



C1.111

Global English

2nd
edition

*C1 level according to the Common European Framework of
Reference for Languages (CEFR)*



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EDITED BY ISEEC S.A.

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**GLOBAL ENGLISH
LEVEL: C1.III**



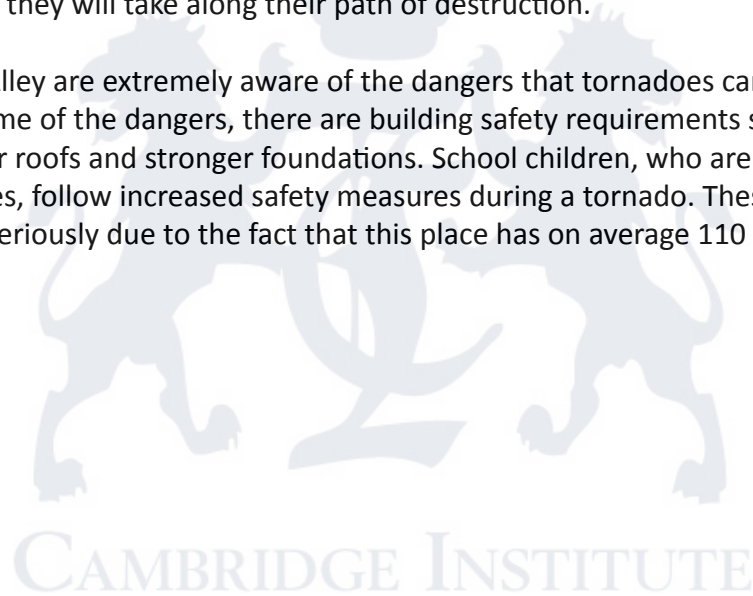
READING: TORNADO ALLEY

There is no weather phenomenon quite as impressive and terrifying as a powerful tornado. In only a matter of seconds, a tornado can rip through a small town, wreaking havoc upon the surrounding community. “Tornado Alley”, located in the Midwestern part of the United States, is famed for this particular natural disaster.

Although there aren’t many areas in the United States that could be considered tornado-free, there are places that experience them with greater frequency than others. The Great Plains area, which is located between the Rockies and Appalachian Mountains is extremely susceptible to tornadoes and experiences the highest number per year. As a result, the vast state of Texas has been awarded the ominous title of “tornado capital”.

In order to better protect and prepare those who may be affected by tornadoes, scientists and meteorologists are attempting to learn as much as possible about how tornadoes work. They do this by continuously researching these weather events in order to accurately predict when they will occur and exactly what route they will take along their path of destruction.

Residents of Tornado Alley are extremely aware of the dangers that tornadoes can pose to them. In order to mitigate some of the dangers, there are building safety requirements such as stricter building codes, tougher roofs and stronger foundations. School children, who are often taught about precautionary measures, follow increased safety measures during a tornado. These precautionary tactics are taken very seriously due to the fact that this place has on average 110 tornadoes per year.





VOCABULARY: VOCABULARY FOCUS

Rainbow

A multicolored arc that shows up in the sky when there is a combination of sun and rain.

Blizzard

An intense snowstorm with strong winds.

Flurries

Light snowfalls.

Breeze

A gentle wind.

Drizzle

Very light rain.

Frost

The ice crystals that cover different surfaces when temperatures drop below freezing.

Thunder and lightning

A loud rumbling sound followed by a flashing ray of light that is produced during some storms.

Precipitation

When water of any form (rain or snow) falls from the clouds to the earth's surface.

Raindrop

A single particle of rain.

Smog

Fog that is created when there is a high amount of pollution and heat in the air, usually occurring in big cities.

Hail

Rain drops that freeze while falling producing little beads of ice.

Icicle

A hanging spike of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water.

Drought

A long period of time without rainfall producing a very dry climate and a shortage of water supply.



VOCABULARY: WEATHER IDIOMS

Come rain or shine

Something that will happen no matter what the circumstances are.

*The football game will take place **come rain or shine**.*

On cloud nine

To be very happy about something.

*After receiving a promotion at work, I was **on cloud nine**.*

In a fog

Confused.

*I was **in a fog** for several days after my cousin's accident.*

Shoot the breeze

Make innocent small talk.

*I like in-depth conversations, but sometimes it is nice to just **shoot the breeze**.*

Under the weather

Feel ill.

*He can't come to work today because he is **under the weather**.*

Cold spell

A period of cold weather.

*We are supposed to get quite a **cold spell** this month. It'll stay below -20 degrees for most of the month.*

Heat wave

A period of very hot weather.

*We are going through the worst **heat wave** in years. It's been two weeks of scorching sun; all the plants are shriveled and dead.*

Get wind of

To begin to suspect that (something) is happening; to hear a rumour of.

*I **got wind of** the gift you are planning to give Jack for his birthday; he is going to love it.*

Head in the clouds

To be daydreaming or lost in thought.

*Samantha is such a dreamer; her **head** is always **in the clouds** when she is supposed to be working.*



When it rains, it pours

When things go wrong, many things go wrong all at once.

*I can't believe I was fired and robbed in the same week; **when it rains, it pours**.*

Rain on your parade

To disrupt or ruin someone else's fun or plan.

*I hate to **rain on your parade** but I won't be able to drive you to the concert this weekend.*

Take a rain check

When you can't do something with someone who has invited you, but you would like to do it another time.

*I'll have to **take a rain check** on going shopping with you. Could we maybe go next weekend instead?*

Raining cats and dogs

When it's raining very hard.

*Take an umbrella with you, it's **raining cats and dogs** out there.*





LISTENING: WINTRY WEATHER BATTERS EUROPE

Reporter: High winds are lashing the European coast. A winter weather storm has hit England's southwestern shores, flooding coastal areas like Devon. The storm surge was too much for this railway track, after a landslide along a nearby coastal road.

Extreme weather warnings are also in place in Spain, where huge waves are pounding the town of Bermeo. In Galicia, five Filipino nationals were rescued by a helicopter when their ship ran into trouble off the coast.

Then in France, this Spanish cargo ship fell victim to the high winds, crashing down on a sea wall. Its dozen crew members were rescued.

Meanwhile in Slovenia, days of severe ice and snow storm have left 50 000 homes without power. Three days of blizzards left the city trapped under thick layers of ice. With railways at a standstill the country faces millions of euros of losses from the damages.





GRAMMAR: CONDITIONAL REVIEW

We have learnt four different conditionals:

Zero Conditional – If I eat too much, I get tired.

First Conditional - If I meet the man of my dreams, I will marry him.

Second Conditional – If I were rich, I would spend my days traveling the world.

Third Conditional – If I had been born smarter, I would have been a doctor.

Conditionals are used very frequently in English. Let's review each of the four conditionals and go over their proper use and sentence structure.

Zero Conditional

Structure:

If/when/unless + (present simple) + (present simple/imperative/modal auxiliary)

Or reverse:

- (Present simple/imperative/modal auxiliary) + if/when/unless + (present simple)

Uses:

- In situations that are real and possible.
- Refer to the **present** tense.
- Used to express general truths and facts.

When the sun sets, it gets dark. (*This is a fact and spoken in the present tense.*)

It gets dark when the sun sets. (*Present simple. Reverse; this is a fact and spoken in the present tense.*)

But if I close my eyes, I can't see the stars at night. (*Modal aux*)

I struggle to speak in public unless I prepare well beforehand. (*Present simple*)

If it looks delicious, buy it for me. (*Imperative*)

You must give her a hug if she looks sad. (*Modal aux*)

First Conditional (likely)

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Structure:

If + (present simple) + will + infinitive (or reverse)

Uses:

- To indicate something that is possible
- Refers to a present or **future** event with a future consequence

If it rains this afternoon (there is a possibility it will rain), **I won't come** to meet you for coffee.
(Forecast about a future event).

I will not come to meet you for coffee **if it rains** this afternoon.

If you keep talking to me like that, **I will ground** you for a day.



Second Conditional (unlikely)

Structure:

If + (past simple) + would + bare infinitive (or reverse)

Uses:

- Used in an unreal or impossible situation.
- Although we use the **past tense** we are talking about the **present**.
- Replace **was** with **were**.

*If I **were** you (which is impossible), I **wouldn't go** in there (right now).*

*I **wouldn't go** in there **if I were** you.*

*If wishes **were** fishes, we'd all **cast** nets.*

*They'd **travel** the world **if they were** wealthier.*

Third Conditional (impossible)

Structure:

If + past perfect + would + have + past participle (or reverse)

Uses:

- Used in unreal situations.
- Used in the **past** tense to talk about something that didn't happen in the **past**.
- Often shows regret or criticism of a past event.

*If I **had studied** more (unreal action of the past as I didn't in reality study enough), I **would have passed** my exam (I didn't pass it).*

*I **would have passed** my exam **if I had studied** more. (Expresses regret)*

*I **would have loved** to spend more time with my grandparents **if they had lived** closer to me.*

*If my grandparents **had lived** closer to me, I **would have loved** to spend more time with them.*

Mixed unreal conditionals

A mixed conditional occurs when the **time** in the **if clause** is different to that of the **result clause**.

Uses:

- Used to indicate unreal past events and their hypothetical/probable present results.
- These sentences are a combination of past and present tense (with the **if** portion of the sentence in the past and the main clause in the present).

Some possible example structures:

Past condition - present result: If + (past perfect) + would (or other modal) + infinitive

*We'd **live** in Spain **if we hadn't gotten** a job offer in Italy.*

*If we **hadn't missed** our flight we **might be** in Egypt by now.*

*I'm glad, because **if we had cancelled** the trip I **would** probably **be feeling** terrible about it now.*



Present condition – past result: If + (past simple) + would (or other modal) + have + (past participle)

*If I were more studious, I **would've finished** my university degree.
I **would have eaten** them all **if I possessed** less willpower.*

Past condition - present result: If + (past perfect) + would + infinitive

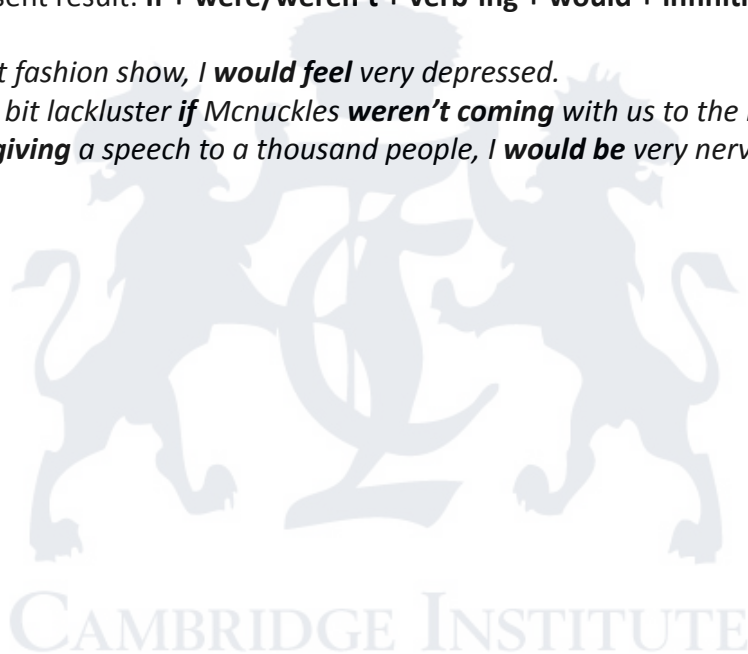
*If our team **had won** yesterday's match, I **would be** very happy now.
He **would be** bored to tears **if he had stayed** in that atrocious job.*

Future condition – past result: If + were/weren't + verb-ing + would + (past perfect)

The referee **wouldn't have let** us play if we **weren't wearing** our uniforms.
*If I **weren't feeling** so terrified, I **would have tried** to escape.*

Future condition – present result: If + were/weren't + verb-ing + would + infinitive

*If I **were going** to that fashion show, I **would feel** very depressed.
The party **would be** a bit lackluster **if Mcnuckles weren't coming** with us to the lake.
I know that **if I were giving** a speech to a thousand people, I **would be** very nervous.*





READING: TITANIC

The *Titanic*, a large British passenger liner, was supposed to change the world forever. However, the way in which it made history was not the way it was intended. It was more infamous than famous and more tragic than triumphant. On its one and only journey, the RMS *Titanic* departed Southampton, England on April 10th 1912, but never reached its intended destination of New York City. The passengers onboard were expecting nothing other than the pageantry and experience of partaking in the transatlantic maiden voyage of the world's largest passenger ship. However, on April 15th and only a mere five days at sea, the luxury liner ended up colliding with an iceberg and out of 2,224 passengers and crew members 1,502 perished.

Unfortunately, news surfaced that the ship set sail with lifeboats for only 1,178 people, around half the number of people travelling on that fateful day. While it's true that no one could foresee the possibility of such a disaster aboard of the said "unsinkable ship", the lack of preparation and lifeboats clearly hindered the ability to save more lives. Furthermore, at a time when social-class affected the way that people were treated, it became apparent that the richer folks on-board had preference over the lower classes in relation to lifeboat availability. This is clearly illustrated when you look at the survival statistics: 62% of all first class passengers (202 of the 325 upper-class passengers), 41% of the second class and only 25% of the third class survived.

Even though the majority of those aboard the ship didn't belong to the upper class, it was clear how the *Titanic* wished to market itself to potential customers: a luxury cruise-liner equipped with gymnasiums, swimming pools, libraries, decadently equipped cabins and five star restaurants designed to cater to the whims of the social elite. The remains of both the *Titanic* and the hopes and dreams of 1,502 passengers now sit together at the bottom on the Atlantic Ocean.

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VOCABULARY: FOCUS

Explode

When something suddenly bursts or shatters.

*He timed the bomb to **explode** four hours after he left the office.*

Hazard

Something that is a danger.

*Those shoddy electrical plugs are a **hazard** for young children.*

Emergency

A dangerous situation that requires immediate attention.

*We had quite an **emergency** this afternoon when one of the children swallowed a penny.*

Disaster relief

Help given to those in need after a disastrous event.

*Many countries sent their armies to help with **disaster relief** after the tsunami hit Japan.*

Blackout

When all the power goes out in an area.

*In 2003, the Eastern part of the USA and the province of Ontario, in Canada, were hit with a major **blackout** that left many millions without power for several days.*

Fatal

Causing death.

*Three friends went on a **fatal** weekend ski trip. They all died in an avalanche on Saturday.*

Forest fire

A wild fire that spreads throughout a forest.

*Due to its very dry climate, California is known to have many **forest fires**.*

Richter scale

Used to measure the size of earthquakes.

*The largest earthquake in the 20th century was in Chile and measured 9.5 on the **Richter scale**.*

Terrorism

Violence by a person or group used to intimidate or scare others, often for political or religious reasons.

*In order to defend it's country against **terrorism**, the USA has developed stricter border laws and controls.*



Damage

The harm or injury done to someone or something.

