

# How to use this book

## 1 Preparation

### Christmas

On the twenty-fifth of December, known as Christmas Day, people gather with their family and become busy preparing for merrymaking.

## 2 Comprehension

1. What does "merrymaking" mean?
2. According to the paragraph, what do people do on Christmas day?

## 3 Questions

1. How do you enjoy Christmas?
2. Do you go to church on Christmas Eve?
3. Do you decorate your house at Christmas?

## 4 Vocabulary & Expressions

**merrymaking** : Participation in festive activities

**gather** : To cause to come together

## 5 Review

1. Marble is used to \_\_\_\_\_ parts of buildings.
2. Will you \_\_\_\_\_ seats with me?

## ① Preparation

上课之前,自己练习说一说话题,检查对paragraph的理解程度,看网络教材并听三遍MP3录音,听完后模仿正确的发音和语气,慢慢读三遍再快速读三遍并背诵。

## ② Comprehension

利用paragraph,检查学生有没有正确地理解课文,学生应该提前准备paragraph相关内容,才能正常上课。

## ③ Questions

这个阶段, Topic多样的问题和老师互相交流意见,听问题,用英语思考,再用英语表达出来的主题对话的训练过程。对Topic的提问,本人用自己思考后的方式回答的这种努力过程,可以激发学生以前积累的词汇,英语写作等能力。

# LEVEL 4-B



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# Ghost

People still argue about ghosts whether they exist or not. Most people articulate ghosts as the souls of dead people that are believed to be inhabitants of the unseen world. They're capable of returning to the land of the living in one form or another. According to descriptions or depictions of believers, a ghost may appear as a living being or as a nebulous likeness of the deceased and, occasionally, in other forms.

## \* Comprehension

1. What are ghosts?
2. In what kind of forms do the ghosts appear as?

## \* Questions

1. Do you believe in ghost? Why or why not?
2. Do you believe that the dead come back to the land of the living as ghosts?
3. Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, tell me about it.
4. What is the scariest ghost story you know?
5. What ghost movies do you know?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**inhabitant** : one of the people who lives in a particular place

**unseen** : not noticed or seen

**depiction** : to present or show something in a picture or story

**nebulous** : unclear and lacking form

**the deceased** : someone who has died, especially recently

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

inhabitants	depictions	nebulous
deceased	unseen	

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ left a large sum of money to his children.
2. Kelly crept out of the building \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There is a city of six million \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The reasons he gave were rather \_\_\_\_\_.
5. That book has \_\_\_\_\_ of life in pre-revolutionary Russia.

## \* Answers

1, deceased      2, unseen      3, inhabitants      4, nebulous      5, depictions

## \* Note

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# Habits

In psychology, habit is a behavior pattern acquired by frequent repetition or physiological exposure that shows itself in regularity or increased facility of performance. A habit can be a part of any activities, ranging from eating and sleeping to thinking and reacting. However, every individual carries good and bad habits. Therefore, it is one's responsibility to keep the good habits and to reduce the bad habits.

## \* Comprehension

1. Define "habit" from the psychological point of view.
2. What ranges of activities are mentioned as a part of habit?

## \* Questions

1. What are some of your good habits?
2. What are some of your bad habits?
3. Do you think habits are important? Why or why not?
4. Do you think people can correct their bad habits? Why or why not?
5. Are there any proverbs regarding to the habit in your country?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**psychology** : the scientific study of the way the human mind works and how it influences behavior

**pattern** : the regular way in which something happens, develops or is done

**physiology** : the science concerned with the study of how the bodies of living things work (adj. physiological)

**proverb** : a short well-known statement that contains advice about life in general

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

exposure	behavior	pattern
frequent	repetition	

1. Watch for changes in her breathing \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Skin cancer can be caused by prolonged \_\_\_\_\_ to the sun.
3. I don't want a (an) \_\_\_\_\_ of this incident.
4. Can television violence cause aggressive \_\_\_\_\_?
5. I try to maintain \_\_\_\_\_ contact with my children.

