waiting for _____ mother.
9. We went to London and stayed _____ for two weeks.
10. They have forgotten to brush _____ teeth.

Choose the correct answer - { life, live, lives or lived } -

1) Angela _____ in Argentina.
2) You must go to the _____ concert of Robbie Williams.
3) Abraham Lincoln _____ in the 19th century.
4) There is no _____ on the sun.
5) Do you still _____ in this small house?
6) This is a _____ recording.
7) _____ is short.
8) The body showed no signs of _____ .
9) He's _____ here all his life.
10) This show is going out _____ .

Grammar Exercise - 2

• Vocabulary in use :

Fill in the following words into the gaps.

ancient, ballads, band, been, English, evidence, figure, his, king, lips, name, no, outlaws, sung, than, this, the, was, wrapped

Of all the popular heroes of the _____ people, none has ever achieved an equal _____ and fame with Robin Hood. For more _____ six hundred years, songs and ballads of _____ famous outlaw have been familiar on the _____ of the peasantry. Kings and princes have _____ forgotten, but not Robin Hood and his _____ of bold followers in merry Sherwood Forest. _____ adventures were told in rhymes, which were _____ at village merry-makings. We have no clear _____ of Robin Hood's life history: all is _____ in the dim mist of legend and _____ history. There are students of the old _____ and stories who say that Robin Hood _____ an actual leader in Sherwood Forest, a _____ of the greenwood, a true and living _____, and there are others who say that _____ doings of a famous band of _____ have gathered about his name, and that _____ real Robin Hood existed.

• Sentence Building :

Correct and/or Finish the sentences below :

1. after the tornado struck the small town

_____

_____

2. please read the chapter on sentence analysis

_____

_____

3. they would like to collect money for the charity

_____

_____

4. because you know that I dislike peanut butter

_____

_____

5. as the actress finished reading her monologue

_____

_____

Mayors and Their Football

Two mayors made a bet on the outcome of the Vegetable Bowl, the annual football game between their high school teams. If Arvada's team lost, the mayor of Arvada would send the mayor of Boulder ten pounds of sliced potatoes, ready for frying. If Boulder's team lost, the mayor would send ten pounds of sliced tomatoes, ready for sandwiches or salads.



Unfortunately, before the game started, the mayor of Boulder overheard the Arvada mayor tell someone: "They grow the worst tomatoes. If they lose and send us their tomatoes, I'm going to give them all to my pig." The mayor of Boulder was upset to hear this, because he thought Boulder's tomatoes were the best in the state. So he gave the matter some thought.

The following week, the big game was played. Boulder lost its star quarterback in the first half when he tripped over a cheerleader and sprained his big toe. The quarterback glumly watched the rest of the game from the bench. His team ended up losing, 38 to 12. The two mayors shook hands after the game, and the Arvada mayor said, "I'm really looking forward to those tomatoes." As the Boulder team left the stadium, some unhappy fans threw ripe tomatoes at them.

A week later, the mayor of Arvada received a package of beautifully sliced tomatoes. He took them straight to his pig, which gobbled them right up. That night the mayor of Boulder asked his wife if Arvada's mayor had called. "No," she said. "Why?" "Because I mixed a pint of hot sauce into the tomatoes and I wanted to know how his pig's doing."

Comprehension Exercises

• New Words - Translation :

annual	*adj.*	_____	*ripe*	*adj.*	_____
bench	*n.*	_____	*salad*	*n.*	_____
cheerleader	*n.*	_____	*sandwich*	*n.*	_____
glumly	*adv.*	_____	*sauce*	*n.*	_____
gobble	*v.*	_____	*slice*	*n.*	_____
mayor	*n.*	_____	*sprain*	*v.*	_____
package	*n.*	_____	*stadium*	*n.*	_____
pint	*n.*	_____	*unfortunately*	adv.	_____

• Wh- Questions (Give a complete answer) :

1. Who made a bet?

_____

2. How often does the Vegetable Bowl occur?

_____

3. What were the prizes for the bet?

_____

4. How many pounds of sliced potatoes were there?

_____

5. What can you do with sliced potatoes?

_____

• Yes / No - Questions (Give a complete answer) :

1. Did two mayors make a bet?

_____

2. Does the Vegetable Bowl contain lettuce and tomatoes?

_____

3. Does the Vegetable Bowl occur twice a year?

_____

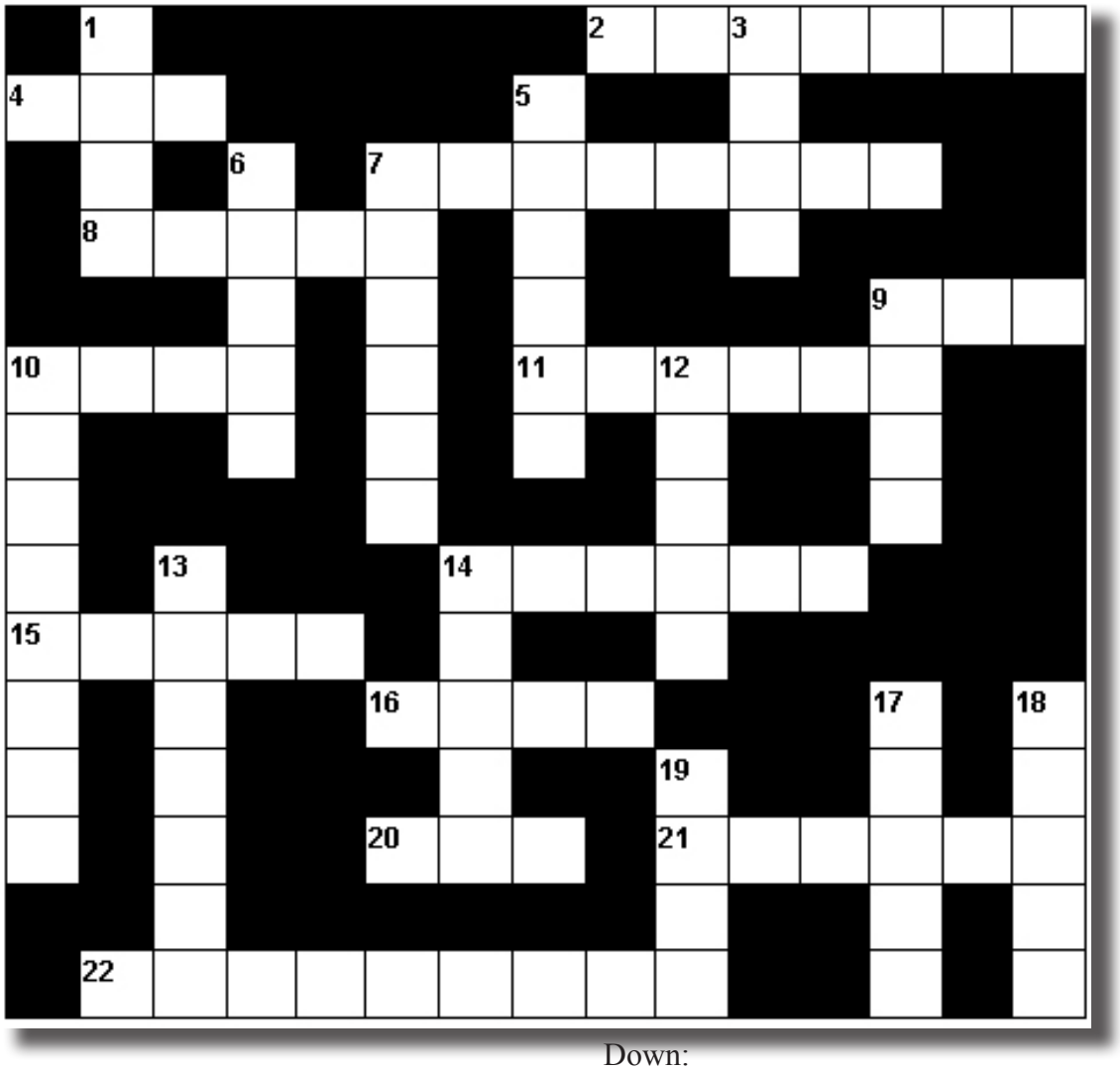
4. Are sliced potatoes ready for frying?

