

## UNIT 1      Strange & Unusual

### Reading 1

### American Superstitions

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

seeing a black cat; feel worried all day if they see one.  
certain numbers; risk their money on gambling.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (check one): I think belief in superstitions can be harmful.

Supporting reason/detail 1: Friday the 13th—miss important plans

Supporting reason/detail 2: seeing a black cat—feel worried

Supporting reason/detail 3: lucky numbers—gambling

#### III. WRITE

I think belief in superstitions can be harmful. For one thing, they can make you miss something important; for example, if you avoid going anywhere on Friday the 13th. Also, thinking that something is unlucky, like a black cat, may cause you unnecessary worry. And belief in lucky numbers could lead you to risk your money on gambling.

### Reading 2

### Bigfoot

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. F

2. A

3. F

4. F - The coelacanth shows that scientists can be wrong about whether a species exists.

5. A - No actual Bigfoot specimens have been found.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): do not think

Supporting reason/detail 1: No specimens found

Supporting reason/detail 2: Cryptozoologists are on the fringe of science

#### III. WRITE

I do not think it is likely that Bigfoot creatures exist. For one thing, no specimens have ever been found. If these creatures existed, at least some bones or other remains would have been discovered by now. Also, cryptozoologists are the only ones who believe these creatures exist. Serious scientists consider them on the fringe because there is no real evidence for the existence of these creatures.

## UNIT 2 Computers & Technology

### Reading 1

### The History of the Internet

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

Positive Effects of the Internet	Negative Effects of the Internet
Makes shopping convenient	Your data can be stolen
Offers plenty of inexpensive entertainment	Less personal interaction

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle and fill in the blank): positive, it increases freedom of speech

Supporting reason/detail 1: No central authority

Supporting reason/detail 2: Used by protesters

#### III. WRITE

I think the most positive effect of the internet is that it increases freedom of speech. The internet has no central authority, so governments cannot fully control who uses it and what they say on it. The internet has played an important role in protest movements in China, Russia, and the Middle East. Through the internet, people who are working for their freedom can get their message to people around the world.

### Reading 2

### Gamers: Image and Reality

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

Playing Computer Games	
PROS	CONS
Games may improve players' visual orientation, memory, and attention capacity.	Gamers may not get enough exercise.
Gamers can share their hobby with friends and social media followers.	Gamers may not perform as well in exams.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): good

Supporting reason/detail 1: Keeps people entertained and connected

Supporting reason/detail 2: Improves some brain functions

Supporting reason/detail 3: Allows gamers to have adventures in exciting new worlds

#### III. WRITE

Overall, I think playing computer games is a good way to spend your free time. During the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, games helped people to stay entertained and connected. Some studies have shown that games can also increase certain brain functions, such as visual orientation, memory, and attention capacity. Most importantly, though, games allow gamers to have exciting adventures and experience things that aren't possible in real life.

## UNIT 3 Health & Medicine

### Reading 1 Body Mass and Weight

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

Factors in Obesity	Solutions
Fast food is cheap and easy to get.	Order healthy foods like salads instead of hamburgers and fries.
Exercising is boring.	Find a friend you can exercise with to make it more fun.

#### II. OUTLINE

Supporting reason/detail 1: Limit TV or computer time

Supporting reason/detail 2: Order salad at fast-food restaurants

Supporting reason/detail 3: Exercise with a friend

#### III. WRITE

There are good ways to prevent obesity. One is for people to limit their time in front of the TV or computer to one or two hours a day. This will give them more free time to be physically active. Another way is to make better food choices. Even if people only have time for fast food, they can order a salad or other healthy choice. Finally, people can find a friend to exercise with. This makes exercise more enjoyable, so they'll be more likely to continue doing it.

### Reading 2 Studying Headaches

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. Two or three times a year
2. Tension headache
3. Taking aspirin or another pain reliever
4. Very well—the pain usually goes away in thirty minutes.
5. No

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): don't have

Supporting reason/detail 1: Only two or three times a year

Supporting reason/detail 2: Taking aspirin cures it

Supporting reason/detail 3: Still able to study

#### III. WRITE

Headaches don't have a significant impact on my life. I only get a headache once in a while—maybe two or three times a year. It's usually a tension headache, and I treat it by taking aspirin. This usually works very well, so I'm still able to study when I need to.

## UNIT 4 Social Issues

### Reading 1

### Education Abroad: Should I Stay or Should I Go?

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

Studying Aboard	
PROS	CONS
You can learn about other cultures.	Some people can become homesick.
You can become more independent.	It can lead to brain drain.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): an advantage

Supporting reason/detail 1: Improve language skills

Supporting reason/detail 2: Learn about a new culture

Supporting reason/detail 3: Employment opportunities

#### III. WRITE

I think studying abroad is an advantage for individuals. Although it is expensive, it gives students lots of opportunities. They can improve their language skills while they learn another language. It may seem a bit scary to study abroad, but students can learn about a totally new culture. Finally, I think that a foreign degree still provides students with more employment opportunities.

