

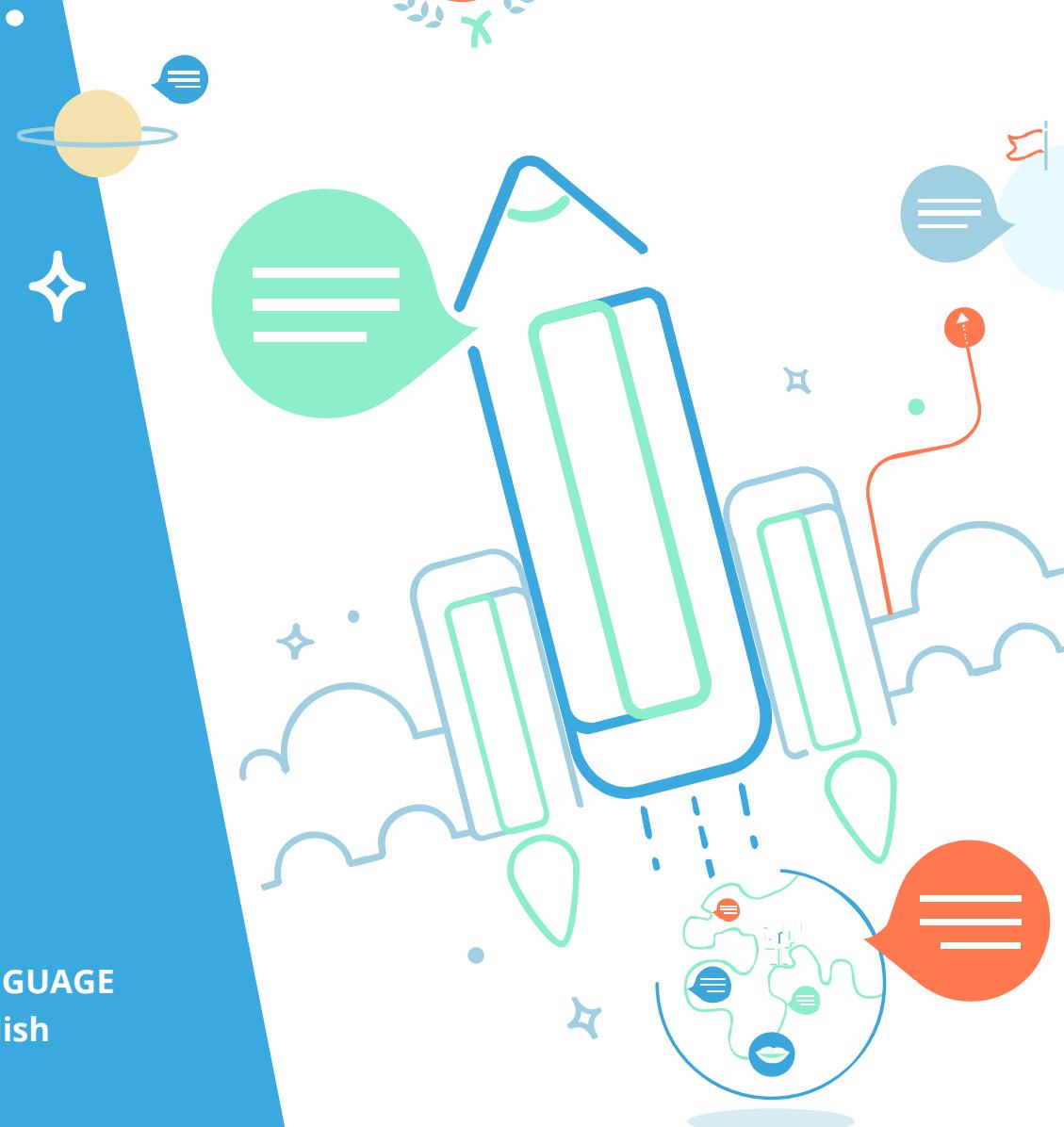
# Mahatma Gandhi

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_1054S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

