

UNIT 1

Making the right choice



Warm-up

Directions: You will listen to someone talking about the possible problems we might encounter in making decisions. After listening, complete the exercises in "What did you hear?" and "How would you respond?"

1 What did you hear?

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to what you have heard.

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- 1) (T/F) We may make poor decisions even if we remain calm and think logically.
 - 2) (T/F) Widely acknowledged smart and intelligent people will not make poor decisions.
 - 3) (T/F) Studying and observing before making a choice will avoid making errors.
 - 4) (T/F) Poor generalisations may often lead to a biased way of thinking.
 - 5) (T/F) If we are careful and precise enough, we will not make a wrong choice.

2 How would you respond?

Answer the following questions as a practice of choice-making.

- 1) Will you get a job or pursue further study after graduating from college?
- 2) Will you start your own business or work as an employee after graduation?
- 3) Will you live with your parents or live on your own after graduation?





Listening

Understanding a passage

Directions: Listen to a passage and choose the best answer from the four choices provided for each question.

The following questions are based on what you have just heard.

- 1 A) They all have the same hobbies.
B) They all love outdoor activities.
C) They all love playing football.
D) They all enjoy rough sports.

- 2 A) They spent time inside the house.
B) They went for walks after dinner.
C) They joined a swimming program.
D) They had a vacation to escape the heat.

- 3 A) They will work on a farm on their way to Washington.
B) They will enjoy the beauty in the Rocky Mountains.
C) They will have the chance to meet their friends.
D) They will drive to and back from Washington.

- 4 A) They can have free apple sauce and apple juice as much as possible.
B) They can enjoy an outdoor dinner with the owners of the farm.
C) They can watch musicians perform their music while working.
D) They can appreciate a magical kingdom at the apple farm.

Understanding a lecture

Directions: Listen to a lecture and choose the best answer from the four choices provided for each question.

The following questions are based on what you have just heard.

1

- A) She is a researcher.
- B) She is a teacher.
- C) She is a doctor.
- D) She is a coach.

2

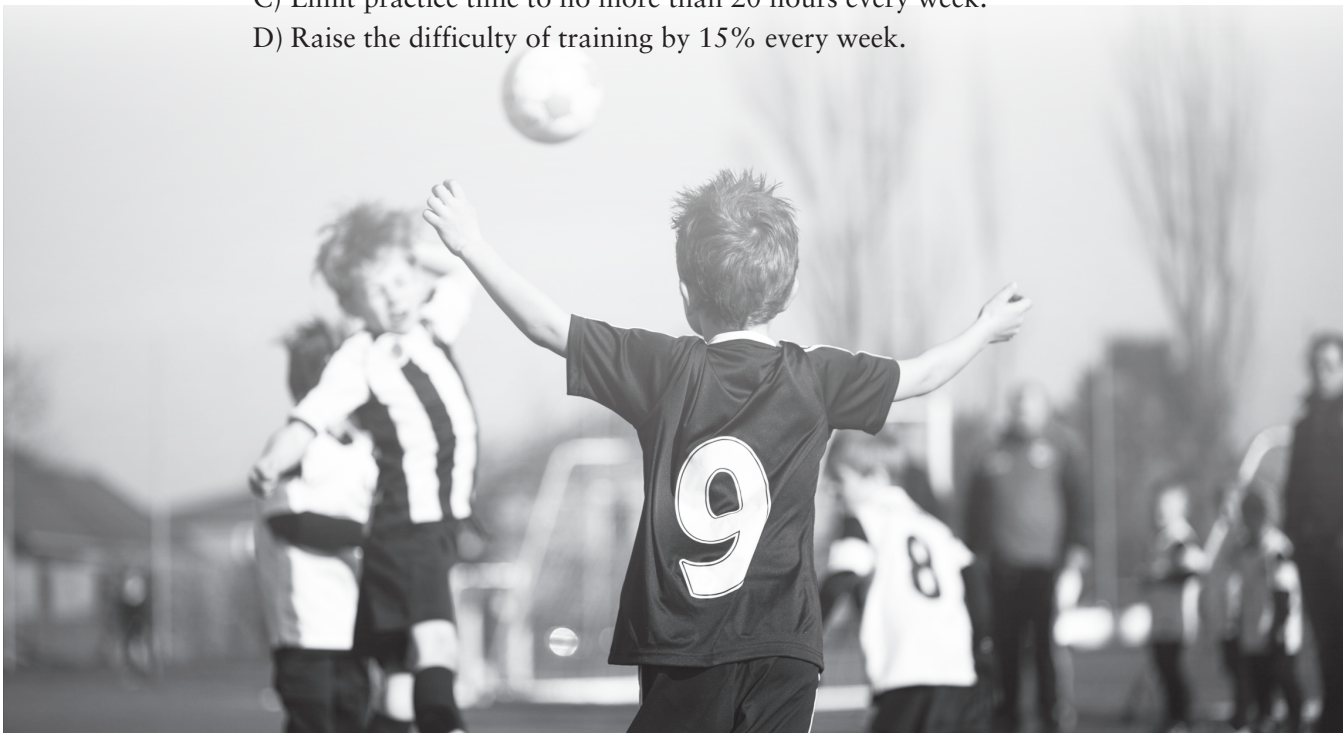
- A) Young children prefer casual sports to team sports.
- B) Young children look like 40- and 50-year-olds.
- C) Young children could be permanently hurt in sports.
- D) Young children are now practising dangerous sports.

