GP ‘IN’-SITES!

*(A HOME-BASED LEARNING PACKAGE TO GET YOUR HEADS IN THE CLOUD)*

Welcome to your GP C2 home-based learning package! This resource has two main purposes:

1. Specifically, to familiarize you with a very useful and extremely enlightening website: TED. As well as exploring TED, we want you to watch a talk of your own choice and write a brief review of it.
2. To acquaint you with a number of other useful websites for GP in order to deepen your understanding of current affairs, broaden your general knowledge, and improve your English.

SECTION ONE: EXPLORING TED

1. Go to the following website: <http://www.ted.com/>
2. Click on the link *About TED* (top right of the page) and read about the history and aims of TED. Now go back to the main page.
3. Explore TED! Look first at the new TED-Ed link and take the tour – there are many interesting lessons available that you might want to watch later! After this, you might also want to take a look at *TED conversations*, *What’s New*, or the *TED Blog* section.
4. Go to the *Show Talks Related To* section on the main page and examine what’s on offer. Choose a talk you’re interested in and watch it. Remember that there are English subtitles available, as well as the full text of the talk. Here are a few recommendations from a variety of different topics that might spark your interest:

* *Hans Rosling: New insights on poverty*
* *Barry Schwartz: The paradox of choice*
* *Steven Pinker: The surprising decline in violence*
* *Bjorn Lomborg: Global priorities bigger than climate change*
* *Clay Shirky: How social media can make history*
* *Jamie Oliver's TED Prize wish: Teach every child about food*
* *Sheryl WuDunn: Our century's greatest injustice*
* *Michael Shermer: The pattern behind self-deception*
* *Dave Meslin: The antidote to apathy*
* *Picturing excess: Chris Jordan*
* *Cameron Russell: Looks aren't everything. Believe me, I'm a model*
* *Sarah Bergbreiter: Why I make robots the size of a grain of rice*
* *Jeremy Howard: The wonderful and terrifying implications of computers that can learn*
* *Nicholas Negroponte: A 30-year history of the future*
* *Glenn Greenwald: Why privacy matters*
* [*Alessandro Acquisti: What will a future without secrets look like?*](https://www.ted.com/talks/alessandro_acquisti_why_privacy_matters)
* *David Christian: The history of our world in 18 minutes*
* *Pico Iyer: The art of stillness*
* *Robin Ince: Science versus wonder?*
* [*Ethan Nadelmann: Why we need to end the War on Drugs*](http://ted.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07487d1456302a286cf9c4ccc&id=9a1a7bc4f6&e=dd7a1a8d6f)
* [*Hans Rosling*](http://www.ted.com/speakers/hans_rosling)*:* [*The best stats you've ever seen*](http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen)
* [*Rebecca Newberger Goldstein*](http://www.ted.com/speakers/rebecca_newberger_goldstein)*,* [*Steven Pinker*](http://www.ted.com/speakers/steven_pinker)*:* [*The long reach of reason*](http://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_and_rebecca_newberger_goldstein_the_long_reach_of_reason)
* [*Frans de Waal*](http://www.ted.com/speakers/frans_de_waal)*:* [*Moral behavior in animals*](http://www.ted.com/talks/frans_de_waal_do_animals_have_morals)
* *Michael Green: What the Social Progress Index can reveal about your country*
* *Ramanan Laxminarayan: The coming crisis in antibiotics*
* *Larry Brilliant: The case for optimism*
* [*Peter Diamandis: Abundance is our future*](http://www.ted.com/talks/peter_diamandis_abundance_is_our_future)
* [*Andrew Mwenda: Aid for Africa? No thanks.*](http://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_mwenda_takes_a_new_look_at_africa)
* [*P.W. Singer: Military robots and the future of war*](http://www.ted.com/talks/pw_singer_on_robots_of_war)
* [*Peter Singer: The why and how of effective altruism*](http://www.ted.com/talks/peter_singer_the_why_and_how_of_effective_altruism)
* [*Ray Kurzweil: A university for the coming singularity*](http://www.ted.com/talks/ray_kurzweil_announces_singularity_university)
* [*Paul MacCready: Nature vs. humans*](http://www.ted.com/talks/paul_maccready_on_nature_vs_humans)
* [*Avi Reichental: What’s next in 3D printing*](http://www.ted.com/talks/avi_reichental_what_s_next_in_3d_printing)
* *Garrett Lisi :* [*A beautiful new theory of everything*](http://blog.ted.com/2008/10/14/garrett_lisi_on)

### [*Seth Shostak: ET is (probably) out there - get ready*](http://www.ted.com/talks/seth_shostak_et_is_probably_out_there_get_ready)

