

Class

Name

Unit 1. Robot Pianists

Paragraph 1

1. In the early decades of the twentieth century, music lovers marveled when they saw and heard self-playing pianos called “player pianos.
2. ” Now, because of progress in robotics, we can enjoy music played by robot pianists.

Paragraph 2

3. Robot pianists come in many more shapes and sizes than human pianists.
4. A robot pianist named Arpeggio resembles a high-tech piano bench.
5. When he puts his fingers on a piano, he spans the entire length of the keyboard.
6. His 88 rectangular metal fingers mean that no note is ever out of reach.

Paragraph 3

7. Arpeggio reproduces the piano performances of great performers.
8. If you couldn’t see who was performing, you wouldn’t be able to pick out whether it was a human or a robot playing.
9. Another robot pianist, Teotronica, has a face that makes him more humanoid.
10. His video camera eyes allow him to interact with the audience, and he can make facial expressions.
11. He can even talk and sing in any language!

Paragraph 4

12. There is one big difference between Teotronica’s hands and a human player’s hands.
13. The first Teotronica had 19 fingers.

14. Now he has 53! Not surprisingly, he can play faster than any human pianist.

Unit 2. A Sandwich From Germany

Paragraph 1

1. The hamburger began life as a popular dish in the German city of Hamburg.
2. It wasn't until the 1920s that this sandwich became popular in the US.
3. The dish was then called a hamburger because it came from Hamburg, not because it contained ham.
4. A hamburger is actually ground meat, usually beef.
5. In 1921 the first chain of hamburger restaurants began. It was called White Castle.

Paragraph 2

6. To make a hamburger, mix chopped raw onion with some ground beef and add pepper and salt.
7. With your hands or a wooden spoon, shape the mixture into round patties, place the patties on a grill or on a barbecue, and cook until they're done.

Paragraph 3

8. Different people like their meat cooked well, medium, or rare.
9. Rare meat is almost raw.
10. When the meat is cooked the way you like it, place the patty of meat between two halves of a bun.
11. Add lettuce, tomato, and any sauce you wish. Now, you have made a hamburger.

Paragraph 4

12. Most of the hamburgers that people buy are unhealthy.

13. They are greasy and full of fat.
14. A healthy hamburger is made from lean ground beef, which is the best quality of meat.
15. It is grilled and not fried.
16. It is eaten with fresh toppings, such as lettuce and tomato, and the bun should be wholegrain bread not white bread.
17. With these ingredients, a hamburger can be delicious and healthy.

Unit 3. The Kingdom of Great Britain

Paragraph 1

1. Many people say “the United Kingdom” (the UK) to mean Great Britain.
2. It is called “united” because it is really four countries joined together: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
3. The southern part of Ireland is the Republic of Eire, and it is not part of the UK.

Paragraph 2

4. The UK is called a “kingdom” because it has a king or a queen.
5. Sometimes it has both.
6. It does not have a president like China or the US.
7. In some ways, however, the UK is like China.
8. It has many different kinds of people living in it who all speak the same language but also have their own languages.
9. Many Scots and Irish speak Gaelic, and in Wales many people speak Welsh.
10. However, nearly everyone in the UK can speak English.
11. There are also many dialects of English, which are spoken in different parts of the country.

Paragraph 3

12. Whereas China is divided into provinces, the UK is divided into counties.
13. These are like provinces, and many have their own local government.
14. When people are asked where they come from, they will often give the name of their county, for example, Sussex or Yorkshire.
15. Unlike China, however, the UK is a very small island and most people live in towns and cities.

Unit 4. Antoni Gaudí

Paragraph 1

1. Barcelona, Spain, is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
2. Helping to shape it is the city's most famous architect, Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926).
3. He designed some of the best-known and most unusual buildings in the city.
4. The Sagrada Familia, a large church that is still being built, is his most famous work.