3

- A) Because they do not feel much pain caused by injuries.
- B) Because they do not want to lose their spot on the team.
- C) Because they do not get any warnings from their doctors.
- D) Because they do not realise the seriousness of these injuries.

4

- A) Take three to four days off regularly from practice every week.
- B) Practise different sports to balance the stresses on their bodies.
- C) Limit practice time to no more than 20 hours every week.
- D) Raise the difficulty of training by 15% every week.



Speaking

Practicing conversational skills

Useful expressions: Giving personal opinions

In my opinion/view, ...

To my mind, ...

As for me, ...

As far as I am concerned, ...

From my point of view, ...

Speaking personally, ...

I hold the view/opinion that ...

It seems to me that ...

I am of the opinion that ...

I feel that ...

My own feeling on the subject is that ...

My view/opinion/belief/impression/conviction is that ...

I have no doubt that ...

I am sure/certain that ...

I think/consider/find/feel/believe/suppose/presume/assume that ...

I dare say that ...

I guess that ...

I bet that ...

Model dialogues

Dialogue 1

- A: The city government is going to build a big supermarket near the park.
B: That's a great idea. It's convenient to go shopping there.
A: You think so? I think it's terrible.
B: Terrible? Why?
A: Because part of the park will be used for parking cars.
B: I see your point. But it seems to me that a supermarket is more important than a park.
A: You could be right, but I still hope we can keep that beautiful and quiet park unchanged.
B: But I'm afraid we can't have everything.

Dialogue 2

- A: Nowadays, more and more people choose to live and work abroad. What do you think of this?
B: From my point of view, it might be beneficial for their personal development, but it will definitely bring a lot of problems to both countries.
A: Hmm, could you elaborate on the problems?
B: Sure. I have no doubt that so many immigrants will bring a series of social problems to the country they move into, such as housing, education and employment.
A: Yes, you're right. Then how about their home country? Any problem?
B: Absolutely. In my opinion, the brain drain is one of the many problems for the home country.
A: Brain drain? Could you explain that?
B: Brain drain refers to a situation in which many educated or professional people leave for better pay or living conditions.
A: I see. It seems to be a great loss of resources for the home country.

Now, it's your turn!

Situational dialogue 1

“ You and your classmate are talking about the school rule of cutting off electricity at 11 p.m. in the dorms. You start with complaining that electricity was cut off while you were searching for your glasses on the floor last night, and your classmate agrees with you that electricity should not be cut off at night. ”

Situational dialogue 2

“ You and your classmate are talking about soaring housing prices. You start by saying that the housing price in your hometown has increased by 10% recently, and your classmate expresses concern that in a couple of years no one will be able to buy their own house. ”

Listening and speaking: Passage

Task 1 Listen to a passage. Answer the following questions according to what you have heard.