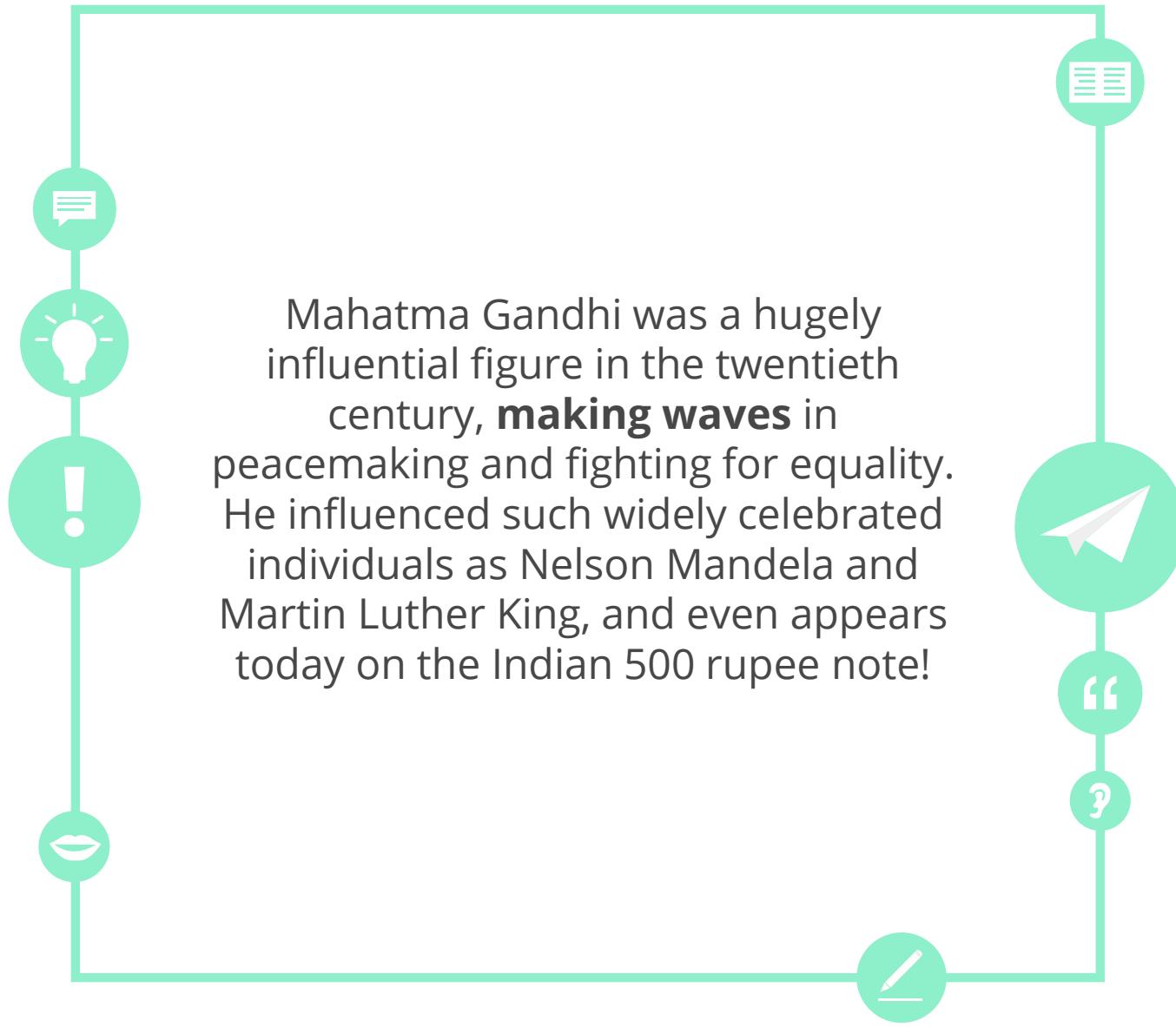




## Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about Mahatma Gandhi and social stratification
- Can discuss my own thoughts on simple lifestyles at length.