Paragraph 2

5. Gaudí was influenced by nature.
6. You can see this in the shape of his buildings.
7. Most buildings are in the form of a square and have many straight lines.
8. But as Gaudí once said, "There are no straight lines or sharp corners in nature.
9. " Instead, he used organic forms such as curves.
10. The most famous example of this is the Casa Mila.
11. No part of the front of the building is flat.

12. It looks like someone molded it from clay.

13. And the shape of the building viewed from above is a figure eight, not a square.

Paragraph 3

14. Many Gaudí buildings are also decorated with designs from nature.

15. The Park Güell is filled with natural objects such as statues of animals, columns resembling tree trunks, and mosaics with flower and plant shapes on them.

16. Gaudí also used materials found naturally near his buildings.

17. That ensures they match their surroundings.

18. It is easy to pick out a Gaudí building because you can see the influence of nature very clearly.

Unit 5. Around the World on Two Wheels

Paragraph 1

1. The bicycle is still one of the most important kinds of transportation.

2. In China, people use bicycles because they are the cheapest way to get around.

3. In the Netherlands, the Dutch use them partly because of their low cost but mainly because they prefer this form of transportation to any other.

Paragraph 2

4. It is said that the bicycle was invented in France in 1790, but no clear information supports this.

5. However, we do know that German inventor Karl von Drais created the first practical form of the bicycle in 1816.

6. It was two-wheeled and moved along by the push of the rider's feet upon the ground.

7. This vehicle was improved in 1839 by a Scottish blacksmith, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, who invented pedals.

Paragraph 3

8. The modern bicycle was invented in the last twenty years of the nineteenth century.
9. It had wheels of equal size, pedals that drove a chain, and gears.
10. Eventually, bicycles were also made especially for women.
11. They had a bigger rear wheel than the front, and riders could sit more upright.
12. Nowadays, women's bicycles have changed again to become more useful to those involved in sports.
13. Always changing and improving, bicycles remain a popular form of transportation.

Unit 6. A Brief History of Chocolate

Paragraph 1

1. Chocolate is one of the most popular treats in the world.
2. People drink it, eat it as candy, or use it as an ingredient in puddings and cakes.
3. It is a custom in many Western countries for men to give their wives or girlfriends boxes of chocolates as presents.
4. Also, on special occasions, chocolate treats are usually shared among family and friends.

Paragraph 2

5. Europeans first tasted chocolate in the early 1500s when the Spanish invaded Mexico.
6. At this time, Mexico was part of the Aztec Empire.
7. At first, the Aztec emperor, Montezuma, welcomed the Spanish general, Cortez, with a chocolate drink.
8. He called the drink xocolatl, which means bitter water.

9. Cortez and his men took some of the beans used to make this drink back to Spain with them.
10. It was not long before the drink became popular throughout Europe.

Paragraph 3

11. Chocolate comes from the cocoa bean, which grows on the tropical cocoa tree.
12. The manufacturing of chocolate from the cocoa bean is a long process.
13. The beans are dried and roasted, and the shells are cracked.
14. The nib—or center of the bean—is separated from the shell, and it is from this that chocolate is made.
15. Other ingredients usually added to chocolate are sugar and sometimes vanilla or milk.
16. This is what makes it sweeter and less bitter.

Unit 7. Literature as a Reflection of Life

Paragraph 1

1. *Don Quixote* is a novel that features the adventures of an elderly man.
2. This man, *Don Quixote*, thinks that he is a knight and sets out on ridiculous adventures.
3. It was written in the early 1600s by Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes.
4. Cervantes was born in 1547.
5. His father worked as a surgeon, which at the time provided only meager support for the family.
6. One thing Cervantes was rich in, however, was his love for stories.
7. He was taught to read by a family member and spent his childhood immersed in books.

Paragraph 2

8. Later in life, Cervantes served as a soldier in the Spanish army.

9. He became known for his bravery and was eager to prove himself in battle.
10. Cervantes was captured by pirates when he was sailing home to Spain.
11. He remained a prisoner for five years.
12. When he finally returned home, he led a quiet life.
13. It is easy to see how Cervantes could identify with a character like *Don Quixote*.
14. They both wanted more excitement in their lives.

