


Lucky for some...

- 1 I had been working in Afghanistan for a couple of months when, one day, I found my next-door neighbor painting his car license plate. He was calmly removing 39 from the end of it by changing the numbers from black to white. When I asked him whether it was illegal, he just told me it was alright "because the police understand." It seems that the number 39 is very unlucky in his country, and people feel ashamed to be associated with it.
- 2 In those circumstances, maybe it's not unreasonable to change your car license plate. This kind of thing happens all over the world. In the States many apartment blocks don't have a thirteenth floor because it's considered unlucky! It may seem foolish and superstitious, but it does make business sense. If people won't buy an apartment on the thirteenth floor, there's no reason to have one!
- 3 Strangely enough, in Italy, it's the number 17 that you need to be careful about! So there isn't a row of seats with that number on Alitalia planes, for example. Just like lucky rituals, it's hard to say where these superstitions come from. There are so many theories, it would be impossible for me to explain them all here!
- 4 In Asia, these superstitions are often related to language. In Japan, you're very unlikely to find a hotel room with the number 49 because those numbers together sound like the word for death. People don't want to think about such negative subjects while they're on vacation.
- 5 On the other hand, they love the number eight because its Japanese character shows two expanding lines. The idea is that they mean "prosperity." Across the sea in China, people also think of this number as the key to wealth and success. It's so popular that organizers decided to open the Beijing Olympics at 8 a.m. on August 8, 2008. Perhaps the number really is lucky because they were one of the best Olympics in history!

LISTENING (25 points)

- 1  T3 Listen to a radio news report. Which crimes does the presenter talk about? Number the crimes 1–5. There is one crime that you don't need. (5 points)

arson	<input type="checkbox"/>	murder	<input type="checkbox"/>
burglary	<input type="checkbox"/>	trespassing	<input type="checkbox"/>
illegal file sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>	vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/>
- 2 Listen again. Answer the questions. (20 points)
 - 0 What were the protestors trying to enter?
A nuclear power station.
 - 1 How old were the protestors?

 - 2 When were the protesters allowed to go home?

 - 3 What was damaged in New Town?

 - 4 What punishment can people now get for this kind of crime?

 - 5 How many warnings do people get before their Internet service is stopped?

 - 6 How many computers have already been disconnected?

 - 7 How much will the repairs at Good Hope High School cost?

 - 8 Who was responsible for starting the fire?

 - 9 What job did Bruce Twining use to do?

 - 10 What punishment did Roger Churchill receive?

WRITING (25 points)

- 1 Complete the words in the blog post. (5 points)

Home	Blog	Links	Photos	About	Contact
<p>When soccer fans get together at the stadium, they turn into a mob. Their behavior can become irresponsible, disrespectful and even violent; they often cause damage and disruption in the local area. In ⁽¹⁾a _____ n, they give the sport a bad reputation. Of ⁽²⁾c _____, I'm not saying that the people who go to soccer games behave like this every day. There's no ⁽³⁾q _____ that their actions change because they're part of a large group of people: psychologists have ⁽⁴⁾f _____ d that people behave differently when they're in a crowd. I couldn't ⁽⁵⁾a _____ more with people who say that punishments for this behavior should be tougher. In my opinion, "herd mentality" isn't an excuse.</p> <p>posted by CarlosV at 13:59</p>					

- 2 Write a blog post. Reply to the post in 1, giving your opinion. (20 points)