## Warm-up

**What do you know  
about Mahatma Gandhi?  
In which contexts have  
you heard about him  
before?**



## Warm-up

**There are statues commemorating Gandhi's legacy all over the world. Guess where each of these statues is located! Is either very obvious? Where else do you think you might see a statue of Gandhi?**





## Warm-up

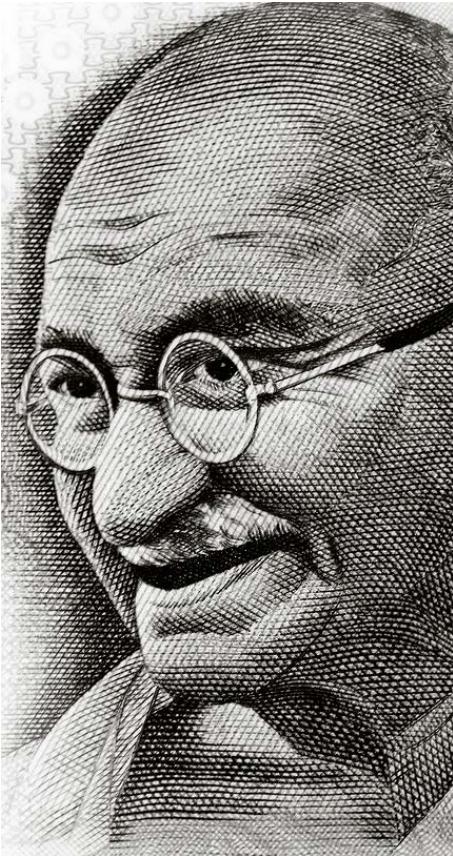
Mahatma Gandhi appears on the Indian 500 rupee note.

Can you think of any other influential figures who have made their way onto bank notes?





## Gandhi



Mahatma Gandhi is probably one of the most **unanimously** recognised names across the world today, even nearly 70 years after his death in 1948. Many people may **vaguely** associate him with **notions** of peace, Indian independence and peaceful protest - but aren't familiar with the details of his inspiring life's work. Gandhi was a **pioneer** for human rights and equal treatment regardless of religious belief for all in India throughout the course of his life. His tireless work **made** great **waves** in the world of human rights and influenced the work of later leaders in human rights such as Martin Luther King in the U.S. and Nelson Mandela in South Africa.



## Influences and origins

Gandhi was born in 1869 in western India into a Hindu family. Gandhi was raised in a Hindu and Jain environment. Values of peace and respect for life were **instilled** in him from a young age; Jainism is an ancient religion from India which most values the welfare of every living being in the universe. This **value system** was expressed through ideals of non-violence, fasting, meditation and vegetarianism. Simplicity and a life free of material goods went hand in hand with such a code of belief. Gandhi would adhere to this code of behaviour throughout his life.



## Influences and origins

In a position of social **privilege**, Gandhi had the opportunity to study law in London in his youth, which most likely provided him with the **foundations** on which he would later build his life's work. The time Gandhi spent in South Africa after studying in London is considered a **formative** period for him. South Africa was then a society **rooted in discriminatory** values; being Indian, Gandhi suffered under such racist ideals. During this period, Gandhi was asked to leave the first class compartment of a train. Upon his peaceful refusal to **comply** with this demand, he **found himself** thrown off the train. This is thought to have been a **breakthrough** for Gandhi, who had begun to think passionately about protesting both for his own rights and others in his position.



## New vocabulary

unanimously

vaguely

notion

pioneer

to instill

privilege

foundations

formative

comply

## to make waves

If someone is **making waves** in an area, it is understood that they are attracting great attention, and making a lasting impression.