Paragraph 3

15. Although a great success, the novel provided little wealth or fame for Cervantes.
16. Authors were not paid royalties for their books at that time.
17. However, Cervantes's work has paid dividends for the literary world by inspiring many authors, musicians, and artists.

Unit 8. Sweet Dreams

Paragraph 1

1. We all have dreams, even if we remember only a few of them.
2. Some people train themselves to remember their dreams.
3. As soon as they wake up, they write down what their dream was about.

Paragraph 2

4. Scientists believe that we have different kinds of sleep.
5. One kind of sleep is called REM sleep.
6. REM stands for Rapid Eye Movement.

7. During this kind of sleep, our eyes move quickly, even though they are closed.
8. Although we are asleep, there is a lot of brain activity, and we probably have strong dreams at this time.

Paragraph 3

9. Sometimes, people talk in their sleep.
10. In these dreams, the dreamer is usually unhappy or worried about something.
11. The worst of these dreams are so horrifying that we call them nightmares.
12. In a nightmare, we often dream that we are being chased or that something bad is happening.

Paragraph 4

13. Scientists and others have written books about the meanings of dreams.
14. The most famous of these scientists was Sigmund Freud, whose well-known book is called *The Interpretation of Dreams*.
15. Freud suggested dreams have certain meanings that can be interpreted.
16. It is possible, however, that every dream has a special meaning only for the person who dreams it and that this meaning is specific to that person.

Unit 9. Healthy Food, Healthy Life

Paragraph 1

1. In many countries, thousands of young people are overweight because of the unhealthy food they eat.
2. Apart from fast food, young people eat a great deal of snack foods, such as potato chips and candy.
3. These foods are often called junk food because they have low nutritional value.

Paragraph 2

4. A healthy diet should consist mainly of grains, fruits, and vegetables, plenty of fish, and some meat.

5. It should also be low in fat, salt, and sugar, and high in fiber.
6. Until recently, the food that most Japanese people ate was very healthy.
7. It was a low-fat diet that included plenty of fish, seafood, and chicken.
8. Beef and lamb have more fat, but they were not an important part of the Japanese diet.
9. Rice, fruit, and fresh green vegetables—all healthy foods—were always a staple in most Japanese diets.

Paragraph 3

10. In recent years, however, American foods have become popular in Japan.
11. These are much less healthy than traditional Japanese food.
12. In particular, fast food contains too much fat, too much sugar, and too much salt.
13. Dairy foods such as milk, cheese, and butter are also becoming popular in Japan.
14. These foods also contain a great deal of fat.

Unit 10. Raising Awareness: Endangered Species

Paragraph 1

1. An endangered species is one whose numbers are so small it is at risk of becoming extinct, or dying out.
2. There are many reasons why the numbers of some species have become so small.
3. Some species have been hunted and killed for food or for parts of their bodies, such as elephant tusks for ivory.
4. Other species have lost their habitat because humans have built things where those species live.
5. Pollution has also cost a variety of species their lives.

Paragraph 2

6. A few species are also in danger because of diseases.
7. The koala bear (which is not an actual bear, but a marsupial) is one of these.
8. Other animals are in danger because the plants they like to eat cannot grow due to changes in the weather.

Paragraph 3

9. Two of the most famous endangered species are the giant panda from China and the African elephant.
10. There are also some kinds of whales, such as the blue whale, that are now endangered.
11. It is not only famous species we are losing.
12. In fact, there are hundreds of mammals, birds, fish, and insects that will one day disappear from the planet if we do not take more actions to protect them.

Unit 11. An Ever-Changing World

Paragraph 1

1. A hundred years ago, the big cities of the world were very different from one another.
2. Each had its own unique character.
3. Travelers enjoyed the way each city looked.
4. Not only did the people living in each city look different, but their lifestyles were different, too.

