

**NEWS ABOUT BRITAIN:
GET INTERESTED?**

Навчально-методичний посібник
(за матеріалами статей "BBC News")
(за ред. Копчак Л. В., Познанського Р. В., Чаграк Н. І.)

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Посібник призначений для студентів та викладачів вищих навчальних закладів, а також для усіх, хто зацікавлений вивченням англійської мови. Використано тексти для читання з матеріалів «BBC News» і практичний матеріал для розвитку та вдосконалення усного і письмового англійського мовлення.

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INTRODUCTION

News about Britain: Get Interested? is designed for students at intermediate level and above, and aims to give practice in use of a wide range of words and expressions that occur when talking about everyday life. In this book you will find interesting texts, examples of words and phrases used in everyday life, along with relevant practice exercises, so that you can put your knowledge to use straight away. You can use the book to consolidate the vocabulary you have already acquired, to help you start using words that you recognize but rarely use, and to build up a wide range of new phrases. You may want to use the units that relate to a particular topic that interests you.

The book is divided into 30 chapters, each of which contains a text, key vocabulary for the text, with an explanation in full of the meaning, and activities (reading quiz – true / false sentences, word searchers, practising the vocabulary which is explained, discussion and post-reading activity: learners are asked to relate the information in the article to their own lives (personalisation) or exchange their opinions on issues in the text). The exercises are particularly useful for work in the classroom, but they can also be used for self-study.

At the beginning of the book there is a topic which represents some important issues of the developing of newspapers reading skills. At the back of the book there is a vocabulary related to common journalism language. There is also an answer key for the exercises used in each chapter at the end of the book.

We thank *BBC News* for the material and believe that *News about Britain: Get Interested?* will prove to be a right tool for learners of English.

NEWSPAPER READING SKILLS

Reading is one of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Listening and reading are receptive skills and they are aimed at perceiving, comprehending, and processing information in oral or written form. We have to relate words and notions behind those words, to understand how the words are connected in a sentence, and how the sentences are linked into one whole text. Finally, to make sense of the text we have to relate the information in it to our knowledge of the world.

In light of the communicative approach to language learning, newspaper reading means comprehending a written article by extracting the required information from it as efficiently as possible. For example, while looking through job ads in a newspaper we mean to locate the jobs of a particular type. A competent reader will quickly reject the irrelevant information and find what she is looking for. On the contrary, more detailed comprehension is necessary when carefully reading an article of special interest in a scientific journal.

In general, there are two main reasons for reading a newspaper article:

- 1) Reading for pleasure**
- 2) Reading for information**

The communicative approach to language learning defines the following reading subskills:

If we read to identify the topic of a text, to get a general idea of what it is about, we read for gist. This is called **skimming**. When skimming, we go through the reading material quickly in order to get the gist of it, to know how it is organized, or to get an idea of the tone or the intention of the writer.

If we read an article just to find a specific piece or pieces of information which may or may not be the main points and which are pre-specified by the purpose of the reading, we read for specific information. This is called **scanning**. We only try to locate specific information and often we do not even follow the linearity of the passage to do so. We simply let our eyes wander over the text until we find what we are looking for, whether it be a name, a date, or a less specific piece of information.

READING STRATEGIES

Skimming and scanning are major reading subskills necessary for quick and efficient reading. In addition to these major reading subskills a number of minor reading strategies are often specified for focusing on in learning reading.

- 1) using context to guess meaning of new words
- 2) skipping unknown words
- 3) relying on cognates, international and borrowed words to guess meaning
- 4) avoiding translating while skimming or scanning
- 5) avoiding translating every unknown word to understand
- 6) highlighting key ideas
- 7) highlighting specific information for easy reference
- 8) previewing the text to estimate how long it will take to read, how difficult and interesting it will be and then go back and read
- 9) using subheadings and pictures to get a general idea of what the text will be about
- 10) using a dictionary to look up those new words which are essential to comprehending
- 11) looking back and ahead to link parts of the text
- 12) searching for clues in the context
- 13) using general knowledge to guess meaning
- 14) thinking aloud to clarify a puzzling sentence.

This list may well be continued. Most of the listed reading strategies are on the subconscious level and come from general reading ability in one's native language.

In reading for pleasure any of the above ways of reading may be used depending on what the reader wants from her reading.

Another way of looking at ways of reading is to consider to what extent the article gets exploited for learning purposes. We can differentiate between **extensive** and **intensive** reading.

Extensive reading means reading longer texts, usually for your own pleasure. This is a fluency activity, mainly involving global understanding. It aims at developing speed of reading and guessing strategies.

Intensive reading means reading shorter texts in order to extract specific information and to examine language, i.e. to work out the grammar of a particular sentence, to look for all the words related to a topic, etc. This is more an accuracy activity, aimed at accurate understanding of the text. The aim of these activities is to make learners more aware of how language is used.

These different ways of reading are not mutually exclusive. For example, we often skim through a passage to see what it is about before deciding whether it is worth scanning a particular paragraph for the information we are looking for.

As a rule the final stage of intensive text processing deals with relating the information in it to our life experience and knowledge of the world and interpreting this information.

Text Selection

TEXT, COHESION AND COHERENCE

Text is the verbal record of a communicative event. Whether a set of words and sentences constitute a text or not, depends on cohesive relationships within and between the sentences. These cohesive relationships form the principles of connectivity which bind a text together and force co-interpretation. In other words, in a text the interpretation of some element is dependent on that of another. You are unable to decode some element without finding what it refers to within the same text. For example in the following sentence- 'I've spoken to Kim today. She sounded very happy.' She in the second sentence refers back to Kim in the first sentence. The referent for she can be found by looking back into the text. Thus she is given the identity of Kim.

We should keep in mind that there are several types of reading and they depend on one's reasons for reading. You will never read efficiently unless you can adapt your reading speed and techniques to your aim when reading. By reading all texts in the same way, you would waste time and fail to remember points of importance to you because you would absorb too much non-essential information.

As a rule there are three main stages in a reading lesson:

Pre-reading activities: an introduction to the topic. These activities draw in your current knowledge or attitude to the subject, and create the state of anticipation preparing you for a 'dialogue' with the text. Through an introduction activity you form a number of questions which you expect to find answers to in the text, and while reading you are looking for those answers. This expectation is inherent in the process of reading which is a permanent interrelationship between the reader and the text. Pre-reading activities, for example, may include the following tasks:

- 1) predicting from the title the content of the text
- 2) guessing the content from the list of key words
- 3) discussing illustrations to the text

4) answering questions about the topic and thus eliciting background information

While-reading activities: a series of comprehension activities aimed at creating meaning of the text. Sometimes the same text is read a few times, each time with a different task. These activities focus on understanding cohesive grammatical and lexical relations within sentences and between parts of the text. This stage can be also used to focus on new structures and vocabulary of the lesson when a reading passage is a means of introducing new language. Or it may include awareness-raising activities. They all aid comprehension. For example,

- 1) questions of different kinds: open or multiple-choice questions
- 2) true/false statements
- 3) choosing the best title
- 4) decision-making activities: drawing a diagram with the information given in the text
- 5) completing a table or a document, solving a problem
- 6) matching exercises: headings and paragraphs, questions and answers
- 7) comparing several texts in their content or points of view
- 8) activities aimed at developing study skills, such as using a dictionary
- 9) leaving out unessential information by highlighting key ideas and words
- 10) note-taking and summarizing
- 11) guessing the meaning of unknown words
- 12) making inferences and reading between lines
- 13) jig-saw reading
- 14) ordering a sequence of pictures

Post-reading activities: learners are asked to relate the information in the article to their own lives (personalisation) or exchange their opinions on issues in the text. The ability to evaluate and assess the text in order to develop critical reading skills is the aim here.

Chapter 1

BRITISH OSCAR SUCCESS

The **cast and crew** of British movies will no longer be **hailed as** the **underdogs** at awards ceremonies. At the recent 81st Oscars ceremony, British actors and movies won no less than 11 awards.

The list of Oscar winners is usually **dominated** by American films and actors but 2009 has seen a more **international flavour** to the ceremony. British actors and actresses have long awaited such **global recognition**. Kate Winslet was nominated six times for an Oscar before she eventually won the Best Actress award at this year's ceremony. *Slumdog Millionaire* **lived up to** its status as a global success and movie phenomenon. The low-budget movie **swept the board** winning eight Oscars, including Best Director and Best Picture. The movie, which documents the life of a young Indian boy after he wins a TV game show, has definitely helped to **raise the profile** of the British film industry. Summarising the national feeling, British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, issued a statement saying "Britain is showing it has the talent to lead the world".

A spokesman for the UK Film Council agreed with Mr Brown's comments but added that many of this year's movie winners have **benefited from** national funding. "With our **lottery funding** for *Man on Wire* and *The Duchess*, and Film4's support for *Slumdog Millionaire*, last night proved that government support for film can deliver success **on a global scale**", he said. Addressing the growing **feravour** for British film, *Slumdog* director Danny Boyle has **urged** people to remain calm and **to be realistic** after his remarkable Oscar success. "You've got to be careful of claiming that this marks the **renaissance** of the British film industry. It is one film", he said.

Glossary

cast and crew – actors and people who have been involved in the filming

hailed as – called

underdogs – here, someone who is not expected to win a contest

dominated – here, it means that it's American films and actors who usually win most of the Oscars

international flavour – if an event has an international flavour, it means people from many countries take part in it

global recognition – becoming popular/well-known around the world

lived up to – hasn't failed, proved **swept the board** – had a lot of success (by winning in several categories)

raise the profile – improve the reputation; make (the British film industry) known more widely

benefited from – took advantage of, enjoyed

lottery funding – money raised by selling National Lottery tickets to the British public and spent on various causes (here, on financing film production)

on a global scale – around the world

fervour – extreme passion, great enthusiasm

urged – strongly advised, encouraged

to be realistic – to take, or accept things as they are, rather than have unlikely hopes for the future

renaissance – a revival/rebirth, a new interest in something

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. The British film industry won 11 Oscars at the 81st Academy Awards Ceremony.

True / False / Not given

2. British actors and actresses often win Oscars. **True / False / Not given**

3. The success of the movie Slumdog Millionaire has helped the British film industry. **True / False / Not given**

4. The British prime minister believes that a lot of talented people work in the UK film industry. **True / False / Not given**

5. Some of the winning movies had received money from the UK government or other national organisations. **True / False / Not given**

2. Order of Adjectives

Arrange the words to make sentences. Think about the order of the adjectives.

1. great is Chinese This a martial arts film.

2. horror It was a old terrible movie.

3. movie had classical brilliant a The soundtrack.

4. film rather a unrealistic has The ending.

5. British are two They outstanding actresses.

3. Film genres

What type of movies were these people watching? Match a word below to each comment:

action *animation* *horror* *musical* *romantic*

comedy *science* *fiction* *war* *western*

1. "The film was so frightening that I had to close my eyes".
2. "I don't usually like movies about love and relationships but this one was really funny".
3. "The audience obviously enjoyed this movie because everyone was singing along".
4. "It was a typical cowboy film. There was a showdown at a saloon, a corrupt sheriff and a girl in need of rescue".
5. "Although this was not a true story, I thought the film quite accurately depicted a soldier's life during battle".
6. "I knew before I watched this movie that it was going to be fantastic. After all, the film is about an alien invasion".
7. "The car-chase and the stunts in this movie were awesome".
8. "I think the person who illustrated this film deserves an Oscar".

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 2

THE APPRENTICE: YOU'RE FIRED!

One of Britain's most popular **reality TV** programmes has returned to our screens for a fifth series. The Apprentice sees 16 **ambitious** individuals competing for a job with electronics **tycoon** Sir Alan Sugar. With endless talk of credit-crunches, redundancies and cut-backs, it may come as no surprise that thousands of **plucky** hopefuls applied for the show. The chosen 16 will compete in a series of business tasks and do their best **to escape elimination**. Not one of them wants to hear the **fateful** words: you're fired.

It should also be noted that this year's **budding** apprentices are not going to be allowed to forget the grim economic climate quite so easily. At the launch of this year's TV show, Sir Alan announced that some episodes have been "specifically made towards recognition of what difficult times we are in".

The tasks will as usual be **gruelling** tests of **business acumen**, team-working and leadership skill. They will also make for some hilarious viewing. British viewers will be shaking their heads in disbelief at the crazy decisions of the **wannabe** apprentices.

But perhaps the most entertaining feature of the show will be watching the hopefuls **squirm and squabble** in the boardroom. It is here they will have to explain just why they have failed each task so badly.

What drives people to take part in the show is difficult to say. Some are clearly motivated by the promise of a **six-figure salary** and some claim they want the experience of working with a successful businessman such as Sir Alan. One thing is for sure, the contestants will all gain some level of celebrity. The show **is a regular ratings winner**. And to date, there has been one big winner and that is the show's creator, Mark Burnett. Originating in the US, The Apprentice's winning format has been copied all over the world and with the **hype** surrounding this latest series, it looks as though the show will have success for many years to come.

Glossary

reality TV – television programmes which don't use scripts and show what's actually happening to the people taking part; a reality TV show usually features a competition

ambitious – having strong desire for success

tycoon – someone who has succeeded in business or industry and has become very wealthy and powerful

plucky – brave (informal)

to escape elimination – here, to stay in the show, not to get rejected

fateful – that have serious consequences (here, hearing these words means for a contestant that he or she is no longer in the show)

budding – beginning to develop or show signs of future success
gruelling – extremely tiring and difficult, demanding great effort and determination
business acumen – a person's knowledge and ability to make profitable business decisions
wannabe – somebody who tries to be like somebody else (informal)
squirm and squabble – move and argue nervously
a six-figure salary – money that you get for the work you've done that is at least £100,000
is a regular ratings winner – is seen by many people every time it's shown; is always very popular
hype – a lot of publicity intended to excite public interest

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. The Apprentice is a TV game show. **True / False / Not given**
2. Sir Alan Sugar is a successful businessman in the UK. **True / False / Not given**
3. The weekly tasks test how well the potential apprentices work together. **True / False / Not given**
4. The winner of The Apprentice will get a job with an annual salary of at least £100,000. **True / False / Not given**
5. The winner of The Apprentice will get Sir Alan Sugar's job. **True / False / Not given**

2. Business idioms

Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to business. Try to match the idiom to its definition.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a. get off the ground | 1. <i>to be serious about something</i> |
| b. get a break | 2. <i>to successfully start something</i> |
| c. make a go of | 3. <i>to give someone a job</i> |
| d. mean business | |

4. *to get a good opportunity*

e. take on

5. *to do something well*

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above

1. I really think I deserve a promotion. When will I _____?

2. We are going to outsell all of our competitors this month. I _____.

3. We are understaffed. I think we need to _____ another administrator.

4. We have a great team and excellent products. I think we can really _____ this business.

5. Starting a new business is very difficult. You need a lot of support to _____.

3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 3

SUSAN BOYLE: AN UNLIKELY SUPERSTAR?

Less than a few weeks ago Susan Boyle was a **virtual unknown**. However, since auditioning for Britain's Got Talent, a televised talent competition, she has **experienced a stratospheric rise to fame**. A YouTube video of her audition has been watched by more than 26 million people, making it one of the most watched videos on the internet in recent times. It is **undeniable** that technology such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter has helped **to spread the word about** Susan's performance.

So just what is it about Susan that the people find so fascinating? Arguably, it is the fact she is such a **class act**. However, many have suggested that her biggest appeal lies in her **unassuming persona**. Susan's persona and appearance have been somewhat controversial and the initial reaction to her audition has made many people question whether they **are guilty of judging a book by its cover**. With her **plain Jane**, middle-aged looks and her **no-nonsense approach to** life, Susan is perhaps the most unlikely star to be discovered of late.

Commenting on her rise to fame, Max Clifford, a renowned **PR guru**, said that the massive public interest in her is partly due to people having to challenge their own assumptions and **prejudices**.

So what's next for Susan? For the moment, she is preparing for her next appearance on Britain's Got Talent and she is the **odds-on favourite** to win. Looking forward, with talk of record contracts and celebrity duets, it is very likely that we'll soon be seeing a Susan Boyle album in the charts!

Glossary

a virtual unknown – not at all famous

experienced a stratospheric rise to fame – became widely known very quickly

undeniable – true

to spread the word about – to make many people aware of/know about

a class act – here, a performer who has a very good singing voice and a tasteful manner

unassuming persona – a quiet character, or person who shows no desire for attention or admiration

are guilty of judging a book by its cover – make assumption, or form opinions based only on how someone or something looks

plain Jane – ordinary, average, not very attractive or interesting female (a set informal saying)

no-nonsense approach to – being realistic, practical and/or serious about

PR guru – somebody who is respected for their knowledge of a particular subject (here, public relations, or PR) and often asked for advice

prejudices – showing dislike for something or someone for no good reason
odds-on favourite – here, most likely

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. Susan Boyle is a long-established British superstar. **True / False / Not given**
2. Susan Boyle is a contestant on a TV talent show. **True / False / Not given**
3. A video of Susan Boyle has been watched by millions of people on the internet. **True / False / Not given**
4. Susan Boyle is a glamorous young woman. **True / False / Not given**
5. Susan Boyle is a favourite to win the TV show Britain's Got Talent. **True / False / Not given**

2. Expressions

a) Look at the expressions below. Try to match the idiom to its definition.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 judging a book by its cover | (a) <i>being exceptional at what you do</i> |
| 2 as pleased as Punch | (b) <i>not being very attractive</i> |
| 3 a plain Jane | (c) <i>being very happy</i> |
| 4 a class act | (d) <i>making assumptions based on how something or someone looks</i> |

b) Now complete the sentences below by using one of the expressions above:

1. Susan is very proud of her success on the show; in fact she is _____.
2. Susan is a truly talented singer; in fact she is _____.

