



lingoda

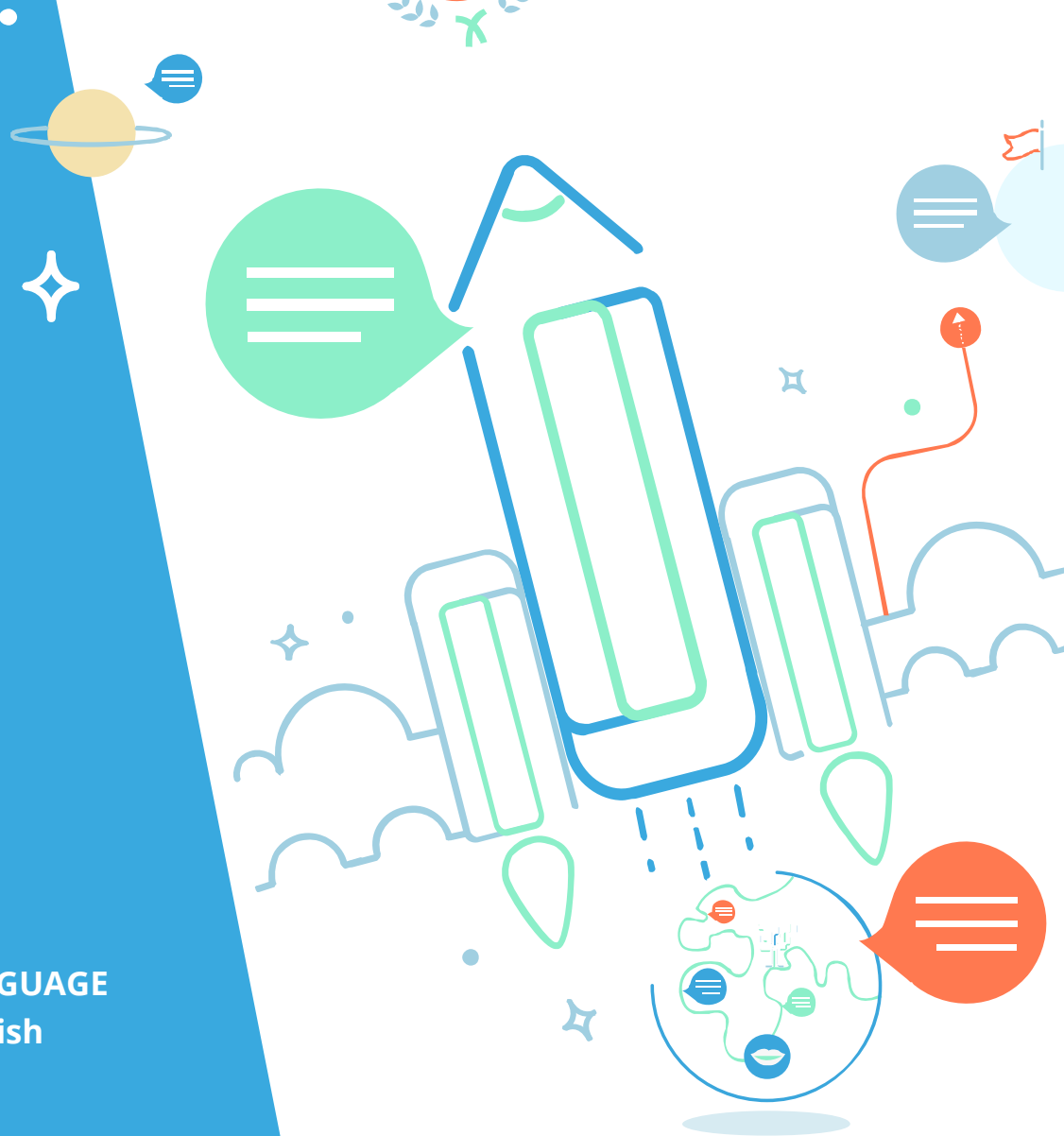
# How much history do humans need?

READING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2033R\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English






## Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about the relationship between humans and history.
- Can evaluate the importance of remembering history and clearly present my opinion on the relationship between the past and the present.