_____

5. Are sliced tomatoes ready for planting?

_____

• Complete the Crossword Puzzle :



Across:

2. Sometimes you have to 'read ___ the lines' to understand something fully.
4. 'One ___ all, all ___ one.'
7. '___' is the usual name all over (well, most of) the world for 'soccer.'
8. 'Don't shoot until you see the whites of ___ eyes.'
9. I'll ___ a dollar to a doughnut on that.
10. Don't ___ your boss an angry email. Write it, just don't ___ it.
11. Is it a vegetable or a fruit?
14. Elementary ___, high ___, ___ of fish.
15. 'Could have, ___ have, should have.'
16. ___ five, ___ times, ___ on life.
20. 3:50 is also ___ (minutes) to 4.
21. Christmas and Thanksgiving are ___ holi days.
22. Moms are always telling kids to eat their ___s.

Down:

1. '___ in space.' '___ in thought.'
3. 'Take one for the ___.' 'There's no 'I' in ___.' 'A ___ effort.'
5. 'Couch ___.'
6. --Are you ___, Eddie? --Yes, I'm ___, Betty. --OK, then, let's go.
7. ___ pans are used for cooking and some times as weapons.
9. Coffee comes in a cup, soup comes in a ___.
10. Peanut butter and jelly ___, ham ___, Earl of ___.
12. ___ of a town, governor of a state, president of a nation.
13. The two mayors made a bet on the ___ of the game.
14. 'The greatest invention since ___d bread.'
17. '___ for ___, he is the greatest boxer ever.'
18. In restaurants, there should be a sneeze guard over the ___ ingredients.
19. 'You ___ your bed, now you must sleep in it.'

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____
6. _____
   _____
7. _____
   _____
8. _____
   _____
9. _____
   _____
10. _____
    _____

Book Him

A man accused of failing to return more than 700 children's books to five different libraries in the county was released from jail yesterday after a book publisher agreed to post his bond of $1,000. The publisher said, "There's a story here. This is a man who loves books. He just can't let go of them. He hasn't stolen a single book. So what's the crime? We think that Mr. Barush has a story to tell. We plan to publish his story."



When asked why he didn't return the books, Mr. Barush said, "Well, how could I? They became family to me. I was afraid to return them, because I knew that kids or dogs would get hold of these books and chew them up, throw them around, rip the pages, spill soda on them, get jam and jelly on them, and drown them in the toilet."

He continued, "Books are people, too! They talk to you, they take care of you, and they enrich you with wisdom and humor and love. A book is my guest in my home. How could I kick it out? I repaired torn pages. I dusted them with a soft clean cloth. I turned their pages so they could breathe and get some fresh air.



"Every week I reorganized them on their shelves so they could meet new friends. My books were HAPPY books. You could tell just by looking at them. Now they're all back in the library, on the lower shelves, on the floors, at the mercy of all those runny-nosed kids. I can hear them calling me! I need to rescue them. Excuse me. I have to go now."

Comprehension Exercises

• New Words - Translation :

accuse	*v.*	_____	*release*	*n. & v.*	_____
crime	*n.*	_____	*rescue*	*n. & v.*	_____
drown	*v.*	_____	*wisdom*	*n.*	_____
enrich	*v.*	_____	*publish*	*v.*	_____
humor	*n.*	_____			

• Expressions :

Instructions : Use the following Expressions to make your own Situations

a) at the mercy of exp.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

b) get hold of exp.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

c) let go of exp.