*There was over \$15 million worth of **damage** due to the tornado.*

Rescue

To bring out of danger or harm.

*The fireman **rescued** the cat out of the tree.*

Destroy

To ruin something.

*Horrible landslides in Rio de Janeiro completely **destroy** some townships.*

Aftermath

The period immediately after a disaster.

*In the **aftermath** of the storm people were wandering in the streets unsure of what to do.*

Devastate

To cause large amounts of damage or harm.

*The war in Syria has **devastated** large parts of the country.*

Evacuate

To force everyone to leave an area with dangerous conditions at the time.

*Our neighbourhood was **evacuated** due to warnings about the oncoming hurricane.*

Epidemic

Quick spreading disease (or occurrence) which affects a great number of people.

*SARS was quite a severe **epidemic** in 2003, especially in China.*

Reconstruction

To build again.

*There was over \$20 million worth of **reconstruction** to be done in the city after the earthquake.*



GRAMMAR: INVERSIONS IN CONDITIONALS

In some circumstances, when using conditionals, we use inversions to make the sentence sound more formal. Inversions occur when we swap the traditional position of the verb and the subject in a sentence for the structure to become: **verb + subject**.

This frequently occurs when using the 'if-clause', although we usually omit the 'if':

Should you find any errors in my essay, please correct them. (*if you find any errors*).

Had we gone a bit earlier, we would have had the chance to say goodbye. (*If we had gone a bit earlier*).

Were he to go to Scotland now, would you go with him? (*If he went to Scotland now*).

A) When we are using the first conditional (real or future conditions) we use **should:**

If you want help with the report, let me know. (Traditional 1st conditional sentence).

*If you **should** require assistance with the report, please let us know. (Formal)*

Should you require assistance with the report, please let us know. (*Inversion in conditional, is more formal than the previous sentence*).

B) When we are using the second conditional (unreal or future conditions) we use **were:**

If she were nicer, I would be her friend. (Traditional 2nd conditional sentence).

Were she nicer, I would be her friend. (*Inversion in conditional*).

C) When we are using the third conditional (unreal past conditions) we use **had:**

If I had known you were coming, I would have tidied up the house.

Had I known you were coming, I would have tidied up the house.

D) When we are using the mixed conditional, we use either **were or **had**:**

If he had been paying attention when he was driving, he wouldn't have a broken arm now.

Had he been paying attention when he was driving, he wouldn't have a broken arm now.

If Jamie had been adventurous, he would have gone rock-climbing in the Alps with Jane.

Were Jamie adventurous, he would have gone rock-climbing in the Alps with Jane.

E) When the sentence is negative, the following format is used:

*If she **doesn't** call soon, we'll have to reschedule.*

Should she not phone soon, we'll have to reschedule.

*If he **hadn't** come to the baseball game, he wouldn't have seen his father.*

Had he not come to the baseball game, he wouldn't have seen his father.

Contracted forms are never used for conditional inversions.



LISTENING: SURVIVING A PLANE CRASH

Speaker 1: It was no less than the most harrowing experience of my life, but in many ways it was actually a miracle. My family had been into flying smaller charter planes for some time, as both my father and grandfather have their pilot's license. Now, it doesn't mean that you can just buy a plane and fly it wherever and whenever you want. But, as a family we took a lot of small flights to different places as part of our holidays and things like that.

One day we decided to fly from the local airfield to a remote landing spot about 200 km away where our family friends had a cabin that we were to stay at for about a week as part of our summer holiday. We had an eight-seater plane, and all eight spots were filled in. As we took off everything seemed fine, but about ten minutes in it became clear that something was wrong. The wings started to wobble even though there wasn't a speck of wind, and you could hear the engine begin to stutter. As we were going down, it was like everything slowed down into slow motion, and the next thing I remember is looking at the wreckage. I'm not exactly sure what my dad did to give us the softest landing, but most of the plane was kept intact. My sister and I were ejected, but survived. Just like everyone else that day; eight injuries, zero casualties. A true miracle indeed!





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Disaster area

A very messy room or area, also used to speak of the area that has been affected by a natural disaster.

*Jimmy's room was a **disaster area** with clothes and junk all over the place.
The **disaster area** after the hurricane covered most of the state.*

Recipe for disaster

Something that is happening that is likely to lead to trouble or problems.

*Moving back in with my parents seems like a **recipe for disaster**.*

Spells disaster

To predict a problem (used similarly to "recipe for disaster").

*Leaving our teenage kids home alone for the weekend **spells disaster**.*

Have disaster written all over it

Something is heading for a problem or failure (similar to both above).

*Driving home at night during this snowstorm **has disaster written all over it**.*

Accident / disaster waiting to happen

A situation in which a bad outcome is likely.

*Using a chainsaw with that big, dangly sweater on is **an accident waiting to happen**.*

Add fuel to the fire

To make a problem worse.

*You should stop replying to her emails, each reply is simply **adding fuel to the fire**.*

Playing with fire

To take foolish risks.

*I think the fact that Denis is leaving work early today is **playing with fire**. The boss already said he will be cutting jobs soon.*

Where there's smoke, there's fire

If something is rumoured, it is because there is at least an element of truth to it.

*I believe the kids' teacher might really be as horrible as they say. She has also been rude to my husband a few times, and **where there's smoke, there's fire**.*

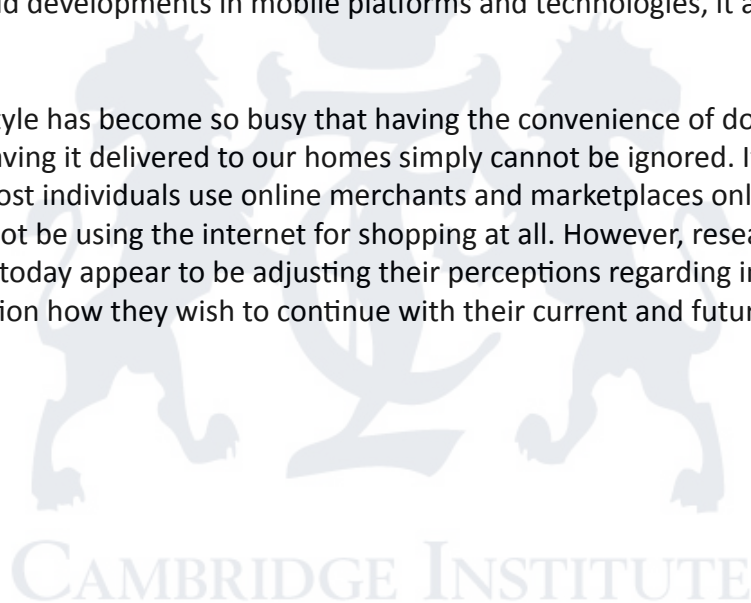


READING: ONLINE SHOPPING

Currently, both the rise in consumer confidence as well as the number of resources utilized to make secure online purchases have increased dramatically to the point where we can ask the following questions: why go anywhere else apart from the internet to do your shopping? Is there anything we can't buy online? Will shopping malls become obsolete? The prospect of never setting foot inside a store again could be a very strange proposition, but a great one for those who dislike going to shopping malls.

A few years ago, this discussion may have been a lot different. Arguments certainly could have arisen regarding shipping costs, delivery times and price differences. However, online shopping has become the better option for many people due to the improvement in each of these aspects. Competitive pricing, the wide variety of product information available and the ability to arrange quick delivery have all helped to popularise the boom in the internet shopping trend. Nowadays, we cannot ignore globalisation because it has had an enormous effect on the way shoppers access products and services. The whole interactive experience is centred round personal convenience; when that is combined with the rapid developments in mobile platforms and technologies, it adds to the internet's increasing success.

Our 21st century lifestyle has become so busy that having the convenience of doing our grocery shopping online and having it delivered to our homes simply cannot be ignored. It may well be that, at this point in time, most individuals use online merchants and marketplaces only to buy specific items, and some may not be using the internet for shopping at all. However, research shows that the majority of consumers today appear to be adjusting their perceptions regarding internet shopping and beginning to question how they wish to continue with their current and future shopping habits.





VOCABULARY: FOCUS

Browser

A computer program that is used to access the internet.

*Some people use Mozilla Firefox as their **browser**, while others prefer Google Chrome.*

Search engine

A program or site online which finds information.

*My favorite **search engine** is Google, my brother uses Bing.*

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions is a section found on many e-commerce websites.

*The travel agency's website has a **FAQ** section that gives a lot of information about payment methods.*

Forward (an email)

To send an email that you've received to someone else.

*I'll **forward** you the email with the instructions on how to install the software.*

Inbox

Where incoming emails are stored.

*I checked my **inbox** and I still haven't received the email you sent.*

Outbox

Where outgoing emails are stored.

*Sometimes my emails take ages to disappear from my **outbox**.*

Upload

To move or copy (some type of information) to a central computer or network.

*It has become very popular for people to **upload** pictures to Facebook.*

Attachment

A document or file that is sent with an email.

*To apply for the position, please send your CV as an **attachment** with your email.*

Link

A shortcut to a hypertext document (e.g. a webpage or a specific part of a document) activated by clicking on an image or highlighted word.

*I'll send you the **link** to my new cooking blog.*



Router

Device that connects computers through a telephone line to the internet.

*My **router** stopped working so I couldn't connect to the Internet.*

Network

The connected system of computers, machines or operations that are linked together.

*The IT department still needs to connect my computer to the **network**.*

Cookies

Pieces of personal information stored on a user's computers by websites (such as personal preferences, user identification code, how many times they've visited the webpage etc.)

*I make sure to delete my **cookies** every week so that companies cannot track my online behaviour.*

Homepage

The website that always comes up when someone first opens the internet browser on their computer.

*The **homepage** on my personal computer is a website dedicated to international news.*

Spam

Unwanted email advertisements sent to a large quantity of people.

*I always make sure I have my **spam** filter on otherwise I receive hundreds of unwanted emails per day.*

Username

A sequence of numbers and letters used to identify users and used to log into systems.

*I always try to use the same **username** when I register for a new website, otherwise I will forget it.*

Bookmark

A saved website address in your internet browser that it is easily accessible for the future.

*I have a lot of **bookmarks** saved of different products I want to buy.*

Database

A system of organised and structured information.

*Microsoft Access is one of the most common **database** programs.*



GRAMMAR: FUTURE IN THE PAST

Future in the past is used to refer to things you mentioned you would do in the past but that were in the future at the time you mentioned it. Therefore, we use past tenses of verbs that we would usually use to talk about the future.

Compare the following:

I am going to call you at 9 am. – A statement about a future event written in the future tense using 'going to'. This sentence could have been said the day before the mentioned call.

I was going to call you at 9am, but I slept in. – A reference made to a future phone call that you had intended to make, but didn't. The whole event now exists in the past.

Uses of future in the past

1. 'is going to' becomes -> was/were going to

Structure: subject + was/were + going to + base verb

We are going to meet at 5pm to play tennis. (future tense)

We were going to meet at 5pm to play tennis, but Bill cancelled. (future in the past)

Jim – "I always knew Kim was going to win the gold medal."

2. 'will' becomes -> would

January 15th John tells his mum, "Mum, on Wednesday I will clean my room".

On January 22nd – John says, "Last week I told my mum I would clean my room on Wednesday".

Monday at 8:30, Lisa calls her boss to say that she is sick and will not come to work.

Monday at 10am Lisa tells her husband, "I already called my boss and told him I would not be in today".

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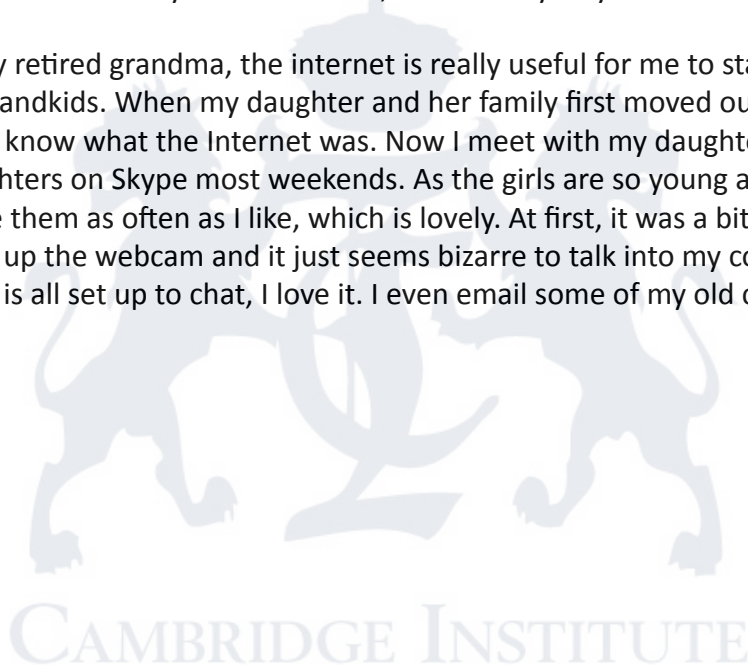


LISTENING: INTERNET USERS

Speaker 1: To say that I would be useless in my job without the Internet may be a little bit of a stretch...but not by much. I constantly need to be “connected” to know what is happening every minute of the day, so if ever there was an emergency I could deal with it at that very moment. Based on that, having the Internet on my mobile is essential to what I do. Whether it is receiving an email from a superior or from a client, or being able to check the status of a shipment, it is absolutely essential that I have access to all types of information 24/7. Knowing that I have become so dependent on the internet, especially for my professional life, is a bit frightening.

Speaker 2: As a recent graduate of university, the most important part of having access to the internet is establishing new networks and contacts. Thanks to the ease of creating online profiles and the vast diversity of social networking sites, I can be as connected - or as disconnected - as I choose. Often these profiles and online contacts can be the gateway to finding the perfect job. On these different social networking sites, I am able to connect to companies in my field who are looking for new, fresh, young talent, and also get advice from other people in my same situation. With the dog-eat-dog mentality that seems to be pervading many of the job markets these days, gaining any sort of upper hand by using the Internet is not only recommended, but in many ways a necessity.

Speaker 3: As a recently retired grandma, the internet is really useful for me to stay in touch with my daughter and my grandkids. When my daughter and her family first moved out of the city five years ago, I didn't even know what the Internet was. Now I meet with my daughter, her husband and my two granddaughters on Skype most weekends. As the girls are so young and growing up so fast, it allows me to see them as often as I like, which is lovely. At first, it was a bit tough to learn all about emailing, setting up the webcam and it just seems bizarre to talk into my computer screen, but now that my computer is all set up to chat, I love it. I even email some of my old childhood friends sometimes.





VOCABULARY: WHEREVER, WHENEVER, WHOEVER

Wherever

In, at or to any place.

*We can go **wherever** you like for dinner, it doesn't matter to me.*

Whenever

At any time.

*I can take my vacation **whenever** it is best for you.*

Whoever

Which ever person.

*We can ask your mum, your friend or **whoever** to watch the kids. I don't care, as long as someone can come over.*

Whatever

No matter what, also often used informally as: what not, anything or everything.