Paragraph 2

5. This all changed in the twentieth century.
6. Nowadays, travelers often find it hard to see differences between major cities.
7. Many buildings look similar.

8. Cars, buses, and trains look similar, too.
9. Travelers also find the same chains of restaurants and hotels everywhere they go, such as McDonald's and Hilton Hotels.

Paragraph 3

10. The people in big cities are also increasingly looking the same.
11. Teenagers in Tokyo wear the same kinds of clothes as teenagers in London.
12. Nearly everywhere, business men and women wear the same kinds of suits.
13. National dress, which was common a long time ago, is now usually only seen in tourist areas and at weddings.

Paragraph 4

14. The world is becoming less traditional and more modern.
15. As a result, there are only a few places left that have not changed.
16. Travelers must explore as much of the world as they can before it completely changes.

Unit 12. A Trip to London

Paragraph 1

1. London is the capital city of the United Kingdom and the largest city in England.
2. London now refers to the City of London and the outlying areas that have grown up around it.
3. Although the City of London is quite small, Greater London has a population between seven and eight million people.

Paragraph 2

4. Greater London is comprised of many cities.

5. The City of Westminster is one of the most famous.
6. This is where the Houses of Parliament are located.
7. Westminster Abbey is also here, which is where British kings and queens are crowned and famous people are buried.
8. The home of the British royal family, Buckingham Palace, is also in the City of Westminster.
9. This is the Queen's official home, though she does not live there permanently.

Paragraph 3

10. London is a major tourist spot, with people all over the world traveling there to visit each year.
11. London also boasts such attractions as Tower Bridge, the Tower of London, and the London Eye, which is a huge Ferris wheel.
12. London was also the first city in the world to build an underground railway, known as the tube.
13. For these reasons, London attracts visitors from around the world.

Unit 13. Tobacco Through History

Paragraph 1

1. People have always used plants for food and other reasons.
2. One of the most popular plants is tobacco.
3. Tobacco has a long history, dating as far back as 6000 BCE, when it first began growing in the Americas.
4. Tobacco also has a history of being used throughout the Americas for different purposes.
5. It is now usually smoked, but it is also sometimes chewed, sniffed, and even used as medicine.

Paragraph 2

6. It is said that tobacco was "discovered" by Christopher Columbus in 1492.

7. Columbus took tobacco back to Spain, where it soon became popular.
8. Before long, the British also began smoking tobacco and made it an important crop in their American colonies, especially in Virginia.

Paragraph 3

9. In the seventeenth century, tobacco use spread even more with the success of the first commercial crop in Virginia.
10. Tobacco soon became the colony's most important cash crop and largest export.
11. It provided the farmers with cash and the government with tax income.

Paragraph 4

12. Pipe and cigarette smoking—and tobacco chewing or snuff sniffing—are a part of many people's lives.
13. Many are addicted to the nicotine in the plant.
14. However, fewer people smoke now than in the last century.
15. This is because there is so much evidence that smoking causes ill health and even death.

Unit 14. Performing on the World's Stage

Paragraph 1

1. Busking, or street performing, is the act of performing some type of entertainment to obtain donations from people walking by.
2. These performers, known as buskers, can be found in cities both large and small.
3. They entertain crowds with a variety of performances.
4. Buskers rely on their natural talents, such as musical ability, comedic timing, or artistic skill, to persuade people to open their wallets.

Paragraph 2

5. Busking can be loosely grouped into three main forms.
6. Circle shows are carefully planned acts that a busker or group of buskers put on for a crowd.
7. This crowd often grows and circles around the buskers as the show progresses.
8. Circle shows feature a defined beginning, middle, and end.
9. Walk-by acts, on the other hand, are performances that do not have any defining points.
10. Rather, these buskers perform to people who walk by.
11. Stoplight performers, in contrast, face time constraints in their performance.
12. These buskers wait for a red traffic light and then give their performances to people waiting in their cars.
13. Their limited time influences the type of acts they perform.