7.2, p. 52, Exs 2 & 3

- 1 **A:** Hello there, ma'am. How can I help you?
B: Please can you tell me when my visa will be ready? I've been waiting here for nearly three hours.
A: I'm very sorry, but I can't answer your question. You'll have to wait until one of the visa officials can see you.
B: I'm afraid that just isn't good enough. I need to know what's going on. If this isn't straightened out quickly, I'm going to have to make a formal complaint.
A: OK, wait here one moment, please. I'll try and find out what the problem is.
B: Thank you.
- 2 **C:** Oh no, I don't believe this!
D: What's happened? What's in that envelope?
C: They've sent my tax return form back... again! But I'm sure I filled everything out correctly. It took me hours to straighten out the problem the last time they returned it. I really don't have time for this! Why do they make these forms so complicated?
D: Look, don't worry, darling. It's probably just a simple mistake. Let's sit down and look at it together. If you get all the documents ready, I'll make us coffee. We'll figure it out.
C: OK, thanks Richard.
- 3 **E:** Good evening, sir. May I see your ticket, please?
F: Oh, of course. Here you are.
E: Thank you. And sorry, but would you mind turning your MP3 player off, please? This is the quiet car, so we ask passengers not to use cell phones or listen to music. There is a sign here.
F: Oh, OK. I'm sorry, I didn't realize. I didn't know what the sign meant.
E: That's no problem at all. If you'd prefer to listen to music, you could move to another car. It's up to you.
F: OK, thanks.
- 4 **G:** Excuse me, officer. What's going on here?
H: There is a gas leak inside number 24. It may be dangerous, so we're asking everyone to wait outside until the problem has been solved.
G: What? But my office is inside that building. I have an important meeting in an hour. I need to go inside and prepare!
H: I'm very sorry, but I'm going to have to ask you to wait here. Engineers from the gas company are dealing with the problem at the moment. I'm sure the work will be finished within the next hour.
G: Sure. And what am I supposed to do until then? Honestly, this is just ridiculous...

8.2, p. 58, Exs 1 & 2

- 1 **A:** Have you seen Mary? We're supposed to be having a meeting about the Jaycott trial.
B: No, sorry. By the way, have you heard that she's leaving?
A: Really, when?
B: Next week apparently... Mm, that reminds me, she borrowed some money from me last week. I should get it back before she goes.
A: Good luck with that! She's so forgetful.
B: Huh, yeah. Incidentally, if you do see her, can you remind her that we're going out for dinner this evening?
- 2 **C:** Guess what? I'm going to be in court next week. I'm on a jury.
D: Oh really? That should be interesting.
C: Yes, I think so. It's a fairly long trial though. I had to take two weeks off work.
D: Talking about trials, did you see the report about vandalism on the news last night?
C: No, what happened?
- 3 **E:** OK, I've finished my report on the burglary at the school, so I'm heading out now.
F: OK, have a good evening. Before I forget, can you come in a little early tomorrow? We have a lot to cover.
E: All right. I'll try to be here by 8. Changing the subject, have you heard if there's a date for the arson court case?
F: Not yet. I'll let you know as soon as I hear anything.
E: Thanks, that would be great. OK, I should go. I don't want to miss my train. See you tomorrow.
F: Bye!

8.3, p. 58, Ex 1

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention, please? Due to vandalism on the railway line, trains will not be running from Baltimore to New York this morning. Passengers for the 9:35 service to New York should wait in the station parking lot for the replacement bus service. The buses will depart at about 10:15 and should arrive in New York at about 12:00. Trains from Baltimore to Trenton are not affected. Please see signs in the station for more information. We're very sorry for this change in our services, but the problem was only discovered this morning by the local police. We hope that all services will be back to normal by late afternoon.

9.2, p. 64, Ex 1

- 1 **A:** I'm sorry sir, but I can't let you into the swimming pool without a swimming cap.