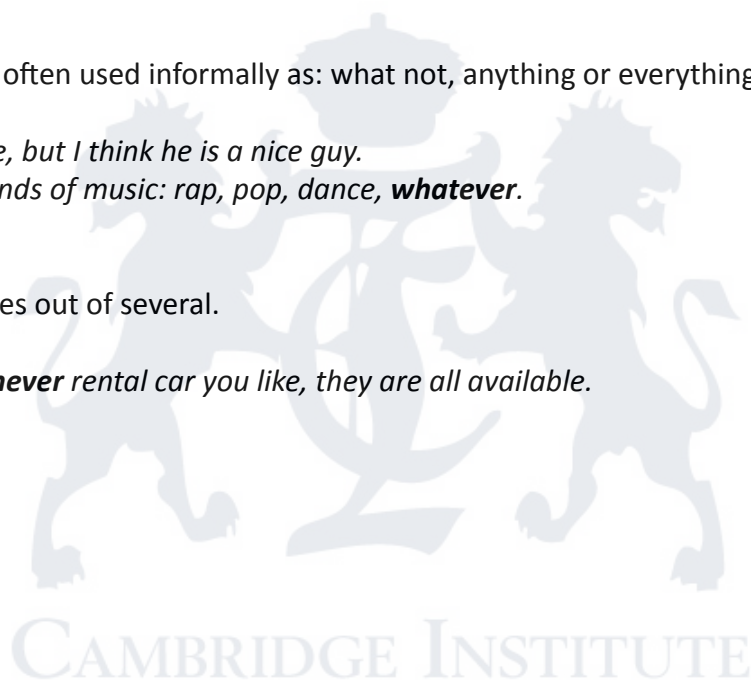
*Say **whatever** you like, but I think he is a nice guy.*

*Informally: I like all kinds of music: rap, pop, dance, **whatever**.*

Whichever

Any one (thing) or ones out of several.

*You can choose **whichever** rental car you like, they are all available.*





READING: BARE NECESSITIES

It had been three years since leaving my family for the lure of the great Californian Gold Rush in 1849. The path to the 'new frontier' was fiercely competitive and I tried long and hard to make things work, but eventually I knew it was turning into a forlorn endeavour. With each passing day, I became disillusioned with the human condition and its incorrigible appetite for wealth driven by treachery, greed and corruption. At this point, I realized that something had to change.

Turning my back on that immoral gold digging society down in the valleys, I took the decision to live in solitude high up in the surrounding mountains of the Sierra Nevada. It was during that time in my life that I knew I had found my true vocation. I lived every day enriching my life with the spirit of Mother Nature and with all of the wondrous things she brought to me.

The greatest gift I ever received was the day I found Jefferson. I still remember the day I found him; he was just a young, innocent bear cub that had strayed from his den and was obviously lost. I recall tracking him at a distance to see if he could find his mother and the comfort of his natural habitat, but he didn't. He was a stray and with the heights of winter about to fall in the mountains, I knew this cub had to fatten up to survive the cold of the season, or it would perish. In that fateful and life changing moment, I made the decision to adopt him and provide for his daily needs.

Year after year, as the seasons came and went, we became good buddies. My relationship with Jefferson the grizzly bear developed into a great friendship built on the recognition of each other's mutual trust and care for one another. We would travel and sojourn together to distant parts of the land where our reputation was most favourable. We would receive invitations to appear at many types of functions from around the country, such was the public's curiosity. Periodically and when confronted by danger, our roles would reverse whereby one would receive the paternal protection of the other against threats or potential sources of harm.

Brought together by some simple twist of fate and at a time when we were both lost in life, we became inseparable. It was the unlikeliest friendship imaginable, but I regard those years spent with Jefferson as the best in my life.

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VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Through thick and thin

To stay with someone and support them through the good times and the bad.

*As a couple, I really admire them. They have stood by each other **through thick and thin**.*

See eye to eye

Used when two people agree with each other.

*James and Veronica get along famously well. They truly **see eye to eye**.*

Bury the hatchet

To forget about things that happened in the past and move forward.

*He was told he had to **bury the hatchet** if his relationship with the director was going to improve.*

A friend in need is a friend indeed

A saying about the meaning of true friendship or a person who supports you when you need help.

'A friend in need is a friend indeed' is the expression that would often come to her mind when thinking about how Angela had helped her when she lost her job and needed a place to stay.

Friends in high places

Means that you are well connected with figures of high authority.

*I must warn you, before you issue that parking ticket: I have **friends in high places**.*

Man's best friend

A phrase usually used to refer to a dog.

*My dog Skippy really was **man's best friend**; he never left my side not even for an instant.*

Build bridges

To connect or improve relationships between different people or groups of people.

*The negotiations were going well. Both sides were **building bridges** and beginning to compromise.*

Birds of a feather

People who are alike.

*They aren't siblings, but they certainly are **birds of a feather**.*

Go with the flow

Conform to what other people are doing.

*When it comes to new trends with social media, I usually just **go with the flow**.*



Know someone inside and out

Know very well or be very familiar with something or someone.

She is my best friend and I know her inside and out.

Buddy

Slang for 'friend'.

*Having a **buddy** to cheer you on and motivate you could be the best way to quit smoking.*

Strike up a friendship

When you first meet someone and connect with that person.

*When we met, we were able to **strike up a friendship** almost immediately.*





LISTENING: BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

Narrator: From a psychological point of view, what are the key aspects to building and maintaining a friendship? In any friendship, there has to be a high level of trust. The foundations of this 'trust' are built upon a mutual sharing of knowledge, esteem, and, as is the case when two people are attracted to each other, love and affection.

The interaction of 'give and take' between two people is regarded as an essential characteristic in defining what friendship is all about. Reciprocal behavior in a friendship is the very dynamic which develops trust and understanding between two people. The depth of a friendship often varies depending on the level of commitment that suits people best. In that vein, there can often be more superficial friendships, or mere acquaintances, where levels of value are much lower than other long term, more solid arrangements.

For many, a certain level of friendship can be noted by the amount of intimacy, whether physical or emotional, the two parties involved in a relationship are willing to share and are comfortable with. Perhaps in a stronger friendship, certain people would be more inclined to convey levels of trust through physical contact such as a hug or, by being unalarmed with a lack of personal space. While this could relate to a person's general attitude to physical or emotional stimulation, many times it can be a signal of how close two people actually are.





GRAMMAR: PERFECT FORMS

A prominent feature of the perfect form in tense structure is the emphasis they place on the timeline of an action. An action has a starting and an ending point, although depending on which tense of the perfect form we use, the action may remain incomplete.

Common perfect forms

Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Future Perfect.

All of our perfect tenses also have a **continuous** form.

Structure of perfect tenses

Auxiliary verb 'to have' (conjugated in the appropriate tense e.g. have, has, had, will have) + the past participle form of the verb.

Continuous forms of the perfect tenses all use

The past participle (e.g. **been** from the irregular verb 'to be') + the continuous form of the verb (-ing).

Examples of use:

Present Perfect

*I **have seen** that film before.* (This is a comment which states a fact. It is a statement made in the present, in the 'now', about a past event.)

Present Perfect Continuous

*She **has been working** for the company for 10 years.* (We have a starting point in the past, but the timeline remains incomplete because 'the work' is still continuing into the present.)

Past Perfect

*Before I left the club, I **had played** for them for two seasons.* (This is a completed action in the past. However, the Past Perfect focuses on an event that has happened even before another event in the past. **E.g.** Before I left the club = past simple action, I had played for them for two seasons = past perfect because it is further back in time than the past simple action.)

Past Perfect Continuous

*The rate of illiteracy **had been declining** evenly between 1990 and 2000, before inexplicably rising slightly in the 2000s.* (Consistent timeline in the past, but finished.)

Future Perfect

*By 2020, all schools **will have implemented** the use of tablets in the classroom.* (A future prediction that hasn't become true yet.)

Future Perfect Continuous

*In 5 years, I **will have been making** scale models for over a decade.* (Note that this timeline event actually began in the past, but carries over into the future. It is a future statement with an eventual outcome.)



VOCABULARY: COMMON SLANG BETWEEN FRIENDS

Bug someone

To persistently annoy someone.

*Stop **bugging me** with all your silly questions!*

Crazy thing

Something outlandish or a bizarre occurrence.

*The **crazy thing** was she didn't like oysters but she still ate them.*

Messed Up

Used when things are out of control or not right.

*It was difficult to get the project back on track because the database was so **messed up**.*

Chuck something out

To discard or throw something away, or to remove someone from somewhere.

*My mum used to tell me if I didn't clean up my room she would **chuck my things out**.
The footballer got **chucked out** of the game for arguing with the referee.*

Hang on a sec

Used to interrupt someone when there is some difference of opinion or, for an interruption there is something of sudden interest.

***Hang on a sec**, what did you just say?
Hey, **hang on a sec**, what is that over there?*

What's up?

To ask someone how things are going, or what is wrong.

*Hey, **what's up** mate?
What's up Jim, why are you crying?*

Chill out

To relax/calm down.

*They could see I was angry and frustrated so I was told to go home early and **chill out**.
While in the comfort of my own home I like to **chill out** by listening to music.*

Best Mates / Buddies

A collective description for a friend you have bonded with and spent a lot of time with.

*Yes, of course we were close. We always considered each other as **best mates**.*



To fancy

To desire something on a whim or to fantasise about something.

*I would often **fancy** a good meal after a hard day at work.*

*I **fancy** going to the cinema tonight.*

Hassle

When a task requires a lot of effort for someone to perform.

*He told me he couldn't cook tonight because it was too much **hassle**.*

Crash at someone's house

Used to describe an impromptu stay or sleepover at someone's house.

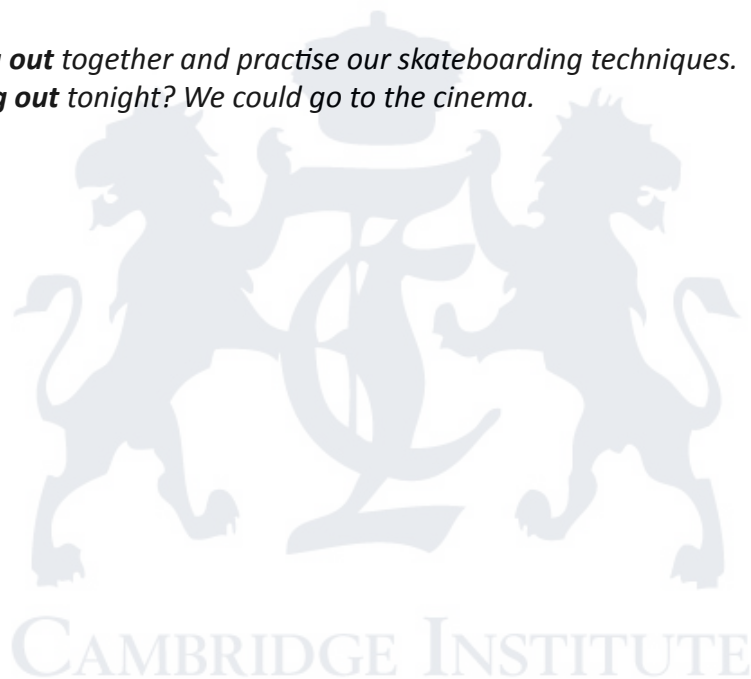
*They had nowhere to stay so I said they could **crash at my house** for the night.*

Hang out

The process of spending time together, or doing things together as friends.

*We would often **hang out** together and practise our skateboarding techniques.*

*Do you fancy **hanging out** tonight? We could go to the cinema.*





READING: DISCUSSING ARCHITECTURE

When you see an impressive building or a feat of architecture that is visually breathtaking, do you ever stop to wonder about the significance of its existence or the reasons why we build these behemoth buildings in our cities?

Our fascination with constructing iconic structures dates back to the earliest times in our recorded history. Hailed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the ancient Egyptians toiled for decades when they built the largest of all the pyramids, the Great Pyramid of Giza. The Egyptian pyramids remain as a symbol of a thriving civilization rich in culture, wealth and tradition. These enormous burial vaults were built as lasting memorials for the kings of the sun god “Ra” known as “Pharaohs”.

Other cultures such as the classical Greek culture created large “Doric” structural environments for their gods like the Temple of Zeus at Olympia. Similarly, they were constructed in homage to the successes and achievements of that ancient civilization and for the gods who ruled over them. Here we stand, around two thousand years later, and while it’s true that some of the structures aren’t what they used to be, we still regard them as historical items to be revered, treasured and protected.

However, nowadays, architecture is taking on a new art form more than ever. The continual quest for height has made a strong statement in our contemporary culture as realised in our city buildings known as skyscrapers. There is, however, a notable difference in design aesthetic between the buildings of the postmodern era (early to mid-twentieth century) and those buildings recently erected in our new “information age”. The buildings of today display far more external design features than in the past. It is almost as if the interior spaces of the new buildings play a secondary role to the extravagant features the outsides of our recent constructs reveal. It would appear that architecture today relies heavily on visual immediacy and sensationalism, standing as it does, like spiritual totems of daily life within our new globalised civilisation.

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VOCABULARY: Focus

Beam

A pole often used for structural support.

*In our attic, there is a **beam** that crosses the middle of the roof; I use it to hang my favourite rock posters above my head.*

Brick

A small, hard block of baked clay that is used to build houses, buildings or streets.

*In the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy finds her way home walking on the yellow **brick** road.*

Blueprint

The design for the construction of a building.

*In order to plan how the renovations of the school would be completed, the contractors started by looking at the original **blueprints** of the building.*

Facade

The outside faces of the building.

*Some of the most beautiful artwork in churches can be found on the **facades**.*

Foundation

The section beneath a building or house which is built of concrete or stone and is an important element for the stability and durability of the building.

*Urgent renovation had to be done to the building when they found cracks in the **foundation**.*

Gazebo

An outdoor, open-air roofed structure used for relaxing.

*We have a lovely **gazebo** in my backyard which overlooks our garden and pool.*

Penthouse

The apartment on the top floor of a building, often very luxurious.

*Only very wealthy people can afford to stay in the **penthouses** of hotels.*

Skylight

A window in the roof.

*The **skylight** in my kitchen allows a lot of natural light to enter my little apartment.*

Structure

A building's skeleton.

*It is important to ensure a solid **structure** when constructing anything, especially a building.*



Stoop / porch

A raised area at the entrance of a house or building.

*Our house has a large **porch**, where sometimes we like to sit and watch the world go by.*

Tile

A hard, flat piece of dried ceramic used for covering walls or floors, usually square-shaped.

*We installed some beautiful mosaic **tiles** in the bathroom floor.*





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Hold the fort

Take over responsibility, often only temporarily.

*Ok, I'm leaving on holidays next week; do you think you'll be able to **hold the fort** while I'm away?*

Hit someone like a ton of bricks

Used to describe something that comes as a great shock.

*The news of my brother's death hit me **like a ton of bricks**.
This backpack is **like a ton of bricks**.*

Be in the doghouse

To be in trouble.