## \* Answers

1, pattern      2, exposure      3, repetition      4, behavior      5, frequent

## \* Note

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# Time

Time is so called measurable period, a continuous process that lacks spatial dimensions. It is of philosophical interest and is also the subject of mathematical and scientific investigation. It's a particular period of hour, day, or year as indicated by a clock or calendar. In fact, time is part of daily life: waking up at a certain time, setting schedules to follow, keeping a record of particular event, etc.

## \* Comprehension

1. What is time?
2. What is time indicated by?

## \* Questions

1. What takes up most of your time?
2. What is your busiest day of the week?
3. What time do you go to bed?
4. How do you spend your spare time?
5. What time of the day do you like the most? Why?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**continuous** : without a pause or interruption

**spatial** : concerning the position, size, shape, etc. of things

**dimension** : a measurement of something in a particular direction, especially its height, length or width

**philosophical** : characterized by the attitude of a philosopher

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

dimensions	continuous	indicate
process	investigation	

1. Coal was formed out of dead forests by a slow \_\_\_\_\_ of chemical change.
2. The brain needs a (an) \_\_\_\_\_ supply of blood.
3. The whole issue is still under \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A diagram represents things in only two \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The survey results seem to \_\_\_\_\_ a connection between poor housing conditions and bad health.

## \* Answers

1, process      2, continuous      3, investigation      4, dimensions      5, indicate

## \* Note

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# Weather

Weather is a state of the atmosphere at a particular place during a short period of time. It involves such atmospheric phenomena as temperature, humidity, precipitation, air pressure, wind and cloud cover. Weather differs from climate to climate, stating the weather conditions that have prevailed over a given area during a long time period. Moreover, weather is correlated to the daily routine such as outdoor activity, traffic condition, traveling condition, etc.

## \* Comprehension

1. What is weather?
2. What involves in weather?

## \* Questions

1. Which one do you like better, hot weather or cold weather? Why?
2. What's your favorite season and why?
3. Tell me about characteristics of 4 seasons in your country.
4. Do you like snow? Why or why not?
5. Do you think weather influences people's feelings?  
Why do you think so?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**atmosphere** : the air of a locality; the whole mass of air surrounding the earth

**phenomena** : unusual events explained and described in a scientific way;  
a rare or significant fact or event (plural of phenomenon)

**humidity** : a moderate degree of wetness, especially of the atmosphere

**precipitation** : rain; a deposit on the earth of hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow;  
the quantity of water deposited

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

atmosphere	humidity	differ
phenomena	prevails	

1. A belief in superstition \_\_\_\_\_ in some rural parts of the country.
2. How is the \_\_\_\_\_ of your new office?
3. Humans \_\_\_\_\_ from other mammals for their ability to speak.
4. It feels like 90% \_\_\_\_\_ today.
5. The world is facing global warming \_\_\_\_\_ that many environmentalists attribute to air pollution created by humans.

## \* Answers

1, prevails      2, atmosphere      3, differ      4, humidity      5, phenomena

## \* Note

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# Teenagers

Teenagers have grown enthusiastically in the public throughout the years. They are young, brash and so full of life! They try out many things like wearing the fanciest apparel. They have the sassiest get-up. Though they seem to be following the latest trend, they are, in fact, the ones trying to set it. In deed, it is no exaggeration to say that teenager is a stage where human beings learn the importance of life.

## \* Comprehension

1. What are the characteristics of teenagers?
2. What does "They have the sassiest get-up." mean?

## \* Questions

1. What other characteristics do the teenagers have today?
2. What do the teenagers mean in your country?
3. What did you do when you were a teenager?
4. What is teenagers' main issue nowadays?  
How can it be solved?
5. Compare the teenagers of today from the teenagers in the past.

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**brash** : behaving too confidently and speaking too loudly

**apparel** : clothes, especially worn on a special occasion

**sassy** : distinctively smart and stylish

**get-up** : outfit or costume

**trend** : a general tendency in the way a situation is changing or developing

---

## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

brash

public

sassy

trend

latest

1. 'Rambo' movie sets the \_\_\_\_\_ for a whole wave of violent action movies.
2. Smoking should be banned in \_\_\_\_\_ spaces.
3. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ movie you've seen?
4. \_\_\_\_\_, noisy journalists were crowding around the ambassador.
5. Most men like \_\_\_\_\_ women.