### [*Gian Giudice: Why our universe might exist on a knife-edge*](http://www.ted.com/talks/gian_giudice_why_our_universe_might_exist_on_a_knife_edge)

### *Vernā Myers: How to overcome our biases? Walk boldly toward them*

### *Kenneth Cukier: Big data is better data*

### *Andrew Connolly: What's the next window into our universe?*

### [*Jody Williams*](http://www.ted.com/speakers/jody_williams)*:* [*A realistic vision for world peace*](http://www.ted.com/talks/jody_williams_a_realistic_vision_for_world_peace)

### [*Scilla Elworthy*](http://www.ted.com/speakers/scilla_elworthy)*:* [*Fighting with nonviolence*](http://www.ted.com/talks/scilla_elworthy_fighting_with_non_violence)

### [*John Hunter*](http://www.ted.com/speakers/john_hunter)*:* [*Teaching with the World Peace Game*](http://www.ted.com/talks/john_hunter_on_the_world_peace_game)

### *Aziz Abu Sarah: For more tolerance, we need more ... tourism*?

***\* Remember, however, that you don’t have to choose any of the above – feel free to browse what’s on offer and make your own selection.***

1. Provide a review of the talk by filling in the attached form. Try to make your responses as interesting and thoughtful as possible. DO NOT WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN NOTE FORM – use full sentences and express your ideas as cogently and coherently as possible. Write in dark blue or black pen. Take care to make your handwriting perfectly legible and your presentation very neat and tidy. Bring your review to the next GP lesson. Your teacher may ask you to read out your responses to the rest of the class and/or compile everyone’s reviews for sharing.

**SECTION TWO: KEEP CLICKING!**

As well as exploring TED, it is very important that you use the internet to broaden your intellectual horizons. Having said this, it is crucial that you not only surf widely but also wisely!

To help you be a discerning and discriminating netizen (as well as to improve your GP grades!) we have compiled several lists of recommended websites: the first to deepen your understanding of current affairs, expand your general knowledge, and enhance your cultural literacy; the second to expand your vocabulary; and the third to improve your grammar (should you need to).

Before you access the full lists, here’s a brief taste of some of the websites on offer:

**Current affairs, general knowledge, and cultural literacy**

1. Allianz Knowledge <http://www.knowledge.allianz.com/>

Allianz Knowledge presents information about climate change, energy, demographics, mobility, health, and micro-insurance from different perspectives, while focusing on proven solutions and concrete case studies

1. Global Issues <http://www.globalissues.org/>

This website examines issues that affect everyone and may be misrepresented, with the aim to show how they are inter-related. The issues discussed range from trade, poverty and globalization, to human rights, geopolitics, the environment, and much more.

1. Global development <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development>

The Guardian's award-winning global development site provides special focus on the Millennium Development Goals — the eight targets set in 2000 by the United Nations Millennium Declaration with the aim of improving the lives of the world's poorest people by 2015. The site, hosts comment from a range of voices around the globe, alongside news, debate, data and student resources.

1. Frontline <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>

Frontline is a public affairs television program that produces and broadcasts incisive documentaries about various controversial subjects, covering the scope and complexity of the human experience. The engaging reports fully explore and illuminate the critical issues of our times.

1. Mother Jones <http://www.motherjones.com/>

Mother Jones is a leading independent news organization, featuring investigative and breaking news reporting on politics, the environment, human rights, and culture that claim to be ‘smart, fearless journalism’.

1. One World <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides>

OneWorld Guides help you to learn about developing countries through a wide range of educational briefings on global issues and explores the development topics relevant to narrowing the divide between rich and poor countries.

**Vocabulary**

1. The Free Vocabulary Builder <http://www.univsource.com/vbbeta.php>

This is a fun website which offers randomly chosen vocabulary quizzes to help build up your word bank. Vocabulary items and quizzes are randomly chosen, so you can visit this website often. It is for students of all levels.

1. SAT Vocabulary on Vocab Test.com - Free Vocabulary Tests <http://www.vocabtest.com/>

Vocab Test.com offers the eager student free vocabulary tests, which are the best way to boost your verbal skills. You can design your own quiz using the new words you want to master! It also has tests for the Vocabulary Workshop books by Jerome Shostak which are intended to help students improve their SAT Vocabulary score.

**Grammar**

1. Common Errors in English Usage <http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#errors>

This is a simple and user-friendly website with a huge list of common errors in grammar and expression typically made by students. This is a very useful website for understanding the mistakes you make in your written work.

1. English Grammar Online <http://www.ego4U.com>

The English Grammar Online is a website useful for students who want to build up their language foundations. The explanations and exercises under “Grammar” (<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar> ) are straightforward, simple and clear. It also includes a section on pronunciation (<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/pronunciation>).