_____

_____

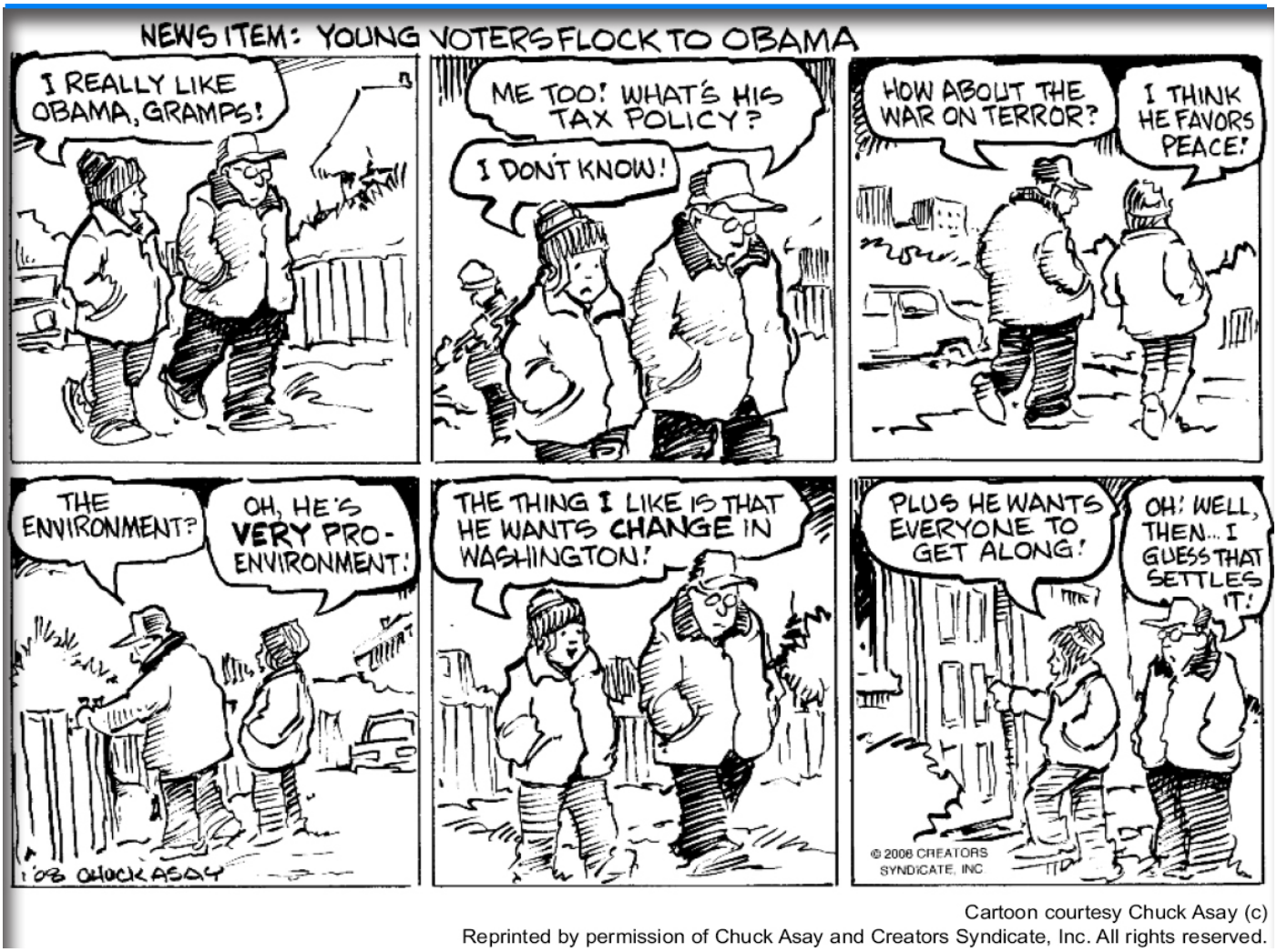
_____

_____

_____

_____

Cartoons for the Classroom



Cartoon courtesy Chuck Asay (c)
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Tooning into the campaign:

How do YOU judge a candidate?

Talking points

1. Pointed questions get empty answers when a young voter explains why she supports a candidate in Chuck Asay's cartoon. "He's very pro environment"
   . . . "I think he favors peace" . . . "He wants everyone to get along." Is this voter really informed about the issues? Can you come up with better answers about the candidate you favor?
2. Where do you get your information about a candidate? Services like YouTube, FaceBook, and MySpace -- as well as the Internet itself -- are transforming the way information is disseminated. What source is best for unbiased, factual information about a candidate?
3. Turnout among young voters is hitting record numbers in the 2008 primary season. Do you think young voters are more informed or less informed than older voters about the important issues ? (How old is "older" by the way?) What's driving young voters to the polls today?

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____
6. _____
   _____
7. _____
   _____
8. _____
   _____
9. _____
   _____
10. _____
    _____

Grammar Exercise - 3

- Word Order :

Form statements using the following words/phrases.

1) she / writes / letters / often

_____

2) to music / Marlen / is listening / now

_____

3) play / they / handball / in the evening / always

_____

4) did / I / my homework / in my room / not

_____

5) in Berlin / can / his uncle / he / visit

_____

6) lunch / we / not / yesterday / had / at school

_____

7) often / it / in Scotland / rains

_____

8) Victoria Station / leaves / the bus / at 7 o'clock

_____

Form questions using the following words/phrases.

1) when / get up / you / in the morning

_____

2) like / they / cola

_____

3) who / the window / broke

_____

4) Kaito and Sakura / from Tokyo / are

_____

5) why / James / so tired / is

_____

6) you / your homework / have / done / yet

_____

7) what / Angela / like / for breakfast / does

_____

8) How / your grandmother / is

_____

Grammar Exercise - 4

- Word Order - Continued :

Rewrite the sentences/questions using the words/phrases in brackets.

1) Have you been to Canada? (ever)

_____

2) We watched the film. (last weekend)

_____

3) The cat is playing. (in the garden)

_____

4) The boy ran out of the room. (quickly)

_____

5) Rita speaks English. (fluently)

_____

6) We have met him. (before)

_____

7) Did you see Mr Fisher? (yesterday morning)

_____

8) They are flying. (to Rome / on Tuesday)

_____

Which sentence is correct?

1.a) She always arrives late in the morning.
b) She arrives always late in the morning.
c) Both sentences are correct.

2) a) Who are you?
b) Where are you?
c) Both sentences are correct.

3) a) Where are you from?
b) From where are you?
c) Beide Fragen sind richtig.

4) a) In the evening I watch TV.
b) I watch TV in the evening.
c) Both sentences are correct.

5) a) Who are you waiting for?
b) For who are you waiting?
c) Both sentences are correct.

6) a) My friend gave me a book.
b) My friend gave a book to me.
c) Both sentences are correct.

7) a) He's going to buy a present to his sister.
b) He's going to buy his sister a present.
c) Both sentences are correct.

8) a) They play hockey in the stadium every Friday.
b) Every Friday they play hockey in the stadium.
c) Both sentences are correct.

9) a) Judy reads often magazines.
b) Judy often reads magazines.
c) Both sentences are correct.

Water Under the Sink (1)



The 36-year-old bachelor ate his usual lunch at home. He had an apple, a ham sandwich with a sliced dill pickle, a bowl of chicken noodle soup with a couple of soda crackers, and a small candy bar, all washed down with an eight-ounce glass of milk.

After he finished breakfast, Ed put everything in the sink, poured a little dishwashing soap onto a Teflon pad, and scrubbed the soup bowl, the sandwich plate, and the milk glass. Then he switched on the garbage disposal to grind up the few bits of food that he had scraped off his plate. He left the kitchen to go brush his teeth. But he felt something wet on his bare foot. Sure enough, he looked down and saw some water on the kitchen carpet. “What is this?” he said aloud.

Opening the cabinet door under the sink, he saw no dripping water. He went to the closet and got a flashlight. When he shined the light into the cabinet under the sink, he saw drops of water on the sides of the dark blue steel cylinder. It looked like he had a leaky garbage disposal. To test his theory, he turned on the switch, and a stream of water flowed out of a seam onto the cabinet floor and then onto the kitchen carpet. Ed had a problem, but he didn’t have time to fix it now. He had to run some errands. He put some tape over the switch so he couldn’t accidentally turn the disposal on again.