That book I lent you really **made waves** in the literary world a few years ago!



## Inner calm

Where do you find your inner calm? What do you think of the different approaches below? Which is closer to your own way?





## Inner calm

Gandhi adopted a lifestyle of fasting, meditation and simplicity to achieve spiritual purification and calm. This kind of lifestyle has become popular in recent years and many people choose to go on a retreat to escape for a while! A retreat is a kind of spiritual holiday away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, usually involving activities such as yoga, meditation and a reduced intake of food. Technology is typically not allowed!



1

Have you ever been on a **retreat**?

2

If you have, how was your experience? If not, does this sound like something you would be interested in trying?

3

Do you believe that engaging in this kind of lifestyle has the potential to bring people Enlightenment? Would it work for you?



## What do you think?

Gandhi is well-known for his acts of civil disobedience (or non-violent protest), mediation between different sides of disputes and his political involvement throughout his life, all in the name of peace and equality. In his youth, he studied law.

**Do you think Gandhi's study of law gave him an advantage in his later campaigns and projects?**



## Discuss in depth

**Read the quote below and discuss it in relation to the answers you gave in the previous activity. Do you agree or disagree with the quote? Why?**

“

In order to fight against an institution, you must know it intimately. Only from a position of knowledge and insight can you dismantle something with which you disagree.

”



## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on  
training your listening comprehension



## Listening activity

As you listen to your teacher, make notes to explain why each word or date below is mentioned in the listening text. What is its relevance to Gandhi's life?

Salt March

World War II

13 years

Nobel Peace  
Prize



## New vocabulary

Match each new word below to its correct definition. Say whether each is a verb, an adjective or a noun. Can you think of the corresponding noun for each verb?

to nominate

inexhaustive

fundamentalist

unfazed

to assassinate

1. Not surprised, worried or showing any signs of stopping something.
2. A person who believes entirely in the oldest and most traditional forms of religion and its scripture.
3. To murder somebody important or famous.
4. Unable to include and mention everything. A word used to describe an ongoing list.
5. To suggest a person or a piece of work for a position of honour or a prize.





## The Untouchables

The listening text mentions the **Untouchables**. Do you know anything about this group in Indian society?





## The Untouchables

**Read the text about castes on this page and the next and discuss the accompanying questions in detail.**

The Indian caste or class system is a form of social organisation, or hierarchy. The caste you are born into is the caste to which you belong for life.

There are various tiers (levels) of rank. At the bottom of the hierarchy are the *Untouchables* or *Dalits*. The work this caste does involves activities considered dirty – anything to do with death, meat, bodies and bodily fluids.

The *Untouchables* are discriminated against in various ways, mainly by their segregation from other castes. To name just a few mistreatments, they are given separate eating utensils and seating in restaurants, are forbidden from entering village temples, and prohibited from wearing sandals or holding umbrellas in front of members of different castes.

In 1950, the practice of Untouchability was legally abolished, but discrimination is still present in some rural areas of India.

**What do you think of caste systems and the struggle against them?**

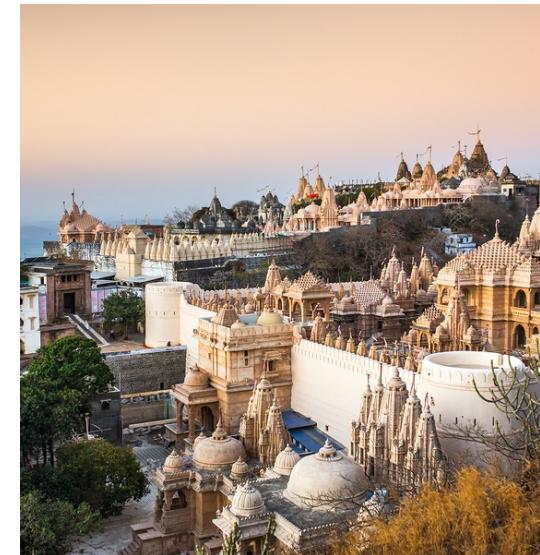


## The Untouchables

**The listening text mentions Gandhi's work campaigning for the abolition of the caste or class system.**

This includes the opening of an *ashram* in 1915, a kind of meditation centre open to all castes. Furthermore, in 1932 Gandhi led a 6-day fast in protest of the British colonial decision to segregate the *Untouchables* from the rest of society.

