



READING

NUMBER
C1_2055R_EN

LANGUAGE
English

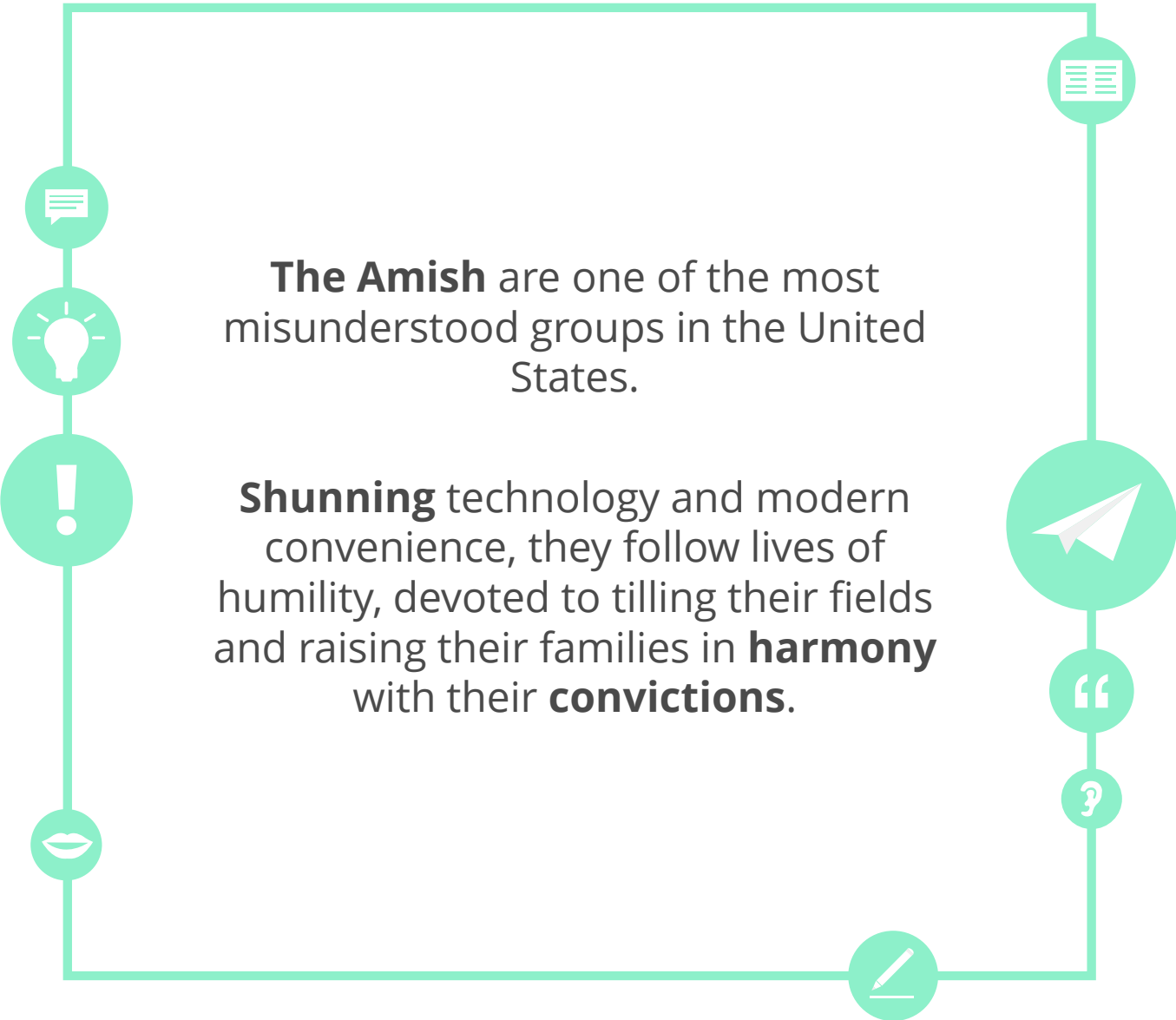




Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about the Amish community.
- Can evaluate and discuss the pros and cons of modern living.





The Amish are one of the most misunderstood groups in the United States.

Shunning technology and modern convenience, they follow lives of humility, devoted to tilling their fields and raising their families in **harmony** with their **convictions**.



Agrarian work

Have you ever had an experience working on a farm before?