- B:** What do you mean?
A: It's a rule. You have to wear a cap in the swimming pool.
B: I don't believe this! I've just walked for thirty minutes to get here, and now I can't get in!
A: We do sell them, sir. You can buy one in the store.
B: All right. And how much do they cost?
A: Only \$1.
B: Fine. I'll do that then.
- 2 **C:** Hello?
D: Hello, am I speaking to Mariam ... Ahmadi?
C: Yes, who is this, please?
D: Do you have Internet access at home, Ms. Ahmadi?
C: Look, I'm...
D: If you are interested in changing your Internet service provider, we can offer you a special price for the first six months.
C: I'm very sorry, but I'm not interested...
D: We can install WiFi throughout your home within 24 hours of signing your contract.
C: Sorry, but I don't want to change my Internet service! This is the third call I've had today.
D: Our offer is extremely competitive and if you would...
C: I'm sorry. I'm not interested in all these deals. Good-bye.
- 3 **E:** What's up, Sam?
F: I just checked my lottery numbers online. I use the same ones every week...
E: Oh right. Did you win anything this time?
F: No such luck. I would have won \$50, but... I didn't buy a ticket!
E: Oh no! Why not?
F: I went to the store yesterday to buy a good luck card for my little sister. She's taking her university entrance exams next week. I was going to buy a lottery ticket at the same time, but I completely forgot.
E: Poor you!
- 4 **G:** Hey Joe, what's wrong?
H: Someone stole my skateboard.
G: Oh no!
H: The thing that makes me really angry is that it was another skateboarder who took it. I left it in the street to answer the phone. It was a place where lots of us go skateboarding. It wasn't at school or at the sports center or somewhere like that. It's so annoying!
G: Was it worth a lot of money?
H: Yeah, it was very valuable. I won it in a competition at the skate store.
G: Oh, poor you. That's so unlucky.
H: Yeah, and now I'll have to get a job so I can save up for a new one.



T3, p. 67, Exs 1 & 2

Good evening, and welcome to *Police Report* where we keep you up to date with crime in the local area.

First of all, we have the arrest of four protestors who tried to enter the nuclear power station illegally on Sunday night. The protestors, all between 17 and 19 years old, argue that nuclear power is untrustworthy and dangerous. The police released them on Monday without further charges.

Residents of New Town have taken action against vandals in their area, following a series of criminal acts. Stores, bus stops and even apartment buildings have all been

damaged in the last month. A new law has been passed that allows the police to give anyone committing this type of crime an immediate fine of between 50 and 100 dollars. Next, a warning to anyone out there who downloads movies from the Internet. The government can now stop Internet access for anyone using pirate websites. Bear in mind that police will only give a single warning before stopping the Internet connection. Around 300 connections have already been closed. Police have now confirmed that no one was injured in yesterday's fire at Good Hope High School. However, the school believes that it will need to spend over \$10,000 to repair the

damage caused to its indoor tennis courts, where the fire was started. The principal said that she was "very disappointed" by the irresponsible behavior of the students who started the fire. Finally, a funny story to start the weekend. An unlucky thief named Roger Churchill chose the wrong house to rob last Tuesday night. While Churchill was stealing the DVD player and the TV, he was caught by the house's owner, Mr. Bruce Twining. Mr. Twining is an ex-professional boxer, and he held Churchill in the living room until the police arrived. Churchill has now been sentenced to eighteen months' community service. That's all for now from *Police Report*. Keep your eyes open and stay safe.



Worksheet

Elvis Presley	Cleopatra
Count Dracula	Princess Diana
Nelson Mandela	Elton John
Homer Simpson	Princess Leah (from Star Wars)
Barack Obama	Marilyn Monroe
John Lennon	Queen Elizabeth II
Sherlock Holmes	Tina Turner
Che Guevara	Mary Poppins
Vincent van Gogh	Juliet (from Romeo and Juliet)
Luciano Pavarotti	Paris Hilton
Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-Tung)	Madonna
Julius Caesar	Thor
James Bond	Jane Austen

Traffic congestion

Radio interview

You are going to hear a radio program in which a local councilman is interviewed about solutions to traffic congestion in his city.



1 Listen to the beginning of the interview. Complete the text with the words you hear.

All over the world there are people who find themselves 1 _____ in traffic, wishing their governments would do something to 2 _____ the situation. And right now, I know this feeling is something that a lot of you listening can relate to. We've been flooded with calls recently from people complaining about severe 3 _____ in the downtown area, especially at 4 _____ hour. People are saying there has been a dramatic increase in journey times during recent weeks due to road closures and construction work. Different schemes and policies are used by governments to help deal with traffic 5 _____ and today I'm joined by Councilman Mike Richardson, who's going to talk about the 6 _____ in our city. And it's not good news is it councilman?