1. BBC Learning English <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>

This website is excellent for incorporating learning English with improving students’ knowledge of current affairs. You can also subscribe to or download a variety of very interesting and informative 6-minute podcasts! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/6min>

Now that we’ve whet your appetite with a range of mouth-watering starters, time to sample the full menu!

Spend about ten to fifteen minutes browsing some of the sites. Obviously, if your grammar is perfect, you can skip the sites on the last list.

**VERY USEFUL GP WEB SITES:**

**Current affairs, general knowledge and cultural literacy**

**TOP of the Charts!**

1. Allianz Knowledge <http://www.knowledge.allianz.com/>
2. Global Issues <http://www.globalissues.org/>
3. Global development <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development>
4. Frontline <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>
5. Mother Jones <http://www.motherjones.com/>
6. One World <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides>
7. BBC News Online <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>
8. The Straits Times <http://www.straitstimes.com/>
9. The Economist <http://www.economist.com/>
10. National Geographic <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/?source=redir_natgeo>
11. Guardian Weekly <http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekly>
12. The Washington Post <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
13. International Herald Tribune <http://global.nytimes.com/?iht>
14. New Internationalist <http://www.newint.org/index.html>
15. ACAPS <http://geo.acaps.org/#geomap-tab>
16. The Atlantic <http://www.theatlantic.com/>
17. The Stone/New York Times <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/category/the-stone/>
18. big think <http://bigthink.com/>
19. mental\_floss <http://www.mentalfloss.com/>
20. Edge.org [www.edge.org](http://www.edge.org)
21. IaI <http://iai.tv/>
22. 3quarkesdaily <http://www.3quarksdaily.com/3quarksdaily>
23. spiked <http://www.spiked-online.com/>
24. Spike Magazine <http://www.spikemagazine.com/>
25. American Scholar <http://theamericanscholar.org/>
26. GOOD <http://www.good.is/>
27. Economist Debates <http://www.economist.com/debate/overview/186>
28. The Times of London <http://www.economist.com/>
29. BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
30. bbc News magazine <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine/>
31. In Our Time <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/in-our-time/>
32. Arts and Letters Daily <http://www.aldaily.com/>
33. PBS <http://www.pbs.org/>
34. IDEA <http://www.idebate.org/debatabase/topic_index.php>
35. Boingboing <http://www.boingboing.net/>
36. The Big History Project <https://www.bighistoryproject.com/portal>
37. UTNE <http://www.utne.com/#axzz371CnonxN>
38. Academic Earth <http://academicearth.org/subjects/>
39. CNN Freedom Project <http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/>
40. Gapminder <http://www.gapminder.org/>
41. Cultural Literacy Tests <http://www.readfaster.com/culturalliteracy/>
42. Metropolitan Museum of Art <http://www.metmuseum.org/>
43. History.com <http://www.history.com/>
44. Science Daily <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>
45. New Scientist <http://www.newscientist.com/>
46. howstuffworks <http://www.howstuffworks.com/>
47. Discover Magazine <http://discovermagazine.com/>
48. Scientific developments <http://scienceblogs.com/>
49. Human evolution <http://becominghuman.org/>
50. Extreme science <http://www.extremescience.com/zoom/index.php>
51. Human Genome Project <http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/home.shtml>
52. Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page>
53. Find Articles <http://findarticles.com/>
54. YouTube Edu <http://www.youtube.com/edu>
55. iTunesU <http://www.apple.com/support/itunes_u/>
56. KhanAcademy <http://www.khanacademy.org/>
57. Udacity <https://www.udacity.com/courses>
58. Coursera <https://www.coursera.org/>

**Vocabulary**

1. The Free Vocabulary Builder <http://www.univsource.com/vbbeta.php>
2. SAT Vocabulary on Vocab Test.com - Free Vocabulary Tests <http://www.vocabtest.com/>
3. Wordsafari <http://home.earthlink.net/~ruthpett/safari/index.htm>
4. GRE verbalquestions <http://www.english-test.net/gre/vocabulary/meanings/092/gre-test.php>
5. Guardian weekly <http://www.guardianweekly.co.uk/learningenglish>
6. Univsource vocab builder <http://www.univsource.com/vbintro.htm>
7. Vocabulary quiz <http://www.vocabularyquiz.net/>
8. Vocabulary.com <http://www.vocabulary.com/>
9. Wordik [www.wordnik.com](http://www.wordnik.com)
10. Words@random <http://www.randomhouse.com/wotd/index.pperl?action=dly__alph_arc&fn=word>
11. tests4U <http://tests4u.com/>
12. Second Nature online English <http://2ndnature-online-eikaiwa.com/>
13. ESLTower.com <http://www.esltower.com/>
14. English Word Information <http://www.wordinfo.info/>
15. English-test.net <http://www.english-test.net/> Learnenglishfree (leo online) <http://www.learnenglish.de/>
16. podcastready <http://www.podcastready.com/index.php>
17. elllo <http://www.elllo.org/english/1151.htm>
18. oxford [www.oxforddictionaries.com](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com)