## \* Answers

1, trend

2, public

3, latest

4, Brash

5, sassy

## \* Note

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# Earthquakes

An earthquake, one of the natural phenomena, is the shaking or the trembling of the earth caused by volcanic or tectonic movements. It is a natural calamity that is feared throughout the world. An earthquake is felt by a harmless shaking of the surroundings to a heightened tremor that can cause buildings to crumble. To make matters worse, tsunami, a type of earthquake underwater, causes to destroy the nature and take away people's lives.

## \* Comprehension

1. What cause an earthquake?
2. What other natural calamity is mentioned above?

## \* Questions

1. Have you ever experienced an earthquake? If so, when was it?
2. What preparations should you make before an earthquake hits?
3. What frightens people the most in the event of an earthquake?
4. Is it possible to know in advance that an earthquake is coming?
5. What kind of natural calamities do you have in your country?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**tectonic** : a branch of geology concerned with the structure of the crust of a planet (as earth) or moon, especially with the formation of folds and faults in it

**calamity** : a terrible and unexpected event that causes a lot of damage or suffering

**tremor** : a small earthquake in which the ground shakes slightly

**heighten** : to make brighter or more intense; deepen; to bring out more strongly

**crumble** : to fall into small pieces; collapse

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

crumble	calamity	heighten
harmless	surroundings	

1. The dog seems fierce, but it's actually \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They decided to \_\_\_\_\_ all the old school buildings in this area.
3. It took me a few weeks to get used to my new \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The report contains numerous portentous references to a future environmental \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Lemon helps to \_\_\_\_\_ the flavor.

## \* Answers

1, harmless      2, crumble      3, surroundings      4, calamity      5, heighten

## \* Note

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# Telephones

The telephone is one of the most widely used modern devices today. Everybody needs to use the telephone for business transactions and for personal use. Internet is another modern device to communicate one another. However, telephone is still essential for all the people to keep contacts with their loved ones. Especially, it is versatile for those people who live overseas. Moreover, telephone is being advanced with age.

## \* Comprehension

1. What do people use the telephone for?
2. Why is the telephone important in modern society?

## \* Questions

1. What do you mainly use a phone for?
2. Which one do you prefer, talking on the phone or talking in person?
3. Which one do you usually use at home, a home phone or a cell phone? Why?
4. Have you ever had a problem with your phone bill?  
If so, what did you do?
5. Do you think you can live without your cell phone? Why or why not?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**widely** : extending over a great distance; having great extent or range

**device** : an invention serving a particular purpose, especially a machine used to perform one or more relatively simple tasks

**transaction** : communication involving two or more people that affects all those involved; an action or activity involving two parties

**innovative** : being or producing something like nothing done, experienced or created before

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

innovative

device

transaction

widely

connection

1. Kelly is an author who had traveled \_\_\_\_\_ in the Far East.
2. My friend, James, invented a useful \_\_\_\_\_ for detecting electrical activity.
3. We have such a bad \_\_\_\_\_. Can you call me back?
4. The bank charges a fixed rate for each \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Michael applied to a young \_\_\_\_\_ company.

## \* Answers

1 widely

2, device

3, connection

4, transaction

5, innovative

## \* Note

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# Gestures

People have different ways to communicate. In most cases, they make different gestures to convey different or detailed messages. Someone who is having stomach problems may gesture by moving his palm around his belly. Someone who cannot hear anything may place his palm beside his ear and shake it. Making thumbs up means "Okay," and nodding with a smile means "Yes." In other words, gesture is another way of expressing one's thoughts.