### Reading 2

### Closed Doors: Education Under COVID-19

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. LWS
2. AS
3. LWS
4. AS
5. AS
6. LWS

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (check one): I believe homeschooling and remote learning are not adequate substitutes for attending school.

Supporting reason/detail 1: Less-wealthy students need access to meals.

Supporting reason/detail 2: Less-wealthy students may not have computers.

Supporting reason/detail 3: Less-wealthy students' parents may not be able to homeschool them.

#### III. WRITE

I believe homeschooling and remote learning are not adequate substitutes for attending school. First, students don't only go to school to learn. They go to socialize too. Less-wealthy students also rely on free school meals. Second, less-wealthy students may not have computers to take part in remote learning. Finally, less-wealthy students' parents may not be able to homeschool them because they have to go out to work. This means less-wealthy students will fall behind and may not achieve what they are capable of.

## UNIT 5 Environmental Issues

### Reading 1

### Humans and the Natural World

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. PNW
2. PH
3. PH
4. PNW
5. PH - The world has a growing population, and we need to feed them.
6. PNW - Factory farming forces animals to live too closely together, which leads to diseases.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (fill in the blank): protecting the natural world

Supporting reason/detail 1: Ability to produce a greater variety of fruit and vegetables

Supporting reason/detail 2: The rainforests absorb carbon

Supporting reason/detail 3: Diseases develop when we live too closely with animals

#### III. WRITE

Between providing for humans right now and protecting the natural world, I think protecting the natural world is the biggest priority. Intensive farming creates monocultures. If we lose biodiversity, it means we will not be able to produce a variety of fruit and vegetables. Also, we are cutting down forests to make space for cattle. Forests absorb carbon, and too much carbon creates global warming. Finally, we need to stop living so closely with animals. Diseases develop when we farm animals and bring them to markets from the wild. When we protect the natural world, we are protecting ourselves.

### Reading 2

### The Geopolitics of Climate Change

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. F
2. A
3. A
4. F - Less developed countries need financial help to build renewable energy resources.
5. A - Some countries' economies rely on oil; this money keeps people there from starving.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): crucial

Supporting reason/detail 1: Climate change affects the whole world.

Supporting reason/detail 2: Wealthier countries can help developing countries financially.

Supporting reason/detail 3: Countries can share knowledge and technology.

#### III. WRITE

In my opinion, it is crucial for countries to work together to address climate change. First, climate change affects the whole world. Carbon emitted by one country could cause floods or fires in another. Second, wealthier countries can help developing countries to reduce the carbon they emit by giving them money. They should because wealthier countries emit the most carbon. Finally, all countries should share knowledge and technology with others. If countries keep these things secret, we all suffer in the end.

## UNIT 6 Law & Crime

### Reading 1

### The Death Penalty in the US

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. A
2. F
3. A
4. F - Taking the life of a murderer is fair because that person took someone else's life.
5. A - There is always a chance that an innocent person could be executed.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): do not agree  
Supporting reason/detail 1: Racial differences in sentences  
Supporting reason/detail 2: Possibility of innocence  
Supporting reason/detail 3: Killing is always wrong

#### III. WRITE

I do not agree with the death penalty. One reason is that people of certain races are more likely to be sentenced to death than others. This is extremely unfair. Also, there is always the chance that a person was wrongly accused of the crime. It's certain that innocent people have been executed. The most important reason is that killing is always wrong, except in self-defense. Violence only leads to more violence.

### Reading 2

### Bounty Hunters

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. Yes, I do. I watch several police shows, and I enjoy reading detective novels.
2. I'd much rather have an exciting but stressful job.
3. Patient, Good research skills
4. Yes, I am. Law enforcement is challenging and exciting work.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): would  
Supporting reason/detail 1: Want an exciting job  
Supporting reason/detail 2: Interested in crime and detectives  
Supporting reason/detail 3: Have the necessary qualities: patience, etc.

#### III. WRITE

I would be interested in becoming a bounty hunter. First of all, I want to have an exciting job rather than sitting at a desk all day. Chasing criminals would never be boring. Also, I've always been interested in crime and the process of tracking down criminals. Detective novels are my favorite books. Finally, I think I have the right qualities to be a bounty hunter. I'm physically strong and active, I'm a good researcher, and I'm patient.