Paragraph 3

14. Modern-day buskers use technology to help them reach audiences.
15. Aptly named “cyber busking,” performers make video recordings of their acts, which they then post online.
16. They encourage viewers to download or stream their performances for a donation.

Unit 15. A Tasty Delicacy

Paragraph 1

1. Abalone, a kind of sea snail, is a very popular dish among Chinese people.
2. Unfortunately, it is not easy to find in the sea, and there is not enough of it to meet demand.
3. This situation is made worse by the fact that only a small part of the abalone can be eaten.

Paragraph 2

4. Abalone is now so expensive that criminals are trying to take over the supply.
5. In a number of countries where there are abalone farms, criminals steal farmers' abalone and smuggle it into places like Hong Kong.
6. Abalone is delicious when it is properly prepared.
7. One Chinese chef, Yeung Koon Yat, has become an expert at cooking abalone.
8. People call him the "abalone king.
9. " He has cooked for China's leaders in Beijing and has won prizes in many countries.

Paragraph 3

10. Yeung Koon Yat was born in Shanghai in 1932.
11. He was brought up in an orphanage in Guangdong, and his first job was washing dishes in a restaurant.
12. He became a waiter, then a restaurant manager, and then a restaurant owner.
13. Yeung's Forum Restaurant in Hong Kong became a popular place to eat for its abalone dishes.
14. His signature dish, Yat's Abalone, is famous all around the world.

Unit 16. The Mystery at Loch Ness

Paragraph 1

1. Since the early 1930s when it was reported for the first time, thousands of people say they have seen a monster swimming in Loch Ness, a deep lake in the Scottish highlands.
2. People say that the monster is a big black animal with a long neck.
3. They think it is some kind of prehistoric animal, such as a dinosaur, or some form of mammal.

Paragraph 2

4. Many people, including scientists, have tried to catch the animal or get good photographs of it.
5. They have even used submarines and special scientific equipment.
6. However, they have not been able to prove that it exists.
7. Scientists say that there is no monster in the lake.
8. Other people say that there is a monster but that the lake is so deep in certain parts that there are many places for the animal to hide.

Paragraph 3

9. Every year, thousands of tourists visit Loch Ness hoping to see the monster, also known as Nessie.
10. It has become an important tourist attraction, and the nearby town of Inverness earns a lot of money from the visitors.
11. Many tourists say they have taken photographs of the monster, but the photographs are never clear.
12. Is the Loch Ness monster real? The mystery still remains.

Unit 17. The Popular Guitar

Paragraph 1

1. Today, the leading instrument in most forms of music is the guitar.
2. It can be heard in many types of music such as blues, country, flamenco, or rock music.
3. The guitar has a very distinctive musical sound.

Paragraph 2

4. Until about the mid-twentieth century, the guitar was not widely used for playing popular music.
5. Most bands before then relied on other stringed instruments that were played with a bow, not plucked like a guitar.

6. When groups such as the Beatles became popular, the guitar took over as the most widely played instrument.

Paragraph 3

7. The modern guitar comes from similar instruments that have been played worldwide for centuries.
8. It is popular both as a solo instrument and to accompany singers.
9. The guitar is similar to the lute.
10. The lute was the most popular English and European instrument for hundreds of years.
11. Also, the sitar, which has always been part of Indian music, is **also** related to the guitar.

Paragraph 4

12. The popularity of the guitar is easy to see.
13. The guitar makes a pleasant sound, and it can be easily carried from place to place.
14. It is also not too difficult to learn how to play.

Unit 18. Yes! We Have No Bananas

Paragraph 1

1. A popular 1920s song proclaimed, "Yes! We have no bananas!" Scientists today worry that these silly lyrics could become true for the delicious, healthy, and inexpensive banana.
2. They fear supermarket bananas might become extinct.