Comprehension Exercises

• New Words - Translation :

accidentally	*adv.*	_____
bachelor	*n.*	_____
bare	*adj.*	_____
cabinet	*n.*	_____
cracker	*n.*	_____
cylinder	*n.*	_____
dill	*n.*	_____
grind	*v.*	_____
leaky	adj.	_____
pickle	n.	_____
scrape	v.	_____
scrub	v.	_____
slice	n.	_____
errand	n.	_____
garbage disposal	n.	_____
Teflon	n.	_____

• Making Questions - (Give complete questions) :

1. Ed switched on the garbage disposal to grind up food. (Why)

_____

2. The water was on the kitchen carpet. (Where)

_____

3. Ed had a dill pickle. (What kind of)

_____

4. He opened the cabinet door. (What)

_____

5. Ed went to the closet. (Where)

_____

6. Ed went to the closet to get a flashlight. (Why)

_____

7. Ed shined the light into the cabinet. (Where)

_____

8. Ed turned on the switch. (What)

_____

9. Ed had to run some errands. (What)

_____

10. Ed put some tape over the switch. (What)

_____

Water Under the Sink (2)

Ed came home from his errands and put the groceries into the cupboard and the refrigerator. He grabbed a flathead screwdriver and a pair of pliers from his toolbox. In the kitchen, he got down on his hands and knees and turned on the flashlight. After a couple of minutes of looking, he decided what to do. He had never opened up a disposal before, but there is a first time for everything.



The cylindrical disposal was about 7 inches in diameter and had a horizontal seam dividing the top half from the bottom half. The halves were held together by three screws. Ed jiggled the bottom half of the disposal; it was loose because two of the three screws were corroded. Only one screw was still doing its duty. Ed unscrewed it.

The bottom half of the disposal was now lying on the cabinet floor. Ed thought for sure that it would be full of months-old food, but there was no food, only a hardened, torn, useless gasket. The next day Ed went to the hardware store to buy some screws and a new gasket. The employee told him that they did not carry those gaskets and suggested that he write to the manufacturer. Ed returned home. He created his own gasket by using gasket sealant that comes in a tube. He applied the sealant, screwed the two halves back together, and crossed his fingers.

The next day he turned on the water and switched on the disposal. When he saw the water pouring out of the seam, Ed knew one thing: it was time to buy a new disposal. The good thing was that new disposals started at $79. The bad thing was that it would have to be installed by a plumber. Plumber rates started at about $80 an hour. Ed decided that since the disposal used a lot of energy and the world needed to use less energy, from now on he would put his scraps into the kitchen garbage bag. He reminded himself to tell everyone at work tomorrow about how he was now helping to solve the world's energy problems.



Comprehension Exercises

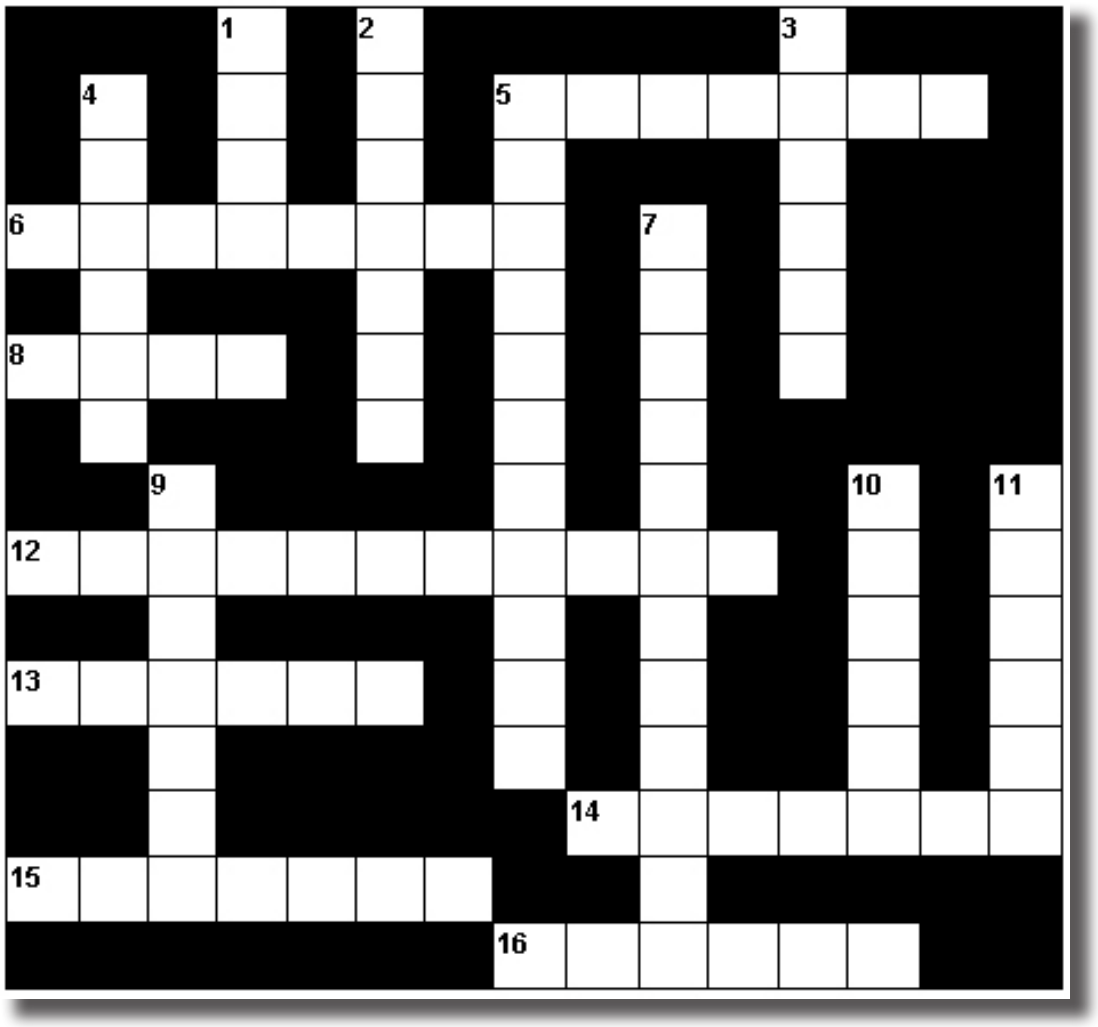
• New Words - Making sentences :

Instructions: Use 10 of the following words to make sentences.

jiggle	v.	corrode	v.
manufacturer	n.	cylindrical	adj.
pliers	n.	diameter	n.
plumber	n.	energy	n.
refrigerator	n.	gasket	n.
remind	v.	grab	v.
scraps	n.	grocery	n.
screwdriver	n.	horizontal	adj.
seam	n.	install	v.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

• Complete the Crossword Puzzle :



Across:

5. If you have a wooden deck behind your house, you have to put a ___ on it every year or two to protect the wood from rotting in the rain.
6. The ___ of a circle is the measure of its widest part, through its center. The radius of a circle is half the length of the ___.
8. It's not polite to ___ something at the dinner table. You should ask someone to pass it to you, please.
12. Pipes, tubes, and straws have a ___ shape.
13. Please ___ me to pick up some milk at the grocery store. -OK. Remember to pick up some milk at the grocery store. Don't say I didn't ___ you.
14. You can buy your groceries at a ___ store.
15. Water will ___ many metals, causing them to rust.
16. People often feed their dog ___ of food left over from dinner.