**Grammar**

1. Common Errors in English Usage <http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#errors>
2. English Grammar Online <http://www.ego4U.com>
3. BBC Learning English <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>
4. Free Grammar Worksheets <http://www.yourdictionary.com/dictionary-articles/free-grammar-worksheets.html>
5. Learn English <http://www.usingenglish.com/students.html>
6. The grammar aquarium <http://perso.wanadoo.es/autoenglish/freeexercises.htm>
7. Learning English <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/>
8. English grammar 4U online <http://www.ego4u.com/>
9. Non stop English <http://www.nonstopenglish.com/allexercises/grammar/>
10. Agenda web <http://www.agendaweb.org/verbs/present_perfect.html>
11. Speak speak <http://www.speakspeak.com/html/d3c_resources_grammar_practice_advanced.htm>
12. Learn4good <http://www.learn4good.com/languages/evrd_grammar/presentpcont.htm>
13. Englishgrammarexercises <http://www.rong-chang.com/ex/contents.htm>
14. Grammarmonster <http://www.grammar-monster.com/>
15. Online English grammar <http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/>
16. freegrammar worksheets (a list of resources/sites) <http://www.yourdictionary.com/dictionary-articles/free-grammar-worksheets.html>
17. guide to grammar and writing <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>
18. Advanced English exercises <http://www.englishpage.com/>
19. bobwilson’s autoenglish <http://www.autoenglish.org/>
20. ExploringEnglish <http://www.sharedvisions.com/svuhome.cfm?category=Home&sid=1>
21. Using English.com <http://www.usingenglish.com/handouts/>
22. learnEnglishfeelgood.com <http://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com/esl-printables-worksheets.html>
23. A4els.org <http://a4esl.org/>
24. To learnenglish.com <http://www.tolearnenglish.com/>
25. Englishbee <http://englishbee.net/>

**NET PROFIT OR LOSS?**

Although we’ve now come to the end of your Home-Based Learning package, you still have one more very important job to do.

It would be very easy now for you to forget about all the wonderful websites we have introduced you to and suffer an internet ‘relapse’ – going back to frittering away precious hours incessantly twittering, constantly updating your Facebook page, or continually playing mindless games on your mobile phone. Old habits die hard, so you have to make a sincere effort NOW to change your wicked ways!

**INTERNET CHALLENGE!**

**Over the next two weeks, make time every day to fully explore the websites you have just briefly sampled. Select at least five or six that you like the most and add them to your *Favourites* bar for easy access. Choose according to your particular needs and personal preferences, BUT select at least one news/current affairs site to keep abreast of latest global developments/issues.**

**Make a real effort to visit your chosen sites on a regular basis. If you can do this, it will definitely reap rich rewards!**

**Dr. Robert Wilks**

**INTERES-TED?**

**Reviewer:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Talk:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Content**

What is the talk about? Summarise the subject matter, together with the speaker’s main thesis (i.e. what is his/her main argument/point?).

1. **Reflection & Response**

To what extent do you agree with the speaker’s thesis? Which ideas/arguments did you find the most thought-provoking? How relevant is the subject to your own society and yourself in particular? Has the talk changed your outlook/opinions in any way?

1. **Relevance**

How relevant is this talk to GP? What essay topic(s) and/or types could you apply the content of the talk to? What material could you use and how (e.g. to make an important point, or to give an actual example, or both)? Try to provide examples of particular essays on specific subjects.

Here are a few areas to consider:

your country/ culture and tradition/ religion / the mass media/ social media/ sport / social problems/ ethical issues/ the environment/ poverty/ politics and power/ human rights/ prejudice and discrimination/ education/ conflict and violence/ war and peace/ science and technology/ medicine/ mathematics/ history/ economics/ philosophy/ geography/ literature and language / the arts etc.

1. **Presentation**

Briefly comment on the quality of the speaker’s presentation. What elements impressed you the most (e.g. the speaker’s energy/enthusiasm/engagement with the audience/eloquence/erudition/wit/use of audio-visual aids…). Conversely, did you find certain parts/aspects of the presentation disappointing in any way? If so, why? Have you any suggestions as to how the talk could have been improved?

1. **Rating**

Overall, how would you rate this talk? Fill in the stars to indicate your score out of five. Four or five stars means that you would highly recommend this talk to your fellow students!

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