Paragraph 2

3. The Cavendish banana is typically the only banana a consumer can pick up at the local supermarket.
4. It has an unusually long shelf life, which is important.

5. Bananas are shipped worldwide from the tropical and subtropical locations where they are grown.
6. Also, the Cavendish is seedless and has a pleasing taste.
7. Even though there are at least 1,000 varieties of bananas, the Cavendish is unique because it's the only one known to have all three of these qualities.

Paragraph 3

8. The Cavendish became popular when Panama disease or tropical race 1 (TR1) devastated the world's most popular banana in the 1950s and 1960s.
9. Fortunately, the Cavendish is resistant to TR1.

Paragraph 4

10. Then in the 1990s, another variety of Panama disease called TR4 began to attack Cavendish bananas in Malaysia, Taiwan, and Indonesia.
11. Since then, it's spread to China, Africa, Australia, and elsewhere.
12. Scientists fear it has even reached South America. Currently, TR4 can't be stopped or controlled with pesticides.

Paragraph 5

13. A tasty, disease-resistant, and easy-to-ship replacement for the Cavendish hasn't been identified yet.
14. If one can't be found, scientists will need to breed or genetically engineer something using some other varieties of bananas.
15. They need to hurry. The clock is ticking.

Unit 19. Zorba the Greek

Paragraph 1

1. Zorba the Greek is a classic novel that was first published in 1946.
2. It was written by Nikos Kazantzakis.

3. It is a story about two men, their friendship, and the importance of living life to the fullest.

Paragraph 2

4. The novel opens in a café near Athens, Greece.
5. Here, the narrator meets Alexis Zorba.
6. The narrator, a Greek intellectual, is very different from Zorba.
7. He is modest and reserved, while Zorba is lively and spirited.
8. Their unlikely friendship begins when Zorba asks the narrator for work. He is the first person to do so.
9. The narrator is on his way to Crete to reopen a disused coal mine.
10. Zorba—who describes himself as a chef, a miner, and a musician—fascinates him.
11. So he decides to hire Zorba as a foreman, and the two travel to Crete together.
12. Over the course of their journey and their year spent on Crete, Zorba becomes the narrator's greatest friend and inspiration.
13. Ultimately, Zorba helps him appreciate the joy of living.

Paragraph 3

14. The exaggerated tales Zorba tells the narrator are what make Zorba the Greek such an interesting story.
15. Whether it is his love affair with Madame Hortense or stories of his past adventures, Zorba is an impressive character.
16. He inspires not only the narrator but also readers.
17. Zorba is a unique figure in literature who invites readers to appreciate and enjoy their life.

Unit 20. The Waxworks of Madame Tussaud

Paragraph 1

1. Marie Grosholtz was born in Strasbourg, France, in 1761.
2. Six years later, she moved to Paris with her mother, who was the housekeeper to Philippe Curtius.
3. He was a doctor and was also skilled in wax modeling.
4. Marie became Dr. Curtius's assistant, and he taught her how to make wax models.

Paragraph 2

5. In 1770, Dr. Curtius opened a wax museum in Paris.
6. It contained models of famous people and attracted a lot of attention.
7. In 1794, Dr. Curtius died, and Marie inherited his waxworks collection.
8. A year later, Marie married and became Marie Tussaud.
9. In 1802, she decided to take the collection of wax figures to London.
10. She traveled around Great Britain with her collection for thirty-three years.

Paragraph 3

11. In 1835, when she was seventy-four years old, Madame Tussaud stopped traveling around the country and set up a permanent museum in London.
12. Fifteen years later, she died.

Paragraph 4

13. The "waxworks," as many people call it, was world famous by the time of Marie's death.
14. Over the next century, tens of thousands of people visited it.
15. A fire in 1925 almost destroyed all of the museum's wax figures.

16. Tussaud's wax museum was rebuilt and is still one of London's greatest tourist attractions.

17. There are also now similar wax museums in other cities, including Hong Kong and New York City.