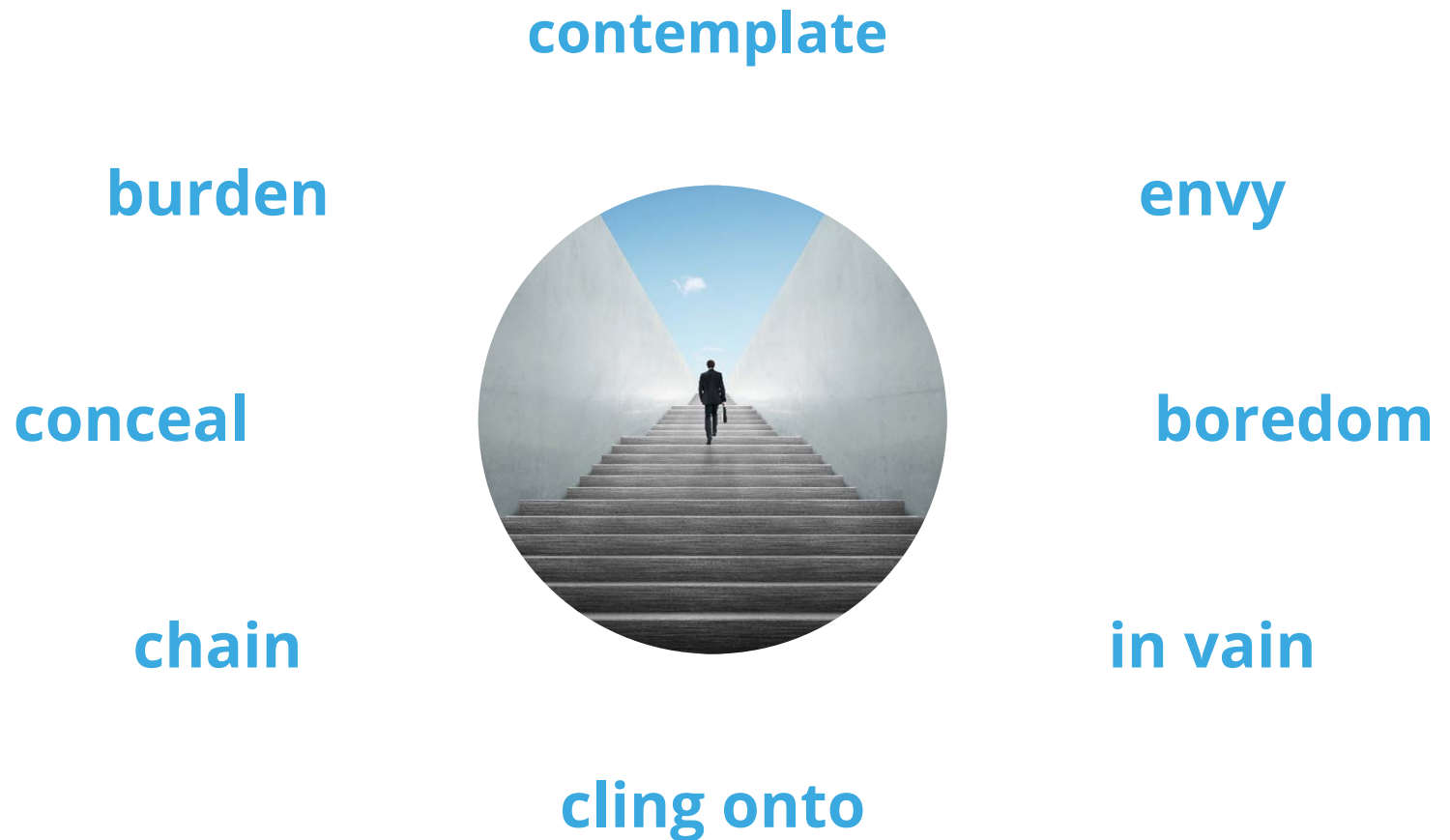




Some memories we just want to forget,  
others we try our hardest to cherish.  
Just like Friedrich Nietzsche, we all think  
about the past, present and future.  
How does the past influence the  
present?



## Important terms for the adapted text of Nietzsche





## Your thoughts about the past and the present

What are your thoughts on question 1?



1

Is the present shaped by the past?



## Your thoughts about the past and the present

What are your thoughts on question 2?



1

Is the present shaped by the past?



2

Is our view of the past determined by the present?



# Your thoughts about the past and the present

**Discuss question 3!**



1

Is the present shaped by the past?



2

Is our view of the past determined by the present?



3

Are the present and the past in conflict?



## Imagine a herd...



Observe the herd that is passing before you: it does not know the meaning of yesterday or today; it jumps around, eats, rests, digests, jumps around some more, from morning to night, from day to day. It is concerned with its **likes and dislikes at that very moment**, feeling **neither sadness nor boredom**.





