

Textbook Beginning ESL Reading and Writing for Adults

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Beginning ESL Reading and Writing for Adults

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2025

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INTRODUCTION TO THE TEACHER

This is a low-level introductory reading and writing skills text for adults. The intended audience are new learners who may be quite competent in their native language (and other languages), but they are starting fresh with the English language. It is assumed in this text that they are quite literate in their L1.

The purpose of this text is to prepare the students for low-intermediate and intermediate reading and writing in an academic or professional context.

Student Outcome Objectives

By the end of a course utilizing this free and open text, the learners will be able to

Reading

1. Read a paragraph text in English with limited vocabulary and sentence structure aloud as well as silently.
2. Use context clues to guess the probable meaning of new vocabulary.
3. Practice and improve the pre-reading, fast (skim) reading, and analysis of the organization of a text.
4. Recognize 500 high frequency word on sight.
5. Identify selected parts of speech, such as nouns, adjectives, verbs, articles, and prepositions.
6. Identify examples of a main idea.
7. Identify the topic of a short text.

Writing

1. Write correct SVO sentences about
 1. Themselves and their families
 2. Their daily activities
 3. A place
 4. A chronological event
2. Organize sentences in a logical order, starting with a topic sentence.
3. Use capital letters, periods, and question marks in their produced texts.
4. Spell 500 high frequency words correctly.
5. Classify utterances as complete sentences or fragments.
6. Determine the simple present, simple past, and present perfect tense of a verb.
7. Write a well-organized paragraph beginning with a topic sentence.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDENT

Welcome to this class and this book. The book has 8 chapters. They start out easy, but they get more difficult rapidly. In addition to the book, your teacher will give you homework, and there may be tests and quizzes.

What you need for every class

1. You will learn a lot of vocabulary in this book. You should have a small notebook or a file on your tablet or computer where you write down all the new words. You should practice the new words after class every day.
2. You don't need a separate book for writing, but many students like that better. If you like that, make sure you put your name on the writing book, so your teacher doesn't mix it up with another student's book.
3. You also need a pen or pencil every day.

Using a dictionary

In the beginning, you will probably use a dictionary that translates words from English to your native language. That's understandable. However, the sooner you start using an English - English dictionary, the better. There are many free dictionaries online. Here are a few:

Oxford dictionary: <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>

Cambridge dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/learner-english/>

Longman's dictionary: <https://www.ldoceonline.com/>

Merriam-Webster dictionary: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Britannica dictionary: <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary>

Read something in English every day!

It doesn't matter very much what you read as long as you read something. A good way to start is to go to your local library. Tell the librarian that you are studying English, and that you would like some simple books for adults. The librarians will guide you. You can also read children's books. If you have children at home, try to read something for them every day. The kids love it, and they may even help you with pronunciation!

I hope you have a wonderful time in this class.

Jia Frydenberg

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Chapter 1: All about me

_____	_____	_____
My mother		My father
	_____	(_____)
	Me!	(My husband or wife)
_____	_____	_____
Our child	Our child	Our child

Who else is in your family?

Aunts / uncles: _____

Pets: _____

Friends: _____

Reading text # 1

All about Jia

My name is Jia Frydenberg. I am 73 years old. I was born in Norway, which is a country in Europe. My native language is Norwegian. I am a teacher. I am also an artist. I love to make things out of glass. I do my glass work in my studio in the garage. I was married, but now I am divorced. I had one son, Bryan. He died when he was 28 years old. I have no grandchildren. I have one brother. He is married to my sister-in-law. They have one son. My parents are both dead now. I loved them very much. All my aunts and uncles have passed away. I have two dogs, Charlie and Ernest. I have many friends. Many of my friends are my neighbors. I love to teach English because my students are wonderful.

Your turn! Write a paragraph about yourself!

Writing exercise # 1

VOCABULARY ABOUT FAMILY

Nouns

Man	men
Woman	women
Husband	husbands
Wife	wives
Child	children
Son	sons

Daughter	daughters
Grandchild	grandchildren
Brother	brothers
Sister	sisters
Aunt	aunts
Uncle	uncles
Friend	friends
Neighbor	neighbors

VERBS

Infinitive

To be born	"I was born in _____ (place) or _____ (time)"
To be	"I am, you are, he is, she is, we are, you are, they are"
To love	"I love, I loved"
To enjoy	"I enjoy, I enjoyed"
To have	"I have, she has, I had, they had"
To pass away = to die	

ADJECTIVES

Happy

Sad

Wonderful

PREPOSITIONS

In	"I was born in Norway, which is a country in Europe."
To	"He is married to my sister-in-law."
Of	"I love to make things out of glass."

ARTICLES

A	"I am a teacher."
An	"I have an uncle. He is my mother's brother."
The	"I do my glass work in my studio in the garage."

PRONOUNS

Possessive pronouns

My	My brother
Your	Your friend
Her	Her husband
His	His job
Our	Our family
Your	Your neighbors
Their	Their names are Charlie and Ernest

Writing exercise # 2

Using articles

Articles are always difficult for students, especially if your native language doesn't use them. Here is the main rule:

You use articles mostly to show the difference between something specific ("the chair") and something not specific ("a chair"). The first one ("the chair") means a very specific chair, but "a chair" means any chair.

This exercise is just using "a / an" or "the." There is a third possibility: no article at all. We will look at that later.

NOTE: You use "a" in front of a word that begins with a consonant, such as "t" or "m." You use "an" in front of a word that begins with a vowel, such as "e" or "a." Look at Appendix A for a list of the consonants and vowels in English, both in writing and in speaking.