*I **am in the doghouse** with my wife, she's really mad that I lied to her.*

House of cards

A situation or organization that is very weak and that could easily collapse.

*Their company is not very strong; it's like a **house of cards**. If the CEO leaves, the whole company will fall apart.*

Be on the fence

Indecisive about something or neutral.

*Their son **is on the fence** about whether he wants to move or not. Surely once they're in their new house he'll decide whether he's happy with the decision or not.*

Hit the nail on the head

To be completely correct about something.

*You really **hit the nail on the head** there Nancy. That is exactly the answer I was looking for.*

Run-of-the-mill

Bland or average.

*We don't have too much money so usually we stay in **run-of-the-mill** hotels during travel.*



GRAMMAR: ADVANCED PRONOUNS

By this time, using most pronoun groups should be second nature to you. The three main groups of pronouns are personal, possessive, and reflexive, and are widely used and seen across all levels of English. There are, however, more advanced examples of pronouns that some non-native speakers and learners have a hard time understanding. The two groups focused on here will be reciprocal and indefinite pronouns.

Reciprocal pronouns

These establish equality of relationship between two or more people or things. These pronouns are usually used when there are at least two parties involved, they are performing the same action, and each one is performing the action on the other(s). It is manifested in two ways: *each other* and *one another*.

*We are listening to **each other**. (We are listening to "us": I listen to them and they listen to me.)*

*They love **one another**. (They both love the other person.)*

*The children spent the afternoon playing with **each other**. (The children are playing together, there may be more than two involved.)*

Each other and *one another* can be used interchangeably; however, they do follow patterns. *One another* is used in a more formal sense, which makes *each other* more common. Additionally, *one another* may be used to reference two people but is more often used to represent three or more people.

Indefinite pronouns

They are generally used to define something vague. The most common are: *all, any, anyone/anybody, anything, another, each, everybody/everyone, one, several, some, someone/somebody, few, none, nobody/no one, and many*. The tricky part with these pronouns is that they are sometimes used for purposes other than being a pronoun – for example, many can also be used as adjectives.

*There are **few** who know the whole story. (pronoun)*

*Could I have a **few** peanuts please? (adjective)*

Also, it is important to match indefinite pronouns based on whether the sentence is positive or negative and singular or plural.

Compare:

There is nobody here vs ~~There is anybody here~~ but There isn't anybody here

I don't think anyone is coming vs ~~I don't think no one is coming~~

Does anybody know? Nobody knows vs Anybody knows



LISTENING: SAGRADA FAMILIA

Reporter: You can't really know Barcelona and not experience La Sagrada Familia, or The Holy Family in English. A basilica that is in view from most parts of elevated land in the city, its timeline might sound a little too absurd to be true when you first hear it. Antoni Gaudi, the famed Catalan architect whose name is synonymous with the structure, actually didn't create the initial vision for the project. However, just a year after construction began he became involved and later heavily so until his death. The beginning of the project of course taking place in the late 1800s. So, if I told you that well into the 21st century it still hasn't been finished, would you believe me? Well, whether you would or you wouldn't, it remains fact. What began for the turn of the 20th century remains in construction limbo today.

Perhaps when Gaudi became involved, the Roman Catholic Church in the cultural heart of Cataluña was destined to be tinkered with on and off over time, which is a process that continues to this day. Throughout the city of Barcelona, Gaudi's signature style is stamped everywhere. But there is a reason La Sagrada Familia is the first thing that comes to mind in conjunction with his name. It became a passion initially, and an obsession towards the end of his life. He, of course, had a model and a vision of what he wanted it to become around 1926. By this time it was said to be approximately one-quarter complete, with Gaudi certainly pushing forward all the while making minor adjustments to pursue perfection. That was until he was struck by a tram during his daily walk, which abruptly ended his time at the age of 73.

The stink of Gaudi's untimely death clouds the circumstances surrounding the beautiful church. Some argue that it isn't being built up to the specifications that Gaudi had in mind. Some see it as a lightning rod involved with both political and social issues encapsulated in the Catalanian identity. And, construction has been delayed over time by things such as the Spanish Civil War. It's still beautiful, majestic, and historically significant. And while some say it will be finished in the next few decades and others say dream on, when it comes to Gaudi and La Sagrada Familia, everyone says something.

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GRAMMAR: WORD BUILDING

Knowing prefixes and suffixes helps non-native English speakers understand many words which otherwise would not be possible. Learning their structure and usage facilitates better comprehension and ease in choosing the right word for the right moment.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
anti-	against	antisocial
auto-	self	autobiography
bi-	two	bipolar
co-	with	cohabitate
contra-	against	contradict
de-	remove/opposite of	deselect
dis-	not	disrespect
il-	not/badly	illegal
im-	not	immortal
inter-	between	interpersonal
mis-	wrongly/badly	misunderstanding
multi-	many	multimillionaire
non-	opposite/without	nonprofit
out-	more than	outdo
over-	too much	oversleep
post-	after	postpone
pre-	before	preview
re-	do again	rewrite
super-	improved	superhero
uni-	one	union
under-	not enough	underdressed

Prefixes

Prefixes are added to the beginnings of words, and usually have the function of changing the original word's meaning in some way. For example, the prefix **over-** means "too much", so the word "overcook" means "cook something too much". In the same way, the prefix **under-** means "not enough", so the word "undercook" means "not cook something enough". The following table shows some common English prefixes and their meanings:

Suffixes

Suffixes are added to the ends of words, and are somewhat different to prefixes. Whereas prefixes change the meaning of the word they are attached to, suffixes change the type of word, e.g. changing a verb into a noun. Here are some common suffixes and their functions:

-er

When added to a verb, creates a noun that refers to the person or thing that performs the action described.

train → *trainer* (someone who trains)

kill → *killer* (someone who kills)

speak → *speaker* (someone who speaks)



Note that this cannot be universally applied to all verbs; some use the suffix **-or** instead.

act → *actor* (someone who acts)

-ful / -less

These suffixes change a verb or noun into an adjective, and are often (but not always) opposites of each other. Words ending in **-ful** usually describe something that is rich in a particular characteristic (think “full of”), whereas words ending in **-less** are usually lacking in that characteristic.

taste → *tasteful* (something that is in good taste) or *tasteless* (something that is in bad taste)

Note that in some cases the **-ful** and **-less** versions of a word are not exact opposites in terms of meaning.

help → *helpful* (someone/something that helps a lot) or *helpless* (someone/something that cannot be helped)

Also note that not every word can have both of these suffixes applied to it; some can only be used with one.

beauty → *beautiful* (full of beauty) but “*beautyless*” is not in common use

-ly

This suffix is most commonly used to change an adjective into an adverb.

quick → *quickly* (in a quick manner)

loud → *loudly* (in a loud manner)

This suffix can be added to adjectives that have been created using other suffixes.

helpful → *helpfully* (in a helpful manner)

Be careful however, as not all adverbs are formed in this way, and there are a few instances where the addition of the **-ly** changes the meaning (see “hard” vs “hardly”).

-ment / -ation

These suffixes are used to change verbs into nouns.

move → *movement* (the act of moving)

excite → *excitement* (the feeling of being excited)

entertain → *entertainment* (something that entertains)

inform → *information* (something you have been informed of)

reserve → *reservation* (something that has been reserved)

-ness

Used to change adjectives into nouns.

happy → *happiness* (the state or feeling of being happy)

lonely → *loneliness* (the state or feeling of being lonely)

aggressive → *aggressiveness* (being aggressive)



-ish

This suffix has multiple uses. In many cases it can be added to the name of a country to form the name of the language or an adjective to describe the people of that country (i.e. their nationality), as is the case with all the examples below.

England → *English*

Turkey → *Turkish*

Sweden → *Swedish*

-ish can also be added to some nouns to create an adjective that means “similar to”.

child → *childish* (like a child)

fiend → *fiendish* (like a fiend, evil)

amateur → *amateurish* (like an amateur, not professional)

Another use of **-ish** is to add it to the end of a word to suggest approximation, in place of words like “quite” or “reasonably”. It can also be applied to things like ages, when you want to say that someone is close to a particular age.

grey → *greyish* (a colour that is close to grey)

big → *biggish* (reasonably big)





READING: DAWN OF A NEW TELEVISION ERA

If you are looking for an in-depth analysis of reality TV or talent shows such as Pop Idol then you are in the wrong place. Despite being justifiable in their own right, they certainly represent more of the money-making side of entertainment rather than thought-out creative content. Below we will get into all the exciting new developments in small screen scripted dramas.

Mad Men (USA) – This show takes place in the 1960's and is about a group of people who are struggling to work in an advertising firm. This excellent drama far exceeds the norms of those in the same genre. It's about control, corruption, a loose grip on morality and the parallels of a changing society. Created and produced by Matthew Weiner, each episode exhibits high levels of precision and attention-to-detail that has captured audiences worldwide. Weiner, who worked on *The Sopranos* (another groundbreaking drama) and *Becker* (sitcom), manages to transport us into another era that causes us to evaluate our future.

Game of Thrones (USA) – In the mid-1990s, the innovative fantasy writer, George R.R. Martin, began his series entitled *A Song of Ice and Fire*, a literary fantasy fiction series. The books created an imaginary world that the reader would be completely immersed in. Then, in the spring of 2011, the reader became the viewer when they created a spectacular on-screen adaptation. The cable television company HBO agreed to shell out big bucks to properly translate paper-based content into live-action. In war-stricken Westeros, nothing seems sacred, words mean nothing, and there is a literal or figurative knife in your back around every corner. With many seasons of the story already wrapped up, fantasy readers and television lovers alike can't wait to see what pops up in the next season.

Sherlock (UK) – Countless shows, films and other creative projects have diversified the traditional Sherlock Holmes storyline into new and diverse contexts, such as the medical show *House*. This rendition of the tale is a much more contemporary adaptation of the original characters and setting with Sherlock and Watson portrayed in modern England. Each episode is a 90-minute production, seeming more like a film than an individual part of a series. A special mention must go to the actors in the TV series. Benedict Cumberbatch provides a convincing portrayal of the eccentric Sherlock Holmes and Watson is played by Martin Freeman, who also played the central character in *The Hobbit*.

There are certainly many shows available nowadays, some great, some horrible and some just completely insane. There is no denying that most people get sucked into the *X Factor* or *Bachelorette* every now and again, even if it's just an occasional guilty pleasure. If you want to take a break from Pop Idol, give a couple of these shows a try!



VOCABULARY: FOCUS

Big screen / small screen

Used to describe films in the cinema and television, respectively.

*There are some great titles coming to the **big screen** this summer.
After starring in many films, she's now moving to the **small screen**.*

Sitcom

A comedy show on television; short for 'situation comedy'.

*Some of the most loved **sitcoms** are Friends, How I Met your Mother and The Big Bang Theory.*

Flick

A colloquial term for a film.

*Do you want to catch a **flick** this weekend?*

Soap opera

A daily drama series usually broadcasted during the afternoons. Can also be referred to as simply a "soap".

*My aunt loves watching **soap operas**. As she works from home, she makes sure she has her lunch while she watches her favorite **soap**.*

Premiere

The first night a movie or show is shown in theatres or TV.

*At movie **premieres**, the cast of the movie usually walk down the red carpet and go watch the movie on the big screen together for the first time.*

Debut

When an actor makes their first appearance in film.

*Cameron Diaz made her big screen **debut** in The Mask; before that she was a model.*

Sequel

A movie or book that comes after an original work and continues along similar plot lines.

*"The New Shadow" was an incomplete **sequel** to The Lord of the Rings that J.R.R. Tolkien quickly abandoned.*

Prequel

A movie or book that is set before the original despite being written after it.

*Stars Wars released three **prequels** over ten years after the original three movies came out.*



Cameo appearance

A short appearance, between a few seconds to a few minutes long, by a famous person in a movie. Often shortened to simply “cameo”.

*Kelly Osborne, Steve Carrell and Magic Johnson all made **cameos** in Pharrell’s new music video, Happy.*

Prime time

A time in the evening when the majority of people have come home from work and are watching television.

*Only the most popular television shows get a spot on **prime time**.*

Blockbuster

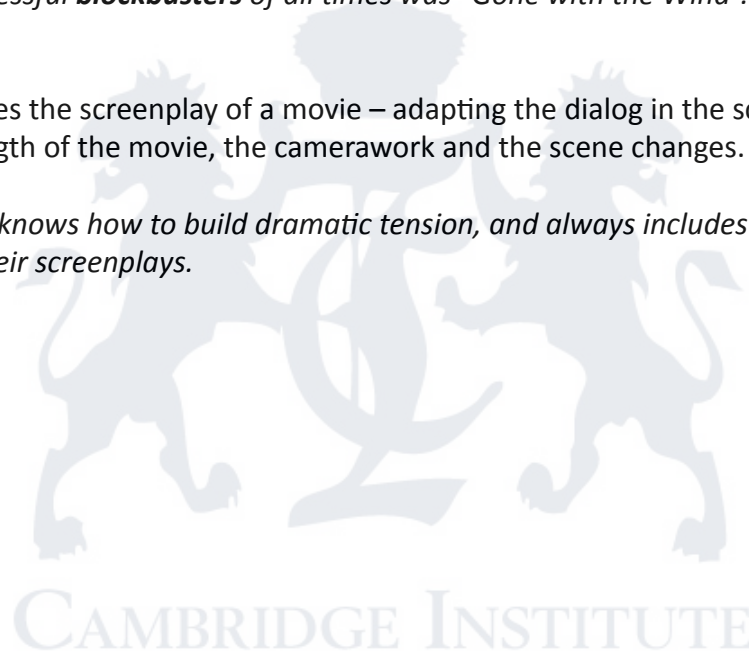
A very successful, high budget movie, vigorously promoted, the cast of which is usually made up of very high profile movie actors/actresses.

*One of the most successful **blockbusters** of all times was “Gone with the Wind”.*

Screenwriter

The person who writes the screenplay of a movie – adapting the dialog in the script to the director’s desires such as the length of the movie, the camerawork and the scene changes.

*A good **screenwriter** knows how to build dramatic tension, and always includes instructions for sets and camera work in their screenplays.*





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Cut to the chase

Get to the point without wasting time, stop avoiding the matter.

*Ok, let's **cut to the chase**, how much do you want for this car?*

That's a wrap

It's completed, often used when filming a movie.

*Ok, **that's a wrap** everyone, we are done with all the filming here in the desert.*

Two thumbs up

A way to say that something is excellent. Originally a way of endorsing a film, it can now be applied to any situation.

*Critics gave Spike Jonze's film "Her" **two thumbs up**.*

Star-studded

To have a lot of famous people in a movie, event, etc.

*Ocean's Eleven is a movie with a **star-studded** cast.*

To steal the show

To get the most attention at a certain event.

*Her low-cut, green dress really **stole the show** at the party.*

The show must go on

An event or activity must proceed even if there are problems.