## \* Comprehension

1. Why do people make gestures?
2. What does "thumbs up" mean?

## \* Questions

1. What gestures do you habitually make?
2. Do you use gestures when you carry a conversation with others?  
Why or why not?
3. What are some good gestures in your country?
4. What are some insulting gestures in your country?
5. Why do you think gestures are important?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**convey** : to communicate or make known; impart

**palm** : the inner surface of the hand that extends from the wrist to the base of the fingers

**belly** : the stomach, abdomen, a part that bulges or protrudes

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

conveyed

nodded

palm

belly

message

1. He held the pebbles in the \_\_\_\_\_ of his hand.
2. I asked her if she was ready to go, and she \_\_\_\_\_.
3. His tone \_\_\_\_\_ an unmistakable warning.
4. Julie lay on her \_\_\_\_\_ in the long grass.
5. Would you like to leave a (an) \_\_\_\_\_ for him?

## \* Answers

1, palm

2, nodded

3, conveyed

4, belly

5, message

## \* Note

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# Parents

Parents are the one who have offspring, or the one that occupies the role of mother or father. In Western societies, parenthood rests strongly on biological relatedness with its several obligations. This is not the case in all societies: in some, a distinction is made between a biological parent and social parent. Basically, being a parent means raising a child with nurture and love.

## \* Comprehension

1. What is the basic meaning of parent?
2. What does parenthood mean in Western societies?

## \* Questions

1. What do you think are parents' responsibilities?
2. How many children do you plan to have in the future?
3. Do you think that you will be a good parent? Why or why not?
4. How would you reward your children for the good things they do?
5. How is the relationship between you and your parents?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**offspring** : someone's child or children

**parenthood** : the state of being a parent

**obligation** : a moral or legal duty to do something

**biological parent** : a child's natural parent, rather than someone who has become its parent through adoption

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

occupy

distinction

role

social

obligation

1. I helped you because I wanted to, not out of any sense of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The school makes no \_\_\_\_\_ between male and female students.
3. College gives you an opportunity to develop your \_\_\_\_\_ skills.
4. Mandela played a leading \_\_\_\_\_ in ending apartheid in South Africa.
5. Traditional paintings \_\_\_\_\_ most of the wall-space in the gallery.

## \* Answers

1. obligation

2. distinction

3. social

4. role

5. occupy

## \* Note

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# Televisions

What is the best way to have a family gathering? There can be many options such as go out for dinner or go to a movie theater. However, the most common and simple way to assemble the family is watching television together. The television is the foremost means of entertainment in the household. It shows different types of programs such as news, drama and comedy. The television binds the family members together, especially at a weekend television night over snacks and drinks.

## \* Comprehension

1. What does television mean in the household?
2. What does television do for the family members?

## \* Questions

1. How often do you watch TV? Are you going to watch TV tonight?
2. What kind of TV programs do you usually watch?
3. What kind of TV shows do you dislike? Why?
4. Which one do you prefer, listening to the radio or watching TV? Why?
5. What are some merits and demerits of watching TV?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**foremost** : first in a series or progression

**household** : a social unit comprised of those living together in the same dwelling

**bind** : to make secure by tying

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

foremost	bind	means
entertainments	household	

1. We're providing some \_\_\_\_\_ for tourists.
2. The aim of the exercise was first and \_\_\_\_\_ to give confidence to the students.
3. Where should I go to buy some \_\_\_\_\_ products?
4. They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ my arms and legs with rope.
5. What would be the most effective \_\_\_\_\_ of advertising our product?

## \* Answers

1, entertainments

2, foremost

3, household

4, bind

5, means

## \* Note

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# Parents & Children

A trusting friendly relationship provides a comfortable ambiance for the children, so they will grow less strained and have a more positive moral fiber. There is a special attachment between the parents and the children. Children gain valuable supports that help them to mature mentally, emotionally and physically from their parents. On the other hand, parents learn another level of life by nurturing the children.

## \* Comprehension

1. What is the writer talking about?
2. What kind of relationship provides a comfortable ambiance for the children?

## \* Questions

1. How are your parents like?
2. Are you close to your parents?
3. How often do you go out with your parents?
4. How much do you love your parents?
5. What do you do together to bond the relationship with your parents in particular?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**foremost** : first in a series or progression

**household** : a social unit comprised of those living together in the same dwelling

**bind** : to make secure by tying

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

ambiance

strained

relationship

positive

comfortable

1. Always keep a good \_\_\_\_\_ with your family and close friends.
2. I'm looking for a(an) \_\_\_\_\_ armchair.
3. I like this restaurant providing a friendly \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Think \_\_\_\_\_ and all your problems will be solved.
5. I couldn't stand the \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere at dinner anymore.