What did you enjoy about it?

Was there anything you found difficult?





The Amish

**What do you know about the Amish community?
Tell your teacher.**





Vocabulary



The pastor held strong **convictions** about family life.

They live in **harmony** with the seasons.



She left the city to follow an **agrarian** way of life.

He doesn't come out with us now that he is **shunning** alcohol.





Vocabulary



The ethnic minority faced **persecution** from the state.

Mr Palmer has a very **orthodox** approach to education.



Joan decided she would smash the **patriarchy**.

The French consider themselves to have a **secular** identity.





Amish



In the modern world it's sometimes difficult to keep up with the **dizzying** rate of social and technological change. Compared to even a generation ago, our social landscape is **staggeringly** different. Technology has redefined our relationships with one another and our work and lifestyles have been transformed.

The majority of people embrace this **innovation** without question, counting on the modern conveniences as a blessing. Some communities choose to turn away from the conveniences of the 21st century however – the most well known of these groups is the Amish.



Amish

The Amish are a religious movement based in the United States with strong Protestant **convictions**. Descended from European Anabaptists, they originally settled in Pennsylvania in the early 18th century fleeing from religious **persecution**. They now number over 300, 000 and the largest communities are based in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

They maintain a deep belief in the Holy Trinity and follow the teachings of Jesus. The Amish consider themselves **orthodox** Christians, and keep Bibles in their homes. Adherence to church rules is strict – if a member of the society transgresses the rules they can be **shunned** and excluded from the community until the excommunicated member repents.





New words

innovation

Silicon Valley is the epicenter of technological **innovation** in the US.

Protestant

I am a Catholic, but I married a **Protestant**!

Anabaptist

The **Anabaptist** was persecuted for rejecting infant baptism.

to transgress

Anyone who **transgresses** the rules of this school could find themselves facing expulsion.



What do these phrases from the text mean?

to be shunned
from the
community

to transgress the
rules

dizzying rate of
change

to face religious
persecution

to embrace this
innovation

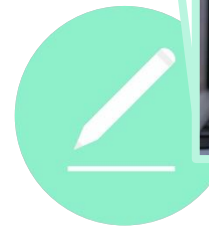
adherence to
church rules is
strict



Whether we like it or not, our society and culture is dominated by technology and innovation. While electronic gadgets can be extremely useful and convenient, they can also bring with them a host of problems. Brainstorm the benefits and drawbacks of modern technology in the lists below.

Benefits of modern technology

Drawbacks of modern technology





Persuade the teacher

Pick one of the statements below. Prepare some points to discuss with your teacher and try to persuade them that the statement is correct.

Modern gadgets and the internet are making us unhealthy and lazy.

There is nothing wrong with modern technology as long as people use their gadgets in a disciplined way.

Our lifestyle has disconnected us from our natural environment.



Amish



Part of their belief system involves maintaining a conscious separation between themselves and the outside world. In a rapidly changing world of social and technological change, the Amish value their social traditions and aim to preserve them in this way.

One of the most visible symbols of this distinction is in the Amish approach to dress. Rejecting signs of individuality, the Amish dress in **uniformity**, opting for simple, modest clothing. Women wear a covering over the head to symbolise their **submission** to God and the males of the community. **Patriarchy** defines the family life of the Amish – wives are submissive to their husbands, while unmarried women remain under the authority of their father.



Amish

The family unit is emphasised over that of the individual in Amish society. The community is **insular** and there are strict rules enforcing marriage. Amish can only marry other Amish, and divorce, while it is possible, is not sanctioned by the church.





Amish

Amish families on average have 7-8 children, making them one of the fastest growing groups in the world. Children do not attend public school, instead completing their education in Amish schools within the community. When a child reaches 16 they are given the opportunity to experience the outside world. They are then faced with a huge decision – to leave their community for the secular world, or return and formally join the church. The large majority choose to stay with their community.





New words

secular

The Western world is largely **secular** in its values.

patriarchy

Joan felt the **patriarchy** of the community to be hopelessly out of date.

submission

The squire bowed his head in **submission** to his lord.

insular

Although she doesn't see many people, she likes her **insular** lifestyle.