2 Listen to the whole interview. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 The delays on the roads will continue in the long term. TRUE/FALSE
- 2 In Guangzhou, China, 'park and ride' schemes have been introduced. TRUE/FALSE
- 3 In a 'park and ride' scheme, commuters drive around the city center, park their car at a station and take public transport to the suburbs. TRUE/FALSE
- 4 Buses are full at the moment. TRUE/FALSE
- 5 The councilman thinks more public transport would help. TRUE/FALSE
- 6 Some roads are going to have two more lanes. TRUE/FALSE
- 7 The councilman wants people to share cars. TRUE/FALSE
- 8 The councilman wants barriers similar to Istanbul's Metrobus system. TRUE/FALSE

3 Complete the adjective+noun collocations with the words in the box.

capacity	criticism	delays	increase	traffic
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- 1 severe _____
- 2 dramatic _____
- 3 heavy _____
- 4 increased _____
- 5 strong _____

Gesture-based technology: the next big thing?

Experts predict that gesture-based technology, which can be used to control any system at any distance from a few centimeters to half the length of a football pitch, is going to be the next major trend in personal technology worldwide. The basic principle is that gestures are used as the main input method, rather than a keyboard, mouse or switch. Orders can be given by touching a screen (either swiping or pressing) or by using physical movement of hands, arms, fingers, the head or even the eyes. The emphasis is on a direct interaction between the self and the device or system, with little or nothing in-between.

Recently we have seen the application of gestures in automation technology in factories, where it is enabling people to control systems without actually touching them. With a mere movement a worker can command the computer to start machinery, and by holding up his hand in a "stop" gesture, halt the machines. Since the gestures could be the same all over the world, no matter what language you speak, this universal body language could reduce the need for companies to write programs in different languages. It would also reduce training costs by eliminating the need for keyboard and language training.

It should also prove useful in areas like hospitals, where it is vital to reduce contamination and the spreading of disease through touching objects. In education too, it is proving itself to be of utmost importance to children with special educational needs as each device can be programed depending on the needs of each individual child. Eye-gaze gestures, for example, offer new opportunities for students with virtually no independent movement.

What about people like you and me, will we be using gesture-based technology too? Well, it could make our lives easier at home as well as at work. If you don't know where the remote control for your music docking station is, you'll be able to use gestures to find it. Or you'll be able to use

gestures to control your music, thus doing away completely with the need for a remote control! You won't have to get your mobile device dirty while you're reading a recipe on it in the kitchen, as a simple wave of the hand will scroll up, down or take you to a different page. Of course, as well as the practical implications, you might just find this new technology enjoyable to use, using it for example to play a virtual tennis match with a friend on the other side of the world.

Wearable technology with tiny displays, like Google Glass and Apple iWatch, can also be controlled by gesture-based technology, which is good news for those of us with fingers the size of sausages. Connect these to the 'Internet of things' and with a wink of the eye you will be controlling your central heating at home while you are at work and feeding your cat when you are away on vacation.



1 Read the article quickly and choose the correct answer. What is the article about?

- A a mobile phone you can use as a remote control
- B a technology you can use to control devices
- C a type of tablet you can use to control the temperature around you

2 Match the words to the definitions.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 gesture-based technology | A portable computing systems, such as a mobile phone, smartphone or tablet |
| 2 automation technology | B computer programs that let you use movement to control machines and devices |
| 3 remote control | C accessories, such as watches and glasses, that use advanced electronic technologies |
| 4 mobile devices | D an object used to control a machine or device from a distance |
| 5 wearable technology | E electronic operating systems used to control machines without manual operation |
| 6 Internet of things | F devices that are connected and can be controlled through the worldwide web |

3 Which five advantages of using gesture-based technology are mentioned in the article?

- A You can use it to control devices and machines without touching them.
- B It provides a fun way to learn.
- C If you work in an environment where you have to keep everything clean, it will help you to do that.
- D It can eliminate language barriers in some workplaces.
- E It can help you to locate things you need, like remote controls, when you don't know where they are.
- F It enables you to read something on your mobile device even if you're not in the same room as the device.
- G You won't be dependent on using the small screen on your wearable device when you want to control what it does.