3. Susan has been described as _____.
However, this is one of her most appealing qualities.
4. During Susan's audition, people had to admit they were somewhat guilty of _____.
- 3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.**

Chapter 4

SUNBEDS

In the UK, a country known for its bad weather and lack of sunshine, there appears to be an ever increasing number of very **tanned** young people. So just how are they achieving their golden tans? Some are opting for the sun-free option and are getting their tan from a bottle. However, it appears that others are turning to **tanning salons**, of which there are thousands in the UK.

So why do the British prefer to be **bronzed**? Often, they are trying to **emulate** their favourite celebrities, footballers, or footballers' wives.

Research from the British **Sunbed** Association suggests that many people believe a tan makes them feel and look healthier. This is a belief that is most definitely not shared by Cancer Research UK. They firmly state that being tanned is not a sign of health. In fact, they are strongly against young people using sunbeds. On their website, they state that people who use sunbeds before the age of 35 have a higher risk of **melanoma**. The dangers of tanning did not appear to concern ten-year-old Kelly Thompson who **hit headlines** in April after receiving severe burns from spending 16 minutes on a sunbed. Kelly's mother was **horrified** that her daughter had been allowed to use the sunbeds and that the tanning salon **was unmanned**. She noted that: "There was no one to give advice on using these potentially dangerous machines."

Whether the British government has been **taking heed of** such recent tanning tragedies is not clear. What is clear however is that **self-regulation** in the sunbed industry looks unlikely to continue. Just after Kelly's story was reported in the news, the government issued a statement advising that people under 18 should not use sunbeds and that all salons should be **supervised** by trained staff.

Glossary

tanned – when your skin becomes darker as a result of being exposed to the sun

tanning salons – places that offer their clients an opportunity to use **sunbeds** (see below)

bronzed – a synonym of **tanned** (see above) **to emulate** – to copy what someone else, usually a well-known person, does

sunbed – an apparatus that looks like a bed with a special cover that emits rays of ultraviolet light, so if you lie on it, you develop a tan

melanoma – the most dangerous type of skin cancer

hit headlines – was widely talked about by the media

horrified – shocked, disgusted and dismayed

was unmanned – this means that no member of staff was present at the time

taking heed of – paying attention to, taking into account

self-regulation – here, when tanning industry or even individual salons establish their own rules

supervised – monitored, watched (to make sure everything is done correctly and safely)

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. The UK is renowned for its hot climate and sunny weather. **True / False / Not given**
2. Some people think a tan makes them look healthier. **True / False / Not given**
3. Cancer Research UK think that using sunbeds when you are young can lead to skin cancer. **True / False / Not given**
4. Ten-year-old Kelly Thompson was badly burnt after using a sunbed. **True / False / Not given**
5. The British government advises that no one under 21 should use sunbeds. **True / False / Not given**

2. Vocabulary: Adjectives

Look at the words below. Try to match each word to its definition.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. horrified | a. Feeling unhappy because something was not as good as you had expected |
| 2. furious | b. Feeling anxious or concerned about something |
| 3. disappointed | c. Feeling angry about something |
| 4. worried | d. Feeling unhappy or to be without hope for the future |
| 5. depressed | e. Feeling shocked about something |

3. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

a. seems to be for a growing There desire tanned skin.

b. people believe Many makes them look a tan healthier.

c. are young strongly people against using sunbeds. Cancer Research UK

d. to continue. Self-regulation industry is unlikely in the sunbed

e. advises The government should not use sunbeds. that people under 18

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 5

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Recently, a couple in New Zealand were forbidden from naming their baby son 4Real. Even though New Zealand has quite **liberal** rules about naming children, names beginning with a number are not allowed. They decided to call him Superman instead.

In many countries around the world, unusual names for children are becoming more popular, especially since the increasing **trend** for celebrities to give their children **wacky** names. In Britain, you can call a child almost anything you like – the only **restrictions** on parents relate to **offensive** words such as **swear words**.

Some parents choose names which come from popular culture. For example, there have been six boys named Gandalf after the character in the Lord of the Rings novels and films. Equally, names relating to sport are fairly common – since 1984, 36 children have been called Arsenal **after** the football team.

Other parents like **to make up** names, or combine names to make their own **unique** version, a method demonstrated by Jordan, the British model, who recently invented the name Tiáamii for her daughter by combining the names Thea and Amy (the two grandmothers). She was quoted as saying that the **accent** and double letters were added to make the name 'more **exotic**'.

Other countries have much **stricter** rules **when it comes to** naming children. Countries including Japan, Denmark, Spain, Germany and Argentina have an approved list of names from which parents must choose. In China, there are some rules about what you may call a child – no foreign letters or symbols are allowed. As a result a couple were recently **banned** from calling their baby @.

In Britain, some names which were previously thought of as **old-fashioned** have become more popular again, such as Maisie or Ella for a girl, or Alfie or Noah for a boy. But the most popular names are not the wacky ones. The **top** names are fairly **traditional** – Jack, Charlie and Thomas for boys and Grace, Ruby and Jessica for girls.

Glossary

liberal - believing in and/or allowing more personal freedom

trend - a new development, fashion

wacky - unusual in a positive, exciting or silly way

restrictions - limits (especially established by laws or rules)

offensive - causing upset or hurt feelings

swear words - rude, offensive words

name after - if you name someone after someone or something, you give them the same name as another person or thing

to make up - to invent

unique - the only one of the kind, very unusual

accent - a mark written or printed over a letter to show you how to pronounce it

exotic - unusual and often exciting

stricter - limiting further (someone's freedom to do as they wish)

when it comes to - as far as ... is concerned

banned - not allowed, not permitted

old-fashioned - not modern, belonging to the past

top - here, most popular

traditional - here, common, widely used

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. There are no rules about what you can name your child in the UK. **True / False**
2. A New Zealand couple recently named their son 4Real. **True / False**
3. There are a number of children in the UK named Arsenal. **True / False**
4. Jordan made up the name Tiáamii. **True / False**
5. The most popular boy's name in the UK is George. **True / False**

2. Adjectives

Choose which is the correct adjective from each noun.

1. offence
2. beauty
3. fashion
4. tradition

1.
a) offensable b) offensal c) offensive d) offenceful

2.
a) beautiful b) beatable c) beautive d) beatial

3.
a) fashional b) fashionable c) fashionive d) fashionful

4.

a) traditionive b) traditionful c) traditional d) traditionable

3. British names

Do you know if these names are used for boys or girls? Put each one into the right column.

Ben

Joanna

Megan

Paul

Charlotte

Lewis

Archie

Lucy

BOYS	GIRLS

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 6

THE GREAT STORM 20 YEARS ON

On 16th October 1987, southern Britain was **hit by hurricane force winds**, the worst storm to occur in Britain since 1703. Twenty years on, Britain is remembering the **devastation** caused by what came to be known as 'The Great Storm.' 15 million trees were **uprooted** due to the wind, as well as the fact that a wet autumn in general had made the ground very muddy. The falling trees caused **destruction** to buildings and vehicles, and blocked roads and railway lines, causing everyone from **commuters** to school-children to stay at home. There were also **black-outs** across the area, as power lines were damaged by falling trees and flying **debris**. People **resorted to** candles and torches for light, and gas stoves and **open fires** to cook food.

The storm **raged** for 4 hours before dawn and **claimed** 18 lives. The effects of the bad weather were **heightened** by the fact that most people were completely unprepared because the weather forecasters were **caught out**.

Earlier that week, weather forecasts had predicted severe weather. But forecasters thought it would miss Britain and only affect the English Channel. The **freak storm** caused damage of more than £1 billion pounds and hundreds of people sustained injuries.

But could the same thing happen today in Britain? Well, as a result of **climate change** many people think that sudden and severe weather changes are more likely. However, **meteorological** technology has improved and now uses satellites to get a much more accurate picture of future weather. So if another Great Storm comes along, **the British public** should be better warned and prepared!

Glossary

hit by - affected by (negatively and strongly)

hurricane force winds - violent winds which have a circular movement

devastation - a lot of severe damage

uprooted - pulled out of the ground (including the roots)

destruction - when something is destroyed or very badly damaged

commuters - people who travel to work and back every day, using the same route

black-out - when all lights are suddenly switched off because of problems with electricity supply

debris - broken or torn pieces (left from the destruction of something larger)

resorted to - here, were forced to use

open fires - fires that are not enclosed or covered

raged - was very strong and violent **claimed** - caused the death of

heightened - made worse

caught out - taken unawares/by surprise; put into an unexpected difficult situation

freak storm - a storm that is very unusual and/or unexpected

climate change - the general weather conditions that are becoming different from the usual for a particular place because of human activity

meteorological - relating to weather conditions

the British public - the population of Great Britain

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. A lot of the storm damage was caused by falling trees. **True / False**
2. Although there were injuries, nobody was killed in the storm. **True / False**
3. Many people had no electricity because of the storm. **True / False**
4. The British weathermen forecast that the storm would hit Britain. **True / False**
5. Weather forecasters are still using the same technology as in 1987. **True / False**

2. Male and female jobs

Do you know how to describe people who do these jobs? Are there different words for male and female workers or just one word?

Although sometimes there are different words for male and female workers, they are becoming old-fashioned, giving way to just one word to include both sexes.

Examples:

a) a person who works with accounts

b) a person who acts in a play or film

	Male	Female	Both
a			accountant
b	actor	actress	actor
c			
d			
e			
f			

g			
h			

- c) a person who teaches children
- d) a person who runs a school
- e) a person who brings food in a restaurant
- f) a person who sells meat
- g) a person who catches criminals
- h) a person who draws or paints

3. Colour words and expressions

Which colours fill the gaps in these English words and expressions?

pink black white red green blue

- a) *A time when there are no lights on* : A _____ - out
- b) *Jealousy* : The _____ -eyed monster
- c) *Really pleased* : Tickled _____
- d) *Unhappiness* : Feeling _____
- e) *Hiding the truth* : A _____ -wash
- f) *Going out and having fun* : Paint the town _____

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 7

BALLROOM DANCING

Ballroom dancing in the UK used to be seen as something rather **unfashionable** that old people might do. For the past five years though, the popularity of ballroom dancing has **soared** thanks to a reality TV show.

'Strictly Come Dancing' is one of the BBC's big TV shows. Millions of people **tune in** every Saturday night to watch the show which **airs** from September right up to Christmas.

In the show a number of professional ballroom dancers each **partner up** with a celebrity. Every week they have to learn a different ballroom dance and perform it **live** on TV on the Saturday night. Four **judges**, all of whom have a background in professional dance, give the celebrities **scores** and comments about their dances. It's then **up to** the public to call in and vote for their favourite couple. The two least favourite then have to dance again and the judges decide who stays in the competition and who leaves.

The show demonstrates how **glamorous** ballroom dancing is. The celebrities get to wear colourful dresses and **sequined** suits to dance in, and it looks like a lot of fun. The TV programme also shows what good exercise it can be to ballroom dance and what hard work is involved in learning the dances and performing them properly.

Dance schools around the country have seen a **boost** in the numbers of people wanting to learn how to dance. And it's not only older people who're interested. Lots of children and young people in their 20s are **keen** to learn. The **format** for the show has been copied in lots of countries around the world. In America, the show is called 'Dancing with the Stars'.

So you can forget your usual exercise – why not learn a **foxtrot**, a **tango** or a **jive** or for the less energetic, a **waltz** perhaps. It's the **trendy** thing to do!

Glossary

unfashionable – not modern or popular

soared – grown a lot

tune in – switch on their TV sets and select a particular channel

airs – is broadcast

partner up – dance together as a pair

live – as it happens, not recorded

judges – people who decide which person, or in this case pair, wins a competition

scores – the number of points someone gets in a game, test or competition

up to – if something is up to you, you have the right and power to do or decide it

glamorous – attractive in a special or exciting way

sequined – with a small shiny metal or plastic disc sewn onto them for decoration

a boost – a sharp and significant growth

keen – willing, wanting the format – here, the way and style in which parts of a TV programme are put together

foxtrot – a type of formal ballroom dance that combines short quick steps with longer ones

tango – an energetic dance of South American origin for two people

jive – a fast dance which was very popular with young people in the 1940s and 1950s

waltz – a formal dance in which two people holding each other move around a large room, turning as they go and repeating a movement of three steps

trendy – modern, influenced by recent fashions

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Ballroom dancing has become more popular in the UK thanks to the 'Strictly Come Dancing' TV show. **True / False**

2. There are three judges on the show who comment on the dances. **True / False**

3. It's only old people who are interested in ballroom dancing these days. **True / False**

4. The American ballroom dancing TV show is called 'Dancing with Celebrities'. **True / False**

5. A foxtrot is a kind of ballroom dance. **True / False**

2. Adjectives

Let's take another look at the adjectives we've used to describe ballroom dancing. Can you match up each adjective with the correct definition?

1. glamorous

2. energetic

3. unfashionable

4. trendy

5. colourful

a. not modern or popular

b. having lots of different colours

c. attractive in a special or exciting way

d. having lots of energy

e. modern, influenced by recent fashions

Now complete the following sentences with one of the adjectives from above:

1. My sister is so fashionable. She has just bought a really _____ mobile phone.

2. The ballroom dancers were dressed in bright pink and green and yellow – they looked so _____ on the dancefloor.

3. It's so _____ being a ballroom dancer. You get to wear long expensive dresses with sequins on.

4. My father's clothes are so _____ - they are all from the 1970s.

5. You need to be fit to ballroom dance. You move around a lot and it's very _____.

3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 8

JANUARY SALES: LET'S GO SHOPPING!

For **shopaholics**, the post-Christmas period means only one thing – sales! Across the country, prices are **slashed** on clothing, electronics, home furnishings and more, but London is the place for serious shopping, and you can certainly pick up some amazing **bargains**.

The sales start on Boxing Day - 26th December, and continue for the month of January, but the keenest **bargain hunters** get there early to be first through the doors. In Oxford Street queues formed outside shops ahead of **pre-dawn** openings for the start of their sales. At Brent Cross, in north London, more than 1,000 people were queuing at 3.30am for the 'Next' clothing store's sale which began at 4am. Some **hardy individuals** even **camped** outside the shops to be first in the line.

Consumers who **hit the shops** were rewarded with discounts of as much as 80% as department stores joined the sales **frenzy**. The shops are absolutely **heaving** as the sales **got into full swing**, with more than half a million people converging on London's West End. Famous sales include the biggest, most prestigious shops such as Harrods, Selfridges, Liberty and John Lewis. **Department stores** are always a **good bet** – you're likely to find everything you need **under one roof**, including much-needed refreshments! It's a good time **to stock up on cheap gadgets**, and there's no better time to invest in some designer **threads**.

Some people are taking their partners shopping with them, and buying their Christmas presents in the sale – a practical but **unromantic** way of making sure you get the gift you really want. For a less exciting but less stressful shopping experience, online retailers are also **getting in on the act** with January sales of their own. The most organised of all are those who are already doing their present shopping for next Christmas, in the January sales!

Glossary

shopaholics - people who are addicted to shopping

slashed - greatly reduced

bargains - goods on sale at a lower price than their true value

bargain hunters - shoppers who visit many shops to find bargains

pre-dawn - very early in the morning, before the sunrise

hardy - strong enough to bear extreme conditions or difficult situations

individuals - people, persons

camped - put up tents and stayed in them

hit the shops - went to shops in large numbers and with the determination to buy a lot of bargains

frenzy - feeling extremely excited

heaving - with a lot of people moving around

got into full swing - if an event gets into full swing, it has already been happening for a period of time and there is a lot of activity

department stores - very large shops which sell all kinds of items

a good bet - something that would be useful to do

under one roof - in the same building

to stock up on - to buy a lot of

gadgets - small devices or machines with a particular purpose

threads - clothes (colloquial)

unromantic - with no romance/love

getting in on the act - here, participating in the sales

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. The January sales actually start before the end of December. **True / False / Not given**

2. The shops opened for the sales at 9 am. **True / False / Not given**

3. Only small retailers have January sales. **True / False / Not given**

4. Around 200 thousand people went shopping on Oxford Street at the beginning of the sales. **True / False / Not given**

5. Gadgets, clothes and home furnishings can all be bought in the sales. **True / False / Not given**

2. Expressions

Can you put these words in the right order to make slang expressions used in the text?

1. the to shops hit

2. full swing into get to

3. bet a good

4. up to on stock

5. on in act get to the

3. Correct the mistake

Each of the following sentences has a mistake in them. Can you find the mistake and write the sentence correctly below?

1. Bargain hunters are queue up outside the shops early.
2. In some sales, you can get discounts to as much as 80%.
3. A department shop is a good place to buy lots of different things.
4. I like to stock up with new clothes in the sales.
5. Shopping in the sales in the shops can be stressfuller than online shopping.
6. People who buy their presents for next Christmas in the January sales are the organisedest.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 9

OSCAR HOPEFULS: SEVEN NOMINATIONS FOR BRIT FLICK

The British **romantic drama Atonement** is **leading the pack** of British **hopefuls** for this year's Oscars. The film is up for seven **gongs** including best picture. However, the stars of the movie Keira Knightley from Pirates of the Caribbean and James McEvoy from The Last King of Scotland, haven't been **nominated** for their acting.

The thirteen-year old Irish actress Saoirse Ronan has **eclipsed** her Atonement co stars by picking up a nomination for the **best supporting actress**. A British-born Irish actor, Daniel Day-Lewis, has been **shortlisted** as best actor for his **role** in the film There Will Be Blood. In the best actress **category** the British star Julie Christie is a **nominee** for playing an **Alzheimer's** sufferer in Away From Her.

Overall, the American movie No Country For Old Men has **topped the list** of Oscar nominations with a total of eight.

The Australian actress Cate Blanchett could pick up both the best actress and best supporting actress awards for her parts as Queen Elizabeth the First of England and in the **bio-pic** of the rock legend Bob Dylan called I'm Not There. Cate, who's a woman, has **drawn praise** for her **portrayal** of Dylan, who is, of course, a man.