Down:

1. '___' is where two pieces of cloth are sewn together. Pants length is a measurement of the in___.
2. When you are online, after you download a software program, you have to ___ it, sometimes with an installation wizard.
3. ___s are often made of rubber or cork. They help prevent various liquids from leaking out.
4. ___ are a great tool for pulling nails out of a piece of wood.
5. People use a ___ to tighten or loosen a screw.
7. The ___ of a product uses one or more factories to ___ that product.
9. If you have problems with your drains or toilet, call the ___.
10. Ice cubes ___ in a glass when you shake the glass slightly.
11. Kids, who are always running around, have a lot more ___ than grandparents, who are always sitting around.

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____
6. _____
   _____
7. _____
   _____
8. _____
   _____
9. _____
   _____
10. _____
    _____

Conversation Exercises

• Conversation Questions : Science & Medicine

Science & Medicine

1. Who is the most famous scientist from your country? What did he/she do?

2. In what ways has science most advanced society?

3. In what ways has science had a negative impact on society?

4. What do you think about evolution and other theories of natural selection?

5. Do you like studying science? Why or why not?

6. What natural disasters occur in your country? Explain why they happen.

7. How do you feel about cloning? Do you think it's ethical for scientist to clone animals? What about human organs?

8. In your opinion, what's the greatest medical advancement of the past century? Why?

9. How has science influenced the way detectives investigate crimes?

10. Do you think there is life on other planets? If so, how close is it and what does it look like?

11. What's your favorite branch of science? (For example, biology, physics, astronomy.)

12. Do you know how your computer works? If so, explain how.

13. How have you personally benefitted from developments in modern medicine?

14. What do you think will be the greatest medical breakthrough in the next ten years?

15. What scientist do you respect the most and why?

Picture Analysis

- Critical Thinking and Open Discussion

Which of these pictures do you like the most? Why
Can you think of a suitable comment to describe these pictures?



Paradise Hotel

Theodore, the manager of the Paradise Hotel, told a middle-aged couple that they would have to leave the hotel after just one night. The couple, visiting from Texas, had booked a room for eight nights.

"They wanted a sterile environment," Theodore said. "They should have rented a room in a hospital, maybe an operating room. This hotel is clean, but it isn't that clean."

Theodore said that, on the very first day, the couple brought all the sheets, pillowcases, and bedspreads down to the main lobby and just dropped them next to the front desk. They stood there next to this pile of bedding while other guests looked, pointed, and murmured. The hotel got three cancellations within the hour from people who witnessed this strange event.

When Theodore asked the couple what the problem was, they said that their bedding was filthy and they wanted it replaced. The couple could not identify any specific "filth" on the bedding. The wife just said, "We're paying good money to stay here. How dare you doubt us? We know the filth is there. That's all the proof you need." Theodore called room service, and the bedding was replaced immediately.

Early the next evening, however, the couple marched to the front desk again and demanded seven cans of spray disinfectant. "We need a can for each night. We have to spray the phone, the TV, all the door handles, the toilet handle, the shower stall, the faucet, the sink, and any hotel staff entering our room."

Worried about what their demands might be in the following days, Theodore politely suggested that a hotel more suitable for them was just around the corner. He then called ahead to reserve a "very clean" room, and gave them free transportation in the hotel limousine.



"They seemed surprised that I suggested a different hotel, but they liked the idea that I didn't charge them for the second day, and they really liked the limousine service," said Theodore.

Comprehension Exercises

• New Words - Translation :

bedspread	*n.*	_____	lobby	n.	_____
cancellation	*n.*	_____	murmur	n. & v	_____
disinfectant	*n.*	_____	pillowcase	n.	_____
environment	*n.*	_____	reserve	v.	_____
faucet	*n.*	_____	sheet	n.	_____
filthy	*adj.*	_____	stall	n.	_____
identify	*v.*	_____	sterile	adj.	_____
limousine	*n.*	_____	witness	n. & v.	_____

• New Words - Translation :

Write a short composition about your Summer Vacation and your travels.

• Making Questions - (Give complete questions) :

1. Theodore reserved a very clean room. (What kind of)

_____

2. The limousine was free. (How much)

_____

3. Theodore manages the Paradise hotel. (Which)

_____

4. They booked a room. (What)

_____

5. The couple booked it for eight nights. (How long)

_____

6. Their bedding was filthy. (How)

_____

7. They replaced the bedding. (What)

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____

2. _____
   _____

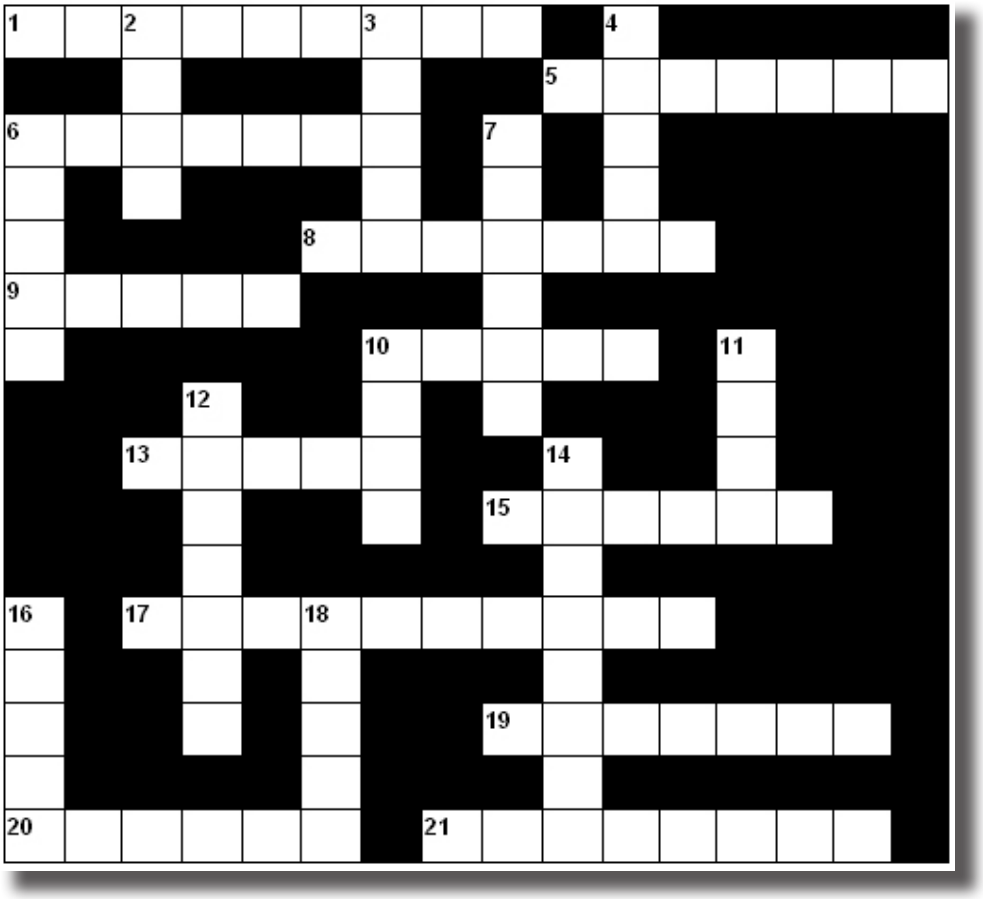
3. _____
   _____

4. _____
   _____

5. _____
   _____

6. _____
   _____

• Complete the Crossword Puzzle :