Music on our doorstep

Radio broadcast

You are going to listen to a news story about a live music event that's been taking place recently in New York.

1 Listen to the first minute of the interview and number the topics in the order you hear them.

- ☐ when the event happened ☐ the popularity of the event
☐ the performers' names ☐ the location of the event

2 Listen to the entire interview and choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 The event is
 - A in the street.
 - B a Frank Sinatra concert.
 - C going to start on Friday.
- 2 The event started
 - A when some neighbors got together to help another neighbor in their building.
 - B because a neighbor asked another neighbor for help.
 - C when a neighbor asked another neighbor to dance with her.
- 3 Nick works
 - A as a DJ in a jazz club.
 - B as a musician playing an instrument.
 - C as a singer.
- 4 The event is unusual because
 - A it is popular with everyone.
 - B it mixes tap dance and jazz with rap music.
 - C the organisers managed to get a music licence.
- 5 One of the reasons for the event's success is
 - A the police like Frank Sinatra.
 - B the singer builds a relationship with his audience.
 - C New York residents are happy with any kind of music.
- 6 Nick and Laraine are different from normal buskers because
 - A they ask for money.
 - B they don't perform in touristy places.
 - C they ask people to sit down to listen.
- 7 If you come next Friday,
 - A it's possible that you will see them perform.
 - B you will have to buy tickets.
 - C you won't be disappointed.



3 Match the words and phrases from the audio (1–8) to their definitions (A–H).

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1 neighborly | _____ |
| 2 jam-packed | _____ |
| 3 traffic congestion | _____ |
| 4 exclusion | _____ |
| 5 quality of life | _____ |
| 6 touristy | _____ |
| 7 social cohesion | _____ |
| 8 a sense of belonging | _____ |
-
- A a situation in which people come together in groups
 B a situation where a person does not feel, or cannot be, included in a group
 C a situation where there are so many cars on the road that they move very slowly
 D a place designed for visitors or full of visitors
 E being friendly and helpful to people who live near you
 F a feeling of happiness because you feel that you are part of a group of people
 G the level of happiness you feel from your home, work, friends, good health, etc.
 H very crowded or full

Vacations with a difference

Rest, relax, refresh, renew

Need to take a break from the traditional types of vacation? Want to do something different for a change? With our fantastic range of VACATIONS WITH A DIFFERENCE, you can choose something other than a one-or-two-week sand, sun and sea vacation. Explore our extensive selection of vacations. After all, they are **precious** times to rest, relax, refresh, and create new memories.

Pencil and Paintbrush

Art courses for all levels of experience, from beginner to advanced. Choose from courses in acrylics, oil, watercolor, pastels or charcoal. Staying on the **stunning** French island of Corsica, off the coast of Italy, we explore beaches, mountains and valleys, taking time to breathe in the beautiful landscapes and to be inspired to explore our artistic journey. These breaks draw people from all over the world, with recent visitors from countries like Brazil, Australia and Europe enjoying the small towns and villages that Corsica has to offer. They are the perfect place to relax over dinner and a glass of locally produced wine or Corsica Cola!

Travel, accommodation and all meals provided. We supply all art materials – but feel free to bring along your favorite tools, if you wish.

A Change of Pace

Try one of our cycling vacations for a welcome change of pace. You can go so much further and see so much more from a saddle... We sort out your itinerary, organize your accommodation, transport your luggage, provide all food and drink, and we even supply your bike, helmet and all the cycling paraphernalia you need. You can choose from locations all over Central and South America – but if you fancy a trip closer to home, we also offer cycling vacations across the UK and Europe, too. You can choose the level of difficulty you like – from gentler trips along flat, quiet roads to **hardcore** challenges along mountain and off-track trails.