But the announcement of this year's Oscar nominations has been **tainted with sadness** at the news that the actor Heath Ledger has died. The body of the 28-year-old co-star of the 2005 Ang Lee film Brokeback

Mountain was discovered in his home in New York. Police are investigating if the actor had taken an **overdose** of prescription pills.

Glossary

romantic drama – the type of film about a loving relationship that is exciting and has a strong effect on viewers' emotions

atonement – doing something that shows that you are sorry for something bad that you did

leading the pack – here, most likely to get an award

hopefuls – actors and/or films that may get an Oscar

gongs – honours (here, Oscars) that are given to someone for their outstanding artistic work

nominated – put forward for the award

eclipsed – outshone, did better than

best supporting actress – a supporting actor is not the most important actor in a film

shortlisted – judged the most suitable for the prize (from a longer list of people originally considered)

role – an actor's part in a film or play

category – putting people or things into groups with the same features (e.g. here, all actresses put forward for an Oscar in the best actress category will compete against each other, not with those nominated in another category)

nominee – someone who is nominated for an award

Alzheimer's – a disease that results in the gradual loss of memory, speech, movement, and the ability to think clearly (especially common among older people)

topped the list – had more nominations than others

bio-pic – a biographical film (i.e. showing someone's life story)

drawn praise – been highly spoken of

portrayal – representation of someone's character in a film, play or book

tainted with sadness – a partly sad event

overdose – taking too many drugs

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Keira Knightley could win an Oscar this year. **True / False**
2. A 13-year-old has been nominated for best supporting actress. **True / False**
3. Cate Blanchett plays a man in a film about Bob Dylan. **True / False**
4. A famous Hollywood actor died recently. **True / False**

2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words).

1. What kind of film is Atonement?

2. What have Saoirse Ronan and Daniel Day-Lewis got in common?

3. What is unusual about Cate Blanchett's role in I'm Not There?

4. How do the police think Heath Ledger died?

Now choose the correct answer (a, b or c):

1. Atonement is a _____ film
a. American b. British c. Australian
2. Daniel Day Lewis was born in _____.
a. Ireland b. Britain c. America
3. No Country For Old Men _____ the nominations list.
a. won b. topped c. top
4. Heath Ledger _____ in the film Brokeback Mountain in 2005.
a. won b. co-starred c. turned down

3. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. hopefuls is British leading the Atonement of Oscar pack.
2. A Irish has been actor for best actor British-born shortlisted.
3. times has American been nominated eight movie An.
4. plays Cate Blanchett bio-pic a in a man.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 10

EARTHQUAKE HITS BRITAIN: THE BIGGEST TREMOR IN 25 YEARS

On 27th February 2008, something very unusual happened in the UK; there was a rather large earthquake. It was the biggest earthquake in 25 years in the UK. There have been very small **tremors** in the past but they **pale into insignificance** compared to this one. It was felt in a large area across the country too, from as far north as Edinburgh in Scotland to as far south as Plymouth on the south coast of England. The **epicentre** of the earthquake was in a small town in

Lincolnshire, which is an area about two and a half to three hours north of London by car. A **magnitude** of 5.2 was registered on **the Richter scale**. There were lots of reports in the news from people who felt the earth move. One man said, "We had loads of **vibrating** and wall shaking **and stuff**, noise coming off the roof. I came outside – the **chimney's** on the floor!" A **collapsed** chimney was the cause of what was probably the worst **injury** from the earthquake; a man broke his **pelvis** when the chimney fell on him.

Another man who spoke to the BBC described the moment the earthquake **occurred**, "Everything was shaking. As soon as it happened we all went outside and saw everyone else down the street, coming out and just realized it was an earthquake."

The huge **rumble** that was felt by a lot of people, surprisingly caused very little **structural damage** to property. Most British people would be surprised to learn that there are 200-300 earthquakes in Britain every year - but most of them are so small, they **go unnoticed**. The magnitude of this earthquake is fairly small in comparison to some other **natural disasters** that have made international news, but for the people affected, it certainly came as quite a surprise.

Glossary

tremors – slight earthquakes

pale into insignificance – seem completely unimportant

epicentre – the point on the Earth's surface directly above an earthquake

magnitude – the (large) scale, size or, as in this case, force of something

the Richter scale – a commonly used system that measures the strength of an earthquake

vibrating – quick shaking

and stuff (informal) – and the like/and so on

chimney – a hollow structure that allows the smoke from a fire used to heat a house to escape outside

collapsed – that fell down suddenly because of the strength of the earthquake

injury – wound, trauma

pelvis (anatomical) – the bowlshaped bone structure below the waist at the top of the legs to which the leg bones and spine are joined

occurred – happened, took place

rumble – here, earthquake (the word refers to the continuous low sound you can hear during an earthquake)

structural damage – harm done to buildings, roads, bridges etc.

go unnoticed – people don't notice them

natural disasters – events caused by nature, which result in great harm, damage or death (e.g. earthquakes, tsunami waves, floods etc.)

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. There are big earthquakes in Britain all the time. **True / False**
2. The last big earthquake in Britain happened 25 years ago. **True / False**
3. The epicentre of the earthquake was in London. **True / False**
4. No one died in the earthquake. **True / False**
5. Lots of properties were very badly damaged in the earthquake. **True / False**

2. Comparatives

We use comparative forms of adjectives when we are comparing two things. These are formed by adding '-er' to the adjective of one or two syllables, or by placing the word 'more' before the adjective of three or more syllables.

There are of course exceptions – here are two of the most common. The comparative form of 'good' is 'better' and the comparative form of 'bad' is 'worse'. Complete the sentences below choosing the correct option:

1. The recent earthquake in Britain was **more bad / worse** than any other tremor in the last 25 years.
2. Most of the many tremors that happen in Britain are **more small / smaller** than the one that happened in February.
3. Earthquakes are **more dangerous / dangerouser** than tremors.
4. The recent earthquake was **more weak / weaker** than some of the major natural disasters that have happened in the past few years around the world.

5. This was a **more important / importanter** story in the news because the earthquake was quite a big one.

6. It is **more unusual / unusualer** for an earthquake to happen in the UK than in Japan.

3. Jumbled Sentences

The words in the following sentences are in wrong order. Can you rearrange them to make a correct sentence in English? (TIP: The first word of the sentence will be one of the words with a capital letter)

1. an UK the earthquake was in 2008 In February there.

2. biggest It UK the years the 25 in earthquake in was.

3. The north earthquake was in the epicentre of the England.

4. a 5.2 of earthquake had The magnitude.

5. no pelvis were his broke but There man a deaths.

6. every tremors in small Lots unnoticed go Britain year of.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 11

HEATHROW TERMINAL 5

London Heathrow is the biggest airport in the UK and it also **handles** more **international passenger traffic** than any other airport in the world. For this reason, **expansion** was planned and on 27th March a fifth terminal opened to help **to cope** with the many passengers that pass through the airport.

The new terminal has taken a long time to plan and build. The idea was first **proposed** back in the 1980s. The opening of it has been talked about widely in the media in the UK and **expectations** were high for the .4.3 **billion** project.

However, in spite of long preparations at Terminal 5 ahead of the **grand** opening, things soon descended into chaos. There were problems **from the outset** as staff had difficulties finding car parking spaces and getting through security to get into the building. This consequently caused a delay when passengers started to arrive and **adequate** numbers of staff were not in place. Long passenger **queues formed** and the slow start meant that everyone had **to play catch-up** from the beginning.

Staff were having problems using the new systems and **a baggage handler** told the BBC, it was all "**a shambles** the moment the doors opened". The terminal has been designed to handle 12,000 bags an hour but due to a reported "**lack of** training and essential support that was promised", **a backlog** of luggage soon **materialised**.

By lunchtime on that first day, 20 flights had been cancelled to try and **alleviate** the problems. Flights continued to be cancelled in the days following the opening and up to 28,000 bags have now had to be placed in **temporary storage**.

BA, the only airline operating at Terminal 5 says it is working to clear the backlog, but the negative publicity caused by this **fiasco** has not helped the airport or the airline's reputation at all.

Glossary

handles – deals with, takes responsibility for

international passenger traffic – people who travel on planes from one country to another

expansion – becoming bigger, increasing in size

to cope – to deal (with a difficult situation) successfully

proposed – offered, stated, suggested (used when talking about a plan or action that people will consider)

expectations – when you think or believe something good will happen

billion – a thousand million

grand – splendid and impressive

from the outset – from the very beginning

adequate – here, sufficient, enough

queues formed – people stood one after another in long lines

to play catch-up – to act quickly in order not to miss something (here, their flights). Literally, in a sport or game, to try to match the performance of another competitor

a baggage handler – somebody whose job it is to load and unload airplane baggage

a shambles – in a state of confusion, poorly organised

lack of – not enough, insufficient

a backlog – a large quantity of unfinished work that has built up over a period of time and which must be dealt with

materialised – appeared

alleviate - relieve, make easier

temporary storage - here, when lost bags are kept safe for a short time in a special building/place until somebody deals with them

fiasco - a humiliating failure

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Heathrow airport deals with more international passengers than any other airport in the world. **True / False**

2. No one expected very much from the new terminal. **True / False**

3. There were more than enough staff to deal with passengers when they started to arrive. **True / False**

4. The backlog of luggage was cleared immediately. **True / False**

5. There is only one airline operating out of Terminal 5. **True / False**

2. Verbs

Match the verbs up with their correct definitions.

1. to handle

a. to stop, to decide something organised won't happen

2. to delay

b. to appear, to happen

3. to cancel

c. to deal with, to take responsibility for

4. to propose

d. to postpone, to put off until later

5. to materialise

e. to suggest

6. to alleviate

f. to relieve, to make easier

Now complete the following sentence using one of the verbs from above.

1. There are so many problems at the airport, they will have to _____ some flights.

2. More flights were cancelled to _____ the problems.

3. I'd like to _____ we start the meeting at 9 a.m.

4. There's not enough staff to _____ all the bags that are coming through the airport.

5. There are a few technical problems that are going to _____ things.

6. I was hoping the opportunity to travel would _____ in my new job, but unfortunately it didn't.

3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 12

LONDON'S NEW MAYOR

London has a new **mayor**, after its citizens voted in the **Conservative Party candidate** Boris Johnson, ahead of **Labour's** Ken Livingstone. Well-known for his wild blonde hair, his **self-deprecating humour** and his reputation for **gaffes and blunders**, Mr Johnson has been a **colourful figure** in British politics for many years.

While few doubted his energy and **charisma**, Boris Johnson's **narrow victory** has surprised his **critics**, who questioned whether he was a serious enough politician to win.

His remarks have often **caused controversy**, such as when in 2006 he had to apologise to the entire country of Papua New Guinea after suggesting it was known for "**cannibalism**". In the same year his criticism of a **healthy eating campaign** also **made headlines**, when he said parents should be able to feed children what they like, healthy or not.

But **bumbling** Boris has always had an **ambitious streak**; when he was asked as a child what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said "the world king". He now replaces Ken Livingstone, who had been London's mayor since 2000.

Left-wing 'Red Ken' will be remembered for his role in helping London win the 2012 Olympic Games, as well as his introduction of the **congestion charge**, which is widely thought to have reduced traffic in the capital.

So will Boris Johnson's victory mean a change of direction for London over the next four years? He promises to be **tough on crime** and **anti-social behaviour**, and to work to help to bring together Londoners of different **ethnic backgrounds**.

Whatever happens, given Boris Johnson's colourful past, it is unlikely that the next four years will be dull.

Glossary

mayor – somebody elected to be head of government in a city, town or borough
Conservative Party candidate – somebody who is a member of the British political party which opposes sudden social change, high taxation and government involvement in industry, and who is competing to get an official job or an elected position

Labour – the political party in Britain that believes in social equality, a more equal sharing out of wealth, and the rights of workers

self-deprecating humour – when someone speaks in a funny manner that shows they are not too serious and slightly critical about themselves

gaffes and blunders – clumsy social mistakes or breaches of etiquette (e.g. insensitive remarks); being impolite

colourful figure – someone who is exciting, amusing and often unpredictable

charisma – great charm and/or ability to inspire others
narrow victory – the number of people who voted for him was not much greater than of those who voted for other candidates
critics – people who disapprove of his policies and behaviour
caused controversy – become the reason for strong disagreement/clash of opinions
cannibalism – when a human being eats another human being
healthy eating campaign – organized efforts to persuade people to eat more healthy food
made headlines – was reported by the media as important
bumbling – acting as if confused
ambitious streak – determination to achieve success, even if it only shows occasionally and contrasts with his other characteristics
left-wing – here, an active member of the Labour Party who strongly believes in its principles of social equality
congestion charge – here, money that you pay for driving your car in Central London on weekdays
tough on crime – firmly fighting and punishing illegal behaviour
anti-social behaviour – when someone's actions harm, disturb or seriously annoy others (usually in a public place)
ethnic background – the country/area/region where your family originally comes from

1. Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Boris Johnson is a member of the Labour Party. **True / False**
2. Mr. Johnson is generally seen as a boring politician. **True / False**
3. Boris Johnson's childhood ambition was to become King of England. **True / False**
4. Ken Livingstone had been London's mayor for eight years. **True / False**
5. Fighting crime is important to Boris Johnson. **True / False**

2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 8 words).

1. Why did Boris Johnson's critics think he wouldn't become mayor?

2. How did Boris Johnson offend Papua New Guinea in 2006?

3. What was Boris's dream job when he was a child?

4. What is the congestion charge?

5. Name one thing Boris Johnson promises to do now he is mayor.

3. Reading Quiz 2 continued

Now choose the correct answer, a, b or c.

6. Boris Johnson's hair is _____ .

- a) tidy b) black c) wild

7. When someone eats other people, it is called _____ .

- a) carnivore b) cannibalism c) carnival

8. Boris Johnson is known as a _____ politician.

- a) colour-blind b) colourful c) multi-coloured

9. Ken Livingstone is _____ .

- a) left-wing b) right-wing c) left-handed

10. Boris Johnson wants to be _____ on crime.

- a) rough b) enough c) tough

4. Fill in the Blanks. Complete the summary with words given below.

London's new _____ is Boris Johnson. He was the _____ Party candidate, and defeated the _____ Party candidate Ken Livingstone, who had been London's mayor for eight years. Mr Johnson has been a _____ figure in British politics over the years, and frequently caused _____, often appearing in newspaper _____. One incident he'd probably rather forget was when he described people from Papua New Guinea as _____. But with his _____ in the mayoral election he has _____ his critics, many of whom

expected _____-wing Ken Livingstone to win. Now he is mayor, Boris Johnson says he will be tough on _____.

Labour *colourful* *surprised* *headlines* *crime* *cannibals*
left mayor *victory* *Conservative* *controversy*

- 5. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.**

Chapter 13

BOND IS BACK

Fans of James Bond have been **thrilled with** the **release** of the new Bond book *Devil May Care*, which was published on 28th May 2008. Ian Fleming was the **creator** of the **fictional** character James Bond 007 and wrote 14 Bond books during his lifetime, including some of the very well-known ones, such as *Casino Royale*, *Diamonds are Forever* and *Goldfinger*.

Ian Fleming died in 1964 but the **legacy** of Bond carries on. Sebastian Faulks, a reputable novelist, was **commissioned** to write the latest Bond book.

Faulks is not an author known for writing thrillers, so there was some **speculation** that he would struggle to write a Bond novel successfully. A review in the British newspaper, the *Guardian*, said, "The book, though, is a smart and enjoyable act of **literary resurrection**. Amongst the now 33 post- Fleming Bonds, this must surely compete with Kingsley Amis's for the title of the best."

Devil May Care is set in 1967 during **the Cold War** and it is said that Bond will once again travel between **continents**, appearing at **exotic** locations and in some of the world's most thrilling cities.

It's fair to say that James Bond has become **a household name** and remains a huge influence within the **thriller genre** through his films.

It's a double bonus for Bond fans as the new Bond film will be released later this year. The name of the new film is *Quantum of Solace*^{*}, a very **confusing** title which makes people **scratch their heads**. Daniel Craig has been the latest James Bond and will **star** again in *Quantum of Solace*. The new film is the **sequel** to the 2006 film *Casino Royale*. Craig said he felt *Casino Royale* was "**a walk in the park**" compared to *Quantum of Solace*.

** Literally, 'quantum' means the smallest amount of something, especially energy, and 'solace' means somebody or something that provides comfort at a time of sadness, grief or disappointment*

Glossary

thrilled with – very excited by

release – making available in the shops

creator – somebody who produces or initiates something

fictional – not real, made-up in a book or film

legacy – something that remains from a previous generation or time

commissioned – asked and paid

speculation – when people express their opinions about what might happen without having enough facts to be certain

literary resurrection – here, when a character of a previously published book appears again in a new book

the Cold War – the hostile yet non-violent relations between the former Soviet Union and the United States (and their respective allies) from after the Second World War to 1989

continent – one of the seven large land masses on the Earth's surface, surrounded, or mainly surrounded, by sea and usually consisting of various countries (e.g. Asia, Europe, Africa)

exotic – here, relating to a distant, especially tropical country

a household name – someone or something that is well known and appreciated by people of different generations

thriller genre – books, plays or films that have an exciting plot involving crime, mystery or espionage

confusing – not clear, difficult to understand

scratch their heads – think hard about something trying to understand or solve it; be confused about something

star – play the leading role

sequel – a film, novel or play that continues a story begun in a previous film, novel or play

a walk in the park – here, a lot easier to make/do

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Devil May Care is the new Bond film. **True / False**
2. Ian Fleming is the writer of Devil May Care. **True / False**
3. Sebastian Faulks writes mainly thrillers. **True / False**
4. James Bond is a real spy character. **True / False**
5. Daniel Craig will star in Quantum of Solace. **True / False**

2. Verbs, Adjectives and Nouns I

Fill in the table below putting the verbs, adjectives and nouns in the right column. The first ones have been done for you.