## UNIT 7 Language & Literature

### Reading 1

### “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

Name: Aung San Suu Kyi

From (country): Myanmar

1. She was involved in efforts to bring democracy to her home country of Myanmar.
2. She founded a pro-democracy party and spoke out against a repressive government.
3. I think she is extremely determined, selfless, and brave.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (fill in the blank): Aung San Suu Kyi

Supporting reason/detail 1: Works for democracy in Myanmar

Supporting reason/detail 2: Determined and brave: wouldn't back down after arrests

Supporting reason/detail 3: Cares about peace: supports non-violent methods

#### III. WRITE

I admire Aung San Suu Kyi because of her work for others. She is a leader of the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar, which has an undemocratic, military government. She founded and led a pro-democracy party, which led to her being arrested many times. But she still did not give up on her beliefs. This shows she is very determined to help others. Also, she cares deeply about peace. Even though her opponents have treated her badly, she continues to reject violence and only supports non-violent methods of change.

### Reading 2

### “*Désirée’s Baby*” by Kate Chopin

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. Russians and Ukrainians
2. Historically, the two groups have fought over the same land.
3. It has gotten worse because Russia has taken over some land that belonged to Ukraine until recently.
4. Many Ukrainians have had to leave their homes, and some people on both sides have been killed.
5. I don't think it will ever completely disappear because it has continued for centuries, and both sides remain very angry.

#### II. OUTLINE

Supporting reason/detail 1: Loss of friendships

Supporting reason/detail 2: Loss of rights—US

Supporting reason/detail 3: Violence—Ukrainians and Russians

#### III. WRITE

Racial and ethnic conflicts have many negative effects. For one thing, it prevents friendships between people of different groups. This makes everyone's lives poorer. Second, it can lead one group to take away the rights of another. This was true in the US, where black people were prevented from voting and having equal rights to jobs and education. Finally, it often causes violence. This is happening right now because of the conflict between Ukrainians and Russians.

## UNIT 8      Space & Exploration

### Reading 1

### Pluto: Dwarf Planet

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. F
2. F
3. A
4. A - The public has a lot of affection for Pluto.
5. A - Only a small number of astronomers voted on the change.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): do not agree  
Supporting reason/detail 1: New definition not clear  
Supporting reason/detail 2: Public affection for Pluto  
Supporting reason/detail 3: Decision made by only a few

#### III. WRITE

I do not agree with the decision to classify Pluto as a dwarf planet. First of all, the new IAU definition of “planet” isn’t completely clear. They did not fully explain what it means for a planet to clear its neighborhood or why that is important. Also, people enjoy thinking of Pluto as a planet and have a special affection for it as the smallest and most distant one in our solar system. Most importantly, the decision was made by only a small number of astronomers. I think there should be another vote.

### Reading 2

### Asteroid Impacts on Earth

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. A
2. F
3. A
4. A
5. F - As science advances, a way to detect small NEAs could be discovered.
6. F - Another asteroid will almost certainly hit Earth in the future if we don’t try to prevent it.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): do not think  
Supporting reason/detail 1: Impossible—too many and too small  
Supporting reason/detail 2: More immediate problems—hunger, etc.

#### III. WRITE

I do not think that governments should spend a lot of resources on protecting Earth from asteroid impacts. For one thing, it is probably impossible to prevent an asteroid impact. There are too many of them, and it is too hard to detect the small ones. Second, there are many more immediate problems on Earth that we need resources for. These include world hunger, the water supply, and climate change.

## UNIT 9 Sports & Fitness

### Reading 1

### Cheating in Sports

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. NC
2. PE
3. NC
4. PE
5. PE - Substances should be allowed if they have been proven safe and effective.
6. NC - The winners should be the best players, not the ones who think of creative ways to disadvantage their opponents.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (fill in the blank): the use of performance enhancers

Supporting reason/detail 1: NC is part of sports—everyone does it

Supporting reason/detail 2: Use of PE is actually against the rules

Supporting reason/detail 3: Dangerous: steroids

#### III. WRITE

Between normative cheating and the use of performance enhancers, I think the use of performance enhancers is worse. Normative cheating is part of sports, and practically everyone does it. It does no real harm. However, the use of performance enhancers is explicitly against the rules, so it is really cheating. Also, it can do real harm to an athlete's health. For example, some steroids increase the risk of heart attacks and cancer.

### Reading 2

### Qi

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. F
2. F
3. A
4. F - The Shaolin monks are able to do amazing things with their bodies.
5. A - There is probably a simple, physical explanation for the things *qigong* practitioners can do.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): do not believe

Supporting reason/detail 1: No scientific evidence for acupuncture, *reiki*

Supporting reason/detail 2: There's a physical explanation for everything.