Values

Amish values and beliefs could be considered very conservative to some. Talk to your teacher about Amish attitudes on the following topics. What do you think?

family

women

technology

education



Patriarchy

Read the article about Amish patriarchy and fill in the gaps using the vocabulary below.

maintaining

marry

feminism

authority

rigid

The Amish follow a _____ family structure, with the primary role of women being housemakers. Gender roles are strictly defined – women are expected to _____ and have children and are unable to hold positions of _____ in the church.

Less than 5% of Amish women have a job outside their main responsibilities of cooking, cleaning and _____ the garden. Many Amish women don't seem to begrudge their status, finding value in their important role in the community. For students of _____ however, such antiquated gender roles are frustratingly out of date.





Patriarchy

It is clear Amish ideals might be confrontational and disagreeable to many groups of people in the 21st century. Their social and family structure is very rigid and leaves women with little in the way of rights or authority. Talk about how women might feel as members of this community.



insignificant

offended

frustrated

disempowered

subservient

silenced



Amish



All Amish custom descends from the Ordnung, a set of oral rules that defines the **conduct** of social life in the community. Details can differ between districts and have an emphasis on traditional agriculture and farming. Their interpretation of scripture leads them to believe that tilling the soil and working the fields brings them closer to God. The communities themselves are organised **collectively** – Amish families generally work together to support each other in labour and **toil**.



Amish

Amish people are selective about using technology – some communities permit the use of specific technology if they think it will bring social, spiritual or financial gain. Generally, Amish people shun the use of TV, radio or the internet in the home. In their view, this technology hinders an individual's connection to God, and is contradictory to good Christian practice. Amish communities also opt out of using cars, instead using horses and buggies for their transport requirements. In a similar way, most communities rely on horses rather than tractors for ploughing their fields.





Amish

For many people the Amish are considered a curious oddity. In many ways their lifestyle is admirable. They are hard-working, kind, and maintain a real connection with the living world. Despite some attitudes that may seem out of date in the 21st century, they continue to grow and **thrive**.





New words

conduct

Your **conduct** is not appropriate for the classroom!

collectively

Working **collectively** is a much more efficient use of our resources.

toil

A successful career is one part luck and nine parts **toil**.

to thrive

Your tomato plants will **thrive** in this climate.



Fill in the gaps

thrive

toil

conduct

collectively



mutual

community

values

humility

You were interested in what our community believes in?

We try to follow the example of Jesus, and base our _____ on the Bible.

Our lifestyle is agrarian – a humble life in the eyes of the Lord is based on _____ and working _____.

Working together is an important part of our ethos. We believe in supporting each other. A strong community based on mutual support is one that will _____.

Yes, could you tell me something about your system of _____?

What are some ways in which an Amish _____ might express their faith?

_____ and hard work. Families seem to cooperate with each other and lend _____ support in many ways.



Using your knowledge of the Amish belief system and lifestyle, write a list of pros and cons about joining the community. Is this something you would ever consider doing?

A collage of three images related to agriculture and rural life. The top left image shows hands in gloves holding soil and plant matter. The top right image shows a white paper airplane icon. The bottom image shows a traditional wooden house with a thatched roof and a wooden cart in the foreground.



Joining the Amish

You have decided to go and join an Amish community for a year in Pennsylvania, US. You haven't told your family yet – write a letter to them explaining why you are going and what you hope to learn about during your time there. Use some of the points you noted in the previous exercise.

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, containing several horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the box's height, leaving a small margin at the top and bottom. The box is intended for the student to write their letter to their family.



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!