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
to star	sequel	fictional

to star sequel fictional exotic legacy sequel confusing
to star fictional to scratch to release speculation

3. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives II

Complete the sentences below with one of the correct verbs, nouns and adjectives from above in the correct form.

1. The new Bond film Quantum of Solace is due to _____ later this year.
2. Quantum of Solace is a _____ to Casino Royale.
3. The title of the new Bond film makes people _____ their heads.
4. The _____ of James Bond carries on, even though Ian Fleming has been dead for over 40 years.
5. There was some _____ that Sebastian Faulks would fail to write the Bond novel successfully.
6. James Bond stories always take place in _____ locations.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 14

MAMMA MIA!

The **ever so-beloved** West End musical Mamma Mia! has finally been taken from the stage to **the silver screen**. The film is based on the songs of **legendary** Swedish pop band ABBA and is an adaptation of the musical of the same name.

Mamma Mia! uses the music of ABBA to tell the story of Sophie Sheridan, a 21-year-old American **bride-to-be**, trying to find out the identity of her real father so that he can **give her away** at the wedding.

Since the premiere of the musical in London in 1999, over 30 million people have seen Mamma Mia! around the world and the theatre production **has grossed** \$2bn in earnings. Although the title of the musical is taken from ABBA's 1975 **chart-topper** Mamma Mia, neither the musical's nor the film's plot has anything to do with the story of the group itself. The band ABBA was the winner of the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest and following that success their songs **topped the charts** worldwide until the early 1980s.

After a week of exclusive showing in the Leicester Square Odeon, one of London's most famous cinemas, the film was screened in cinemas across the country from 10th July. Some people say maybe it is the mature **A-list cast** that makes the film work so well. Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgard star as the three potential fathers with the Oscar winner Meryl Streep starring as the mum of the bride-to-be.

A film critic said the film is truly wonderful. It is sharp, hilarious and very beautifully **shot**. If you are a fan of ABBA, a fan of the musical, or simply just a fan of Pierce Brosnan, then the film Mamma Mia! **is a must**.

Glossary

ever so beloved - very popular

the silver screen - the cinema

legendary - very famous

bride-to-be - woman who is going to get married

give her away - the formal act in a wedding ceremony when the bride is presented to the groom, traditionally by her father, is known as 'giving away'

has grossed - has taken an amount of money before tax and other expenses are deducted

chart-topper - song which reached the top place in the music charts

topped the charts - reached the top place in the music charts

A-list cast - the actors in the film are from the top group of respected performers

shot - filmed

is a must - is something that should not be missed

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Mamma Mia! is the name for both the musical and the film. **True / False**
2. The film Mamma Mia! is a tragedy based on ABBA's music. **True / False**
3. Mamma Mia! is a story about a bride-to-be trying to identify her real mother.
True / False
4. The title Mamma Mia is originally the name of an ABBA song. **True / False**
5. ABBA was this year's winner of the Eurovision Song Contest. **True / False**

2. Exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 15

CYCLING

What's the furthest you have ever cycled? Perhaps you cycle to school or to work, or maybe at most a short cycling **trip** with friends? How would you feel about spending months on the road travelling **solo** from the UK to China, by bike?

For British cyclist Pete Jones, **camping rough** and cycling long distances through **inhospitable terrain** are **second nature**. Mr Jones is currently undertaking a **mammoth** trip across the Eurasian continent from Britain to China.

Pete Jones is no stranger to China. But he says many people there are **puzzled** by his passion for cycling, asking why he would choose to cycle when he can afford a car. Indeed, while there are an estimated 400 million bicycles in China, where it has long been the preferred form of transport, **rapid economic growth** has **fuelled** an **explosive expansion** in **car ownership**.

Edward Genochio, another British cyclist who completed a 41,000km trip to China and back, said one of his aims was to "promote cycling as a safe, **sustainable** and **environmentally benign** means of getting about".

In the UK, the last few years have seen a rise in the number of people choosing two wheels over four, with some estimates saying the number of people cycling to work has almost doubled in the last five years.

Politicians also see cycling as a way to **boost their eco-credentials**, with people such as London mayor Boris Johnson often riding to work **under his own steam**. But we may have to wait some time before we see him **emulating** Pete Jones in attempting to cycle all the way to China!

Glossary

trip - a short journey (usually going to a place and then coming back)

solo - on his own, without anyone else

camping rough - spending nights in a tent in difficult conditions

inhospitable terrain - ground/a piece of land that is difficult to cross

second nature - integral part of his character

mammoth - very long and very difficult

puzzled - slightly surprised/baffled

rapid economic growth - when the production and consumption of goods and services becomes larger very quickly

fuelled - become the reason for

explosive expansion - extremely quick growth

car ownership - here, the number of people who have cars

sustainable - that causes little or no damage to the environment (and so can continue for a long time)

environmentally benign - causing little or no damage to nature/the environment

boost their eco-credentials - show people that they care about the environment
under his own steam - if you do something under your own steam, you do it without help
emulating - copying (someone else's achievements)

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Mr Jones is travelling on his own. **True / False**
2. Mr Jones only stays in hotels. **True / False**
3. Edward Genochio is concerned about the environment. **True / False**
4. Cycling is becoming more popular in the UK. **True / False**

2. Parts of a bicycle

Explain the following words in English. Use a dictionary to help you.

- 1) pedal
- 2) handlebars
- 3) wheel
- 4) chain
- 5) brakes
- 6) frame

3. Vocabulary Exercise

Complete the sentences with the following words. You will need to use each word or phrase once.

sustainable	second	nature	fuelled	puzzled	under his own team
-------------	--------	--------	---------	---------	--------------------

1. My friend was a bit _____ when I said I didn't want to earn lots of money.
2. These days there is a lot of talk amongst politicians about _____ development.
3. When I started using email I was a bit confused, but now it's _____.
4. A lot of China's economic growth has been _____ by the manufacturing sector.

5. Martin was going to ask a friend to pick him up from the airport, but in the end he got home _____.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 16

DUCHESS – OR PRINCESS?

The British actress Keira Knightley has **rejected claims** that her latest film *The Duchess*, a historical drama set in the 18th Century, **parallels** the life of Princess Diana. The film tells the true life story of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who was the great-great-great-great aunt of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In the film Knightley plays an **aristocratic** woman who is trapped in a marriage to a man who is in love with his **mistress**. It is this storyline that mimics the experiences of Princess Diana, who married Prince Charles only to discover that he was continuing a long-standing **clandestine** relationship with another woman. Even the film's **tag line**, "There were three people in her marriage", suggests a link to Diana's story, as it bears a remarkable similarity to the words the princess used to describe her own situation in a **highly candid** 1995 television interview.

Speaking to the BBC, Keira Knightley was quick **to play down** the similarities in the stories, saying her character was "an interesting enough person **to warrant a film** completely about her, without comparisons".

In fact the 23-year-old actress claims not to remember the story of Prince Charles and Princess Diana's **doomed** marriage. "I was 11 when Diana died, so I don't really know what the actual story is, so I don't feel I can comment on the parallels," Knightley **scolded** reporters at a recent press conference.

Whether the Diana connection exists or not, *The Duchess* provides a **fascinating insight** into personal relationships in a society where **divorce was taboo**.

The film is also a **visual feast** as the architecture and fashions of 18th Century England are **painstakingly** recreated down to the smallest detail.

Glossary

rejected claims – said that it wasn't true (here, 'a claim' means 'something you say is true without enough factual proof')

duchess – in Britain, a noblewoman of the highest hereditary rank, or a wife/widow of a duke

parallels – is similar to, reminds of

aristocratic – belonging to the class of people with a high social rank

mistress – a woman who is having an intimate relationship with a married man

clandestine – secret (especially when talking about something that is not allowed officially or morally)

tag line – a phrase repeatedly used in connection with a person, organization, or product, especially in publicity

highly candid – very honest and direct (often in a shocking way)

to play down – to make something seem less important, or credible than people think

to warrant a film – to deserve a film to be made

doomed – bound to fail, destined to suffer a dreadful fate

scolded – told off (because she did not like their questions and/or thought they were inappropriate)

a fascinating insight – a very interesting, engaging and profound look

divorce was taboo – it was socially unacceptable for a husband and wife to break up and start living separately

a visual feast – full of unusual, striking images

painstakingly – with a lot of effort

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. Keira Knightley and Princess Diana share a distant ancestor. **True / False / Not given**

2. The film is set in the 1700s. **True / False / Not given**

3. In the film Keira Knightley plays the mistress of an aristocrat. **True / False / Not given**

4. Keira Knightley was 23 when Princess Diana died. **True / False / Not given**

5. In the 18th Century divorce was seen as an acceptable action by most people. **True / False / Not given**

2. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. her latest plays an 18th Keira Knightley Century in film duchess

_____.

2. of distant Devonshire was a of The Duchess Princess Diana ancestor

_____.

3. unfaithful The is a film a Duchess whose husband woman is about

_____.

4. Princess say film marriage parallels the the of Diana Some

5. Charles not Kiera said did and Knightley Diana's marriage she remember

6. Century was of in the Divorce 18th disapproved

3. Idioms

Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to royalty or aristocracy. Try to match each idiom to its definition.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. fit for a king | a. the most important woman |
| 2. as drunk as a lord | b. a large sum of money |
| 3. a king's ransom | c. very intoxicated with alcohol |
| 4. queen bee | d. of a very high standard |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

1. I have a terrible hangover this morning – I was _____ last night.
2. That lady is the boss of the whole department - she's the _____.
3. That footballer cost _____ but he is one of the best in the world.
4. The food in that restaurant is _____; the chef is world famous.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 17

FRESHERS' WEEK

The UK has a **well-respected** higher education system and some of the top universities and research institutions in the world. But to those who are new to it all, it can be **overwhelming** and sometimes confusing.

October is usually the busiest month in the **academic calendar**. Universities have something called Freshers' Week for their **newcomers**. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, join lots of clubs and **settle into** university life. However, having just left the comfort of home and all your friends behind, the prospect of meeting lots of strangers in big halls can be **nerve-wracking**. Where do you start? Who should you make friends with? Which clubs should you join?

Luckily, there will be thousands of others **in the same boat** as you worrying about starting their university social life **on the right foot**. So just **take it all in** slowly. Don't rush into anything that you'll regret for the next three years.

Here are some top tips from past students on how to survive Freshers' Week:

- **blend in**. Make sure you are aware of British **social etiquette**. Have a few wine glasses and snacks **handy** for your housemates and friends;
- be hospitable. Sometimes cups of tea or even slices of toast can **give you a head start in making friends**;
- be sociable. The more active you are, the more likely you'll be to meet new people than if you're someone who never leaves their room;
- bring a doorstep. Keep your door open when you're in and that sends positive messages to your neighbours that you're friendly.

So with a bit of clever planning and motivation, Freshers' Week can give you a great start to your university life and soon you'll be **passing on your wisdom** to next year's new recruits.

Glossary

well-respected – admired, considered to be very good

overwhelming – putting you under a lot of pressure, very difficult to cope with

academic calendar – a period from one October to the next October when all the lectures, seminars, assignments, exams and extra-curricular activities (i.e. activities which are not part of the usual college course) that a student's life is made up of take place

newcomers – here, first year students

settle into – become familiar with and start feeling comfortable and happy about

nerve-wracking – causing great anxiety or distress

in the same boat – in the same difficult or worrying situation

on the right foot – successfully

take it all in – understand and get used to the new environment

blend in – look or seem the same as people around you, fit in with others
social etiquette – rules of behaviour that are accepted by a certain group of people
handy – ready to give out
give you a head start in making friends – help you make new friends more easily and quickly
passing on your wisdom – explain and teach the rules of university life

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. Freshers' Week is for second year students at universities. **True / False / Not given**
2. October is generally the busiest month for universities. **True / False / Not given**
3. Having wine glasses in your room is a bad idea. **True / False / Not given**
4. It's a good idea to pack a doorstep. **True / False / Not given**
5. A bit of planning can make Freshers' Week easier. **True / False / Not given**

2. University Quiz

Answer the questions below with words or phrases from the box.

Freshers' sandwich	Bachelor's science	terms	prestigious	lecture	Doctor of Philosophy
--------------------	--------------------	-------	-------------	---------	----------------------

1. Universities in the UK usually have three _____ in a year.
2. The first degree most students study at university is also known as a _____ degree.
3. What does PhD mean? _____
4. If a degree course includes a one-year industry placement, it's also known as a _____ course.
5. Imperial College in London is famous for its teaching and research in _____.

6. Oxford and Cambridge universities are two of the most _____ universities in the country.

7. The first week of your first year at university is called _____ Week.

8. A lesson at university which takes place in a big hall with lots of students and one teacher is called a _____.

5. Idioms

Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to university life in some way. Try to match each idiom to its definition.

1. to live in an ivory tower

a. learning from daily life and work rather than going to university

2. to fly the nest

b. not to be aware of the realities of everyday life

3. saved by the bell

c. to leave your parents' home for the first time in order to live somewhere else

4. the university of life

d. something that you say when a difficult situation is ended suddenly before you have to do or say something that you do not want to

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

1. My grandfather began to work in the print shop when he was fifteen and learned everything from _____.

2. We were _____ when the fire alarm went before we had to give a very badly prepared presentation.

3. Parents give their children thousands of pounds to help them _____ and get a foot on the property ladder.

4. Like most professors, Jason seems _____. He has no idea how ordinary people cope with life.

6. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 18

WHAT TO WEAR?

One of the biggest shocks when you arrive in a new country can be the clothes people are wearing. You may look fashionable at home, but you suddenly find you are **behind the times** or simply someone to laugh at when you arrive abroad. With this in mind, let's take a look at teenage fashion in the UK for girls.

One of the things that may shock an outsider most is **piercings**. These days it is not enough to simply wear rings in your ears. You will see many teenagers with rings in their navel, or belly button, nose, lip, or even their eyebrow. Ouch!

Some girls go for a '**glam**' look. They wear T-shirts; trousers are usually preferred, blue or black, and the look is **finished off** with metallic bags and shoes and arms full of bracelets. Another alternative is the '**rocker**' look. You start with a T-shirt of your favourite band and tight jeans or a long skirt. On top of this you can wear a **denim** jacket. Jewellery tends to be large and metallic, and to add colour, wear a **scarf**.

If neither of these is for you, why not go 'sporty'? T-shirts are usually **tie-dyed** in hot colours. Wear long shorts, short jeans or a **denim** skirt. And on your feet? Beach **sandals**, of course! If you prefer something more feminine, there's the 'girly' look. Skirts are long, to the floor. Wear a top with butterflies or flowers printed on it!

Finally, how about the 'Tom Boy' look? Wear **flared** jeans and a T-shirt with a logo. Don't forget your **waistcoat**, of course!

Follow the fashion tips above, and you shouldn't feel **out of place**. However, it's important to remember to wear clothes and choose a look that you feel comfortable with. Don't just be one of the crowd – be yourself!

Glossary

behind the times – out-of-date, unfashionable, not modern

piercings – holes made in the body for wearing jewellery, such as rings or studs

glam – short for 'glamorous', i.e. dressed and/or made up to be extremely good-looking and very fashionable

finished off – completed, given final touches

rocker – someone who really likes rock music (and dresses like a rock music fan)

denim – a thick strong cotton cloth, often blue in colour, used especially for making jeans

scarf – a piece of cloth worn around the neck

tie-dyed – designs on cloth dyed by tightly tying portions of it with waxed thread so the dye only affects the exposed areas

sandals – light open shoes with straps

flared – (trousers or skirts) that widen significantly below the knee (popular in the late 1960s - early 1970s)

waistcoat – a sleeveless garment worn on the upper body over a shirt and usually having buttons down the front

out of place – strange, as if you don't belong

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. Fashion is the same in all countries. **True / False / Not given**
2. British girls put rings only in their ears. **True / False / Not given**
3. 'Glam' girls don't usually wear skirts. **True / False / Not given**
4. The 'sporty' look uses a lot of colour. **True / False / Not given**
5. 'Girly' girls wear short skirts. **True / False / Not given**

2. Clothes related vocabulary

Each of the verbs/phrasal verbs in the left-hand column is connected to clothes and fashion. Can you match them to their definitions?

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. to dress up | a. to dress |
| 2. to dress down | b. to undress |
| 3. to put on | c. to wear something special, e.g. to a party |
| 4. to take off | d. to wear casual clothes |
| 5. to suit | e. to be the correct size |
| 6. to fit | f. to look good on you |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the verbs above.

1. _____ your scarf if you're going outside. It's really cold.
2. Can I try a larger one? This doesn't _____.
3. I can wear jeans to work on Fridays as we are allowed to _____.
4. You can't go to a wedding wearing jeans! You should _____.

5. You look good in green. The colour really _____ you.

6. You should _____ your scarf. It's really hot.

3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 19

ADVENT

'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat!'

Christmas is the biggest festival in Britain and is celebrated on 25th December. The four weeks before Christmas are called Advent, and are traditionally celebrated in churches by lighting a candle each Sunday during Advent. Nowadays, many people in Britain are not very **religious**, but they still celebrate Christmas. But **watch out** - the preparations begin long before Advent. In fact, as early as September or October, you start to see signs that Christmas is **on the way**.

The first places to tell us that we should be thinking about Christmas are the shops. People in Britain spend on average over .600 (around \$1000) per person on Christmas every year, and the shops encourage people to spend more and more. Shops put up Christmas decorations and play **cheesy** Christmas songs or **carols**; and some shop workers wear **Christmas hats**. Some big shops on Regent Street and Oxford Street in London create wonderful displays in their windows with moving characters, falling snow, colourful lights and music.

So what do people buy in preparation for Christmas? Well, Christmas decorations; Christmas cards to send to your friends and relatives; presents for your loved ones and **wrapping paper** to wrap them up with. And of course food! **Apart from** the special Christmas dinner of roast turkey or goose, people buy lots of chocolates, nuts and snacks for everyone to enjoy.