1. Gandhi himself came from a privileged merchant caste. Is it surprising to learn this given his devotion to equal treatment?
2. What do you think of the kinds of measures mentioned above as a form of protest?





## Imagine this

**Does your society have anything similar to a caste system? Or has it ever in the past?**

**Imagine if it did.**

- Describe what you think this would be like.
- What caste do you think you would fall into?
- Would life for you be easier or more difficult?





## What do you think?

What do you think of commemorative art such as the example below?





## Nobel Prize

**Gandhi was nominated 5 times for the Nobel Peace Prize, but sadly never won.**



1

Why do you think he was nominated so many times but never managed to win?

2

Have you ever been in a situation where you kept almost winning or achieving something, but never quite made it?

3

If you could win any of the Nobel prizes, which one would it be?



## Reflect on the 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!





## Transcription

The list of Gandhi's causes and endless work for the sake of harmony and equality is inexhaustive. Because of his non-violent protesting in the philosophy of civil disobedience, Gandhi was constantly in and out of prison, but like a true leader, went unfazed in the face of such consequences.

Among his significant campaigns were his work campaigning for the abolishment of the 'caste' or class system and the fair treatment of the 'untouchables'; the famous 'Salt March', in 1930, when he led more than two miles, worth of marchers over 390km in a protest against the British monopolising India's salt industry; and last but not least, the Quit India campaign which he led during World War II against Indian participation in the British war effort.

Gandhi's equal treatment of both Muslims and Hindus during the post-independence and Partition period (1947 on) earned him enemies among Hindu fundamentalists. He was assassinated in 1948 by one such individual; in fact, up to six separate attempts had already been made on Gandhi's life in the thirteen years prior to his death.

Gandhi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five different times during his life. On the last occasion, the year of his death, there was no winner at all - it was claimed by the authorities that there were no suitable living candidates; Although not having survived long enough to win the prize, Gandhi continues to be celebrated for his lifelong efforts across the world.