#### III. WRITE

I do not believe that *qi* is real. First of all, if it were real, there would be a great deal of evidence that acupuncture and *reiki* are effective. However, they have been scientifically tested, and there is not much evidence of that. Further, we still have a lot to learn about how the body works. I think that the high levels of gamma waves in *qigong* practitioners, as well as the other effects, probably have a physical explanation that we just haven't discovered yet.

## UNIT 10 People & Opinions

### Reading 1

### Under the Influence

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

Influencers who talk about beauty have a negative impact because they make society more shallow. Influencers who encourage discourse about social issues have a positive impact because they make society less shallow.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (check one): On the whole, I believe influencers have a positive effect on individuals and society.

Supporting reason/detail 1: They entertain us.

Supporting reason/detail 2: They educate us about what is happening in the world.

Supporting reason/detail 3: They can make companies and governments change their behavior.

#### III. WRITE

On the whole, I believe influencers have a positive effect on individuals and society. First, they entertain us. The content they make is fresh, exciting, and connects directly to viewers. Second, they educate us about what is happening in the world. We can learn about social and environmental issues and decide how we feel about them. Lastly, they can make companies and governments change their behavior. They can make them donate money to important causes like climate change and poverty.

### Reading 2

### Anita Roddick

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

I have bought some products from a company called Love Beauty and Planet. I have read about their business approach, and it seems that their claims of being green and sustainable are true.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): would not

Supporting reason/detail 1: Consider the price first

Supporting reason/detail 2: Hard to research every company

#### III. WRITE

I would not describe myself as a practitioner of ethical consumerism. As a student with a limited income, the most important factor in my choice of brands is price. I simply can't afford to buy only green products since they are often more expensive. Second, I also have limited time. Buying only "green" or ethical products would require doing research on different companies before buying. That is too time-consuming.

## UNIT 11 Cross-Cultural Viewpoints

### Reading 1

### Ideas About Beauty

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. G
2. G
3. C
4. C - In one tribe in Thailand, women who make their necks longer by putting metal rings on them are considered the most beautiful.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): genetics

Supporting reason/detail 1: Hourglass shape preferred

Supporting reason/detail 2: Signs of youth preferred

Supporting reason/detail 2: Facial symmetry preferred

#### III. WRITE

I think genetics has the greatest influence on standards of beauty. This is proven by how certain physical features are thought to be more beautiful in every culture. One is an hourglass figure, with a narrower waist and broader hips. Also, men everywhere prefer signs of youth like clear skin and shiny hair. Research has also found that people everywhere are more attracted to symmetrical faces because that is a sign of health and good genes. So while culture has some effect, genetics have a greater effect.

### Reading 2

### Bribery or Business as Usual?

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. F
2. A
3. A
4. F - Some officials may depend on bribes because their salaries are so low.
5. A - Even if bribes are culturally accepted, you could be in trouble for giving or taking one.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (check one): I don't think it's ever OK to give or receive bribes.

Supporting reason/detail 1: Unfair to the poor

Supporting reason/detail 2: Reduces faith in government

Supporting reason/detail 3: Possibility of arrest

#### III. WRITE

I don't think it's ever OK to give or receive bribes. First, it is unfair to the poor, who may not be able to pay for what they need. Second, even if bribes are common in a certain culture, they are usually still illegal. There's always a chance you could get arrested and be in serious trouble. Finally, when people see government officials breaking the law, it reduces their faith in the government. This is bad for the country.

## UNIT 12 Business & Economics

### Reading 1

### Adventure Tours for Charity

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. A
2. F
3. F
4. A - It's wrong to ask other people to pay for your vacation.
5. F - The tours are cheap, so a high percentage of the money goes to charity.

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): would not

Supporting reason/detail 1: Doesn't sound like fun

Supporting reason/detail 2: Have to ask friends or family for money

#### III. WRITE

I would not be interested in going on an adventure tour for charity. One reason is that I prefer relaxing vacations in a comfortable, peaceful place like a tropical resort. Adventure tours sound like hard work! Secondly, I don't like the idea of asking my family and friends to give me money for a vacation, even if most of it goes to charity. I'd rather give money directly to a charity and pay for my vacation myself.

### Reading 2

### Ranking Companies

#### I. GENERATE IDEAS

Chance to travel; Support from managers

#### II. OUTLINE

Topic sentence (circle one): an interesting start-up

Supporting reason/detail 1: Fewer people—more chance for promotion

Supporting reason/detail 2: Challenging work

Supporting reason/detail 3: Fun working environment

#### III. WRITE

I'd rather work for an interesting start-up. One reason is that start-ups are small, which means less competition for promotions. If I worked hard, I could quickly rise. Secondly, it takes a lot of hard work to make a new company successful. I appreciate a challenge. Lastly, the working environment is more likely to be fun. People would be excited that they're creating something new, and each person usually has more than one job. Large companies have lots of boring administrative duties.