But the children are the most excited that Christmas is coming. They start making lists of presents they would like, and give them to their parents, or send them to **Santa Claus**. In December, they can also open their Advent calendars. Advent calendars are a way of counting down to Christmas. They have a window to open for every day from 1st - 24th December (Christmas Eve).

A basic Advent calendar has a **Christmassy** picture behind each window, but the children's favourite is usually a chocolate Advent calendar, with a chocolate for every day of the month. It's a great **buildup** to the **overeating** that goes on at Christmas!

Glossary

religious – following a system of beliefs and practices relating to God

watch out – mind you; be prepared

on the way – approaching, drawing closer

cheesy – of cheap quality or bad in style

carols – traditional and/or religious songs that people sing at Christmas

Christmas hats – hats with pointy tips, usually red in colour and with some fur around them, traditionally worn at Christmas for fun

wrapping paper – decorated paper used to cover presents

apart from – here, in addition to

Santa Claus – the imaginary jolly old man with a white beard and a red suit who brings presents to children at Christmas

Christmassy – relating to Christmas and capturing/representing the jolly mood of the season

build-up – anticipation, increasing feeling as a high point (here, Christmas celebrations) approaches

overeating – eating too much

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. Preparations for Christmas start in December. **True / False / Not given**
2. People in Britain usually eat turkey or goose for Christmas dinner. **True / False / Not given**
3. Children send their present lists to Santa Claus or give them to their parents. **True / False / Not given**
4. Most people in Britain are very religious. **True / False / Not given**
5. Advent calendars never contain chocolate. **True / False / Not given**

2. More or less?

Which of these expressions mean more than \$600? Which mean less than \$600? And which mean approximately \$600? Put each expression into the correct column:

\$600 on average about \$600 at least \$600 almost \$600
roughly \$600 over \$600 up to \$600 in excess of \$600 not quite \$600

More than \$600	Less than \$600	Approximately \$600

3. **Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.**

Chapter 20

SOAP OPERAS

Watching TV is a very popular **pastime** in the UK. But what kind of programmes do British people like to watch? Well, the most-watched TV programmes every week are very popular dramas that are usually on at least four times every week. They are dramas based in one **neighbourhood** that try to **depict** ordinary life in the UK - we call these dramas 'soap operas' or 'soaps'.

In the early days of TV, there were often dramas on during the day. Back in those days, it was traditional for the husband to go out to work and for the wife to stay at home and look after the house and the children. Most of these daytime dramas were aimed at entertaining the **housewives** who would traditionally be at home, probably doing the washing. Companies selling **washing powder** would **advertise** their products at times when these dramas were on, and sometimes those companies would even **sponsor** the drama. **Hence the word 'soap'.**

So what about the word opera? Well, that's because these dramas are often **an exaggeration** of real life. They are supposed to represent ordinary lives but, to make them entertaining, lots of dramatic events, like murders, divorces, **affairs** etc., all happen probably much more regularly than they would in a normal **neighbourhood**.

Most soap operas these days are shown in the evening. Each show will have several different storylines happening **at once** that continue over several shows. The same **cast members** will appear in every show, too.

There are lots of different soaps on in the UK on different channels but there are three main popular ones. 'Coronation Street' has been on since 1960. **It is set in a suburb of Manchester** and **it's supposed to represent** working class life in the north of England. Then there's 'Eastenders' which started in 1985, set in the East End of London, and 'Emmerdale', which is set on a farm in Yorkshire, in the north of England. The BBC even has a soap opera to help you learn English - so if you want to experience one of these dramas in English, 'The Flatmates' would be a good place to start - go to www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/flatmates.

Glossary

pastime – what you do outside work for enjoyment, e.g. a hobby

neighbourhood – an area where people live rather than work or do shopping

to depict – to describe, to show, to represent

housewives – women who work at home, doing the cleaning, cooking, etc., and who usually have no other job

washing powder – laundry detergent; a cleaning substance in powder form used for washing clothes

advertise – show short television commercials to promote

sponsor – here, pay for filming

hence the word 'soap' – this is how the word 'soap' became part of the expression

an exaggeration – showing or representing something in a more dramatic, serious or shocking way than it really is

affairs – here, intimate relations outside marriage

at once – here, simultaneously, at the same time

cast members – actors in a particular film or TV series

it is set in a suburb of Manchester – the action takes place in an area near Manchester (people from **suburbs** usually work in the city which they are close to, however there are usually very few or no businesses within a suburb itself)

it's supposed to represent – the intention is to show; it's meant to show

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. People don't like to watch TV in the UK. **True / False / Not given**
2. The word 'soap' in 'soap opera' refers to washing powder used by housewives to do the washing. **True / False / Not given**
3. The word 'opera' in 'soap opera' refers to the classical singing you hear in the dramas. **True / False / Not given**
4. Soap operas have lots of continuing storylines happening over a few shows. **True / False / Not given**
5. Coronation Street has been on British TV since 1985. **True / False / Not given**

2. TV expressions: guess their meanings!

See if you can match these commonly used TV related expressions with the correct definition:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. a couch potato | a. someone who is always watching the TV (the telly) and can't live without it |
| 2. reality TV | b. another word for television |
| 3. channel hopping | c. someone who sits on the sofa all day eating and watching TV |

4. a telly addict d. TV programmes following real people in real life situations
5. the box e. going from channel to channel with the remote control (the remote) and being unable to decide what to watch

Now try and complete the following sentences with one of the above TV expressions:

1. “_____ is boring. I can see people in real life situations every day – I would much rather watch a drama.”
2. “What’s on _____ tonight?”
3. My brother is such _____. All he does is sit at home and watch TV.
4. The problem with TV these days is that there are too many channels to choose from. I’m always _____ and I can never decide what to watch.
5. I love watching TV – I watch it all the time. I don’t think I could live without it – I need to watch it for at least three hours every night. I’m such _____.

3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 21

EDINBURGH FESTIVALS

Summer in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city, is the time for **festivals**. In August and September there are several different festivals which take place there.

The original Edinburgh International Festival started in 1947, and offers visitors a rich programme of classical music, theatre, opera and dance. The same year that the official festival began, **a handful of** theatrical companies **gatecrashed** the festival and organised their own event, which grew into what is now called the Fringe Festival.

The term 'fringe' means something on the outside of the main event, but over the years, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival has become the largest of all the festivals, and indeed the largest arts festival in the world! The Fringe features performers and acts which are less **traditional** and more **unconventional** than those in the International Festival, and includes a lot of **stand-up comedy** shows, music and children's entertainment. The Edinburgh Fringe is seen as an important place for **up-and-coming** stand-up comedians to perform at.

At the same time in Edinburgh there are various other festivals, such as the Jazz and Blues festival, the Book Festival, the Film Festival, and even an Internet Festival! There is also a **multicultural** festival called Mela, which celebrates the **diversity** of people living in Edinburgh, in particular people with South Asian origins.

Edinburgh Castle is the site of one of the most **spectacular** events – The Military Tattoo. A **military** tattoo has nothing to do with a **tattoo** on your skin! It means a performance of military music, for example, by **marching bands**. In Scotland the military tattoo traditionally includes **bagpipes** and drums. This year the display will also feature dancers, horses and motorbikes!

Though you have to pay to attend most of the events at the various festivals, there are several groups who organise large numbers of free events as well.

Glossary

festivals - a festival is an organized set of special events, such as musical performances

a handful of - a small number of, not many

gatecrashed - came uninvited

traditional - well-established (e.g. practice or custom) within a social group

unconventional - unusual, original

stand-up comedy - when a performer stands before an audience and tells jokes

up-and-coming - making good progress, likely to succeed

multicultural - including people who have many different ways of life, traditions, customs and beliefs

diversity - here, when people of different backgrounds live in one place, variety
spectacular - an event or performance that is very exciting to watch and usually involves a lot of people

military - connected with the armed forces

tattoo - a permanent image, pattern or word on the skin which is created by using needles to put colours under the skin

marching bands - a marching band is a music band (usually playing brass instruments) that plays as it moves along

bagpipes - a type of musical instrument, played especially in Scotland and Ireland, from which you produce sound by blowing air into a leather bag and forcing it out through pipes

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. There are several festivals in the summer in Edinburgh. **True / False**
2. The Fringe Festival is a small event. **True / False**
3. Stand-up comedy is an important part of the Fringe Festival. **True / False**
4. The Edinburgh festivals only celebrate Scottish arts. **True / False**
5. A military tattoo means a picture on your skin. **True / False**

2. Complete the words

Put together these parts of words to make 4 words which featured in the text. Then fit them into the correct sentences.

bag	cultural	crashed	multi
gate	pipes	ful	hand

1. The _____ are a traditional Scottish musical instrument.
2. Edinburgh is a _____ city.
3. They weren't invited but they _____ the party.
4. I only know a _____ of people who live in Scotland.

- 3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.**

Chapter 22

MODERN BRITISH FAMILIES

Father leaves for work in the morning after breakfast. The two children take the bus to school, and mother stays at home cooking and cleaning until father and the kids return home in the evening. This is the traditional picture of a happy family living in Britain. But is it true today? The answer is - no! The past 20 years have seen enormous changes in the lives and structures of families in Britain, and the traditional model is no longer true in many cases.

The biggest change has been caused by **divorce**. As many as 2 out of 3 marriages now end in divorce, leading to a situation where many children live with one parent and only see the other at weekends or holidays.

There has also been a **huge rise** in the number of mothers who work. The large rise in divorces has meant many women need to work **to support** themselves and their children. Even when there is no divorce, many families need both parents to work in order to survive. This has caused an increase in **childcare facilities**, though they are very expensive and can be difficult to find in many areas. In addition, women are no longer happy to stay at home **raising** children, and many have careers earning as much as or even more than men, the traditional **breadwinners**.

There has also been a **sharp** increase in the number of **single mothers**, particularly among teenagers. Many of their children grow up never knowing their fathers, and some people feel the **lack** of a **male role model** has a damaging effect on their lives.

However, these changes have not had a totally negative effect. For women, it is now much easier to have a career and good salary. Although it is difficult to be a working mother, it has become normal and it's no longer seen as a bad thing for the children. As for children themselves, some argue that modern children grow up to be more independent and mature than in the past. From an early age they have to go to childminders or **nurseries**, and so they are used to **dealing with** strangers and **mixing with** other children.

So while the traditional model of a family may no longer be true in modern Britain, the modern family continues to raise happy, successful children.

Glossary

divorce - when a marriage ends and the former husband and wife separate from one another

a huge rise - a very big increase/growth (opposite to fall/decrease/decline)

to support - here, to provide with a home and the necessities of life

childcare facilities – special institutions whose job is to look after children while parents are working

raising - bringing up and educating

breadwinners - a breadwinner is the person who earns the most money in their family

sharp - here, big and happening over a short period of time

single mothers - women who raise their children by themselves because they live separately from the children's fathers

lack - if there is a lack of something, there is not enough of it

male role model - a man who thinks and acts in the way that is traditionally perceived as being typical of men

nurseries - places equipped for looking after very young children

dealing with - managing, doing what is necessary to achieve the result you want

mixing with - socialising, living together with, joining

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Divorce is not common in Britain. **True / False**
2. Childcare is not cheap in Britain. **True / False**
3. Women can now earn as much as men. **True / False**
4. Many mothers nowadays are not married. **True / False**

2. Vocabulary

Do the following verbs mean GO UP or GO DOWN?

1. Increase _____
2. Decrease _____
3. Fall _____
4. Rise _____
5. Grow _____
6. Decline _____

3. Phrasal Verbs

Look at the phrasal verbs below. Can you match them to their definitions?

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bring up | a. care for |
| 2. Grow up | b. educate, give food, clothes etc |
| 3. Look after | c. become older and mature |
| 4. Deal with | d. socialise |

5. Mix with

e. manage

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs in the correct form.

1. Actually, girls usually _____ faster than boys.
2. He's not very friendly. He doesn't _____ other people very well.
3. I was _____ by my grandmother. She taught me everything I know.
4. It's a very stressful job. I have to _____ lots of problems.
5. When my parents went out at night I had to _____ my younger brother.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 23

SCHOOL REUNIONS

Have you ever wondered what your old **school-mates** are doing now? Well plenty of people in Britain do. One of the most successful internet **ventures** in Britain has shown how popular, and how **lucrative, nostalgia** can be.

The website Friends Reunited was started for fun in 1999 by a couple who were interested to know what their old school friends were doing. The project **snowballed** and by 2005, the site had 12 million members. One extraordinary fact is that Friends Reunited has never advertised, its success is entirely due to **word-of-mouth**.

You can **search for** a school, college or university and find a list of the members who were there in any year. You can also **post** a personal **profile** showing what you are doing now, and read other people's details.

Steve Pankhurst, one of the founders of the site, thinks that one of the reasons for its success is that some people like to be **anonymous**. On Friends Reunited, you can **snoop** on other people's lives without **giving away** anything about yourself if you don't want to. It's also an opportunity **to bolster your self-esteem** by **showing off** to everyone just how successful and happy you are now, even if you weren't while you were at school.

Friends Reunited has also led to many successful **school reunions**, and people meeting up with each other after many years. In particular, many people use the site to look up their **childhood sweethearts** and many couples have actually **rekindled** relationships after contacting each other through the site.

There have even been Friends Reunited weddings and babies, and Friends Reunited now has a new site called Friends Reunited Dating especially for people who are looking for love. The company has also launched other sites, such as Genes Reunited, which helps people to find **long-lost** relatives and build their **family trees** online.

Glossary

school-mates - people who went to the same school, or are in the same school now

ventures - enterprises, or business activities that usually have some risk involved

lucrative - profitable, bringing financial gain

nostalgia - missing the past

snowballed - grew quickly

word-of-mouth - when information is passed between people by talking about something

search for - look for

post - publish, make available to others (on a website)

profile - here, a description of your life and character

anonymous - not revealing your name
snoop - secretly look
giving away - telling, revealing
to bolster your self-esteem – to make you more confident
showing off - displaying your success and/or wealth
school reunions - occasions where former school-mates get together
childhood sweethearts - people who you used to have romantic feelings about when you were a child
rekindled - made work again
long-lost - lost a long time ago
family trees - a chart that shows the relationship between different members of a family over a long period of time

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. You can only see your own details on the Friends Reunited website. **True / False**
2. In 2005, there were 12 million schools listed on the site. **True / False**
3. Some couples have got married after reuniting via the website. **True / False**
4. When Friends Reunited first began the founders wanted to create a lucrative business. **True / False**
5. There are colleges and universities on Friends Reunited as well as schools. **True / False**

2. Collocations

Do these words form a collocation with the word 'school'? Put a tick or a cross in the box next to each word.

SCHOOL

dinners	
learn	
bus	
teacher	
mother	
reunion	

uniform	
friends	
table	

3. Prefixes

Match the correct prefix to each word. Put the words in the correct column.

honest
happy

popular
cycle

union
approve

correct
accurate

re-	un-	dis-	in-

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 24

INSTANT MESSAGING

When you meet someone for the first time, do you ask their ASL? Do you LOL if they **come out with** something funny, and say 'CU L8er' when you finish the conversation? If you know what I'm talking about, then you are probably already a user of Instant Messaging, or IM.

The idea behind IM is simple. When you send someone an email, you don't know when you will get a reply. Your friend might not check their messages, or might not use that email address anymore. With IM, however, a **program** on your computer tells you when a friend is **online**. You can then send a message to your friend, who can type a reply instantly. To do this, you need an IM program, such as AIM, ICQ, MSN Messenger or Windows IM.

IM is already **hugely popular** in the USA, where people spend five times more time online than in Europe. However, IM is starting to **take off** in the UK, with over 3,000 people **signing up to** MSN Messenger alone every day. Worldwide, AIM, the IM service provided by AOL is by far the most popular. It has 195 million users who send about 1.6 billion messages every day. ICQ, which is **owned by** AOL, has about 140 million messengers, and MSN and Windows IM put together have about 75 million users.

The advantages of IM are **obvious**, but there is one very important disadvantage. You can only contact someone on the same network as you. If your friend is using AIM, and you are using MSN, you cannot talk to each other. This makes IM less useful than it should be. Imagine if you could not send an email from Hotmail to Yahoo. However, things look like they will change soon.

In general, **the future looks bright** for IM. Many programs also allow you to have voice conversations, have video conferencing – this means you can see the other person using a **webcam** – and also let you **swap** pictures, music and other files.

So, perhaps we'll all soon be asking someone's age, sex and location (ASL), and laughing out loud (LOL) when they say something funny. See you later!

Glossary

come out with - here, say

program - computer software, application (note the American spelling)

online - connected to a computer network, in this case to an IM service

hugely popular - used by many people

take off - become popular

signing up to - becoming users of

owned by - if something is owned by someone, it belongs to them

obvious - evident, clear, easy to see and understand

the future looks bright – what will happen later is likely to be good
webcam - a camera which records moving images and sound and allows these to be transmitted over a computer network, e.g. the Internet, as they happen
swap - exchange

1. Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. MSN Messenger is an e-mail program. **True / False**
2. People spend less time online in the USA than in Europe. **True / False**
3. ICQ is less popular than AIM. **True / False**
4. You have to use the same program to talk to your friends. **True / False**
5. You can exchange files with some IM services. **True / False**

2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text.

1. What does an IM program on your computer tell you?

2. How many people are joining MSN Messenger every day?

3. How many messages are sent using AIM every day?

4. What is the disadvantage with IM?

5. What does 'LOL' mean?

3. Summary Completion

Complete the summary with the following words:

bright by hugely obvious off online swap up with

Instant Messaging, or IM, means using a program that tells you when a friend is 1. _____ so you can message them instantly, and they can reply. IM is 2. _____ popular in the USA and is starting to take 3. _____ in the UK. 3,000 people are signing 4. _____ to MSN Messenger every day.