## Imagine a herd...

It is difficult for man to watch them, for even in the pride of his humanity he looks enviously on the beast's happiness. He wishes simply to live **without pain or boredom**, like the beast; **yet** it is all **in vain**, for he will not change places with it.

He may ask the beast – *Why do you not speak to me of your happiness?* The beast wants to answer – *Because I always forget what I wished to say.* But he forgets this answer too, and is silent, and the man is left to wonder.

## A herd



A **herd** is a group of animals: here we can see a herd of cows.

In vain



**In vain** means **without success**: My efforts were in vain because I failed the test.



Find the word in the text which means...

...

To look at

...

With jealousy

...

An animal

...

However



## The chain that follows



He wonders also about himself, how he cannot learn to forget, but **clings onto** the past: however far or fast he runs, that **chain** runs with him. It is matter for **wonder**: the moment, that is here and gone, that was nothing before and nothing after, returns like a ghost to disturb the tranquillity of a later moment.



## The chain that follows

A leaf is continually dropping out of the volume of time, **fluttering** away; then suddenly it flutters back into the man's lap. Then he says "I remember...", and **envies** the beast, that forgets immediately, and sees every moment really perish, sink into the night and mist, gone forever.





## The chain that follows

The beast lives **unhistorically**, because it lives only in the **present**. It cannot **conceal** anything; at every moment it seems what it actually is, and thus can only be **honest**.





## Fill in the gaps

### Have you understood the text?

1. The man is unable to l\_\_\_\_\_ go of the past.
2. The chain always f\_\_\_\_\_ him (go after, chase)
3. It h\_\_\_\_\_ him, like a ghost. (to continuously reappear in a spooky way)
4. In contrast, the beast immediately f\_\_\_\_\_.
5. For this reason, the man is \_\_\_\_\_ of the beast. (envious of)
6. To live always in the present is to live u\_\_\_\_\_.
7. The beast does not h\_\_\_\_\_ anything; it can only be honest. (conceal)







**Answer the question with the help of the post-it notes**

**"People must forget in order to live happy lives."**

In my opinion...

From my point  
of view...

My impression  
is that...

As far as I am  
concerned...

I believe...

I would say  
that...

A blank sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing an answer.



## Problems with historical knowledge

**What do you think are some of the problems associated with too much historical knowledge?**



## The invisible burden

Man, **on the other hand**, has to deal with the great and **ever-increasing** weight of the past which **presses down on him**. He travels with a **dark, invisible burden** which he can for appearances' sake deny, and is very glad to deny when around his peers, in order to make them envious. And so it hurts him, like the thought of a lost paradise.

*Adapted from Friedrich Nietzsche: Untimely Meditations. Second Part: On the Use and Abuse of History for Life*



## Explain

**Explain what is meant by...**

**1**

A dark, invisible burden

**2**

A lost paradise



## A father and daughter are discussing. Put the arguments in the correct order



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

A) Yes, for sure. The past is just too onerous.

C) I think Nietzsche was right about hanging on to the past

E) Well, I think it's more important to just live in the present. We shouldn't get too bogged down by our past mistakes. The past is in the past. We should learn to move on.

G) I see your point as well. I think we can conclude that it's important to have a balance!

B) But don't you think it is important to learn from history?

D) I agree that you should not let your mistakes stop you from moving on, but that does not mean we should forget them. I believe it is important to bear in mind mistakes, to avoid repeating them in the future.

F) So you think people would be happier if they could just disregard history totally?



## Discussion

*"Those who don't know  
history are doomed to  
repeat it."* — Edmund  
Burke.  
Discuss.



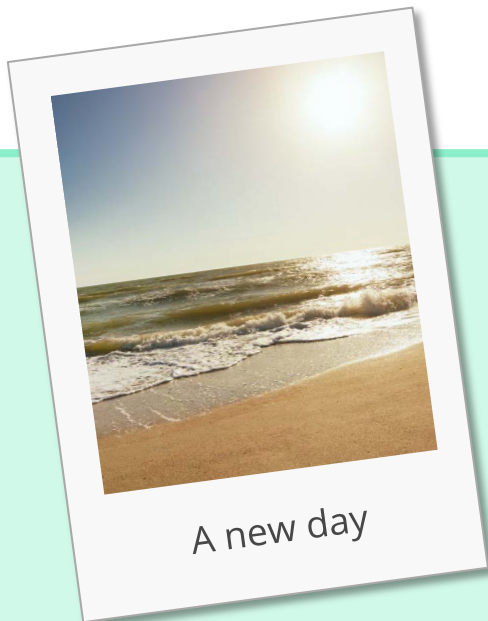
**Your turn!**

**Do you believe holding on to the past is important? Why? Why not?**





## Discussion: how important is the future to you?



Discuss this question with your teacher and/or classmates. You may use the expressions below to help you.