Across:

1. Grandma knitted a beautiful ___ for every bed in the house.
5. --I love you. ___, I'm not IN love with you. --That's ok. ___you feel about me won't change how I feel about you.
6. The truth is ___r than fiction. Never take candy from ___rs.
8. Medical instruments should always be ___. Non___ instruments might contain bacteria and viruses.
9. '___ to bed, ___ to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.'
10. I ___ that I can fix my computer, but I will try anyway.
13. 'Don't mess with ___.' The second biggest state. GW Bush lives here.
15. You meant to write a check for $100, but you wrote it for $1000? You'd better call the bank and ___ that check!
17. We thought our son had a problem when we saw him put his cat into a ___ and swing the ___ around and around to make the poor cat dizzy.
19. Many states require you to have a ___ at your wedding. The police found a ___ who saw the robbery. 'Eye___ News' is ABC News.
20. Toilets, sewers, and ashtrays are ___. Dirty old men have ___ minds.
21. --Don't say that I always forget. That's vague. Be more ___. Name one time, just one time, that I forgot. --You mean today?

Down:

2. --I ___ to jump across this ditch. You won't do it because you're chicken. --I am not chicken. Watch this!
3. Births, birthdays, and weddings are happy ___s. Funerals are sad ___s.
4. Travelers usually sleep in motels, inns, hostels, or ___s. Or their cars if they have little money.
6. People prefer to sleep on fresh, clean ___s.
7. If you have a 'heart ___,' you should see a doctor. The students ___ed when the teacher surprised them with a pop quiz.
10. A laptop is portable. A ___top computer isn't.
11. A ___ of dirty clothes. A ___ of dirt. A ___ of papers.
12. Sheets, blankets, and pillowcases.
14. Heaven. Eden. Some people think that Hawaii is ___ on Earth.
16. It's easier to convict someone if you have ___. A ___reader catches and fixes speling erors.
18. The ___ is a busy place in a hotel. People check in, check out, and meet each other here.

Grammar Exercise - 5

- Confusing Words :

Choose the correct word in each sentence below.

1. All of the soldiers (accept except) my brother are out of step.
2. Please (accept except) this pot of Mom's chicken soup.
3. The soup will cure anything (accept except) flat feet.
4. Please put everything (accept except) pickles on my hamburger.
5. You may keep all of his gifts (accept except) the ring.
6. If you (accept except) the ring, you'll have to marry the bum.
7. Should the Trojans (accept except) this lovely wooden horse from the Greeks?
8. I can resist anything (accept except) temptation.
9. That there are other universes is now an (accepted excepted) theory.
10. The committee loves your proposal and (accepts excepts) it unanimously.

- Sentence Corrections :

Repair grammar and punctuation errors in the sentences below.

1. The little girl spoke so quiet that I could hardly hear her.

_____

2. Each driver should check the oil level in their car every three months.

_____

3. I hated to ask Anita who is a very stingy person to lend me money.

_____

4. She decided to quit her high-pressured job, she didn’t want to develop heart trouble.

_____

5. The flakes in this cereal tastes like sawdust.

_____

6. Much of my boyhood was devoted to getting into rock fights, crossing railway trestles, and the hunt for rats in drainage tunnels.

_____

7. Turning on the ignition, the car backfired.

_____

8. I asked the clerk if the store had Stevie Wonders latest CD.

_____

9. The decisions of the judge seems questionable.

_____

10. Earlier in the day, she took a taxi to the airport. Knowing that her time was limited.

_____

Grammar Exercise - 6

- Active-Passive Voice :

Change each *passive voice* sentence into the *active voice*.

1. The winning novel was chosen by a panel of famous fiction writers.

_____

2. Four motorists were killed by car accidents over the Chuseok weekend.

_____

3. The book on glaciers was never sent to the bookstore by the publishers.

_____

4. A ball traveling at incredible speed was thrown by the veteran pitcher.

_____

5. The dishes were cleared from the table by the impatient server.

_____

6. English sheepdogs are bred and raised by the kennel on 3rd Avenue.

_____

7. We were amazed by some of the performances.

_____

8. Adequate medical benefits should be insisted on by every employee.

_____

9. A motion was made to table the matter by three committee members.

_____

10. A note was written on the brown paper bag by the grocery clerk.

_____

Fill in the the following words into the gaps.

Arizona, brush, customs, dies, down, dry, farming, firewood, horse, houses, into, miles, moving, people, reservation, round, stands, still, towns, tribe, used, white

Of all the popular heroes of the _____ people, none has ever achieved an equal _____ and fame with Robin Hood. For more _____ six hundred years, songs and ballads of _____ famous outlaw have been familiar on the _____ of the peasantry. Kings and princes have _____ forgotten, but not Robin Hood and his _____ of bold followers in merry Sherwood Forest. _____ adventures were told in rhymes, which were _____ at village merry-makings. We have no clear _____ of Robin Hood's life history: all is _____ in the dim mist of legend and _____ history. There are students of the old _____ and stories who say that Robin Hood _____ an actual leader in Sherwood Forest, a _____ of the greenwood, a true and living _____, and there are others who say that _____ doings of a famous band of _____ have gathered about his name, and that _____ real Robin Hood existed.

Happy and Unhappy Renters



Samantha, like many renters, is tired of renting. One reason is that her annual rent goes up like clockwork. Every year her landlord raises the rent five percent. Another reason is her neighbors. "New neighbors always seem to be more inconsiderate than the ones who moved out," she said. "My first neighbor was a door-slammer; I always knew when he came home or left home. After he moved out, a saxophonist moved in. A saxophonist! He practiced two hours a day. On Saturday his friends would come over and I'd get to listen to a whole band. I called the police, but they said saxophone playing is permitted in apartments for up to four hours a day, because saxophone playing is job-related. They told me I was lucky that the guy was only playing two hours a day!"