AIM and ICQ are the two most popular systems. They are both owned 5. _____ AOL. These two systems have almost 350 million users. The good points of IM are 6. _____, but there is one disadvantage. You can only communicate with someone who is using the same program. However, the future looks 7. _____ for IM. Some systems let you have voice conversations, see each other using webcams, and 8. _____ pictures and music.

IM also has its own language. You can use 'ASL' to find out how old someone is, if they are a man or a woman, and where they are. You can use 'LOL', meaning laugh out loud, if someone comes out 9. _____ something funny, and 'CU L8er', for see you later, or goodbye.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 25

ONLINE MUSIC SALES

Do you like music? Of course you do. Are you still going to the record shop to buy your records? If you are, you may not be for much longer.

According to recent figures, more than 62 million singles were sold or **downloaded** legally from the Internet in the UK in 2006. That figure is almost **twice** as much as the 32 million bought in 2004, and experts think it will continue to grow over the coming years. This reflects a global trend: digital music sales across the world almost doubled to around .1bn in 2006, according to an industry report. And last April US hip-hop duo Gnarls Barkley became the first act to reach number one with their song 'Crazy' purely through downloads.

However, the traditional single has not disappeared. 'You cannot **write off** traditional **formats** just yet', said Mr Jamieson, **spokesman** for the British Phonographic Industry – the BPI, the organisation responsible for music sales in the UK. Since music download services began a couple of years ago, the British music industry has been quick **to take advantage** and is now beginning to feel the benefits. While the fight against **illegal** downloading continues, it seems the public have been happy to join the new legal services. You access the web page, choose the songs you want, type in your credit card details and you can download immediately.

The British public still enjoys buying records, however, according to the BPI. Rock groups such as Babyshambles, Kaiser Chiefs and Franz Ferdinand have been extremely popular and helped make sales high. With music you can buy in the shops and music you can download from the Internet, from Coldplay to Oasis, Gorillaz to Franz Ferdinand, British music is **going from strength to strength!**

Glossary

downloaded - obtained by using a computer

twice - two times

write off - cancel; dismiss something because it has failed, become too old or is insignificant

format - the way in which something is arranged or presented

spokesman - a person who speaks as the representative of a group or organisation

to take advantage - to use something for your own benefit, sometimes unfairly

illegal - against the law

going from strength to strength - gradually becoming more and more successful

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Downloading music legally is very popular in the UK. **True / False**
2. Nobody buys records any more. **True / False**
3. British music is more successful than it used to be. **True / False**

2. Phrasal Verbs

Look at the phrasal verbs below. Can you match them with their definitions?

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. write off | a. to continue |
| 2. bring out | b. to cancel or recognize that something is a failure |
| 3. keep on | c. to have no more, use something up |
| 4. join in | d. to start to sell a new product |
| 5. run out of | e. to participate |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs.

1. I always do that. I _____ talking even when people tell me to stop.
2. I don't really like watching sports. I prefer to _____.
3. I hear Coldplay are going to _____ a new album next year.
4. I need to go to the supermarket because I have _____ food.
5. You owe me .5000, but if you give me your car I will _____ the debt.

3. Idioms. Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to songs and music. Match the idiom to its definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. make a song and dance | a. to perform well |
| 2. face the music | b. news you are happy to receive |
| 3. on song | c. to react badly, over-react |
| 4. music to my ears | d. to receive criticism or punishment when you do something wrong |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms.

1. David Beckham had a great game. He was really _____.
2. Don't _____! I was only 5 minutes late.
3. When I heard I had passed the exam it was like _____.
4. When the teachers caught me smoking at school I had to _____.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 26

UNIVERSITIES IN THE UK

Universities in Britain are a **magnet** for **overseas** students. There are currently over 200,000 from outside Britain studying at British universities. The largest single group is Chinese students. There are currently 50,000 in the UK. The British government expects the total number of overseas students to be around 900,000 by 2020, and also thinks that a quarter of these will be Chinese.

But why is the UK such a popular destination for university students? Well, the quality of your course is **guaranteed**. All courses are **assessed** by an independent system, so you can be assured that your course is officially approved and has wide international **recognition**.

The British education system is very flexible in order to provide for the needs of a modern, complex society. It is also **cost-effective**. **Degree** courses are usually shorter and more intensive than in other countries. There are lots of **scholarships** available. You normally need 3 A-levels, which are the exams taken by people leaving school at 18, in order to enter an undergraduate degree course. You also need an **IELTS** score of at least 5.5, but many universities offer **foundation** or access courses to prepare students for their studies.

British universities offer a **personalised** but independent approach. The **emphasis** is on creative and independent thought, which helps develop the skills you will need to compete in the **global job market**. Tutors not only teach but also provide support and **guidance**. As a result, international students have a very low **drop out** rate and a very high **pass rate**.

It is very simple to become an international student in the UK. The British Council offers a free and **impartial** service to anyone who is interested in studying in the UK, and an organisation called UCAS assists you in finding a course and making an effective application.

The UK is a **dynamic** and **cosmopolitan** place. The countryside is beautiful, and the theatres, museums, architecture and rich history make it a **fascinating** place to live and study. Why not give it a go?

Glossary

magnet - a thing that attracts (literally, a piece of metal that attracts or repels iron)

overseas - coming from abroad, foreign

guaranteed - promised and assured

assessed - evaluated, ranked

recognition - accepting that something (e.g. a course) is of high quality

cost-effective - here, provides good education for not too much money

degree - here, providing further education

scholarships - payments from a sponsor's funds to maintain a good student in full-time education

IELTS - short for International English Language Testing System. It measures ability to communicate in English across all four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking

foundation - here, basic, preparatory

personalised - focused on individual students

emphasis - special importance

global job market - jobs that are open to people all over the world

guidance - help and direction

drop out - when you have to stop your university studies before you have completed your course

pass rate - marks that you need to get in order to begin/continue to study at a university

impartial - fair, unbiased

dynamic - where a lot happens and changes happen quite often

cosmopolitan - including people of many different backgrounds

fascinating - very interesting, irresistibly attractive

1. Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Chinese students make up the largest group of international students in the UK. **True/False**
2. The number of overseas students will rise over the next 15 years. **True/False**
3. By 2020, 50% of overseas students will be Chinese. **True/False**
4. British degrees are not recognised outside of the UK. **True/False**
5. You can get a scholarship to study in the UK. **True/False**

c) Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text.

1. Who can you get advice from about studying in the UK?

2. What do many universities offer to prepare students for their studies?

3. Who provides support and guidance?

4. Who can help you make an effective application?

d) Summary Completion

Complete the summary with words from the box.

assessed	emphasis	global	magnet	rates
cosmopolitan				
foundation	guaranteed	overseas	scholarships	

British universities are a 1. _____ for overseas students. There are over 200,000 2. _____ students studying in the UK, and 50,000 are from China.

British courses are 3. _____ by an independent system. Therefore, the quality of your course is 4. _____.

Courses are cost effective, and take less time than in many other countries. The British Council can tell you about 5. _____.

You will need 3 A-levels and an IELTS score of at least 5.5 to enter a British university, but you can also do a 6. _____ or access course to prepare you for your studies.

British universities use a personalised but independent approach. The 7. _____ is on creative and independent thought. This will help you compete in the 8. _____ job market.

Overseas students have very high pass 9. _____, and get a lot of support and guidance from the tutors.

The UK is a fascinating, dynamic and 10. _____ place to live and study. Why not give it a go?

2. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 27

THEATRE IN THE UK

For many people **the highlight** of a visit to London is the chance to see a West End show. The West End of London, situated **a stone's throw** from Piccadilly Circus and Chinatown, is home to dozens of beautiful theatres.

London's West End theatres are currently enjoying **a boom** in popularity and ticket sales. According to the Society of London Theatres, nearly 12 million people attended a West End show last year, whilst audience numbers in 2005 look set **to outstrip** that impressive figure.

One possible reason for the success of contemporary theatrical productions is the **casting** of **A-list** Hollywood actors in **lead roles**. Val Kilmer, star of films like Top Gun and Batman Forever, is currently appearing in The Postman Always Rings Twice.

And he is not alone - other American movie stars performing in London include Oscar winner, Kevin Spacey, and David Schwimmer, who found international fame in the hit TV **sitcom**, Friends.

British screen stars are also **treading the boards** in West End shows. Scottish actor, Ewan McGregor, is appearing in the classic 1950s **musical** Guys and Dolls – an experience very different to making movies. McGregor says 'The actual process of making films is **extraordinarily tedious**. It is very difficult to keep your energy and focus. Whereas what is wonderful about this is we have to create it together.'

Ironically, it is not just that film stars are acting in **plays** nowadays but films themselves are being adapted for the stage. Amongst the films that can now be seen as plays or musicals are The Lion King, A Few Good Men, and Billy Elliot.

The **longest-running** shows in the West End are usually musicals. The Andrew Lloyd Webber show, Cats, **ran for** 21 years and 7000 performances, making its composer a multi-millionaire.

However, not all musicals do so well. Oscar Wilde: The Musical ran for only one night, closing after terrible reviews and poor **bookings**. It was quite possibly the biggest **flop** in London theatrical history.

Glossary

the highlight - a moment of vivid interest, an outstanding feature

a stone's throw - very near

a boom - a period of prosperity or sudden activity

to outstrip - to be bigger than

casting - allocation of roles

A-list - most popular

lead roles - main characters in a play

sitcom - short for situational comedy

treading the boards - being an actor, appear on the stage
musical - a theatrical piece where music is an essential element
extraordinarily tedious – long and taking a lot of effort
ironically - in the nature of irony
plays - theatrical pieces
longest-running - that has been performed for the longest time
ran for - was on the stage
bookings – reservations of seats
flop - failure

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. London's West End is located not very far from Chinatown. **True / False**
2. Ticket sales for West End shows have been very poor in recent years due to high prices. **True / False**
3. The actor, Ewan McGregor, feels that the process of shooting a film is actually very boring. **True / False**
4. Many successful West End shows are adapted for the big screen and made into movies. **True / False**
5. Some West End musical can have a run lasting decades. **True / False**

2. Error Correction

Each of these sentences has a mistake in it. Find the mistake and rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. My girlfriend said me that she wanted to see a musical in London.
2. Tonight's performance of The Lion King has been called up because the lead actor is ill. Tickets can be exchanged for another performance.
3. Every weak there are ten performances of the show.
4. 'I think the song "Memory" from the musical Cats is a really beautiful song.' 'I am agree. It's a lovely ballad.'
5. The ticket sales for Oscar Wilde: The Musical were very disappointed. Nobody wanted to see the show.

6. If I will go to London, I will certainly try to catch a show.

3. Idioms

Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to the theatre. Match the idiom to its definition.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. waiting in the wings | a. Good luck! (said to somebody who is about to perform or speak in public) |
| 2. the show must go on | b. to perform better than another person |
| 3. break a leg! | c. being ready and prepared to step into the action |
| 4. to upstage somebody | d. it's necessary to continue despite problems or difficulties |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

1. 'I have to go now and deliver my presentation to the board of managers.'
' _____ . I hope it all goes well.'
2. 'We are having problems with our staff at the moment. Nearly half of them are off work with the flu.' 'Well, I know it's difficult but _____. We can't just give up.'
3. My boss is very angry with me because I _____ him at the meeting. My ideas were much better received than his.
4. You should always do your best in your job because there are always people _____ to take your job if you don't do it well.

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 28

THE WORLD OF ANIMATION

British films are rarely successful in the United States. However, the animated adventures of a cheese-loving, **eccentric inventor** and his **canine companion** are proving to be a surprise hit in America, having taken the number one position in the US box office on the weekend of its release.

In a year which has seen poor ticket sales for big-budget, action movies it seems that the gentle, **quirky humour** of 'Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit' has captured the American public's imagination.

Although Wallace and Gromit have been stars in the UK for a number of years, they are less well-known abroad. For those who don't know, Wallace is a **hare-brained** inventor with a passion for Wensleydale cheese. Gromit is his **wily** dog. Both are **clay models** brought to life through the **painstaking** process of **stop-motion animation**.

Their creator, Nick Park, **dreamed them up** whilst still a student at the National Film and Television School in the 1980s. Their first film 'A Grand Day Out' began as his graduation film and was completed whilst working for his first employers, Aardman Animations.

Since then their rise has been steady but slow. Because the technique of stop-motion animation is so **labour intensive**, typically producing two seconds of film per day's work, Wallace and Gromit films are **few and far between**. They have appeared in only three half-hour films for television and ten one-minute films specially made for the Internet.

Nevertheless, they have received a great deal of **critical acclaim**. Their first film was nominated for an Oscar whilst their second and third **outings** 'The Wrong Trousers' and 'A Close Shave' both won Oscars.

Hollywood **came calling** in 2000 when Aardman Animations made a five-movie deal with Steven Spielberg's film studio Dreamworks. 'The Curse of the Were-Rabbit' has taken four years and a reported \$30 million to make, and features the voices of international stars Helena Bonham-Carter and Ralph Fiennes.

Despite **hitting the big time**, one thing hasn't changed since their earliest days. Wallace's voice remains that of veteran, sit-com actor Peter Sallis. Sallis first agreed to take the role after receiving a letter from **then student** Nick Park and an offer of a £50 donation to the charity of his choice.

Glossary

eccentric inventor – a person who creates things and behaves in a strange way

canine companion – a dog that is a friend

quirky humour – the quality of being amusing or comic in an unusual way

hare-brained – rash, wild

clay models – figures made of hard sticky earth
wily – cunning, good at getting what you want
stop-motion animation – the technique of filming successive positions of models to create an illusion of movement
painstaking – taking a lot of effort
labour intensive – that takes a lot of work and effort
dreamed them up – invented them
critical acclaim – positive response from critics
few and far between – not made often
came calling – showed interest
outings – here, released films
then student – who was a student at the time
hitting the big time – becoming very popular

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Wallace and Gromit are characters invented by American film studio Dreamworks. **True / False**
2. Nick Park first invented the characters when he was studying at film school. **True / False**
3. Advanced computer technology is used to animate Wallace and Gromit to give them a 3D look. **True / False**
4. It takes a whole day's work to complete just two minutes of screen time. **True / False**
5. Peter Sallis was paid just .50 for his work on the latest Wallace and Gromit film. **True / False**

e) Vocabulary – film expressions

Look at the words and phrase below. Can you match them to their meanings?

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. to cut to the chase | a. the cinema |
| 2. that's a wrap | b. to make a special effort to welcome somebody (as if they were a film star) |

3. to roll out the red carpet

c. to get to the most important or interesting part of the story

4. the flicks

d. the job is finished

Now complete these sentences using the words or phrases from above.

1. 'What do you want to do tonight?' 'Why don't we got to the _____ and see a movie?'

2. We have a very important client coming to the office this afternoon so we need to _____.

3. Well, _____. We can all go home now.

4. His explanations are so long and complicated. Why can't he just _____?

f) Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. characters famous Many lend voices to actors their cartoon

2. to It millions produce can and an animated film cost years take

3. CGI animation or also Computer known CG simply is as

4. films technique Gromit used animation Stop-motion in Wallace is the and

5. character Disney the for the Mickey original Mouse provided Walt voice

2. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 29

MUSIC IN THE UK

Have you ever heard of Al Martino? Not many people know his name nowadays but back in 1952 he made history by becoming the first **recording artist** to have a number one record with his song 'Here In My Heart'.

For more than fifty years sales of **singles** have been measured on a weekly basis and **ranked** in a chart. The week's **best-selling** single takes the number one position for that week.

So who has had the most number ones? For 25 years The Beatles and Elvis Presley **matched each other** with 18 number one records apiece. However, in 2005 Elvis earned a **posthumous** number one when his 1957 **hit** 'Jailhouse Rock' was **re-released**. Since then two more Elvis singles have gone to the top of the charts bringing his total to 21 number ones!

Over the years many artists have enjoyed incredible success in the charts. Bryan Adams held the number one position for 16 weeks in 1991 with the **ballad** 'Everything I Do I Do It For You' whilst Elton John's tribute to Princess Diana, 'Candle In The Wind 97', sold 4.86 million copies in the UK.

However, there are concerns over the future of the music industry as sales have fallen in recent years. This was illustrated in 2004 when Eric Prydz had a number one record despite having sold less than 24,000 copies.

One reason for the fall in CD sales could be the increase in **music downloads**. Many computer users illegally download MP3 files through **peer-to-peer**, file-sharing networks.

The music industry has responded to this new threat by offering the possibility to buy downloads from approved web sites. These digital downloads were **integrated** into the UK chart for the first time in April 2005. Ironically, the first number one of the digital age was a **reissue** of Tony Christie's 'Amarillo', a song first released in 1971.

Glossary

recording artist - a singer who performs in a studio so that their songs are recorded

singles - songs

ranked - had a particular position in a list of songs that have been put in order of popularity

best-selling - selling a lot of copies

matched each other - had an equal number of number one records

posthumous - after death

hit - a very popular song that sells a lot of copies

re-released - made available again for people to buy

ballad - a slow love song

music downloads - pieces of music which you can get using a computer
peer-to-peer - from one computer to another
integrated - included
reissue - a piece of music that has been made available again for people to buy

1. Reading Quiz

Are the following sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. The music charts have measured sales of singles for more than five decades.

True/False

2. Elvis Presley managed to get to number one after his death. **True/False**

3. Elton John's song 'Candle In The Wind 97' is dedicated to the memory of Marilyn Monroe. **True/False**

4. CD sales have risen sharply in recent years. **True/False**

5. Many people download music in the WAV format. **True/False**

6. The UK chart includes digital download sales as well as CD sales. **True/False**

2. Musical Genres

What musical genres do you know? Read the descriptions of different musical genres below. Can you guess which genre is being described? If you need help, look at the box at the bottom of the page. All the names of the genres are there.

1. This type of music is usually played by orchestras or smaller groups of musicians. They play traditional acoustic instruments such as violins, trumpets and pianos. Longer pieces of music are called symphonies whilst shorter works are called concertos. Some of the most famous composers of this musical genre include Mozart, Beethoven and Vivaldi.