*The main actress in the television show got pregnant, but **the show must go on**, so they hid her growing belly and kept filming.*

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GRAMMAR: WISHES AND REGRETS

Wishes are desires. They are the hopes and ambitions of things you want to happen in the future or wanted to happen in the past. Regrets, on the other hand, are things that happened (or didn't happen) in the past which you now feel bad, upset or sad about.

There are several different ways in which we can create a sentence when expressing our wishes or regrets. As a rhetorical exclamation we can say "If only" instead of saying "I wish" to express a desire or yearning in the first person.

A) Wishes about the present or the future

Structure:

Subject + wish + past simple or continuous

Paul wishes I didn't live so far away.

I wish you weren't leaving tonight. I'm going to miss you.

If only you didn't live so far away, Paul!

If only you weren't leaving tonight!

B) Wishes about actions that you don't want to keep happening in the future

Structure:

Subject + wish + would/could + bare infinitive

I wish John would go to the doctor, he has been sick for a week and he's not getting any better.

The doctor wishes Carmen would finally give up smoking.

If only you would go to the doctor!

C) Wishes or complaints about the present

Structure:

Subject + wish + object + would/wouldn't

I wish you wouldn't come over so early in the morning.

Dad wishes you would clean the dishes in the sink.

If only you wouldn't come over so early in the morning!

D) Present tense wishes and regrets

Structure:

Subject + wish + past simple, perfect or continuous

Subject + regret/s (+ not) + gerund

I wish she were more dedicated to her studies.

I regret not being more dedicated to my studies.

She wishes she knew the way to the hotel, but she doesn't have a clue where it is.

She regrets not learning the way to the hotel before going.

Lucy wishes she was going with Jim to Rome, but she couldn't afford it.

Lucy regrets not going with Jim to Rome, but she couldn't afford it.

Lucy regrets staying in Paris without Jim, but she couldn't afford to go to Rome.



E) Wishes or regrets about the past**Structure:**

Subject + wish + past perfect

Mum wishes Ken had been kinder to my niece.

I wish I had studied more for the test.

I regret not having studied more for my test.

F) Wishes in real and unreal situations**Structure:**

Wish + could

Lin wishes I could speak Japanese. (Possible)

I wish I could be invisible. (Impossible)





LISTENING: FAVOURITE FLICKS

Speaker 1: My favourite film is Garden State. It takes its title from the nickname for the state of New Jersey in the US, and tells the tale of real people's problems and how they can overcome them through life experiences. It is written by, directed by, and stars Zach Braff who many viewers would recognize as the main character on the hospital dramedy Scrubs. His first foray into the big screen is nothing short of magical, blending heartfelt sorrow with subtle one-liners. After the main character, Andrew, goes back home to attend his mother's funeral he must make amends with his father, and get a sense of where he is headed in life. The best part is everything feels so natural, it's how real people live, and something we can all relate to.

Speaker 2: A film that really struck me was The Dark Knight. There had been so many outlandish cartoon versions of superheroes on screen before it, that it almost didn't even seem like a comic book story adapted for filmgoers. It's really more of a crime drama than a story about a man in tight garments and a cape. Set in the streets of Gotham, issues facing Bruce Wayne and the good guys are totally believable. Perhaps the whole 'jumping-off-skyscrapers-and-landing-safely' thing isn't strictly feasible, but Batman's lack of a real superpower translates best to movies. It humanizes the story. And, if you have seen the film how can you forget the Joker? Heath Ledger's penultimate performance on screen is surely something to endure for decades to come.

Speaker 3: One of the most entertaining and touching films I have ever seen is Hero, a martial arts epic starring Jet Li set in dynastic China. It is a story of love, revenge, and betrayal, with Li's character attempting an assassination on the Emperor. While not particularly vital to the central plotline, the auxiliary scenes that tell the main character's backstory really give the film its depth. Hero's storyline is somewhat implausible and far-fetched, but the set pieces and cinematography are a wonder, with each divergent branch of the tale taking on a new, vibrant color. Its visual impressiveness is exemplified in the fight scenes, which are choreographed to perfection and portray movement of the human form in the most beautiful manner I have ever seen.

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GRAMMAR: DIFFICULT WORD PAIRS

Farther

Used when something can be measured in physical distance.

Further

Used when a distance cannot be measured, i.e. is physical or metaphorical.

*I don't know if I can walk any **farther**, I'm tired.*

*I don't want to discuss this any **further**.*

Note: this distinction is largely used in American English, but not British, where **further** can also be used for physical distance.

Fewer

Used with countable nouns.

Less

Used with uncountable nouns.

*We only have room for 25 people or **fewer**.*

*The **less** happy you are, the **less** likely you are to make friends.*

Accept

To willingly receive.

Except

Preposition which means excluding.

*I will **accept** your reports up until noon tomorrow.*

*Everyone, **except** Jane, can come tomorrow.*

Already

Previously.

All ready

Completely prepared.

*I've **already** had breakfast.*

*I am **all ready** to go to the movies.*

Bring

Carrying an item to a certain place (direction: forwards).

Take

Transporting an item away from its original location (direction: away).

*My mum **brought** me a piece of cake while I was studying.*

*When I finished eating it, she **took** away my plate.*



Maybe

Perhaps.

May be

Could be/might be.

*I'm not sure when I'll arrive, **maybe** around 11pm.
She **may be** a bit slow, but I'm sure she'll learn.*

Good

Modifies a noun.

Well

Modifies a verb, adjective or other adverb.

*That lasagna was really **good**.
She cooks very **well**.*

Its

Possessive pronoun.

It's

Contraction of 'it is' or 'it has'.

*The dog can almost bite **its** own tail.
I can't believe **it's** already Friday.*

Then

Next in order or at that time.

Than

Used before the second element in a comparison.

*I'm going to go to the post office **then** I'll go to your place.
My boyfriend is taller **than** me by about 5 inches.*

Their

Belonging to a group of people.

There

A place or point.

They're

Contraction of "they are".

***Their** shoes are the ones in the entrance.
I left my shoes over **there**.
They're going to go home after we finish dessert.*



READING: FOREIGN FOODS

Part of the thrill of travelling around the world is seeing all of the well-known places. When you are cooped up at home in your own little bubble, it means you're not out visiting the Colosseum and the Brooklyn Bridge, or other spectacular feats of civil engineering. Additionally, another rewarding experience of traveling is the delightful cuisines you can taste in different parts of the world. It is possible to find examples of Italian, Chinese, or Thai food that might be available in your hometown or city, but that doesn't mean they are really authentic dishes. Without further ado, let's take a tour of some of the most popular and best known cuisines.

Chinese

In China, the array of different flavors available to one's palate is unimaginable. While it is true that Chinese cuisine is a mixture of regional dishes, it is not simply "Chinese" food but rather Cantonese, Mandarin, or Sichuan. What makes Chinese food so great is the availability of spices, meats, and vegetables. The combined flavors make Chinese food a real treat for anyone willing to expand their gastronomic horizons.

Italian

Defined by its simplicity, Italian food is possibly the tastiest. This is most likely due to the reliance on the sheer quality of the ingredients rather than trying to make the food overly elaborate. Of course, if the words pizza, marinara or fettuccini have your mouth watering, it's because you are yearning for Italian food. Add in the best cheese and wines ever made and you will understand the expression; "Food, glorious food".

Indian

Similar to Chinese delicacies, it is derived from a huge geographical area with many different regional styles. As a result of the many different cultural backgrounds, farming methods and climate conditions, plates are richly varied making them appealing to those who give it a try. Indian food is well known for its aromatic spices and herbs, vegetables and wide range of fruit compared with other regions.

The moral of the story is that when it comes to travelling there is more to do than simply taking pictures. Take in the local food and drink and you will not regret it!



VOCABULARY: Focus

Cooking Utensils

Whisk
Masher
Spatula
Corkscrew
Colander
Food processor
Peeler
Grater
Can opener
Tongs
Rolling pin
Apron

Verbs

Coat

To cover food with something, usually a sauce or powder.

*The final step to making a cake is **coating** the whole thing with plenty of icing.*

Dice

To cut into small cubes.

*The first step in preparing grandma's secret sauce is **dicing** tomatoes.*

Deep fry

To cook fully submerged in hot oil.

*In order to make the perfect crispy chips it is essential to **deep fry** them.*

Grate

To cut food into fine strips by rubbing it against the little holes of the grater.

*To make the best nachos, we will have to **grate** a lot of cheese.*

Marinate

Make a substance flavored or tender by letting it sit in a flavored liquid.

*To make my delicious roast pork dish you should let the meat **marinate** in soy sauce overnight.*

Simmer

Allowing a dish to acquire a certain flavor or consistency by cooking at a low boil.

*The key to a good pasta sauce is letting it **simmer** for a few hours.*



Strain

To remove the water or liquid from food.

When **straining** pasta please be careful not to burn yourself.

Sprinkle

To add a small amount of a powder or spice on top of food.

Lisa's favorite cupcakes are red velvet **sprinkled** with icing sugar.

Thaw

To allow a frozen food to defrost, usually meat.

So that the fish is defrosted for dinner tonight, I'll take it out now to let it **thaw** out.

Melt

To bring a solid food into a liquid state by heating it.

The recipe asks for **melted** butter, so I'll put the butter in the microwave for 5 seconds.

Peel

To remove the skin or outer layer from something.

I hate **peeling** potatoes.

Steam

To cook with water vapor.

The healthiest way to eat vegetables is **steamed**.

Slice

To cut into thin pieces.

I asked the baker to **slice** my loaf of bread but I think he forgot.

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VOCABULARY: FOOD IDIOMS

Like comparing apples to oranges

To try to compare two things that cannot be compared because they are too different.

*Comparing secondary education to a university education is **like comparing apples to oranges**, it's not the same.*

Whip something up

To quickly prepare some food without much effort.

*What a great surprise that you stopped by to say hello! Do you want me to **whip you up something** to eat?*

Cream of the crop

The best of the best.

*The HR department only chose the **cream of the crop** to come in for interview for this position.*

Turn beet red

To be visually embarrassed by turning very red in the face.

*After he accidentally called his teacher "mom", he **turned beet red** and everyone laughed.*

Not my cup of tea

Someone or something you don't like very much.

*Fieldhockey isn't really **my cup of tea**; I can never get the rules straight.*

In a nutshell

Used to summarise something using less words.

*Jamie hated the teacher, Laurie thought the distance between the school and her home was too far and in Georgina's case, she is just plain lazy. **In a nutshell**, no one will be going back to that class.*

Peach fuzz

When teenage boys' facial hair is growing lightly and sparsely, before the hairs become thicker and darker.

*My son is obviously going through puberty, not only is his voice changing but he is also starting to grow a bit of **peach fuzz**.*

Spill the beans

To tell a secret.

*"Ok Diane, **spill the beans**, what did Charlie tell you last night?"*



GRAMMAR: HOMOPHONES

Homophones are words that sound the same when spoken but have completely different meanings. Sometimes they are spelled the same and sometimes they are spelled differently. It is very important to learn these in order to properly understand someone who is speaking and to ensure proper spelling when writing.

Below are a few of the **most commonly confused homophones**:

To (preposition) two (2) and too (also or excessively)

When I went to the butcher to buy two types of sausages, I bought ham too.

There (a place or to show something exists), they're (they are) and their (possessive)

They're going to move to their new house over there in that neighborhood.

Its (possessive pronoun) and it's (it is / it has)

It's incredible that the cat lost all its fur when it got sick.

Your (possessive adjective) and you're (you are)

You're going to regret not bringing your hat.

Below is list of **homophones to watch out for**:

Accept (to receive) and **except** (excluding something).

Ad (an advertisement) and the verb **add** (to include or introduce something).

Affect (to influence) and **effect** (the result of something)

Ant (a small bug) and **aunt** (your mother or father's sister)*

Band (a group) and **banned** (past form of to ban - forbid)

Buy (to purchase), **by** (preposition) and **bye** (to say goodbye)

Die (to become dead) and **dye** (to change the colour of something)

Eye (what you see with) and **I** (pronoun)

Know (have certain information) and **no** (negative)

Meet (to know somebody) and **meat** (food from animals)

Mail (postal delivery) and **male** (masculine)

New (never used) and **knew** (past tense of know)

Pair (two of something) or **pear** (fruit)

Scene (a location) and **seen** (past tense of see)

Scents (smells), **sense** (a feeling) and **cents** (money, coins)

Sees (to look), **seas** (bodies of water) and **seize** (grab hold of)

Sight (vision) and **site** (a location)

Through (from a to b) and **threw** (past tense of throw)

Whether (if) and **weather** (climate)

Where (location) and **wear** (to be dressed in, such as clothes)

Write (to form letters and sentences), **right** (correct, fitting or direct) and **rite** (ceremony)

*Note: this is only true in some North American dialects; the rest of the world pronounces 'aunt' with a hard a sound, /ɑ:nt/.

Although this is only a small list of the thousands of homophones that exist, it should help to make you more conscious of the many homophones that exist in the English language. Although there are many and they may cause much confusion, once they are learned and understood they help increase your vocabulary immensely.



LISTENING: FAVOURITE DISHES AND RESTAURANTS

Billy: Hey guys, I just have to tell you about this new restaurant I went to this weekend.

Katie: Oh hey Billy, we'd love to hear all about it. Josh and I need a place to take our parents to next month for their anniversary.

Billy: Well, it's a new Italian place over off Sunset called Il Fornaio and I couldn't recommend it enough. I mean all of the best Italian staples that you can think of in one place! The hardest part was trying to choose between all of the delicious looking items on the menu, especially the ones I saw coming in from the kitchen.

Josh: So what did you choose?

Billy: Well, after what seemed like hours labouring over the decision, I wound up picking the mushroom risotto. And in no way was I disappointed. So creamy, hitting all the right spots through and through.

Josh: That does sound really good. But I don't know Katie, weren't we planning on taking them to that Thai restaurant we've been to before?

Katie: I just thought more options couldn't really hurt.

Billy: Have you been there recently? What did you order?

Josh: Yeah, we went there about a week ago. Usually I get the same thing, the "Pad Thai with Tofu". Some people aren't really into tofu, but when you pair it with a great combination of noodles and spices it's simply delicious. The one thing I have to say about the place though is buyer beware. Personally, I love spicy food, so I pretty much like anything on the menu; however it's difficult to find something that isn't at least a little bit spicy. You can even order it extra spicy, and melt your own face off.

Katie: Yea, you're a little braver than I am concerning that. I have to say my favourite thing that I've had recently was this Szechuan Chicken dish I had at the Chinese restaurant around the corner. The sauce was amazing, not too spicy but really delicious. It also came with a "lo-mein" noodle side, and of course my favourite thing, the "Fortune cookies"!

Billy: Well, it seems like you guys have a few options, but all of this talk of food has made me hungry! Let's go get something now.