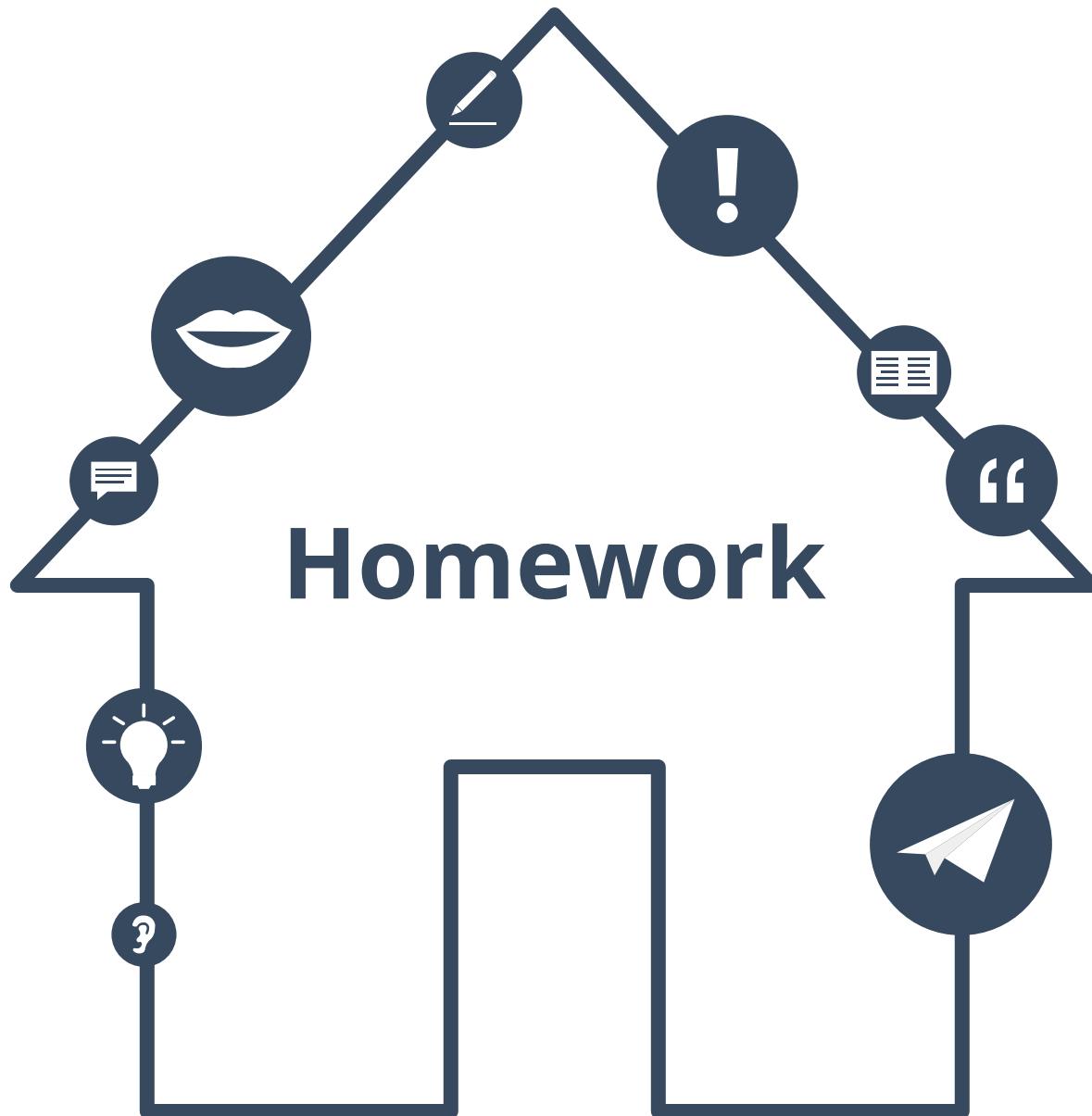
## Answer key

1. Unfazed; 2. fundamentalist; 3. to assassinate; 4. inexhaustive; 5. to nominate.

Vocabulary match

1. San Francisco, the United States; 3. Delhi, India.

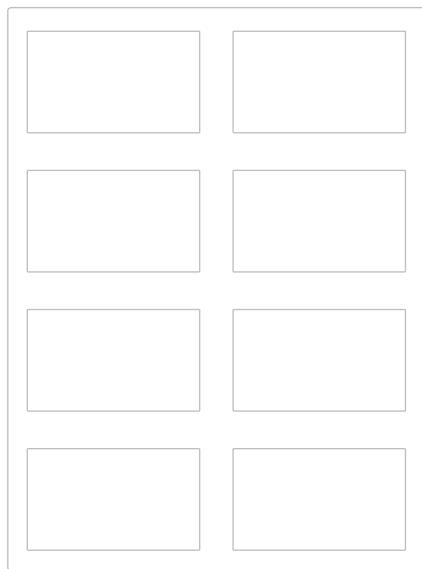
Warm up - Guessing game (left to right, top to bottom):





## New vocabulary

**Go back through the lesson and pick out vocabulary you think you will find useful in the future.**





## Words to sentence practise

Take the words you picked out for your flashcards and use each in a sentence.



I was impressed by how **unfazed** Laura was by  
the harsh criticism she got on her article last  
week.



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