2. This form of music has a history of several centuries. Performances are usually two to three hours long and take place in theatres. The performers portray characters but act out their parts using song rather than speech. Famous examples of this genre include 'The Marriage of Figaro', 'Aida' and 'The Magic Flute'.

3. This contemporary musical genre first became popular in the 1980s when a new musical style evolved in the United States. Instead of singing the lyrics, performers spoke the words rhythmically. This style of delivery became known as 'rapping'. Performers of this genre often take small portions of older songs and combine them with drumbeats to create a powerful, rhythmic sound. They then rap their own words over the soundtrack.

Opera Classical Hip-hop

3. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. sales due sharply CD to dropped illegal have downloads
2. use people still Although many CD are prefer players to players popular MP3 portable
3. careers recent In winning their years by some started have television recording talent artists competitions on
4. carefully and market Record sometimes manufacture companies buy them bands

4. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

Chapter 30

VALENTINE'S DAY, OR LOVE IS IN THE AIR

It's that time of the year when couples show their love for each other by sending cards, flowers and chocolates. But Valentine's Day is not only about **public displays of affection**: in recent years it has also become big business. In the UK alone, more than £20 million is spent on flowers, whilst in the United States over \$1 billion is **forked out** on chocolates.

Although Valentine's Day has become a global industry with more than 80 million roses sold worldwide, the origins of the day are unclear and **hidden in the mists of time**. Nobody knows exactly who St Valentine was, although some historians suggest he was a Roman **martyred** in the third century AD by a Roman Emperor. It is said that the first **recorded** Valentine's card was sent by the **imprisoned** Duke of Orleans in 1415. It is believed that he **sought solace** from his **confinement** by writing love poems to his wife.

Valentine's Day, or its **equivalent**, is now celebrated in many countries around the world. However, the traditions often differ from place to place. In Japan, for example, it is **customary** for the woman to send chocolates to the man, whilst in Korea April 14th is known as 'Black Day' and is when the unfortunate men who received nothing on Valentine's Day gather to eat noodles and **commiserate with** each other.

Technological developments have also played their part in keeping Valentine's Day relevant in the 21st century. Valentine's **e-cards** have been **all the rage** in recent years. However, internet security experts urge web users to be **wary** as **malicious hackers** could use e-cards to spread **viruses** and **spyware**.

Valentine's cards can also be used for less than romantic purposes. Police in the UK city of Liverpool sent Valentine's cards to criminals who failed to appear in court or have not paid fines. The cards contained the verse, "Roses are red, violets are blue, you've got a **warrant**, and we'd love to see you." Who says romance is dead?

Glossary

public displays of affection – showing your feelings of liking or love for someone in public

forked out – forced to spend (colloquial)

hidden in the mists of time – too old for anyone to remember/confirm/clarify

martyred – killed because of his beliefs

recorded – known, documented

imprisoned – put in jail

sought solace – tried to find comfort

confinement – imprisonment

equivalent – here, a special occasion that has the same meaning and purpose

customary – normal, usual

commiserate with – show sympathy for

e-cards – short for electronic cards, i.e. virtual cards that are sent via the internet

all the rage – very popular

wary – here, careful

malicious hackers – people who access other people's computers with bad intentions (e.g. to look for their personal information, like credit card details, or to stop their computers working properly)

viruses – here, computer programs which can make copies of themselves, preventing the computer from working properly

spyware – computer programs that reveal the identity of a computer user

warrant – a document that gives police specific powers, e.g. the right to search or arrest somebody

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. St Valentine was a famous Roman Emperor who was famous as a romantic. **True / False / Not given**

2. The very first Valentine's card was sent over 500 years ago. **True / False / Not given**

3. Disappointed Korean men who have received no Valentine's cards eat a special dish in April. **True / False / Not given**

4. Some Valentine's cards are now sent through cyberspace. **True / False / Not given**

5. Lonely policemen in Liverpool are looking for love by sending out many Valentine's cards. **True / False / Not given**

2. Love idioms: guess their meanings!

See if you can match these commonly used idioms connected to love with the correct definition:

1. to be head over heels in love

a. to be attracted to someone without publicly showing it

2. to fall for

b. to get married

3. to tie the knot

c. to fall in love to with somebody

4. to have a crush on someone

d. to be very much in love

Now try and complete the following sentences using one of the above idioms in the correct form:

1. My fiancée and I have been engaged for nearly a year so we're going to _____ in the summer.

2. I _____ one of my workmates but I'm too shy to tell him.

3. She is _____ in love with her new boyfriend. She talks about him all the time. It's getting quite boring now.

4. I _____ my girlfriend the first time I saw her and I'm still crazy about her now.

3. Relate the information in the article to your own life or exchange your opinions on issues in the text.

VOCABULARY

News

Types of Journalism and Media

broadcast journalism - news on television or radio

print journalism - written news in newspapers, magazines, etc.

online journalism - news on the internet

citizen journalism - a new expression describing the kind of journalism based on images, audio and reports sent in to news groups by ordinary members of the public who witnessed events

independent media - media groups which are not controlled by the government

broadsheets - newspapers (traditionally larger in size) which generally contain serious reports and analyses of news

tabloids - newspapers (usually smaller than broadsheets) which contain lighter stories and focus more on entertainment and gossip

24 hour news channels - stations which provide news all day and night

rolling news - non-stop news

Common Journalism Language

to cover a story - to report on an event or development

in-depth coverage of - a thorough analysis of

to verify - to check that something is correct

eyewitness reports - descriptions of what happened by people who actually saw an event take place

breaking news - news which is just coming in

Media Business

circulation - how many copies of a newspaper are sold each day or each week

advertising revenue - the money a firm makes by selling space to other firms to advertise their products

ANSWERS

Chapter 1

1. Reading Quiz

1. The British film industry won 11 Oscars at the 81st Academy Awards Ceremony. **True**
2. British actors and actresses often win Oscars. **False**
3. The success of the movie Slumdog Millionaire has helped the British film industry. **True**
4. The British prime minister believes that a lot of talented people work in the UK film industry. **True**
5. Some of the winning movies had received money from the UK government or other national organisations. **True**

2. Order of Adjectives

1. great is Chinese This a martial arts film.
This is a great Chinese martial arts film.
2. horror It was a old terrible movie.
It was a terrible old horror movie.
3. movie had classical brilliant a The soundtrack.
The movie had a brilliant classical soundtrack.
4. film rather a unrealistic has The ending.
The film has a rather unrealistic ending.

3. Film Genres

1. "The film was so frightening that I had to close my eyes".
horror
2. "I don't usually like movies about love and relationships but this one was really funny".
romantic comedy
3. "The audience obviously enjoyed this movie because everyone was singing along".
musical
4. "It was a typical cowboy film. There was a showdown at a saloon, a corrupt sheriff and a girl in need of rescue".
western
5. "Although this was not a true story, I thought the film quite accurately depicted a soldier's life during battle".
war

6. "I knew before I watched this movie that it was going to be fantastic. After all, the film is about an alien invasion".

science fiction

7. "The car-chase and the stunts in this movie were awesome".

action

8. "I think the person who illustrated this film deserves an Oscar".

animation

Chapter 2

1. Reading Quiz

1. The Apprentice is a TV game show. **True**
2. Sir Alan Sugar is a successful businessman in the UK. **True**
3. The weekly tasks test how well the potential apprentices work together. **True**
4. The winner of the Apprentice will get a job with an annual salary of at least £100,000. **True**
5. The winner of the Apprentice will get Sir Alan Sugar's job. **False**

2. Business Idioms

- a. get off the ground
2. to successfully start something

- b. get a break
4. to get a good opportunity

- c. make a go of
5. to do something well

- d. mean business
1. to be serious about something

- e. take on
3. to give someone a job

1. I really think I deserve a promotion. When will I get a break?
2. We are going to outsell all of our competitors this month. I mean business.
3. We are understaffed. I think we need to take on another administrator.
4. We have a great team and excellent products. I think we can really make a go of this business.
5. Starting a new business is very difficult. You need a lot of support to get off the ground.

Chapter 3

1. Reading Quiz

1. Susan Boyle is a long-established British superstar. **False**
2. Susan Boyle is a contestant on a TV talent show. **True**
3. A video of Susan Boyle has been watched by millions of people on the internet. **True**
4. Susan Boyle is a glamorous young woman. **False**
5. Susan Boyle is a favourite to win the TV show Britain's Got Talent. **True**

2. Expressions

a)

- (i) judging a book by its cover
(d) making assumptions based on how something or someone looks
- (ii) as pleased as Punch
(c) being very happy
- (iii) a plain Jane
(b) not being very attractive
- (iv) a class act
(a) being exceptional at what you do

b)

1. Susan is very proud of her success on the show; in fact she is as pleased as Punch.
2. Susan is a truly talented singer; in fact she is a class act.
3. Susan has been described as a plain Jane. However, this is one of her most appealing qualities.
4. During Susan's audition, people had to admit they were somewhat guilty of judging a book by its cover.

Chapter 4

1. Reading Quiz

1. The UK is renowned for its hot climate and sunny weather. **False**
2. Some people think a tan makes them look healthier. **True**
3. Cancer Research UK think that using sunbeds when you are young can lead to skin cancer. **True**
4. Ten-year-old Kelly Thompson was badly burnt from using a sunbed. **True**
5. The British government advise that no one under 21 should use sunbeds. **False**

2. Jumbled Sentences

1. There seems to be a growing desire for tanned skin.
2. Many people believe a tan makes them look healthier.
3. Cancer Research UK are strongly against young people using sunbeds.
4. Self-regulation in the sunbed industry is unlikely to continue.
5. The government advises that people under 18 should not use sunbeds.

3. Vocabulary: Adjectives

1. horrified
(e) *Feeling shocked about something*
2. furious
(c) *Feeling angry about something*
3. disappointed
(a) *Feeling unhappy because something was not as good as you had expected*
4. worried
(b) *Feeling anxious or concerned about something*
5. depressed
(d) *Feeling unhappy or to be without hope for the future*

Chapter 5

1. Reading Quiz

1. There are no rules about what you can name your child in the UK. **False**
2. A New Zealand couple recently named their son 4Real. **False**
3. There are a number of children in the UK named Arsenal. **True**
4. Jordan made up the name Tiáamii. **True**
5. The most popular boy's name in the UK is George. **False**

2. Adjectives

1. c) offensive
2. a) beautiful
3. b) fashionable
4. c) traditional

Chapter 6

1. Reading Quiz

1. A lot of the storm damage was caused by falling trees. **True**
2. Although there were injuries, nobody was killed in the storm. **False**
3. Many people had no electricity because of the storm. **True**
4. The British weathermen forecast that the storm would hit Britain. **False**
5. Weather forecasters are still using the same technology as in 1987. **False**

2. Male and female jobs

Male	Female	Both
c		teacher
d headmaster	headmistress	head-teacher
e waiter	waitress	waiter
f		butcher
g policeman	policewoman	police officer
h		artist/painter

3. Colour words and expressions

- a) *A time when there are no lights on:* A **black**-out
- b) *Jealousy:* The **green**-eyed monster
- c) *Really pleased:* Tickled **pink**
- d) *Unhappiness:* Feeling **blue**
- e) *Hiding the truth:* A **white**-wash
- f) *Going out and having fun:* Paint the town **red**

Chapter 7

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Ballroom dancing has become more popular in the UK thanks to the 'Strictly Come Dancing' TV show. **True**
2. There are three judges on the show who comment on the dances. **False**
3. It's only old people who are interested in ballroom dancing these days. **False**
4. The American ballroom dancing TV show is called 'Dancing with Celebrities'. **False**
5. A foxtrot is a kind of ballroom dance. **True**

2. Adjectives

Can you match up each adjective with the correct definition?

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. e
5. b

Now complete the following sentences with one of the adjectives from above:

1. My sister is so fashionable. She has just bought a really **trendy** mobile phone.
2. The ballroom dancers were dressed in bright pink and green and yellow – they looked so **colourful** on the dancefloor.
3. It's so **glamorous** being a ballroom dancer. You get to wear long expensive dresses with sequins on.
4. My father's clothes are so **unfashionable** – they are all from the 1970s.
5. You need to be fit to ballroom dance. You move around a lot and it's very **energetic**.

Chapter 8

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. The January sales actually start before the end of December. **True**
2. The shops opened for the sales at 9am. **False**
3. Only small retailers have January sales. **False**
4. Around 200 thousand people went shopping on Oxford Street at the beginning of the sales. **Not given**
5. Gadgets, clothes and home furnishings can all be bought in the sales. **True**

2. Expressions

Can you put these words in the right order to make slang expressions used in the text?

1. to hit the shops
2. to get into full swing
3. a good bet
4. to stock up on
5. to get in on the act

3. Correct the mistake

Each of the following sentences have a mistake in them. Can you find the mistake and write the sentence correctly below?

1. Bargain hunters **queue up** outside the shops early.

2. In some sales, you can get discounts **of** as much as 80%.
3. A department **store** is a good place to buy lots of different things.
4. I like to stock up **on** new clothes in the sales.
5. Shopping in the sales in the shops can be **more stressful** than online shopping.
6. People who buy their presents for next Christmas in the January sales are the **most organised**.

Chapter 9

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Keira Knightley could win an Oscar this year. **False**
2. A 13-year-old has been nominated for best supporting actress. **True**
3. Cate Blanchett plays a man in a film about Bob Dylan. **True**
4. A famous Hollywood actor died recently. **True**

2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words).

Example answers:

1. Atonement is a romantic drama.
2. They are both Irish actors.
3. She plays the part of a man.
4. They think he took an overdose.

Now choose the correct answer (a, b or c):

1. Atonement is a b. British film.
2. Daniel Day Lewis was born in b. Britain.
3. No Country For Old Men b. topped the nominations list.
4. Heath Ledger b. co-starred in the film Brokeback Mountain in 2005.

3. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. Atonement is leading the pack of British Oscar hopefuls.

2. A British-born Irish actor has been shortlisted for best actor.
3. An American movie has been nominated eight times.
4. Cate Blanchett plays a man in a bio-pic.

Chapter 10

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. There are big earthquakes in Britain all the time. **False**
2. The last big earthquake in Britain happened 25 years ago. **True**
3. The epicentre of the earthquake was in London. **False**
4. No one died in the earthquake. **True**
5. Lots of properties were very badly damaged in the earthquake. **False**

2. Comparatives

Complete the sentences below choosing the correct option:

1. The recent earthquake in Britain was **worse** than any other tremor in the last 25 years.
2. Most of the many tremors that happen in Britain are **smaller** than the one that happened in February.
3. Earthquakes are **more dangerous** than tremors.
4. The recent earthquake was **weaker** than some of the major natural disasters that have happened in the past few years around the world.
5. This was a **more important** story in the news because the earthquake was quite a big one.
6. It is **more unusual** for an earthquake to happen in the UK than in Japan.

3. Jumbled Sentences

The words in the following sentences are in wrong order. Can you rearrange them to make a correct sentence in English?

1. In February 2008 there was an earthquake in the UK, **or** In the UK there was an earthquake in February 2008, **or** In the UK, in February 2008 there was an earthquake.
2. It was the biggest earthquake in 25 years in the UK, **or** It was the biggest earthquake in the UK in 25 years.
3. The epicentre of the earthquake was in the north of England.
4. The earthquake had a magnitude of 5.2.
5. There were no deaths but a man broke his pelvis.

6. Lots of small tremors go unnoticed every year in Britain.

Chapter 11

Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Heathrow airport deals with more international passengers than any other airport in the world. **True**
2. No one expected very much from the new terminal. **False**
3. There were more than enough staff to deal with passengers when they started to arrive. **False**
4. The backlog of luggage was cleared immediately. **False**
5. There is only one airline operating out of Terminal 5. **True**

2. Verbs

Match the verbs up with their correct definitions.

1. c 2. d 3. a 4. e 5. b 6. f

Now complete the following sentence using one of the verbs from above.

1. There are so many problems at the airport, they will have to **cancel** some flights.
2. More flights were cancelled to **alleviate** the problems.
3. I'd like to **propose** we start the meeting at 9 a.m.
4. There's not enough staff to **handle** all the bags that are coming through the airport.
5. There are a few technical problems that are going to **delay** things.
6. I was hoping the opportunity to travel would **materialise** in my new job, but unfortunately it didn't.

Chapter 12

1. Reading Quiz 1

1. Boris Johnson is a member of the Labour Party. **False**
2. Mr Johnson is generally seen as a boring politician. **False**
3. Boris Johnson's childhood ambition was to become king of England. **False**
4. Ken Livingstone had been London's mayor for 8 years. **True**
5. Fighting crime is important to Boris Johnson. **True**

2. Reading Quiz 2

1. They thought he wasn't a serious politician
2. He called them cannibals
3. To be world king
4. A fee for driving in central London
5. Fight crime / Stop anti-social behaviour / Bring people from different ethnic backgrounds together
6. c) wild
7. b) cannibalism
8. b) colourful
9. a) left-wing
10. c) tough

3. Fill in the Blanks

London's new **mayor** is called Boris Johnson. He was the **Conservative** Party candidate, and defeated the **Labour** Party candidate Ken Livingstone, who had been London's mayor for 8 years. Mr Johnson has been a **colourful** figure in British politics over the years, and frequently caused **controversy**, often appearing in newspaper **headlines**. One incident he'd probably rather forget was when he described people from Papua New Guinea as **cannibals**. But with his **victory** in the mayoral election he has **surprised** his critics, many of whom expected **left-wing** Ken Livingstone to win. Now he is mayor, Boris Johnson says he will be tough on **crime**.