## \* Answers

1, relationship

2, comfortable

3, ambiance

4, positive

5, strained

## \* Note

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# Health

People say that health is the most important thing in life, but it seems to have the least implication in their actual lives. We see many people in modern society disheartened at their poor health which is caused in the first place by lack of exercise and lopsided diets. On the other hand, with the great improvement in medical condition, a few people are interested in keeping their health more than anything by eating healthy food and exercising regularly.

## \* Comprehension

1. What do people consider health as?
2. What makes poor health in modern society?

## \* Questions

1. How is your health?
2. Why do you think health is important?
3. Do you exercise regularly to maintain a good health?
4. What do you think about obese people?
5. What do people do to keep their health?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

**implication** : something that you do not say directly but that you seem to want people to believe

**disheartened** : disappointed so that you lose hope and the determination to continue doing something

**lopsided** : with one side bigger, higher, etc. than the other; not equally balanced

**obese** : extremely fat

## REVIEW

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

implications	disheartened	lopsided
obese	actual	

1. If young children don't see quick results, they grow \_\_\_\_\_.
2. This could have serious \_\_\_\_\_ for the company's future.
3. I don't understand the \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of what he said.
4. What causes \_\_\_\_\_ nourishment?
5. The number of \_\_\_\_\_ children has been constantly increased since 2000.

## \* Answers

1, disheartened

2, implications

3, actual

4, lopsided

5, obese

## \* Note

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# Toys

Toys are pleasurable and they can brighten up your days. Every child likes to play with toys. They become their friends; they are the first friends the children would bond with. Children can learn how to behave or react from the toys. Generally, boys love toy guns and girls love dolls. Girls can dress up their Barbie dolls and boys can play war games with other boys. Without toys, existence wouldn't be so much fun for them.

## \* Comprehension

1. What kind of toys do children like?
2. How do children play with toys?

## \* Questions

1. Did you love toys when you were young?
2. What kind of toys did you have?
3. What kind of toys did you like the most? Why?
4. Why do you think children love toys?
5. What do you think of adults who still love toys and collect them?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**doll** : a child's toy in the shape of a small person or baby

**existence** : the state of existing

**rather** : quite; to a slight degree

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

brilliant

existence

rather

generally

doll

1. It is impossible to prove the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
2. The system has \_\_\_\_\_ been working well for the past few months.
3. Cox's performance was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Simons has always been \_\_\_\_\_ a difficult person to get along with.
5. When Kathy was 7, she was very pretty like a (an) \_\_\_\_\_.

## \* Answers

1, existence

2, generally

3, brilliant

4, rather

5, doll

## \* Note

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# Mini Skirts

Women are very sensitive towards fashion. Wearing beautiful clothes can sway women's feelings. Women can have the privilege to wear unisex clothes, but some women adore wearing mini skirts. They do so for many reasons. One of the reasons is to feel the relief. Wearing what they want is a way of expressing freedom and happiness. The second reason is to follow the trend. Why not wear it if it looks good? The third reason is a personal reason; some women love to show off their legs.

## \* Comprehension

1. Why do women wear mini skirts?
2. What does "show off" mean?

## \* Questions

1. Are mini skirts popular in your country?
2. Who usually wear mini skirts in your country?
3. What are demerits of wearing mini skirts?
4. What is the current fashion trend in your country?
5. Do you think you're old-fashioned or fashionable?  
Why do you think so?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**adore** : to like something very much

**relief** : a feeling of happiness and comfort

**trend** : modern and influenced by the most recent fashions or ideas

**show off** : to try to impress or brag to people and make them admire your abilities, achievement or possessions

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

relief

trend

show off

adore

personal

1. I absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ chocolate.
2. Peter was keen to \_\_\_\_\_ his new car.
3. To our great \_\_\_\_\_ the children all arrived home safely.
4. I'd tell you what's wrong, but it's a bit \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Julie is quite sensitive about fashion \_\_\_\_\_.