- 1) Why was Jackie so nervous?
- 2) How did she feel after playing with her two cats?
- 3) What types of pets are beneficial to human beings?
- 4) How should pet owners treat their pets?



Task 2 Listen to the passage again. Fill in the blanks with the information you have heard.

- 1) Many scientific studies have shown that
 - A) owning a loving pet definitely helps _____ from human life;
 - B) pets bring many other _____ to their owners as well;
 - C) owning a pet is one of the _____ that you can improve your health.

- 2) A large part of pets' value is that they are very loyal friends.
 - A) Pets are always there to _____.
 - B) Pets listen to you _____.
 - C) Pets are treated as family because they make their owners _____.

Speak out!

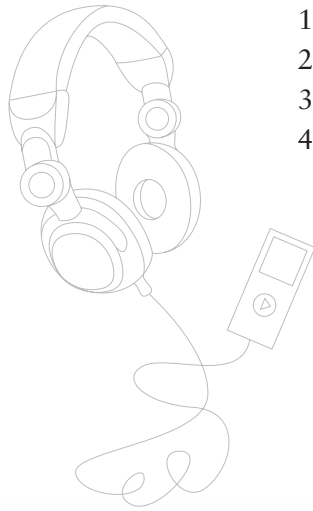
“ Retell the passage you have just heard by making use of the information in the listening exercises. ”



Listening and speaking: Lecture

Task 1 Listen to a lecture. Answer the following questions according to what you have heard.

- 1) What does the speaker study?
- 2) What is the speaker going to talk about today?
- 3) What have studies proven about eight-month-old babies?
- 4) What do scientists know so far about how music uses the brain?



Task 2 Listen to the lecture again. Fill in the blanks with the information you have heard.

- 1) Music has been very important to people for as long as humans have been around.
 - A) Scientists have discovered very old _____ made of animal bones which go back thousands and thousands of years.
 - B) Some researchers think that early humans might have made music even before they started to use _____.
 - C) _____ on earth has made some type of music.
 - D) Only _____ make music.

- 2) Music has the power to affect the body.
 - A) Listening to fast, happy songs can make a person's heart and breathing _____.
 - B) Slow, relaxing music _____ the heart rate and breathing speed.
 - C) The right kind of music can even reduce _____.

- 3) Music is very tied into memory.
 - A) One study in China found that kids who took lessons on musical instruments outperformed kids who didn't play instruments on certain _____.
 - B) What seems to happen is that a piece of familiar music ties together with the _____ inside your head.

Speak out!

Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

1. What is your favorite song? Why do you like it?
2. Do you listen to music while studying? Do you think it will distract your attention from study?
3. Do you listen to music before going to sleep? If you do, what kind of music do you listen to?

UNIT REPORT

College is a great place for students to meet long-term friends. Please prepare a three-minute speech on the essential traits you look for in a friend.



Homework

Section A: Understanding conversations

Directions: Now you will hear a conversation. At the end of the conversation, you will hear four questions. After you hear a question, choose the best answer from the four choices.

The following questions are based on what you have just heard.

- 1 A) It has too few movie channels for his bill.
B) It charges extra money for extra service.
C) It shows a lot of movies per month.
D) It offers good and stable service.
- 2 A) To add popular movies to his movie channels.
B) To offer upgrades to his television service.
C) To lower the cost of his television service.
D) To do a survey about television service.
- 3 A) She is an engineer.
B) She is a movie star.
C) She is a saleswoman.
D) She is a quality inspector.
- 4 A) Free phone service.
B) Faster Internet speed.
C) One more television channel.
D) Two additional movie tickets.