Chapter 13

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Devil May Care is the new Bond film. **False**
2. Ian Fleming is the writer of Devil May Care. **False**
3. Sebastian Faulks writes mainly thrillers. **False**
4. James Bond is a real spy character. **False**
5. Daniel Craig will star in Quantum of Solace. **True**

2. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 1

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
to star to release	sequel legacy	exotic confusing

to scratch	speculation	fictional
------------	-------------	-----------

3. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 2

Complete the sentences below with one of the correct verbs, nouns and adjectives from above in the correct form.

1. The new Bond film Quantum of Solace is due to **be released** later this year.
2. Quantum of Solace is a **sequel** to Casino Royale.
3. The title of the new Bond film makes people **scratch** their heads.
4. The **legacy** of James Bond carries on, even though Ian Fleming has been dead for over 40 years.
5. There was some **speculation** that Sebastian Faulks would fail to write the Bond novel successfully.
6. James Bond stories always take place in **exotic** locations.

Chapter 14

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Mamma Mia! is the name for both the musical and the film. **True**
2. The film Mamma Mia! is a tragedy based on ABBA's music. **False**
3. Mamma Mia! is a story about a bride-to-be trying to identify her real mother. **False**
4. The title Mamma Mia is originally the name of an ABBA song. **True**
5. ABBA was this year's winner of the Eurovision song contest. **False**

Chapter 15

1. Reading Quiz

1. Mr Jones is travelling on his own. **True**
2. Mr Jones only stays in hotels. **False**
3. Edward Genochio is concerned about the environment. **True**
4. Cycling is becoming more popular in the UK. **True**

2. Parts of a bicycle

1. frame - the structure or main supporting parts of a bicycle

2. handlebars - the bars above the front wheel of a bicycle or that you turn to control its direction
3. brakes - a piece of equipment that makes a vehicle go more slowly or stop
4. chain - a series of metal rings which are joined together in a line that makes the wheel turn
5. pedal - one of the two parts of a bicycle that you push round with your feet to make the bicycle go forward
6. wheel - one of the round things under a car, bus, bicycle etc that turns when it moves

3. Vocabulary Exercise

1. My friend was a bit **puzzled** when I said I didn't want to earn lots of money.
2. These days there is a lot of talk amongst politicians about **sustainable** development.
3. When I started using email I was a bit confused, but now it's **second nature**.
4. A lot of China's economic growth has been **fuelled** by the manufacturing sector.
5. Martin was going to ask a friend to pick him up from the airport, but in the end he got home **under his own steam**.

Chapter 16

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Or is the answer not given in the text? Circle the correct answer.

1. Keira Knightley and Princess Diana share a distant ancestor. **Not given**
2. The film is set in the 1700s. **True**
3. In the film Keira Knightley plays the mistress of an aristocrat. **False**
4. Keira Knightley was 23 when Princess Diana died. **False**
5. In the 18th Century divorce was seen as an acceptable action by most people. **False**

2. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. Keira Knightley plays an 18th Century duchess in her latest film.
2. The Duchess of Devonshire was a distant ancestor of Princess Diana.
3. The Duchess is a film about a woman whose husband is unfaithful.
4. Some say the film parallels the marriage of Princess Diana.
5. Kiera Knightley said she did not remember Charles and Diana's marriage.

6. Divorce was disapproved of in the 18th Century.

3. Idioms

Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to royalty or aristocracy. Try to match each idiom to its definition.

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. a

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

1. I have a terrible hangover this morning – I was **drunk as a lord** last night.
2. That lady is the boss of the whole department – she's the **queen bee**.
3. That footballer cost **a king's ransom** but he is one of the best in the world.
4. The food in that restaurant is **fit for a king**; the chef is world famous.

Chapter 17

1. Reading Quiz

1. Freshers' Week is for second year students at universities. **False**
2. October is generally the busiest month for universities. **True**
3. Having wine glasses in your room is a bad idea. **False**
4. It's a good idea to pack a doorstep. **True**
5. A bit of planning can make Freshers' Week easier. **True**

2. A University Quiz

1. Universities in the UK usually have three **terms** in a year.
2. The first degree most students study at university is also known as a **bachelor's** degree.
3. What does PhD mean? **Doctor of Philosophy**
4. If a degree course includes a one-year industry placement, it's also known a **sandwich** course.
5. Imperial College is famous for its teaching and research in **science**.
6. Oxford and Cambridge universities are two of the most **prestigious** universities in the country.
7. The first week of your first year at university is called **Freshers' Week**.
8. A lesson at university which takes place in a big hall with lots of students and one teacher is called a **lecture**.

3. Idioms

1. **to live in an ivory tower** - b. not to be aware of the realities of everyday life
2. **to fly the nest** - c. to leave your parents' home for the first time in order to live somewhere else
3. **saved by the bell** - d. something that you say when a difficult situation is ended suddenly before you have to do or say something that you do not want to
4. **the university of life** - a. learning from daily life and work rather than going to university

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

1. My grandfather began to work in the print shop when he was fifteen and learned everything from **the university of life**.
2. We were **saved by the bell** when the fire alarm went before we had to give a very badly-prepared presentation.
3. Parents give their children thousands of pounds to help them **fly the nest** and get a foot on the property ladder.
4. Like most professors, Jason seems **lives in an ivory tower**. He has no idea how ordinary people cope with life.

Chapter 18

1. Reading Quiz

1. Fashion is the same in all countries. **False**
2. British girls put rings only in their ears. **False**
3. 'Glam' girls don't usually wear skirts. **True**
4. The 'sporty' look uses a lot of colour. **True**
5. 'Girly' girls wear short skirts. **False**

2. Clothes related vocabulary

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. b |
| 2. d | 5. f |
| 3. a | 6. e |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the verbs above.

1. **Put on** your scarf if you're going outside. It's really cold.
2. Can I try a larger one? This doesn't **fit**.
3. I can wear jeans to work on Fridays as we are allowed to **dress down**.
4. You can't go to a wedding wearing jeans! You should **dress up**.
5. You look good in green. The colour really **suits** you.

6. You should **take off** your scarf. It's really hot.

Chapter 19

1. Reading Quiz

1. Preparations for Christmas start in December. **False**
2. People in Britain usually eat turkey or goose for Christmas dinner. **True**
3. Children send their present lists to Santa Claus or give them to their parents. **True**
4. Most people in Britain are very religious. **False**
5. Advent calendars never contain chocolate. **False**

2. More or less?

More than \$600	Less than \$600	Approximately \$600
at least \$600	almost \$600	\$600 on average
over \$600	up to \$600	about \$600
in excess of \$600	not quite \$600	roughly \$600

Chapter 20

1. Reading Quiz

1. People don't like to watch TV in the UK. **False**
2. The word 'soap' in 'soap opera' refers to washing powder used by housewives to do the washing. **True**
3. The word 'opera' in 'soap opera' refers to the classical singing you hear in the dramas. **False**
4. Soap operas have lots of continuing storylines happening over a few shows. **True**
5. Coronation Street has been on British TV since 1985. **False**

2. TV Expressions: guess their meanings! Match the TV related expressions with the correct definition.

1. c
2. d
3. e
4. a
5. b

Now complete the following sentences with one of the above TV expressions.

1. “**Reality TV** is boring. I can see people in real life situations every day – I would much rather watch a drama.”
2. “What’s on **the box** tonight?”
3. My brother is such **a couch potato**. All he does is sit at home and watch TV.
4. The problem with TV these days is that there are too many channels to choose from. I’m always **channel hopping** and I can never decide what to watch.
5. I love watching TV – I watch it all the time. I don’t think I could live without it – I need to watch it for at least three hours every night. I’m such **a telly addict**.

Chapter 21

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. There are several festivals in the summer in Edinburgh. **True**
2. The Fringe Festival is a small event. **False**
3. Stand-up comedy is an important part of the Fringe Festival. **True**
4. The Edinburgh festivals only celebrate Scottish arts. **False**
5. A military tattoo means a picture on your skin. **False**

2. Complete the words

handful multicultural gatecrashed bagpipes

1. The **bagpipes** are a traditional Scottish musical instrument.
2. Edinburgh is a **multicultural** city.
3. They weren’t invited but they **gatecrashed** the party.
4. I only know a **handful** of people who live in Scotland.

Chapter 12

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Divorce is not common in Britain. **False**
2. Childcare is not cheap in Britain. **True**
3. Women can now earn as much as men. **True**
4. Many mothers nowadays are not married. **True**

2. Vocabulary

Do the following verbs mean **GO UP** or **GO DOWN**?

1. Increase **GO UP**
2. Decrease **GO DOWN**
3. Fall **GO DOWN**
4. Rise **GO UP**
5. Grow **GO UP**
6. Decline **GO DOWN**

3. Phrasal Verbs

Look at the phrasal verbs below. Can you match them to their definitions?

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bring up | b. educate, give food, clothes etc |
| 2. Grow up | c. become older and mature |
| 3. Look after | a. care for |
| 4. Deal with | e. manage |
| 5. Mix with | d. socialise |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs in the correct form.

1. Actually, girls usually **GROW UP** faster than boys.
2. He's not very friendly. He doesn't **MIX WITH** other people very well.
3. I was **BROUGHT UP** by my grandmother. She taught me everything I know.
4. It's a very stressful job. I have to **DEAL WITH** lots of problems.
5. When my parents went out at night I had to **LOOK AFTER** my younger brother.

Chapter 23

1. Reading Quiz

1. You can only see your own details on the Friends Reunited website. **False**
2. There are 12 million schools listed on the site. **False**
3. Some couples have got married after reuniting via the website. **True**
4. When Friends Reunited first began the founders wanted to create a lucrative business. **False**
5. There are colleges and universities on Friends Reunited as well as schools. **True**

2. Collocations

SCHOOL

dinners	+
learn	-
bus	+
teacher	+
mother	-
reunion	+
uniform	+
friends	+
table	-

3. Prefixes

re-	un-	dis-	in-
reunion	unhappy	dishonest	incorrect
recycle	unpopular	disapprove	inaccurate

Chapter 24

1. Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. MSN Messenger is an e-mail program. **False**
2. People spend less time online in the USA than in Europe. **False**
3. ICQ is less popular than AIM. **True**
4. You have to use the same program to talk to your friends. **True**
5. You can exchange files with some IM services. **True**

2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text.

1. What does an IM program on your computer tell you? **When a friend is online**
2. How many people are joining MSN Messenger every day? **3,000**
3. How many messages are sent using AIM every day? **1.6 billion**
4. What is the disadvantage with IM? **You can only contact someone on the same network as you.**
5. What does 'LOL' mean? **Laughing out loud**

3. Summary Completion

Complete the summary with words from the box.

Instant Messaging, or IM, means using a program that tells you when a friend is 1.**online** so you can message them instantly, and they can reply. IM is 2.**hugely** popular in the USA and is starting to take 3.**off** in the UK. 3,000 people are signing 4.**up** to MSN Messenger every day.

AIM and ICQ are the two most popular systems. They are both owned 5.**by** AOL. These two systems have almost 350 million users. The good points of IM are 6.**obvious**, but there is one disadvantage. You can only communicate with someone who is using the same program. However, the future looks 7.**bright** for IM. Some systems let you have voice conversations, see each other using webcams, and 8.**swap** pictures and music.

IM also has its own language. You can use 'ASL' to find out how old someone is, if they are a man or a woman, and where they are. You can use 'LOL', meaning laugh out loud, if someone comes out 9.**with** something funny, and 'CU L8er', for see you later, or goodbye.

Chapter 25

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Downloading music legally is very popular in the UK. **True**
2. Nobody buys records any more. **False**
3. British music is more successful than it used to be. **True**

2. Phrasal Verbs

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. e
5. c

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs.

1. I always do that. I **keep on** talking even when people tell me to stop.
2. I don't really like watching sports. I prefer to **join in**.
3. I hear Coldplay are going to **bring out** a new album next year.
4. I need to go to the supermarket because I have **run out of** food.
5. You owe me \$5000, but if you give me your car I will **write off** the debt.

3. Idioms

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. b

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms.

1. David Beckham had a great game. He was really **on song**.
2. Don't **make a song and dance!** I was only 5 minutes late.
3. When I heard I had passed the exam it was like **music to my ears**.
4. When the teachers caught me smoking at school I had to **face the music**.

Chapter 26

1. Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Chinese students make up the largest group of international students in the UK. **True**
2. The number of overseas students will rise over the next 15 years. **True**
3. By 2020, 50% of overseas students will be Chinese. **False**
4. British degrees are not recognised outside of the UK. **False**
5. You can get a scholarship to study in the UK. **True**

2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words).

1. Who can you get advice from about studying in the UK? **The British Council**
2. What do many universities offer to prepare students for their studies? **Foundation or access courses**
3. Who provides support and guidance? **Tutors**
4. Who can help you make an effective application? **UCAS**

3. Summary Completion

Complete the summary with words from the box.

British universities are a 1. **magnet** for overseas students. There are over 200,000 2. **overseas** students studying in the UK, and 50,000 are from China.

British courses are 3. **assessed** by an independent system. Therefore, the quality of your course is 4. **guaranteed**.

Courses are cost effective, and take less time than in many other countries. The British Council can tell you about 5. **scholarships**.

You will need 3 A-levels and an IELTS score of at least 5.5 to enter a British university, but you can also do a 6. **foundation** or access course to prepare you for your studies.

British universities use a personalised but independent approach. The 7. **emphasis** is on creative and independent thought. This will help you compete in the 8. **global** job market.

Overseas students have very high pass 9. **rates**, and get a lot of support and guidance from the tutors.

The UK is a fascinating, dynamic and 10. **cosmopolitan** place to live and study. Why not give it a go?

Chapter 27

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. London's West End is located not very far from Chinatown. **True**
2. Ticket sales for West End shows have been very poor in recent years due to high prices. **False**
3. The actor, Ewan McGregor, feels that the process of shooting a film is actually very boring. **True**
4. Many successful West End shows are adapted for the big screen and made into movies. **False**
5. Some West End musical can have a run lasting decades. **True**

2. Error Correction

Each of these sentences has a mistake in it. Find the mistake and rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. My girlfriend **said to me** that she wanted to see a musical in London.
2. Tonight's performance of The Lion King has been **called off** because the lead actor is ill. Tickets can be exchanged for another performance.
3. Every **week** there are ten performances of the show.
4. 'I think the song "Memory" from the musical Cats is a really beautiful song.' **I agree**. It's a lovely ballad.
5. The ticket sales for Oscar Wilde: The Musical were very **disappointing**. Nobody wanted to see the show.
6. If **I go** to London, I will certainly try to catch a show.

3. Idioms

1. c 3. a
2. d 4. b

1. 'I have to go now and deliver my presentation to the board of managers.' ' **Break a leg** . I hope it all goes well.'
2. 'We are having problems with our staff at the moment. Nearly half of them are off work with the flu.' 'Well, I know it's difficult but **the show must go on**. We can't just give up.'
3. My boss is very angry with me because I **upstaged** him at the meeting. My ideas were much better received than his.
4. You should always do your best in your job because there are always people **waiting in the wings** to take your job if you don't do it well.

Chapter 28

1. Reading Quiz

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Wallace and Gromit are characters invented by American film studio Dreamworks. **False**
2. Nick Park first invented the characters when he was studying at film school. **True**
3. Advanced computer technology is used to animate Wallace and Gromit to give them a 3D look. **False**
4. It takes a whole day's work to complete just two minutes of screen time. **False**
5. Peter Sallis was paid just .50 for his work on the latest Wallace and Gromit film. **False**

2. Vocabulary – film expressions

Look at the words and phrase below. Can you match them to their meanings?

1. c 2. d
3. b 4. a

Now complete these sentences using the words or phrases from above.

1. 'What do you want to do tonight?' 'Why don't we got to the **flicks** and see a movie?'

2. We have a very important client coming to the office this afternoon so we need to **roll out the red carpet**.
3. Well, **that's a wrap**. We can all go home now.
4. His explanations are so long and complicated. Why can't he just **cut to the chase**?

3. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. Many famous actors lend their voices to cartoon characters.
2. It can take years and cost millions to produce an animated film.
3. Computer animation is also known as CGI or simply CG.
4. Stop-motion animation is the technique used in Wallace and Gromit films.
5. Walt Disney provided the original voice for the character Mickey Mouse.

Chapter 29

1. Reading Quiz

Are the following sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. The music charts have measured sales of singles for more than five decades. **True**
2. Elvis Presley managed to get to number one after his death. **True**
3. Elton John's song 'Candle In The Wind 97' is dedicated to the memory of Marilyn Monroe. **False**
4. CD sales have risen sharply in recent years. **False**
5. Many people download music in the WAV format. **False**
6. The UK chart includes digital download sales as well as CD sales. **True**

2. Musical Genres

What musical genres do you know? Read the descriptions of different musical genres below. Can you guess which genre is being described.

1. Classical
2. Opera
3. Hip-hop

3. Jumbled Sentences

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

1. CD sales have dropped sharply due to illegal downloads.
2. Although portable CD players are still popular, many people prefer to use MP3 players.
3. In recent years some recording artists have started their careers by winning talent competitions on television.
4. Record companies sometimes manufacture boy bands and market them carefully.

Chapter 30

1. Reading Quiz

1. St Valentine was a famous Roman Emperor who was famous as a romantic. **False**
2. The very first Valentine's card was sent over 500 years ago. **True**
3. Disappointed Korean men who have received no Valentine's cards eat a special dish in April. **True**
4. Some Valentine's cards are now sent through cyberspace. **True**
5. Lonely policemen in Liverpool are looking for love by sending out many Valentine's cards. **False**

2. Love idioms: guess their meanings!

See if you can match these commonly used idioms connected to love with the correct definition:

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. a

Now complete the following sentences using one of the above idioms in the correct form:

1. My fiancée and I have been engaged for nearly a year so we're going to **tie the knot** in the summer.
2. I **have a crush on** one of my workmates but I'm too shy to tell him.
3. She is **head over heels** in love with her new boyfriend. She talks about him all the time. It's getting quite boring now.
4. I **fell for** my girlfriend the first time I saw her and I'm still crazy about her now.