READING: THE BEST STIR FRY RECIPE EVER

Recipe from *Cookbooks 4 Us*

Serves: 4

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of sliced cabbage.
- 2 cups of boiled broccoli.
- 4 peeled and diced garlic cloves.
- 1 tablespoon of grated ginger.
- 1 thinly sliced onion.
- 1 full orange pepper diced.
- 2 large carrots, peeled and sliced.
- 1 pound of chicken diced into cubes.
- 1 pinch of salt.
- 2 tablespoons of sunflower oil.
- 3 tablespoons of soy sauce.
- 1 cup of vegetable broth.
- 1 tablespoon of cornstarch or flour.
- 1 cup of cooked rice or noodles (if desired).

Directions:

- 1.** Heat sunflower oil in a large pan. Once the oil is hot, add in half the diced garlic, all the ginger, the onions and salt. Once the onions become translucent, add in the chicken and cook until it is properly cooked, about 5 minutes.
- 2.** Once the chicken is cooked, add in the remaining garlic, the carrots, broccoli, cabbage and half a cup of the vegetable broth into the pan.
- 3.** While you allow the ingredients in the pan to cook, mix in a small bowl the remaining vegetable broth, the 3 tablespoons of soy sauce and the cornstarch. Once these are properly mixed together, add the mixture to the frying pan. Allow the mixture to simmer until the chicken and vegetables are coated with thickened sauce. Serve immediately over cooked rice or noodles.



VOCABULARY: FOCUS

Supply

The quantity of a product or service offered in the market by a company.

*Wal-Mart had a big **supply** of garbage bins and so they decided to have a sale to sell them off quickly to make room in their warehouse.*

Demand

The quantity of products or services that customers need or desire in the market.

*When a new iPhone comes out the **demand** is so high that Apple can charge a very high price.*

Barter (1)

To negotiate the price of goods or services instead of agreeing to the first price or quote.

*Most holiday-goers in Turkey like to **barter** for better prices, it's the only way to do business without being cheated.*

Barter (2)

A system of exchange where no money is used and people exchange goods or services directly for other goods and services.

*When a country's currency becomes worthless, they have to resort to a **barter** system with other countries.*

Surplus

An excess of resources amounting to more than what is wanted.

*The report concluded that the company had a **surplus** of stock so they decided to discount the items.*

Deficit

When the amount of money earned over a period of time is less than the amount of money spent or owed (opposite of surplus).

*Ever since the beginning of the economic crisis of 2008, many companies have been seeing a regular **deficit** on their balance sheets.*

Recession

A time period in which there is a decline in the activities and growth of an economy.

*Many economists say that the housing crisis in the USA is what started the current global **recession**.*

Depression

An extended period of recession which usually comes with high unemployment rates and a notable decline in business growth and production.

*The Great **Depression** ran from 1929 until 1941 and was felt globally.*



Financial institution

A bank, credit union or other organisation that offers banking services (for saving, borrowing and investing money).

***Financial institutions** must keep up-to-date with changing inflation rates, currency exchange rates and the situation of the stock market.*

Inflation

Rising prices of goods and services.

*One of the main factors which affects the rate of **inflation** is the supply of money in a country.*

Stock market

A market where stocks and bonds are traded.

*The world's biggest **stock** exchange is the New York **Stock** Exchange.*

Capitalism (person: capitalist)

A profit driven free-market economy where business and property are privately owned, and the production and distribution of goods and services are controlled by the market demand of individuals, not governments.

*The United States is a rich **capitalist** country where privately owned health care is common for those that can afford it but public health systems are very limited.*

Socialism (person: socialist)

A social or state centered system centered around the co-operative management and production of goods and services, driven by the needs of the people. Socialism typically distributes production evenly for equal use and not for monetary profit.

*Scandinavian countries, such as Denmark, Norway and Sweden, are recognised as having some of the strongest **socialist** economies in the world.*

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READING: THE ECONOMICS OF HAPPINESS

Often the success of a country is judged by its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is a statistic that determines the total value of all the products and services produced within a country over a year. However, determining this value does not help us gauge the quality of life that is held in each country that is measured. Moreover, it doesn't help us see how happy or satisfied residents are within their homeland. Therefore, even if a country has a high GDP per capita, it doesn't necessarily tell us anything about the quality of life offered within its borders.

It is exactly for this reason that economists have started delving into the study of the economics of 'happiness'. This new study takes data from the economic aspects of nations around the globe and their psychological and sociological factors, and publishes the results in a 'World Happiness Report'. This report goes to great length to detail the level of happiness that citizens around the globe feel. For many, this is a much more accurate way to determine a nation's success than simply measuring its business transactions because as we all know, money isn't everything.

In order to determine the happiness of each nation's residents, the following factors are taken into consideration: income, social security, employment, relationships and children, freedom and control, religious diversity, leisure, generosity, health and even GDP. Some of these factors, such as life expectancy, are very objective; however, other data gathered for the report such as satisfaction with health care system can be very subjective. Therefore, very scientific formulas and analysis strategies had to be carefully created to properly analyse the collected data, whether it was simple opinion or concrete fact.

Since the studies have been conducted, many have been struck with curiosity about where the happiest and unhappiest nations on the globe are. Surprisingly, despite their cold climates, the most content nations can be found mainly in northern Europe (Denmark, Norway, Finland and Netherlands are the top four). Conversely, the most dissatisfied nations can be found mainly in Africa (Togo, Benin, Central African Republic, and Sierra Leone).

There is a lot of debate about the accuracy and importance of this new 'happiness' study. Many are wondering whether economists are throwing themselves into studying happiness levels because of the horrible state of the economy and their incapability of actually being able to predict its changes. Critics always come back to the following interesting question: Can happiness really be measured and quantified?



VOCABULARY: COST-EFFECTIVE

Cost-effective

Producing something at a low cost.

*Outsourcing the production of these goods was the most **cost-effective** way to make them.*

Promotional price

The temporary lowering of the price of a product or service to increase sales by attracting more customers.

*These trousers are so cheap right now because this is their **promotional price**, next week they will go back up to their regular price.*

Sale price

The discounted price of a product.

*No, the low price you see on the ticket is the **sale price**, normally it's \$19.99.*

Cost of living

The amount of money needed on a daily basis to live in a certain country.

*The **cost of living** is much higher in Canada than it is in Peru.*

Drive a price down

Force the price of something to fall.

*The great lack of interest in buying a new home right now has **driven down the price** of real estate.*

Asking price

The actual price at which something is being sold.

*The **asking price** for my new dining room set was \$5,000, but I was able to talk the sales representative down to \$4,500.*

Pay the price

The negative effects of having done something.

*If, when you are young, you smoke, drink and don't take care of your health, you will **pay the price** when you are older.*

Pay through the nose

Pay a high price for something.

*Ever since my accident, I've been **paying through the nose** for my car insurance.*

Pricey

Expensive.

*This lamp was really **pricey** but I just thought it would be so perfect for the living room.*



Priceless

1. Something so valuable that a price cannot be calculated
2. Something that was amusing to see or watch

*Now that my daughter has grown her two front teeth back her smile is **priceless**.
You should have seen the way my friend got rejected by that girl – it was **priceless!***

Quote

The amount of money that a salesperson tells a customer a service or product will cost.

*The mechanics **quoted** the repairs of my car at \$580, which was much more than I was willing to pay.*

Price range

The highest and lowest price of something on the market.

*The **price range** for a cellphone can range from \$5 for old used ones and over \$500 for the more modern ones.*

Cost an arm and a leg

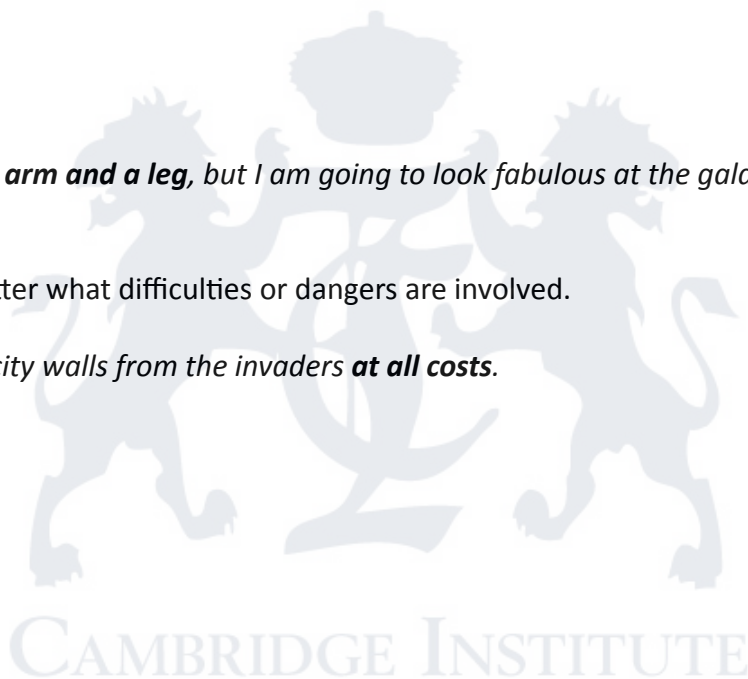
Very expensive.

*This dress **cost** me **an arm and a leg**, but I am going to look fabulous at the gala tonight.*

At all costs

It is necessary no matter what difficulties or dangers are involved.

*We must defend the city walls from the invaders **at all costs**.*





GRAMMAR: PUNCTUATION

It is very important to use punctuation correctly in order to have your written thoughts understood correctly.

Compare:

I didn't want to go last night, he made me. (He made me go somewhere last night)

I didn't want to go, last night he made me. (He has been pressuring me to go for a long time, and last night he finally succeeded in making me go.)

Slow, children crossing. (Warning: slow down because children are crossing)

Slow children crossing. (Warning: the children who are crossing are slow-moving)

Through these examples it can be seen how a simple change in punctuation can greatly change the meaning of a sentence.

Here we will look at a brief review of different punctuation that can be used in English.

To finish a sentence

A) Full Stop (BrEng) / Period (AmEng) (.)

To end a complete sentence.

I had a sandwich for lunch.

B) Question Mark (?)

To finish a question sentence

Where did you buy your car?

After a tag question.

He likes ham and cheese sandwiches, doesn't he?

C) Exclamation Mark (!)

To indicate a strong emotion (often after an interjection).

Oh my! How lovely!

Mid-sentence

D) Comma (,)

Between a list or a series of items.

At the grocery store I need to buy carrots, apples, tomatoes and chicken.

After an introductory dependent clause.

If you think those dumplings are tasty, you will love them at China Palace.

to divide introductory words, adverbials or phrases.

Firstly, I would like to thank my mum.

Hoping to win the lottery, Rob bought a ticket every week.

To separate clauses or phrases joined by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, but, so, or, etc).

I really had to get to the office quickly, so I called a taxi.



To separate appositives or non-defining clauses.

When I met Mark, who is now my husband, I thought he was the biggest clown.

Right before a quote.

She said, "I love you".

E) Semicolon (;)

To separate two independent clauses.

Petra loved going to the beach as a child; she built a sand-castle every summer.

To separate items in a list when there is also commas.

In my trip I went to Beijing, China; Tokyo, Japan and Bangkok, Thailand.

F) Colon (:)

To introduce a list

He visited three US cities last summer: Los Angeles, Los Vegas and San Diego.

To introduce an idea or explanation.

There's only one thing that's important to him: visiting 50 countries before the end of the year.

G) Quotation Mark (" ...")

To quote direct speech

Jaime said, "Don't be late", and now he is not even here.

Mid-word

H) Apostrophe (')

To show possession.

Jim's shoes are blue. My parents' house is huge.

With contractions.

I can't believe it. I'm with her. Let's meet later. Who's he?

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LISTENING: THE FOREIGN CURRENCY FIX

Speaker 1: I've got all this foreign currency left over from my travels; I just never changed it back into dollars. Let's see, I have some Russian rubles, some Malaysian ringgit, here's a 20 pound note from Britain. Like any tourist here in Times Square, I can go inside here and change them back into dollars at the going rate. But if I'm a big bank or a big global company, like say Apple, that makes stuff in one place and sells it in another, I have a lot more currency to trade. And now authorities are worried that where the big guys go to trade is a site of some seriously shady dealings.

Speaker 2: There are about 180 different types of currencies. And every day about \$5.3 trillion changes hands, that's 30 times the daily trading in the stock market. All these different transactions happen in the foreign exchange market. It's the biggest financial marketplace in the world. When traders buy one currency for another, say dollars for yen, euros for pounds, they get the going price at that very moment, the exchange rate. Twenty four seven, three sixty five, the FX Market is like New York, it never sleeps. But at 4 o'clock in London all trading stops for one minute, it's called "The Fix". That sixty second fix is important, setting a benchmark in giving everyone a supposedly credible yardstick to measure one currency against another. It's the closest thing this market has to a closing bell. And for many customers big and small, having that one daily value is key.

Speaker 1: The problem is authorities in the US and around the world say the fix has been fixed. They say some traders in London have been rigging it to their own advantage.

Speaker 2: The rap is that these London traders have been colluding with each other, giving themselves names like the cartel, the mafia and the bandits club. They supposedly met up in electronic chat rooms to push currencies one way or another at the very last second. A process called, get this, "Banging the Close".

Speaker 1: If this all sounds a bit Wolf of Wall Street, keep in mind that Citigroup, Barclays, HSBC and some other big banks have already been swept up in the investigation. And that's the thing, whether its oil or currencies or interest rates, whenever one small group can set the price for everyone, odds are they'll try to turn it to their advantage. And who loses when that happens? Well anyone who thinks they got a fair shake.

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WRITING: THE ECONOMY AND YOU

Write a report of between 200 – 400 words that explains how the current state of the economy is affecting your life, your job, your business, your community or your country.



READING: THE POTSDAM VEGETABLE MASH

Fairweather Music Festival - A Feeding Frenzy! The Potsdam Vegetable Mash serves a palatable feast of sound.

Jonathon Peters, 9th May 2014, Senior Arts correspondent for the Fairweather Planet, at the Fairweather Contemporary Music Festival:

It was one of the most highly anticipated performances of the festival. The name of “The Potsdam Vegetable Mash” was raising a swarm of curiosity as it hovered feverishly in the pre-concert buzz of the main stage auditorium. As questions of intrigue flowed like summer wine, expectations were running high. Who were these people? An orchestra of instruments made from vegetables? Sounds bananas!

It is a fact that Fairweather’s world renowned Contemporary Music Festival has built up a solid reputation over the years for dishing out an unprecedented sonic combo of quality musicianship soaked with a topping of the outrageous. However, it is also true to say that to the discerning ear, many of these acts barely scrape the surface of originality and often fall flat to the conjecture. Yet, this was not the case with this year’s surprise offering. When the stakes are high and your audiences are demanding soul food instead of fodder, the Potsdam Vegetable Mash may just be the help you need to quell the insatiable appetites of original music seekers.

For over fifteen years now, the root vegetables of our planet have been subjected to a sonic attack at the hands of the Potsdam Vegetable Mash. Onions, carrots, cucumbers, parsnips, pumpkins and many more kinds of earthly produce are transformed into musical instruments by the eccentric grasp of these outlandish musicians from Germany. The sound of a pumpkin kicking as a bass drum, or a parsnip, with its inherent flute-like quality, holding a melodic line has a tendency to leave audiences somewhat bewildered and bemused.