There are many unhappy renters, but there are also happy renters. "I've been lucky my whole life," said Howard, a middle-aged man. "My neighbors couldn't have been any better if I had picked them myself. One neighbor was a chef. He'd bring me the best leftovers in the world. Another neighbor was a pianist. She played the most delightful music. Another neighbor was a mechanic who did my tune-ups and changed the oil in my car. My latest neighbor is a birder; we go birding every weekend with our binoculars."



Different persons have different attitudes. Samantha saw the saxophone player as irritating, yet Howard saw the piano player as delightful.
Millions of people would be happy just to have a roof over their head. Yet there are millions who would complain that their roof is the wrong color.

Comprehension Exercises

• New Words - Translation :

attitude	*n.*	_____	*leftovers*	*n.*	_____
chef	*n.*	_____	*mechanic*	*n.*	_____
clockwork	*n.*	_____	*pianist*	*n.*	_____
complain	*v.*	_____	*raise*	*v.*	_____
delightful	*adj.*	_____	*rent*	*n.*	_____
inconsiderate	*adj.*	_____	*roof*	*n.*	_____
irritate	*v.*	_____	*saxophone*	*n.*	_____
landlord	*n.*	_____	*slam*	*v.*	_____

• Expressions :

Instructions : Use the following Expressions to make your own Situations

a) I was lucky

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

b) see someone as irritating

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

c) two hours a day

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

• Wh - Questions :

Instructions: Answers the following questions with full sentences.

1. What is Samantha tired of?

_____

2. Why is Samantha tired of renting?

_____

3. How often does Samantha's landlord raise the rent?

_____

4. How much is Samantha's annual rent increase?

_____

5. Why does Samantha dislike her neighbors?

_____

6. What does a saxophonist play?

_____

7. How long did the saxophonist practice?

_____

8. Which day would the saxophonist's friends come over?

_____

• Making Questions - (Give complete questions) :

1. Samantha's rent goes up annually. (What)

_____

2. Samantha's landlord raises the rent every year. (How often)

_____

3. Her landlord raises Samantha's rent every year. (Who)

_____

4. Her landlord raises the rent five percent. (How much)

_____

5. Samantha's first neighbor slammed doors. (What)

_____

6. Her first neighbor slammed doors when he came home or left home. (When)

_____

7. A saxophonist was Samantha's second neighbor. (Who)

_____

8. The saxophonist would practice with his friends. (Whom)

_____

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____
6. _____
   _____
7. _____
   _____
8. _____
   _____
9. _____
   _____
10. _____
    _____

FUN ActivitY (-Y + ieS)

- Word Up !!! :

MISSING WORD

1. At the next intersection, go _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ahead. (8 letters)
2. Can you think _ _ the missing word in this sentence? (2 letters)
3. A manager has to _ _ _ _ _ many decisions. (4 letters)
4. Our boss was sick, so we _ _ _ to cancel the meeting. (3 letters)
5. It's cold outside. You should put _ _ your coat. (2 letters)
6. There was no room on the bus. It was _ _ _ _ . (4 letters)
7. Yesterday I _ _ _ _ _ _ the tickets for the train. (6 letters)

CROSSWORD CLUES

1. A person from another country. f _____
2. What do you taste food with? t _____
3. Rude. i _____
4. The joint connecting the foot and the leg. a _____
5. A tool for digging. s _____
6. A large area of dry land. d _____
7. A note used in business. m _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. If today is Wednesday, Friday is
   a) the next two days b) the next tomorrow c) the day after tomorrow
2. If you lose something, you must
   a) look after it b) look it over c) look for it
3. Which is invisible?
   a) oxygen b) glass c) smoke
4. Meteorology is the study of
   a) meteors b) planets c) the weather
5. A doctor's job is to
   a) repair people b) cure people c) charge people
6. Which word is not the opposite of 'simple'?
   a) confused b) complicated c) complex
7. If you are not asleep, you are
   a) wake up b) awake c) awoke

Mastermind - QUIZ

SCIENCE

1. Blood is filtered by which pair of organs?
2. Which planet is the fifth from the sun?
3. Who developed the theory of relativity?
4. Which chemical element is represented by the symbol N?
5. In which organelle of a living cell is DNA found?
6. Which travel faster, light or sound waves?

Jupiter
Light Waves
nucleus
The kidneys
Albert Einstein
nitrogen

GEOGRAPHY

1. In which country is Mount Everest?
2. Which continent has the biggest population?
3. What is the capital city of New Zealand?
4. In which continent is the Sahara desert?
5. Name the two longest rivers in the world.
6. Which ocean is to the east of Africa?

Wellington
Indian Ocean
Amazon, Nile
Asia
Africa
Nepal

SPORTS

1. What is longest running race in the Olympic Games called?
2. Who won the 2003 British Open golf tournament?
3. In snooker, what is the colour of the last ball potted?
4. What nationality is the tennis player Lleyton Hewitt?
5. In which sport can you throw a 'curve ball'?
6. Which team won the 2003 Formula One car racing championship?

Australian
Baseball
Ferrari
marathon
Ben Curtis
black

MUSIC

1. Which pop singer married British movie director Guy Ritchie?
2. Which rock group did George Harrison belong to?
3. Which classical composer became deaf near the end of his life?
4. How many strings does a bass guitar usually have?
5. In what country did reggae music originate?
6. How many instruments are there in a string quintet?

Beethoven
five
Madonna
Jamaica
The Beatles
four

Eggs and a Bunny

Easter Sunday was a cloudy but festive day in Memorial Park for about 100 kids from local orphanages. An Easter egg hunt started at 10 a.m. when a fire engine blasted its horn. Boys and girls, ranging in age from 2 to 6, dashed throughout the park, yelling and screaming, walking and running, and quite often, falling down. One little girl, Amanda, found her first egg less than a minute after the horn blew. Instead of putting it into her basket and continuing to search for more, she sat down. Then she spent the next 10 minutes examining it, unwrapping it, and eating it piece by piece. When she finished, she put the wrapper into her basket, wiped her hands on her white dress, and went to hunt for another egg.

Meanwhile Jeff, one of the older boys, filled his basket to overflowing. He asked one of the firemen to hold it for him, and then took off running for more candy eggs. As soon as he found some, he put them into the basket of the child closest to him. Two little toddlers both saw a candy egg at the same time, and they both bent over to pick it up. They banged heads, and both of them sat down bawling. A couple of volunteer nurses picked them up and told them that everything was going to be all right.



By 11 a.m., the search was over. Most of the kids were studying their candy, exchanging it with others, or eating it. But then the fire engine horn blasted again, causing three-year-old Jenny to cry. A fireman on a bullhorn told everyone to gather around, because a special guest had arrived.

Once everyone was settled, the Easter Bunny climbed down out of the fire engine. The bunny was 6'6" tall. Most of the kids cheered and ran toward him. Even Jenny stopped crying for a moment. She stared at the bunny and at all the kids running toward the bunny; then she started crying even harder. The Easter Bunny hugged the kids, and they hugged him. Then the Easter Bunny sat on a fire engine step, and one by one the kids came up, sat on his lap, and got their pictures taken. After that, the older kids were allowed to explore the fire engine itself.