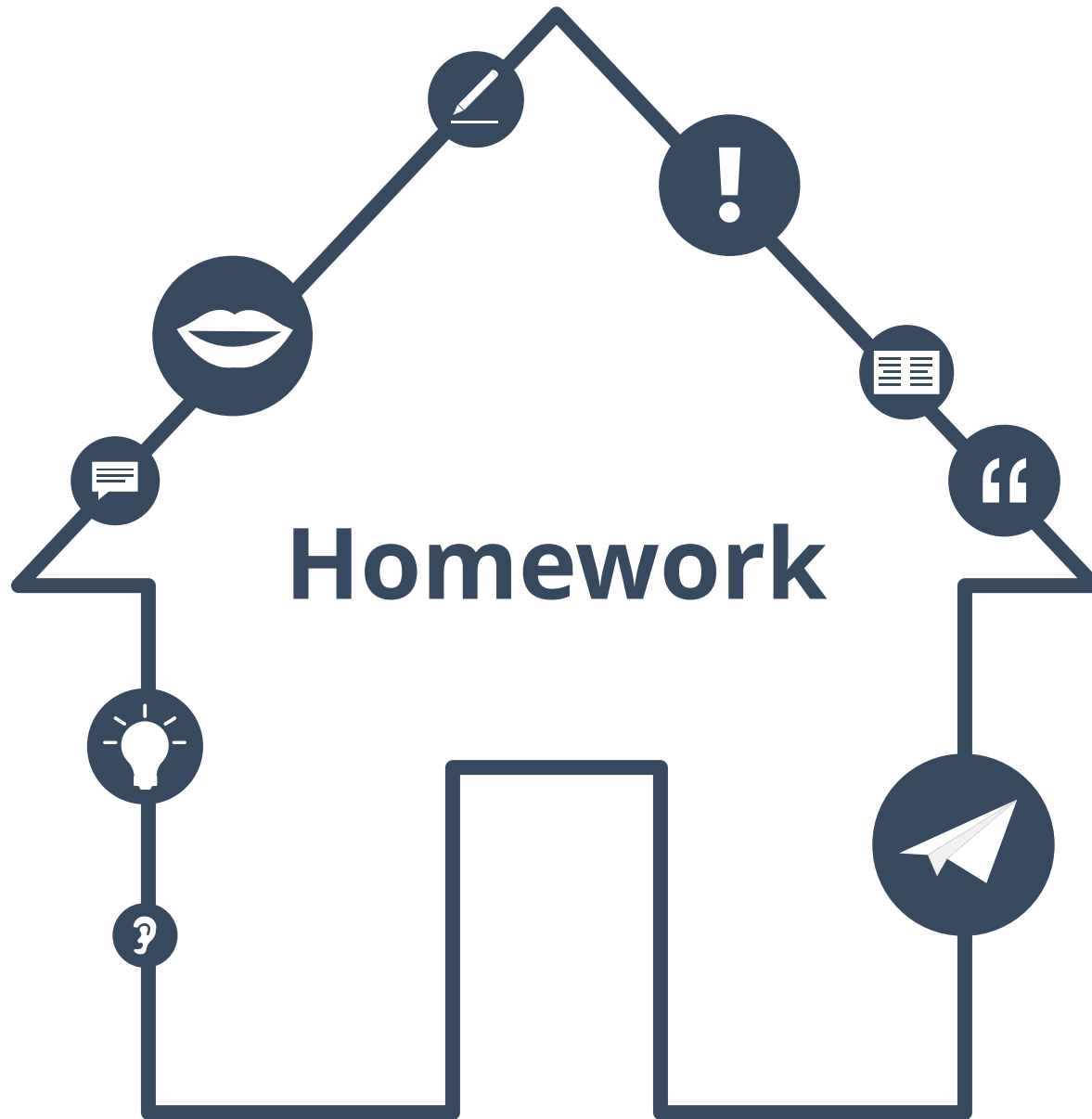
Answer key

Activity P. 25

1. values 2. conduct 3. community 4. toil 5. collectively 6. humility 7. mutual 8. thrive

Activity p. 19

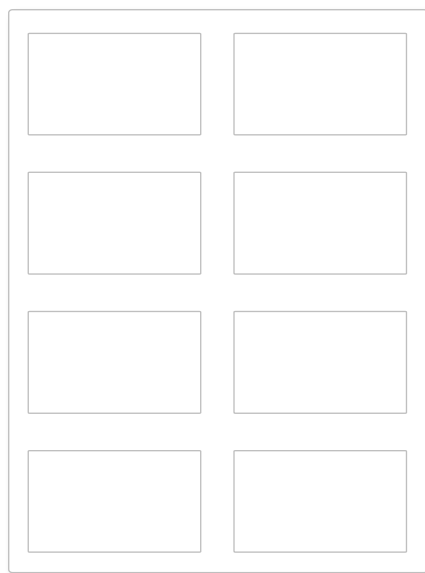
rigid, marry, authority, maintaining, feminism





Vocabulary flashcards

**Create flashcards of the new vocabulary in this lesson.
Be sure to include the definition on the reverse side.**





Respond to the paragraph

Medical studies have shown that rates of cancer in Amish communities are significantly lower than that of other communities.

Why might this be the case? Come up with 2-3 reasons and write a short response explaining why this might be so.





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