Leaving no vegetable unturned, it is difficult not to view any performance by the Potsdam Vegetable Mash as a pure visual spectacle. However, once you begin to break through the novelty of the occasion and start to factor in the complexity of the music and accept their soundscape as an auditory work of art, you begin to appreciate that the music is well composed and superbly executed.

In keeping with the evenings’ theme of unsurpassed originality the Potsdam Vegetable Mash’s ‘after party’ celebration provided a satirical twist. In a selfless act of communal sacrifice, they cooked a huge pan of vegetable broth, made as it was, from the very instruments which had graced the Fairweather stage earlier in the evening. This pagan-like ritual was the ultimate act of consummation. It was a fitting ending to the most bizarre of musical events.



VOCABULARY: FOCUS

Tune

An informal way to say 'song'.

*Have you heard that new **tune** that came out last week?*

Airplay

How many times a song is played on the radio.

*One of my favorite band's songs is getting massive **airplay**!*

Catchy

A way to describe a song that easily gets your attention or stays in your thoughts.

*I don't want to admit it, but that pop song is so **catchy**.*

Roadie

Someone who travels with a band to help them organize and set up their shows.

*My cousin was a **roadie** for a while; he said it was hard work but a lot of fun.*

Groupie

A big fan of a musical group, often a young woman, who follows the band around on tour.

*If you look at concerts given by bands like Pearl Jam, you're sure to see **groupies** who have been following them on tour.*

Encore

Additional songs played at the end of a concert by request of the audience through their loud chants and applause.

*I was really pleased that the band played 2 **encores**.*

Cover

When a band plays another band's song.

*There was a decent band in the pub playing **covers** from 80s rock bands.*

Venue

A place to hold a large gathering, often a concert.

*The tour manager only booked the band into more intimate **venues**.*

A cappella

Someone singing without instruments to accompany them.

*Mariah Carey was always very good at singing **a cappella**.*



VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Blow one's own horn

Boast about personal accomplishments.

*Normally, **blowing your own horn** isn't seen as endearing.*

Fine tuning

Try and fix minor mistakes on something.

*This car will be up and running with just a little **fine tuning**.*

Face the music

Deal with the negative consequences of something.

*After I got in a car accident, I had to **face the music** and show up in court.*

Play it by ear

Improvise a plan.

*We didn't make dinner reservations, instead we'll **play it by ear** when we arrive downtown.*

Ring a bell

Sound familiar.

*I can't put a face to that name, but it certainly **rings a bell**.*

Music to one's ears

Something that sounds pleasant.

*We get two days off next week? Sounds like **music to my ears**.*

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GRAMMAR: PARTS OF SPEECH

Generally words can be divided into eight different categories: *nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunction* and *interjections*. It is important to understand each word's role in a sentence in order to ensure proper spelling and grammar usage, which can be achieved through understanding each part of speech thoroughly.

Different parts of speech:

A) Verb - Action or state of being.

Examples of words:

Be, have, do, run, cook, should, go, like.

Use in a sentence:

*I **have** three brothers.*

*I **am** the tallest in my class.*

*I **go** salsa **dancing** every Friday.*

B) Noun - Thing or person.

Examples of words:

Book, John, dancer, penguin, Dublin.

Use in a sentence:

*The **butterfly** is blue and green.*

*My **teacher** arrived late.*

*I went to **Paris** last **winter**.*

C) Adjective - Describes a noun (**note:** the articles a, an, the fall into this group).

Examples of words:

Blue, small, many, her, that, what, our, all.

Use in a sentence:

***Which** plant would you like to bring home? The **tall** one?*

***All** my **younger** siblings went to the **new** university, **our** parents were very **proud**.*

D) Adverb - Describes a verb, adjective or adverb.

Examples of words:

Sadly, very, really, yesterday, everywhere, happily, often.

Use in a sentence:

*I **often** gaze **curiously** out my bedroom window.*

***Everywhere** Jane goes she is **unfortunately** reminded of Steve.*

E) Pronoun - Replaces a noun.

Examples of words:

I, you, she, he, it, they, we, hers, me, him, mine, myself, which, this.



Use in a sentence:

He brought his turtle to school to show **me**.

She had never met **them** before.

F) Preposition - Links a noun, pronouns and phrases to other words.

Examples of words:

To, at, after, on, but, over, during, towards, within, by, between, in.

Use in a sentence:

During class she always falls asleep **on** her desk.

I live **around** the corner from my brother, and we often meet **near** the bus stop **around** the block.

G) Conjunction - Joins clauses, sentences or words.

Examples of words:

And, but, so, yet, because, once, since, though, while, both...and, either...or, when.

Use in a sentence:

I've tried **neither** sushi **nor** teriyaki **until** I went to Japan on vacation.

Call me **when** you get home **and** I'll come right over **but** no later than 9pm.

H) Interjection - Short exclamation words, often expressing feeling.

Examples of words:

Oops, eh, ah, ya.

Use in a sentence:

Hey! Stop that **eh!**

Ouch! I hurt myself.

Ewww! it's bleeding.

Note: it is important to not just learn lists of words from each category as some words can fall into several different categories based on their use in a sentence. It is much wiser to understand the purpose of each category of word.



LISTENING: BEETHOVEN

Reporter: Ludwig van Beethoven's life took place in the latter part of the 18th century and the early part of the 19th century. Nothing short of a musical prodigy, his story is unique for many reasons. He was certainly important enough to be considered one of the most important composers in the history of music, and his work is still extensively studied and performed today.

Perhaps he is most well-known for the nine symphonies he composed; however his body of work was full of pieces for non-orchestral ensembles as well. He was born in Bonn, Germany, and when he was twenty-two moved to Vienna, Austria, where he immediately became known for his prowess on the piano. Beethoven was well-versed in the history of composition, and at one point, had every intention of studying under another prodigious contemporary, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. When he arrived in Vienna, and due to Mozart's untimely death, he actually began to learn with Joseph Haydn, another prominent Austrian composer of equal stature.

Beethoven got somewhat of a head start based on the musical background that his family possessed. His father and his paternal grandfather both sang classical tunes if only to supplement their income somewhat, and passed their knowledge down to Ludwig at a young age.

In his mid-20s, Beethoven started to lose his hearing. He took steps to ensure he wasn't too uncomfortable by not engaging in conversation. Eventually, around twenty years later and after having dealt with the symptoms for the entire duration, Beethoven went completely deaf. Even so, he continued to compose, perform and conduct in the face of such adversity.





VOCABULARY: PHRASAL VERBS WITH “PASS”

Pass around

To share something with everyone present.

Please **pass around** these leaflets I brought in about community recycling programs.

Pass as/for

Be believed to be something you are not.

Do you think I could **pass as** a footballer with this kit?

Pass away

To die.

My grandma **passed away** at the ripe old age of 95.

Pass by

To miss an opportunity or go past a place without stopping.

If I don't decide soon, this new job is going to **pass me by**.
We **passed by** Chester's house but it didn't look like anyone was home.

Pass out

To faint.

In horror films, it seems like someone always **passes out** from fear.

Pass through

To go through a certain place without stopping.

We **passed through** Michigan to get to Canada.

Pass up

To reject.

That was too good of an opportunity to **pass up**.

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READING: THE SECOND WORLD WAR (WWII)

The most recent (and hopefully the last) world war was a large-scale conflict whose fingerprints irrevocably marred the pages of twentieth-century history. Spanning from 1939-1945, the Second World War (WWII) took two opposing military alliances with highly distinct ideologies known as The Axis and The Allies and pitted them against each other. Numbers-wise, it was the biggest conflict in terms of magnitude by any measurable scale. This conflict holds the record for both the highest number of participants and also the highest number of fatalities in human history. Out of the more than one-hundred-million people that fought, a conservative estimate is that a minimum of fifty-million people died, including innocent civilians.

There were smaller conflicts that took place around the world before 1939 – most notably in Japan and China – but it is generally understood that the Second World War officially began when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939. Over the next few years, many of the world’s most powerful nations got involved in the war in one way or another. Many European countries, including the United Kingdom, declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland. The United States was drawn into the war after Japan attacked and devastated Pearl Harbor in 1941. Italy initially joined forces with Japan and Germany to form the main Axis power, while the Soviet Union aligned itself with the Allied forces.

The Second World War was fought throughout many lands and was marked by a number of grandiose battles, various catastrophes and massacres. Eventually, through one notable large-scale strategy known as the ‘D-Day Landings’ the Allies won the war in 1945. Hitler’s Third Reich was over, and the organization known as the United Nations was created to encourage world peace and ensure that no such carnage would ever occur on our planet again.

With each passing year, many nations pay homage to the lives needlessly lost during this horrendous human catastrophe. As a human race we should learn from such losses and uphold their personal sacrifices by working together to negotiate peace, and bring about world equality and harmony rather than succumbing to power-lust and the atrocious violence of war. We must also learn to accept that it is only from this enlightened moral platform that we can as a race move forward into a much brighter future.

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VOCABULARY: Focus

Ambush

A surprise attack.

*They lost more soldiers because they didn't anticipate the enemy's **ambush**.*

Barrage

A strong, fast, concentrated attack.

*Their strategy was to use all of their cannons in a **barrage** against the city's walls.*

Conspire

To join secretly and plan to do harmful or illegal things.

*The secret was that Hitler's Generals **conspired** against him and surrendered Germany to the Allies.*

Desert

A verb meaning to abandon something.

*They laid waste to the conquered city but decided to **desert** the territory and move on.*

Downfall

A loss of power, status, wealth or prosperity.

*The **downfall** of the military leader was the overwhelming confidence that clouded his judgment.*

Neutralise

To make something ineffective.

*They were able to **neutralise** their enemy by reinforcing their position on top of the hill.*

Stealth

Doing something in a cunning, covert way.

*Their **stealth** operation succeeded because no one spotted their silent, careful approach.*

Trench

A deep ditch in the ground often used to protect soldiers.

*They were positioned in the **trench** waiting for the enemy to draw close before the attack.*

Camouflage

Disguises used to make objects harder to see against their environments, especially military equipment.

*The troops donned **camouflage** clothing and painted their faces with greens, browns and greys to help them blend in with the jungle.*



Bombard

To attack, hit or throw things at something quickly and repeatedly.

*Suddenly the enemy's aircraft began to **bombard** our base camp with a hail of rocket fire.*

Conflict

A strong disagreement between people, often a struggle for power and resources.

*I try to avoid **conflict** with people because it always ends badly.*

Feud

A mutual hatred or disagreement that has been going on for a long time.

*The Smiths and the Fitzpatrick family members could never talk to one another without a fight breaking out because of an ancient family **feud**.*

Front line

The most important and active role in a job or activity.

*As head reporter, I am out on the **front line** interviewing people all of the time.*

Invasion

The process of coming into a place or territory in an attempt to seize power and control it by force.

*We are plotting an **invasion** of England, starting with its major cities in the north.*

Negotiation

The act of communication, persuasion and compromise between two parties in order to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

*John could be a foreign diplomat; he is so conscientious and charming. I can easily imagine him becoming an expert in **negotiation**.*

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VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Bite the bullet

Accept something unpleasant or unwanted.

*She was right, so I had to **bite the bullet** and admit my error.*

Bury the hatchet

End a dispute or ongoing argument.

*He told an old rival that it was time to **bury the hatchet** and move on in peace.*

Cross swords

To argue or fight.

*My sister and I always seem to **cross swords** on certain issues.*

Drop a bombshell

Reveal shocking information.

*The daughter decided to **drop a bombshell** on her parents and announce that she was moving to India.*

Lock and load

To get ready.

*Hey man, it's almost time to go, let's **lock and load**.*

In the wars

For a person to appear exhausted, sick, hurt or damaged.

*Darling, what happened to you!? You look like you've been **in the wars**!*

Shoot down in flames

To respond strongly to a suggestion, idea or argument in a way that completely derides it.

*I suggested that we go out for a romantic dinner but she **shot that idea down in flames**.*

Double-edged sword

Something that causes harm as much as it does benefit, cutting both ways.

*Having a formidable army can be a **double edged sword**, it can help to protect your own country but it can also cause other countries to want to enlarge their armies and spend more money on weapons technology in order to protect themselves from you.*

To lay waste

To completely destroy something.

*On the signal, the soldiers rose out of the trench and fired on the opposing troops, **laying waste** to the enemy's defense.*



Ride shotgun

To ride in the front passenger seat in a vehicle.

*The two brothers would always fight over who would get to **ride shotgun** with their father when they went to town.*





GRAMMAR: DEFINING VS. NON-DEFINING

Relative clauses are pieces of information added into existing sentences. They are common in writing to make sentences and paragraphs flow better. The information in relative clauses can be separated into a new sentence, but it's often easier to simply add it on to the end of the existing information.

This is a hairless cat. I got it from my crazy aunt.

This sentence can be transformed into a relative clause:

*This is a hairless cat **that I got from my crazy aunt.***

Relative clauses are accompanied by relative pronouns and relative adverbs, which help signify what information is being added. These include **who, which, when, where, whom, whose**, and **that**. Relative clauses can either be defining or non-defining. In general, defining clauses contain essential information, while non-defining clauses contain extra, additional information. With defining clauses, we can leave out the relative pronoun if we want to. For example, the following sentence contains a defining clause.

*This is a hairless cat **that I got from my crazy aunt.***

It can also be written without the relative pronoun **that** with no change in meaning.

*This is a hairless cat **I got from my crazy aunt.***

But in a non-defining relative clause, where the description is not essential to the meaning, the relative pronoun cannot be omitted.

*This hairless cat, **which I got from my crazy aunt**, likes ripping up trousers.*

The information in the relative clause (between the commas in the sentence above) is additional to the essential information in the sentence, which is, that the cat likes to rip up trousers. One of the easiest ways to identify whether a relative clause is defining or non-defining is to see if the clause is separated by commas.

*Carpenters are people **who use tools to build things.** (Defining)*

The sentence needs this information in order to make sense.

*Carpenters, **who use tools to build things**, make up 15% of Europe's workforce. (Non-Defining)*

This is additional, non-essential information.

Defining clauses can use **that/which** interchangeably. Non-defining clauses cannot use the relative pronoun **that** in place of **which, who** or **whom**.

*I went to the party **which** took place on Saturday. (Defining)*

*I went to the party **that** took place on Saturday. (Defining)*

The previous sentences are both correct because they are defining relative clauses. However, in non-defining relative clauses **that** cannot be used.



I went to a party, **which** took place on Saturday. (Non-defining)
~~I went to a party, **that** took place on Saturday. (Incorrect)~~

The relative pronoun or adverb can be omitted only when it is the object, and not the subject of the phrase.

The soldier **who/whom/that** she met. **OR** The soldier she met.
The soldier **who/whom/that** she talked to. **OR** The soldier she talked to.

Above, the soldier is the object of the phrase and the relative pronoun may be omitted.