The festivities ended about 3 p.m., when the orphans climbed into the buses for the return trip home. Most of them said they had a fun time. Six-year-old Sara asked, "Can we do this every Sunday?" And more than one boy asked, "Can I drive the fire engine next time?"

Comprehension Exercises

• New Words - Translation :

bawl	*v.*	_____	*nurse*	*n.*	_____
blast	*v.*	_____	*orphan*	*n.*	_____
cheer	*v.*	_____	*orphanage*	*n.*	_____
dash	*v.*	_____	*scream*	*v.*	_____
examine	*v.*	_____	*toddler*	*n.*	_____
explore	*v.*	_____	*volunteer*	*n.*	_____
festive	*adj.*	_____	*wrapper*	*n.*	_____
festivity	*n.*	_____	*yell*	*v.*	_____
memorial	*adj.*	_____	*Easter*	*n.*	_____

• Yes / No questions - Answer with full sentences :

1. Was Easter Sunday a cloudy day?

_____

2. Were there about 100 kids in Memorial Park?

_____

3. Were the kids with their parents?

_____

4. Did the Easter egg hunt start at about 10 p.m.?

_____

5. Did a fire engine blast some water?

_____

6. Were the kids two to six years old?

_____

7. Did Amanda find an egg?

_____

8. Did Jeff find many eggs?

_____

9. Was the Easter egg hunt over in one hour?

_____

10. Did the Easter Bunny kiss the kids?

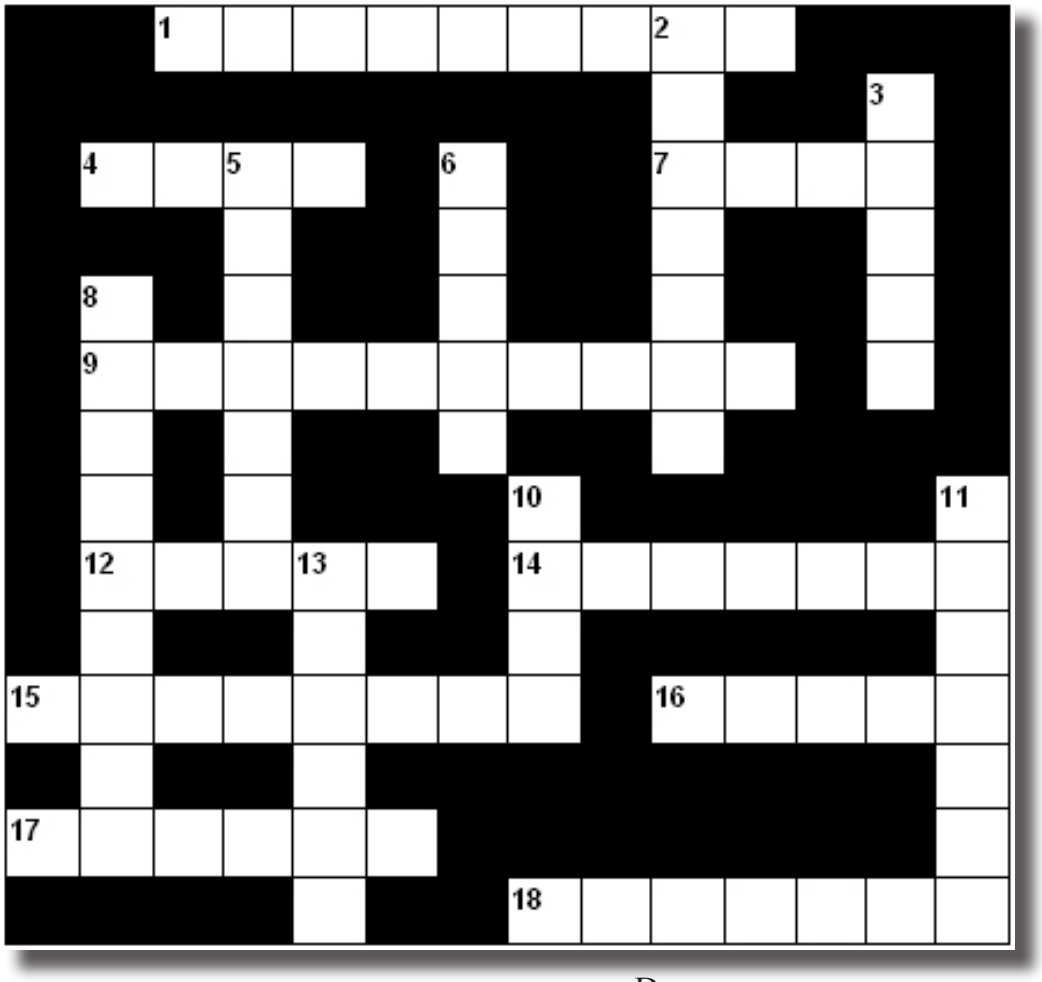
_____

• Listening Exercise :

Dictation - Listen carefully and write exactly what you hear. Pay attention to Spelling, Punctuation and Always Check Your Grammar !!!

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____
3. _____
   _____
4. _____
   _____
5. _____
   _____
6. _____
   _____
7. _____
   _____
8. _____
   _____
9. _____
   _____
10. _____
    _____

• Complete the Crossword Puzzle :



Across:

1. New Year's Eve is a time of ___ all over the world.
4. The lost little girl was ___ing because she couldn't find her mommy. No one could make her stop crying.
7. Mommy ___ed out to the swimming pool in the back yard when she heard a yell and a splash.
9. ___ are homes for orphans.
12. A ___ practitioner, who is not quite a doctor, makes more money than a registered ___.
14. The doctor will ___ you in the examination room.
15. If someone is run over while crossing the street, friends might build a ___ of burning candles on the sidewalk to honor that person.
16. The dynamite ___ed a huge hole in the mountainside.
17. If your parents die or desert you when you're young, you become an ___.
18. When people move to a new city, they often ___ it to find out where everything is.

Down:

2. A ___ is a young child, often one who has just learned how to walk.
3. --Bob is depressed. Is there anything we can do to ___ him up? --I don't know. Maybe if we find him a new girlfriend, that will ___ him up.
5. Candy bars usually come in ___s. You have to take off the ___ before you can eat the candy bar.
6. A young child would probably call a lion a 'kitty' and a rabbit a '___.'
8. Doctors Without Borders ___ their time and skill to help sick people worldwide. They do it for free.
10. They say that if you ___ at a mountain lion, it won't attack you. It will leave you alone. Yep, that's what they say. Good luck.
11. If you're in a ___, or gay, mood, you want to party.
13. When the little girl met ET for the first time in the movie 'ET,' she ___ed be cause she was so frightened.