My future is important/not so important to me because...

Obligations to others

Hopes and dreams

Plans

Fear of the future

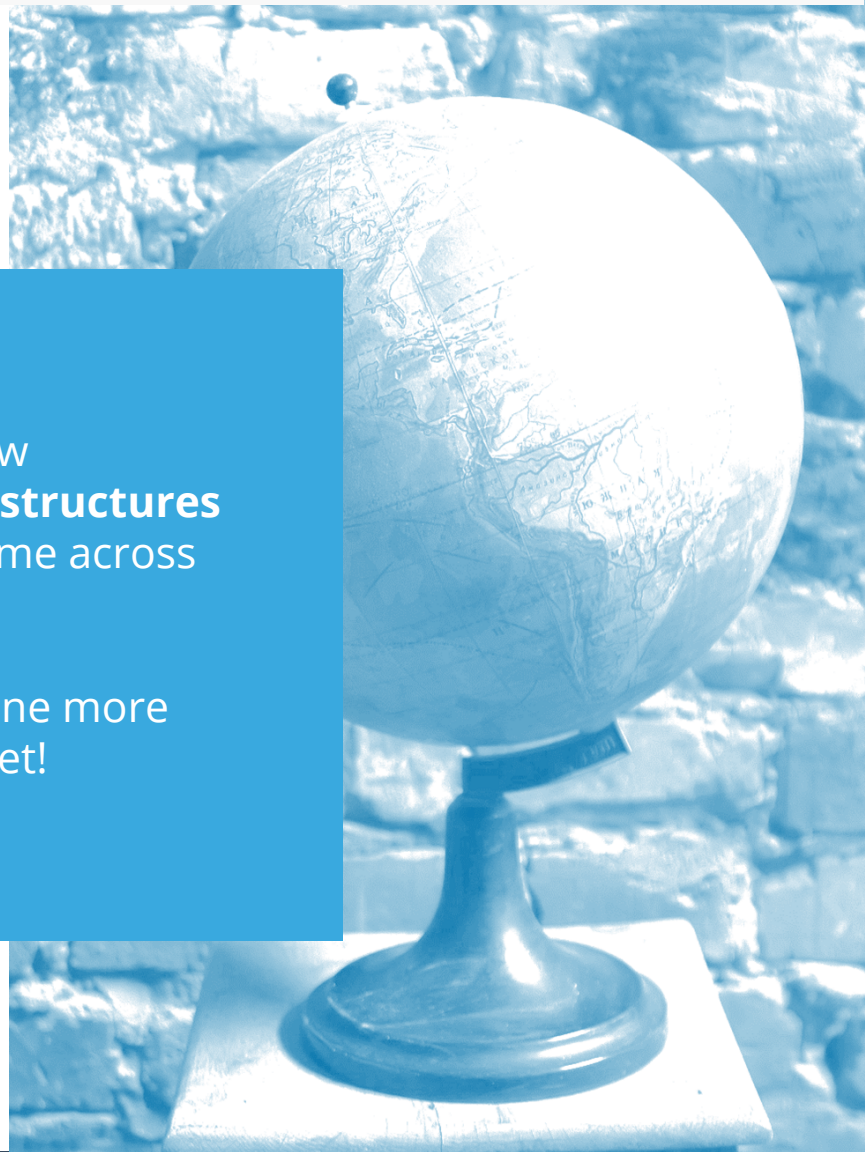




## Reflect on this lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!



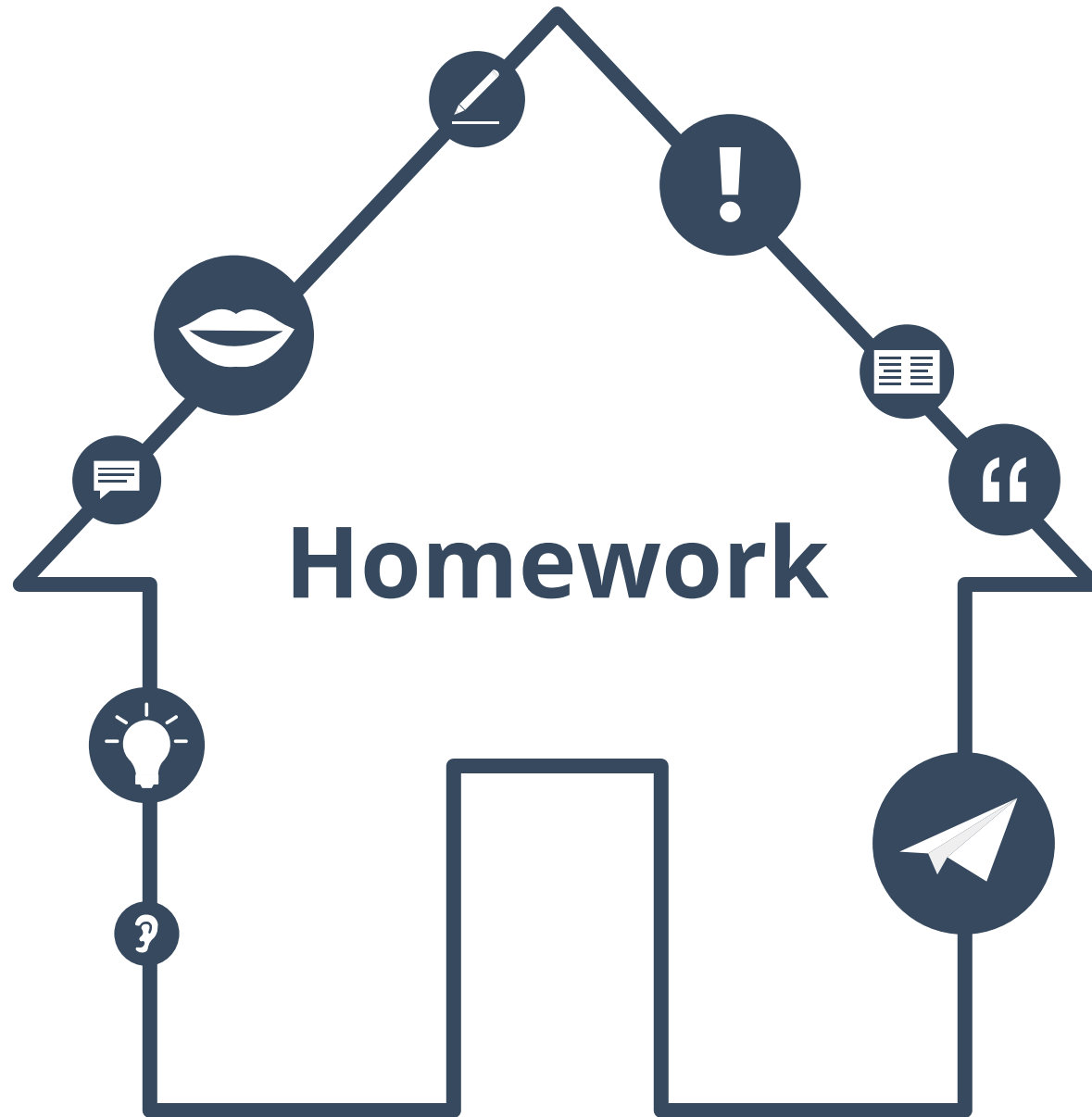


## Answers

Activity p. 21  
1. C  
2. F  
3. A  
4. B  
5. E  
6. D  
7. G

Activity p. 16  
1. let  
2. follows  
3. haunts  
4. forgets  
5. jealous  
6. unhistorically  
7. hide

Activity p. 12  
1. observe  
2. enviously  
3. a beast  
4. yet





## Match

1. The past...

a. In the present.

2. The animals lives purely...

b. forget in order to be happy.

3. The herd is neither...

c. to see this.

4. Humans must...

d. his desires are in vain.

5. It is difficult for humans...

e. the ever-increasing weight of the past

6. Since man would not actually change places with the beast...

f. often haunts us like a ghost.

7. Man must deal with...

g. Sad nor satisfied.



## The ghost of the past

**Do you understand this sentence? Give an explanation with the help of the notes. Write at least three sentences.**

inescapable

ghost is a  
metaphor for...

force

impose

memory

remember



The moment, that is here and gone,  
that was nothing before and nothing  
after, returns like a ghost to disturb the  
tranquility of a later moment





## Homework answers

### Activity p. 29

1.f

2.a

3.g

4.b

5.c

6.d

7.e



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