The soldier **who/that** met her.

In this sentence the soldier is the subject of the phrase; therefore the relative pronoun cannot be omitted.





LISTENING: THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Narrator: Civil wars literally cause brothers and sisters, polarized by political allegiance, to fight against each other. One of the most famous examples of a civil war was that which occurred in the United States of America. It happened during an era when the ethical issue of slavery was finally reaching the forefront of social consciousness throughout much of the developed world. The eleven Southern states, also referred to as the “slave states”, decided to secede from the rest of the Union and create what became known as the “Confederacy”. Both the outgoing and incoming presidential administrations saw the secession as a rebellion, which set the wheels in motion for a period of extended internal conflict.

After Abraham Lincoln won the presidency in 1860 and took office in the spring of 1861, he was immediately faced with an impending problem. Civil war seemed extremely likely to break out, and sure enough, as many had predicted, hostilities between the ‘Union’ armies of the North and the ‘Confederate’ armies of the South broke out in April 1861.

In 1862, following the “Battle of Antietam” which resulted in a Union victory, Lincoln drafted the ‘Emancipation Proclamation’, stating that Confederate defeat during the civil war would mean the abolition of slavery in all states; however, the fighting wasn’t over, climaxing in 1863 with the well-known “Battle of Gettysburg”. Once again, the Union troops were victorious and the Confederate army was left decimated.

By comparison, most civil wars during this era, both before or shortly after, lasted on average a little over a year; however, the violence and bloodshed that American history is built upon dragged on for nearly four years before the Confederate South finally surrendered. Brother against brother, around three-quarters of a million soldiers lost their lives.

As slavery in America came to its judicious end, Lincoln’s prophetic proclamation still remains at the pinnacle of American history along-side the best-loved American president to ever hold office, which makes his assassination, a mere week after the end of the American civil war, all the more devastating.

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GRAMMAR: DISCUSSION LANGUAGE

When people are expressing their opinions in discussions and debates, there are a variety of common ways to express ideas and respond to other people. Below are some expressions and phrases to help you throw conjecture on other people's arguments, bedazzle them with words and suggest new and innovative ideas. These phrases use subtle, more covert ways of responding to ideas than simple agreement or disagreement.

Disagreement:

I don't fully agree with...

*Well, I **don't fully agree with** that. You have a point about the national debt, but do you really think that a war between our two countries is the best solution?*

I'm afraid I would have to disagree

*I'm **afraid I would have to disagree** with you there; your entire plan of attack seems a little preposterous.*

I agree with you up until a point, but...

*I **agree with you up until a point**, from a logical perspective your battle tactics are sound, **but** ethically do you think it's okay to have such a high number of civilian casualties?*

On the contrary...

***On the contrary**, let's celebrate now that the war is over instead of regressing into mourning.*

Redirecting of ideas:

While/Although...

***While** you do have a point about the health issues, I still prefer cooking with butter over olive oil. **Although** it's true that we risk being infected, I feel that fighting to find a cure is the right thing to do.*

Granted, ...but...

***Granted**, we will lose men in the first attack, **but** because of the initial sacrifice we could win the battle.*

Actually, I feel we need to/it would be advantageous...

***Actually**, I feel we **need** to look at a different area of the topic in order to answer this question. **Actually**, we think it **would be advantageous** if we sent a covert team of soldiers into enemy territory. The risk would be high, but we need to scope out the playing field.*

To be honest...

***To be honest**, I think we would be better off without nuclear energy. **Actually**, I think it would be better if we don't even consider using land-mines **to be honest**.*

Suggestions:

How/what about...

***How about** we all take the money we have been spending on augmenting our military forces, and invest it into scientific research to solve the world hunger problem?*

***What about** attacking the enemy from underground where they won't be expecting it?*



Taking into consideration...

***Taking into consideration** the collateral damage that the enemy troops could inflict on us, I would suggest we focus on strengthening our defense.*

I'd like to propose...

***I'd like to propose** that we just admit that their weapons are superior and surrender now before more people die.*

Can I put forward...

***Can I put forward** the idea that we could use our reserve aircraft fighters and try to bomb their cargo ships?*

Agreement and reinforcement:**I'm on the same page as you...**

*Yeah, **I'm on the same page as you**, calling a halt to the destruction of our native forests makes a lot of sense.*

...really appeals to me.

*The idea of launching an attack fleet of ships **really appeals to me**.*

I wouldn't mind...

***I wouldn't mind** taking out our sixth battalion and paying them back for the men we've lost.*

I'm one hundred percent behind...

*I support the idea of putting an end to this war **one hundred percent**. It has gone on long enough.*

I'm absolutely sold on...

***I'm absolutely sold on** that plan of yours with the laser rifle defense wall.*



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READING: A LITTLE BIT OF ART HISTORY

We have countless different ways to depict and experience art at our fingertips. We can view photographs or paintings, watch films, listen to a CD or become transfixed by a choreographed dance. We can also actively participate in these creative endeavours and produce our own artwork. There are many forms of progressive, contemporary art styles such as postmodernism which is increasingly appearing in galleries. More traditional styles of art can sometimes get lost in the modern push for new and exciting mediums of art. Let's review some famous pieces of art and what they mean in terms of the overall canon.

For some, one of the most physically impressive historical pieces of art that has stood the test of time would be the marble *Statue of David*, crafted by the great Michelangelo and displayed in Florence, Italy. It stands over five metres tall and was carved in the early 1500's and depicts the biblical figure King David. The attention to detail in Michelangelo's "David" is impeccable, and there are many historical and political implications associated with the statue, depending on contextual interpretation.

In a city that houses some of the most prestigious art in the entire world, Paris' most famous individual piece is unquestionably the mysterious Mona Lisa. Painted by another Italian master, Leonardo da Vinci, the *Mona Lisa* is the most visited art piece in the world. A fairly straight-forward portrait at first glance, the Mona Lisa has morphed into not only the most visited, but the most analysed piece of art in history, with an endless number of diverse theories and interpretations of what da Vinci meant to portray. Each subtlety further demonstrates the brilliance of da Vinci leading many to think that its legacy and relevance will endure for many years to come.

Last, but certainly not least, is Pablo Picasso's brutal take on the Spanish Civil War, which is located in Madrid's Reina Sofia museum. The *Guernica*, a response to the bombing of a Basque village, was painted in 1937 and maintains Picasso's cubist expressionism.

Picasso's *Guernica* is a tragic piece, and upon viewing this incredible painting, you immediately sense the suffering of the human spirit and the screams of the humans and animals alike. It is a metaphorical punch in the face to the observer and in many ways it's the painting's stark and cruel reality that makes it such a powerful work of art to behold.

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VOCABULARY: FOCUS

High art

Traditionally distinguished or cultured art.

High art, like oil paintings created by well-known artists, sell for a lot of money in the galleries.

Craftsmanship

The quality of a piece of art that is made by hand.

Skill in a certain craft that requires use of hands.

*Looking through a portfolio of his work, the detailing and **craftsmanship** shines through. He showed his **craftsmanship** when he was able to build a wooden table for his family.*

Minimalism

A movement in the 20th century of artists that removed biographies from their art and used simple and repeated geometric forms.

Minimalism could be seen as either boring or brilliant, depending on your point of view.

Texture

How something feels.

*The **texture** of the sculptures in their living room was smooth and glassy due to the ceramic they were made out of.*

Translucent

A property of certain materials that allow light to pass through them but are not completely clear and transparent.

*His new glass-blown designs made ample use of the **translucent** finishes to create multi-layered images.*

Collage

Art that is made by sticking various materials such as paper, photographs or fabric to a flat surface.

*He had made a **collage** of her face made out of thousands of tiny photos of other people.*

Portfolio

A collection of selected drawings, paintings or photographs that are usually presented in a folder.

*When I was viewing her latest winter-themed photography **portfolio** I was filled with emotion.*

Contemporary

Something modern that shows characteristics of the current, most recent time.

*Most **contemporary** artists leave me cold. I prefer the old European watercolours.*



Exhibit

To show or display something in a public setting.

*Joanne is going to **exhibit** her new set of kinetic sculptures in the local museum.*

Asymmetrical

Having unequal or unbalanced parts, lacking symmetry.

*The man's face in the portrait was distorted and blurred, with a large **asymmetrical** scar down the side of his cheek.*

Emphasis

The importance, stress, intensity or value which is laid unto something.

*The vibrant scarlet tone of the paint only added **emphasis** to the disturbing nature of the artwork.*





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

Beauty is subjective, everyone finds beauty in different things, it does not exist as a measurable quality.

*Everyone said the painting was hideous, but Sarah thought it was amazing. I guess **beauty is in the eye of the beholder**.*

To bear fruit

To be successful.

*Steve's first gallery showing is next week, all of his hard work is about **to bear fruit**.*

Well begun is half done

Half the effort of doing anything is starting it in the first place.

*After getting some paint to paper, the artist felt much better off because **well begun is half done**.*

State of the art

The most current and recently developed edition of a product, service or kind of technology.

*These new kayak models are **state of the art**, with carbon-fiber sides and ultra-strong rudders.*

A work of art

Something very well put together or designed, usually aesthetically beautiful (**NOTE: this is NOT** used to describe paintings, carvings, drawings or artifacts typically considered artworks).

*She spent a full hour in the bathroom today with a comb and a can of hairspray, her hair looks like **a work of art**.*

*My antique espresso-making machine is **a work of art**, the entire design is so simple and perfect and it runs like a dream.*

To move someone

To cause somebody to experience an emotional or sentimental response.

*The last interview of Amy Winehouse really **moved me**.*

To stand the test of time

To be enduring and remain in good condition for a long duration of time.

*The Egyptian pyramids have really **stood the test of time**.*

A picture is worth a thousand words

This is a saying that refers to how complex concepts can be easily illustrated through visual images.

*You could try to conceptualize the level of poverty in third world places by reading articles, but **a picture is worth a thousand words**, you would be better off looking at photo or video documentation.*



GRAMMAR: EMPHASISING

One way to place emphasis on something in English is to use the subjunctive mood rather than the indicative. The subjunctive is formed with the base form of the verb, regardless of the tense of another conjugated verb in the sentence. Due to this, it may not always be recognisable as the subjunctive because it may have the same form in the indicative. It is used when the verb needs to emphasize importance or a pressing need for something, in conjunction with certain verbs or expressions.

Verbs that indicate the subjunctive include: **advise, ask, command, demand, desire, insist, propose, recommend, request, suggest** and **urge**.

Some trigger expressions include: **it is essential, it is crucial, it is urgent, it is vital, it is recommended and it is important**.

'That' can follow the trigger verb, but in many cases is also omitted.

Form: Subject + Verb + (that) + (new) subject + base form + (additional information)

OR

Form: Expression + Verb + (that) + (new) subject + base form + (additional information)

*I **recommend** that you go to the party.*

***It is essential** that she visit tomorrow.*

There are also three other forms to think about with the subjunctive: continuous, negative, and passive.

Continuous:

Subject + verb + be + verb -ing

*They suggested we **be getting** ready by 7:00.*

Negative:

Subject + not + base form

*The parents commanded that the children **not undermine** their authority.*

Passive:

Subject + be + past participle

*It is important that she **be gone** by the time the others arrive.*



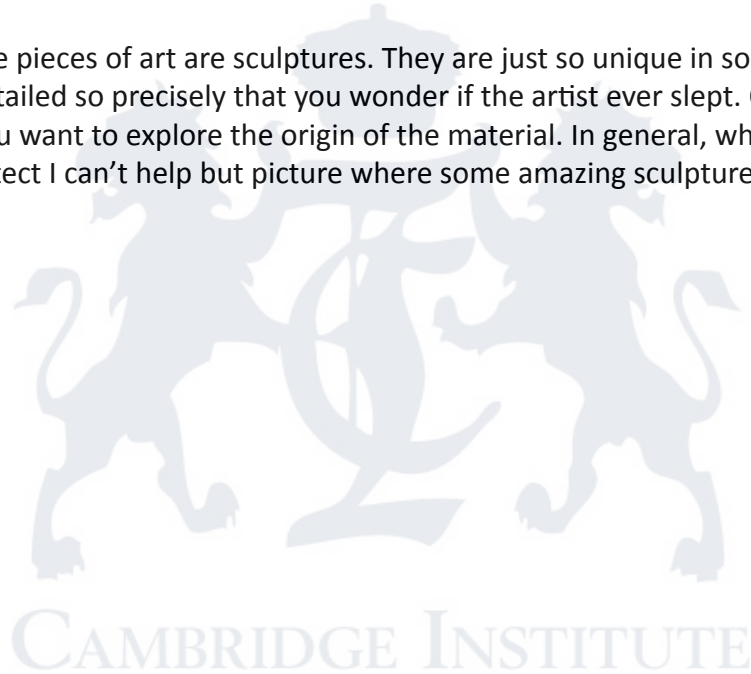
LISTENING: MY FAVOURITE ART FORM

Speaker 1: I would have to say that my favourite art is photography. I love being able to capture live art everywhere as people live it. It's like there is always something new to explore just by walking outside. I love taking advantage of the elements and being spontaneous. There is so much beauty in everyday occurrences and I find it best to pursue that beauty with just a camera.

Speaker 2: I can't do it, but I love art that is drawn. In my opinion, it appears to be the most difficult, and I love to study all of the little details that go into a seemingly simple drawing. Different types of shading and uses of colour really can change the entire complexion of something that would otherwise seem the same as something else you have seen before. I think some of the greatest examples of high art are gifted drawers and their own personal masterpieces.

Speaker 3: My favourite medium of art has to be film. It takes a certain delicacy to tell a poignant story through the screen. I think that is why there are so many films that turn out less than stellar. They most likely start off with a good idea, but somewhere along the way not enough care is given in a certain spot and it fails in some way. When I watch a film by someone like Quentin Tarantino or Christopher Nolan I really respect the craftsmanship that they possess.

Speaker 4: My favourite pieces of art are sculptures. They are just so unique in so many different ways. Some may be detailed so precisely that you wonder if the artist ever slept. Others are textured in a way that makes you want to explore the origin of the material. In general, when I am designing new rooms as an architect I can't help but picture where some amazing sculptures might fit when it's all said and done.





VOCABULARY: IDIOMS

Study the following verbs that pair with 'at'.

Get at

Try to express something.

*What are you **getting at**? Try to explain yourself better.*

Talk at

Talk without letting the other party respond.

*She just **talks at** you, and you can get a word in edgeways!*

Glance at

To look over something, but not too thoroughly.

*Hey, can you take a **glance at** this paper real quick? Do you see any mistakes?*

Marvel at

To be awed by something.

*I couldn't help but **marvel at** the amazing lightning storm streaking the sky with jagged white flashes.*

Hint at

To suggest.

*To avoid offending him, I tried to **hint at** the fact that I didn't want to come.*

Chip away at

Gradually make something smaller or weaker over a period of time.

*He used to act like he didn't like me, but I've been **chipping away at** his tough-guy façade.*

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