All you need to do is to organize your flights – and we'll even give you guidance with that, too.

On the Farm

Try a vacation with a difference on a real working farm! Get up early to help the farmer milk the cows, feed the chickens, collect eggs from the hen-house and bacon from the larder... all ready for breakfast! While on our farm vacations, you will see **lovely** British countryside, tucked away in the middle of nowhere. Perfect places for switching off from hectic day-to-day life. With plenty of walks to enjoy, fishing, kayaking, canoeing or rowing on the river, a little horse-riding... you can slow down, take in the views and replenish your energies.

Accommodation and all meals provided. We also offer weekend and mid-week breaks at certain times of the year, depending on availability. Please ask.

Salsa Colombia!

What better place to learn salsa than in the 'world capital of salsa' – Cali, in Colombia! Salsa is in the soul of Cali's two million people, and the dance floors of the city never sleep – they are packed until the early hours... and beyond! Immerse yourself in the salsa beat, and learn the moves with our two-week Salsa Colombia! **package**. We've picked the best of the city's 200 salsa schools, and this studio is where you will be taught by seasoned teachers, accustomed to teaching novices as well as more experienced dancers.

Accommodation is provided in the romantic old town quarter of San Antonio, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Brunch and dinner are included. Arrange your own flights, and we'll pick you up and drop you off at the airport. No hassle, no worries... simply Salsa Colombia!



1 Read the website quickly. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 This company provides a wide range of vacations. TRUE/FALSE
- 2 'Vacations with a difference' are sand, sun, and sea breaks of one or two weeks. TRUE/FALSE
- 3 All vacations provided by this company are in the UK. TRUE/FALSE

2 Read the website again. Choose the correct options to complete the summary.

'Vacations with a difference' are aimed at people who **1** *want to get a suntan / want to do something different / want to relax by the sea*. This company provides a range of different breaks, involving a variety of activities. For the 'Pencil and Paintbrush' vacations, it is **2** *useful / unnecessary / essential* to have artistic experience in advance. These breaks take place in **3** *Brazil / Italy / France*, and they allow people to paint, draw and relax. Customers **4** *must / cannot / may* bring their own art materials. This company also provides cycling vacations of different levels of difficulty. For these, customers need to **5** *bring their own equipment / book their own flights / get a visa for Central or South America*, but everything else is provided. Another vacation option allows customers to take a relaxed rural break from fast-paced urban lives. These breaks are called **6** *A Change of Pace / On the Farm / Salsa Colombia!* and they involve a variety of peaceful activities in the countryside. With this option, customers **7** *can / must / might be able* to stay for only a few days during the week. The final break described on the page is for people who love to **8** *eat / dance / sleep*. It takes place in Cali, Colombia, where there are 200 salsa schools, **9** *all of which / some of which / one of which* customers will attend during their stay. Dancers of any skill level are welcome and they will be taught by **10** *experienced / famous / novice* teachers.

3 Find the words in bold in the text and choose the best definitions for them.

- 1 precious
A very valuable
B very expensive
- 2 stunning
A shocking
B very attractive
- 3 hardcore
A gentle
B extreme
- 4 lovely
A friendly
B beautiful
- 5 package
A a set of things bought together
B a box containing a gift



American Big Picture is a highly visual, easy-to-use, six-level course for adult and young adult learners of English, offering 90 to 120 hours of core classroom material, complemented by a wealth of digital and print resources.

Real-life, relevant, international contexts combine with striking images to engage students, while the carefully graded activities give them the opportunities and support they need to express themselves with confidence.

- Thought-provoking images and texts work together in every lesson to introduce the topics and stimulate discussion
- A systematic vocabulary building strand encourages students to use new words and phrases in real-life contexts
- Grammar sections focus on authentic, useful language and high-frequency expressions, and are topic and context driven
- The Functional Language pages allow students to practice the target language in everyday situations
- The final Writing or Speaking Task in each unit requires students to apply the language they have learned in a practical, fun context