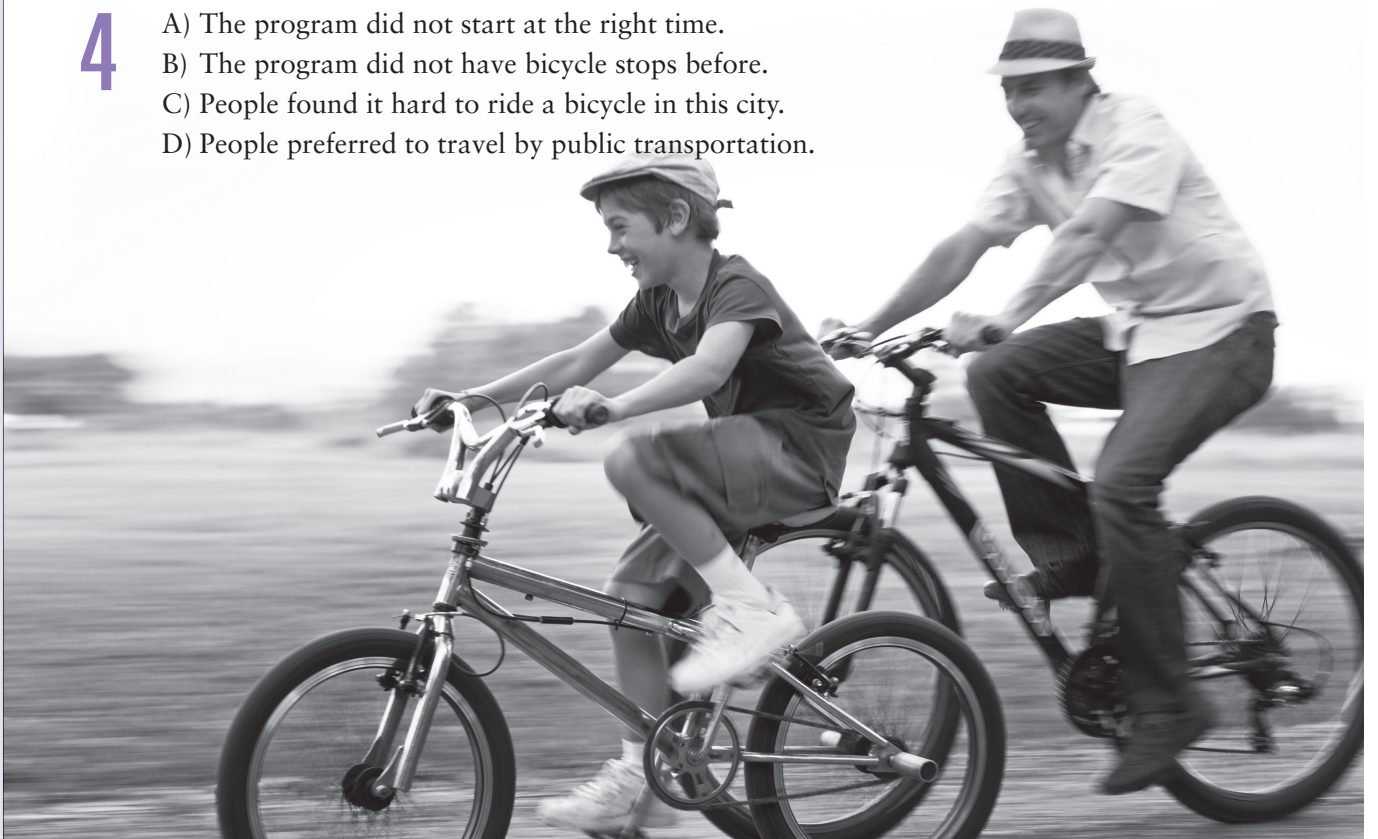


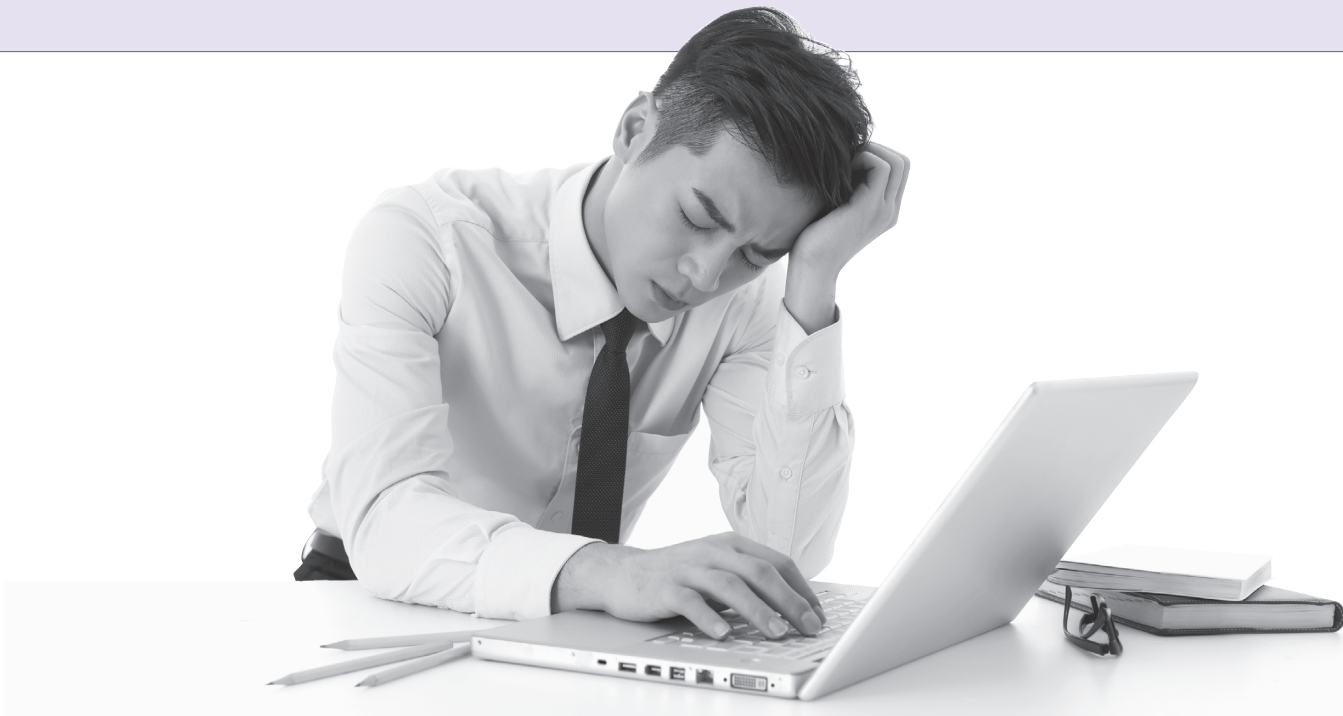
Section B: Understanding passages

Directions: Now you will hear a passage. At the end of the passage, you will hear some questions. After you hear a question, choose the best answer from the four choices.

The following questions are based on what you have just heard.

- 1 A) Hot summer in New York City.
B) City planning in New York City.
C) Transportation in New York City.
D) The huge population of New York City.
- 2 A) To set up bicycle stops in different neighborhoods.
B) To help people reach areas unconnected by buses.
C) To help relieve rush-hour crowdedness on buses.
D) To help reduce the number of cars on the road.
- 3 A) People had to return the bicycle to the place they took it from.
B) Bicycle stops were set up near different subway stations.
C) The bicycles were available for anyone to use for free.
D) People could only ride the bicycle for short distances.
- 4 A) The program did not start at the right time.
B) The program did not have bicycle stops before.
C) People found it hard to ride a bicycle in this city.
D) People preferred to travel by public transportation.





Section C: Understanding lectures or speeches

Directions: Now you will hear a lecture or a speech. At the end of the lecture or speech, you will hear some questions. After you hear a question, choose the best answer from the four choices.

The following questions are based on what you have just heard.

- 1
 - A) She has had serious headaches throughout her life.
 - B) She believes that not all of headaches can be treated.
 - C) She has been dealing with headaches since childhood.
 - D) She has successfully treated many cases of headaches.

- 2
 - A) To analyze the causes of headaches.
 - B) To introduce ways to get rid of headaches.
 - C) To convince people that headaches can be fixed.
 - D) To explain how medicine can help get rid of headaches.

- 3
 - A) Take medicine.
 - B) Try to fall asleep.
 - C) Perform relaxing exercises.
 - D) Try to relieve pressure on the head.

- 4
 - A) It can help you forget your headache.
 - B) It can help keep stress levels down.
 - C) It can make you fall asleep easily.
 - D) It can make your headache worse.