## \* Answers

1, adore

2, show off

3, relief

4, personal

5, trend

## \* Note

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# My Office

Like most offices, my office is a place where I can contemplate on my work and feel comfortable at the same time. Of course, I have all the essential equipments and stationeries on my desk. There is a telephone next to a fax machine on the right side of my desk and my computer is on the center of my desk with the monitor directly in front of me. I also have a comfortable office chair and some pictures of my family stuck between the computer and the telephone.

## \* Comprehension

1. What is the writer's office like?
2. What objects are on the writer's desk?

## \* Questions

1. Do you work? If so, what company do you work for?
2. Where is your office?
3. What objects are on your desk?
4. Describe your office atmosphere.
5. If you can change one thing on your desk, what would you change?  
Why?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

**contemplate** : to think seriously about something for a long time, especially in order to understand it better

**essential** : needed show off

**stuck between** : fixed in a particular place which separates two places

## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

essential	contemplate	center
directly	atmosphere	

1. I sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ the meaning of life.
2. I like being straightforward so I tend to speak \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ at home has been depressing since the family quarrel.
4. Good food and plenty of exercise are \_\_\_\_\_ for a healthy life.
5. Draw a line through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the circle.

## \* Answers

1, contemplate      2, directly      3, atmosphere      4, essential      5, center

## \* Note

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# My Friend Peter

My friend's name is Peter. Peter is from Amsterdam in Holland. He is married and has two children. His wife Jane is from Boston in the United States. Her family is still in Boston, but she now works and lives with Peter and her two children in Milan. They are multilingual; they can speak English, Dutch, German and Italian fluently. Their children go to a private primary school.

## \* Comprehension

1. What country is Peter living in?
2. What are Peter's and his wife's nationalities?

## \* Questions

1. Do you have any friends who live in other countries?
2. Do you have any foreign friend? If so, when did you meet him or her?
3. How important are friends to you?
4. What type of friend do you like? Why?
5. Are you content with your friends right now? Why or why not?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**Holland** : the Netherlands

**content** : satisfied

**primary school** : concerning the education of children between five and eleven years old; elementary

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

content

married

language

still

private

1. I'm wondering if he's \_\_\_\_\_ or not.
2. I had to enroll the \_\_\_\_\_ course first.
3. I'm quite \_\_\_\_\_ with my new job.
4. Claire didn't study much, but she \_\_\_\_\_ passed the exam.
5. You're not allowed to trespass the \_\_\_\_\_ property.

## \* Answers

1, married

2, language

3, content

4, still

5, private

## \* Note

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# Baby Bird

Many people ask if a baby bird will be discarded by its parent if a human handles the baby and the bird parents smell the human's residue. This is just an old wives' tale. Baby birds are NOT rejected by their parents if a person handles them. In fact, most birds have a very meager sense of smell.

## \* Comprehension

1. What is an old wives' tale?
2. How's birds' sense of smell?

## \* Questions

1. Do you like birds? Why or why not?
2. What type of bird do you like and dislike the most? Why?
3. What kind of bird can you see easily in your city?
4. Which one do you prefer as a pet, birds or dogs? Why?
5. What kind of bird do people raise as a pet in your country?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**discard** : to get rid of something because it is useless

**residue** : the part of something that is left after the rest has gone or been taken away

**meager** : too small or much less than you need

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

discard

residue

meager

handle

rejected

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of his estate goes to his daughter.
2. Thanks but I can \_\_\_\_\_ this project by myself.
3. James has been complaining about his \_\_\_\_\_ salary.
4. You shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ the receipt if you need an exchange or a refund.
5. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ her brother's offer of help.

## \* Answers

1, residue

2, handle

3, meager

4, discard

5, rejected

## \* Note

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# House

I'm living in a very bright and large three-bedroom house near Central Park in New York. The elegant dining room has a fancy fireplace that connects the dining room with the living room. In the basement, there is a convenient laundry room and also small entertainment room equipped proof-sounded wall, which is my favorite place to relax in my place.

## \* Comprehension

1. Where is the writer living?
2. What's the writer's house like?

## \* Questions

1. Do you like to live in a house rather than an apartment?  
Why or why not?
2. What's your place like?
3. What kind of place would you like to live in?
4. Where do you spend most of your time in your house?
5. Could you tell me one of the advantages to live in your place?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**elegant** : having or showing good taste in dress or style combined with dignity and gracefulness

**fancy** : elaborate; special

**fireplace** : the recess of an open fire in a room and its surrounding area which has an opening to a chimney above it

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

elegant	fancy	fireplace
bright	convenient	

1. Please let me know when is \_\_\_\_\_ for you.
2. The prayer hall, supported by 12 columns, is simple and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We're looking forward to a new, \_\_\_\_\_, fully air-conditioned office.
4. My family gets together near the \_\_\_\_\_ and watches a movie after the dinner.
5. Harry took me to a (an) \_\_\_\_\_ restaurant for our anniversary.

## \* Answers

1, convenient      2, elegant      3, bright      4, fireplace      5, fancy

## \* Note

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# Backyard

Ponds and water gardens in backyard are for birds, butterflies, frogs, fish, you and your family. These ponds are typically small, sometimes no larger than 3 to 4 feet in diameter. They may be built in barrels or other patio containers. Water is effective in drawing wildlife to your backyard. It is also a natural, relaxing and a scenic addition that can provide interest and enjoyment.

## \* Comprehension

1. What surrounds in the backyard?
2. What are the ponds like in general?

## \* Questions

1. Do you live in an apartment or a house? Why?
2. What can you see in the backyard in your country?
3. How would you decorate your backyard?
4. What kind of house would you like to have?
5. Which one do you prefer, having a pool or a garden in the backyard?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

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**pond** : a body of water usually smaller than a lake

**typical** : constituting or having the nature of a type; symbolic (adv. typically)

**diameter** : the length of a straight line through the center of an object

**barrel** : a round bulging vessel of greater length than breadth that is usually made of staves bound with hoops and has flat ends of equal diameter

**patio** : courtyard; especially an inner court open to the sky

**scenic** : of or relating to the stage, a stage setting, or stage representation

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## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

typical

scenic

effective

relaxing

addition

1. I spent a (an) \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon in the garden.
2. This type of painting is fairly \_\_\_\_\_ of his early work.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of networking facilities will greatly enhance the system.
4. Let's take the \_\_\_\_\_ route home.
5. Could you tell me the most \_\_\_\_\_ way to improve English speaking skill?

## \* Answers

1, relaxing

2, typical

3, addition

4, scenic

5, effective

## \* Note

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# Good Manners

Good manners are a very important key to your child's social success, but no child is born with good manners. Teaching them is a parent's responsibility. Beyond teaching "please," "thank you," or "excuse me," many parents aren't sure how to teach their child good manners. Teaching your child what behavior is expected is a daily process and you'll have many opportunities each day to nudge your child in the right direction. Keep these points in mind.

## \* Comprehension

1. What is the relationship between good manners and children?
2. How do parents teach good manners to children?

## \* Questions

1. Can you think of some good manners that are bad manners in other countries?
2. What are some good manners in using a cell phone?
3. What are some good table manners?
4. What are traditional greeting manners in your country?
5. Is kissing in public a good manner? Why or why not?

## \* Vocabulary & Expressions

**nudge** : to touch or push gently, urge into action

**keep in mind** : remember

## \* Review

Fill in the blank with the proper words in the box.

social

nudged

direction

process

beyond

1. Teaching him to read was a slow \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What kind of \_\_\_\_\_ activities are you involved in?
3. Continue in a southerly \_\_\_\_\_ until you reach the road.
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ the glass towards me.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the mountains was the border of the territory.

## \* Answers

1, process

2, social

3, direction

4, nudged

5, Beyond

## \* Note

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