INSTRUCTIONS

Write in “a / an” or “the” in the spaces below. Think to yourself: “Is this specific or not specific?”

Daniela’s Day

Daniela Arias is _____ woman. Her husband’s name is Marcos. Daniela and Marcos have 3 children. _____ names of their children are Javier, Belen, and Diego. Every day, Daniela gets _____ children ready for school. She always makes _____ nice breakfast for her children and Marcos. _____ breakfast is often eggs and toast. After Marcos takes _____ children to school, Daniela takes _____ shower. She likes to have _____ shower water very hot! Then she brushes her teeth and gets ready for work. Daniela works in _____ office. She is _____ architect. Daniela enjoys her work. _____ work is always changing. After work, Daniela picks up _____ children at school or at soccer practice. Then she drives them home to _____ apartment in Tustin.

Writing exercise # 3

Nouns in singular and plural

Look back to the list of nouns on page 5. Nouns in English are mostly regular, but a few of them have an irregular plural. A regular plural ends in “s” or “es.” An irregular plural is different from the singular.

Write the nouns from page 5 into the two categories *regular* and *irregular*. I have done the first one for you.

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Regular plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Irregular plural</i>
_____ <i>husband</i> _____	_____ <i>husbands</i> _____	_____ <i>wife</i> _____	_____ <i>wives</i> _____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Now fill in the blank lines with the plural of the noun in parentheses.

Agatha has two (husband) _____! No, not at the same time. Her second husband, Wille, was married before, so he also has two (wife) _____. Now he is only married to Agatha. They have four (child) _____ together, two (daughter) _____ and two (son) _____. Their oldest daughter has twin babies. They are Agatha and Willie's first (grandchild) _____. Agatha and Willie love being grandparents.

Chapter 2: What I do every day

VOCABULARY for Chapter 2

Infinitives of verbs

To wake up

To get out of bed

To brush my teeth

To take a shower

To wash your hair

To get dressed

To make breakfast / coffee / tea

To talk with my family / friends

To read / watch the news

To go to work

To take the bus

To drive the car (if there is only one)

To chat with my colleagues

To go to lunch

To make a phone call

To send a text / email

To look for a job

To go home

To greet your family

To take the dog for a walk

To read a magazine

To watch TV

To go to bed



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The simple present tense of verbs

We say, “I go” and “you go,” but we say, “she goes” and he “goes.” The words “I,” “you,” “he” and “she” are pronouns. We call these pronouns first, second, and third person, like this:

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
1 st person	I	we
2 nd person	you	you
3 rd person	he / she / it	they

There are two main kinds of verbs: regular verbs and irregular verbs. Here are the regular verbs from the list above in the 3rd person singular. I have used both “he” and “she” as the pronouns.

1. She wakes up
2. She gets out of bed
3. She brushes her teeth
4. She takes a shower
5. She washes her hair
6. He gets dressed
7. He makes breakfast / coffee / tea
8. He talks with his family / friends
9. He reads / watches the news
10. He goes to work
11. She takes the bus
12. She drives the car (if there is only one)
13. She chats with my colleagues
14. She goes to lunch
15. She makes a phone call
16. He sends a text / email
17. He looks for a job
18. He goes home
19. He greets his family
20. He takes the dog for a walk
21. She reads a magazine
22. She watches TV
23. She goes to bed

Irregular verbs

Some verbs have a different form in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person. The most common are the two verbs “to be” and “to do”

Infinitive: “to be”

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	I am	We are
2 nd person	You are	You are
3 rd person	He / she / it is	They are

Infinitive: “to have”

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	I do	We do
2 nd person	You do	You do
3 rd person	He / she / it does	They do

Writing exercise # 3

Describe what you do every day. Write at least 5 sentences. Each sentence should have a verb in simple present tense. Choose a verb from the list on pages 10 and page 11.

Writing exercise # 4

Capital letters and periods

Look again at your writing above. Now we will do an exercise on editing. The infinitive “to edit” means to check your writing and change anything that you need or want to change. In English, all new sentences begin with a capital letter. That means a big letter. For example, the word “House” begins with a capital letter. In addition, all English sentences end with a punctuation mark. The most common punctuation mark is a period, like this “.” Other punctuation marks are question marks (“?”) and commas (“,”).

Edit your writing above by writing it again. Make sure every sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a period.

Reading text # 2

Jiehong's busy day

Li Jiehong always has a busy day on Mondays. His first name is Jiehong, not Li. In China, it is usual to put the family name first and the given name after that. Jiehong was born in Nanjing in China. He lives in New York City now. On Mondays, Jiehong gets up very early. His work begins at 10 o'clock on Mondays, but Jiehong doesn't stay in bed late. Instead, he sets his alarm clock for 5am. When he wakes up, he takes a quick shower, and then he gets dressed in sweatpants and a hoodie. He takes the subway to Central Park. In Central Park, Jiehong joins a large group of people to do Tai Chi for an hour. In his Tai Chi practice, he does simple and slow movements at exactly the same time as all the other people do them. Tai Chi is a kind of meditation for this group. After he has cleared his mind through Tai Chi, Jiehong walks to a language school where he studies English in the morning. After class, he has to hurry to get to work, but luckily it isn't far away. Jiehong is an engineer. He works hard in his office all day. After work, Jiehong takes the subway to a different part of town to pick up his children from school. His children's favorite food is pizza, so on Mondays they stop and buy a large pizza on their way home. After the family eats, the adults watch TV for a few hours while the kids do their homework. Then they have a nice chat together in the living room. They drink tea and eat some cookies. After the children go to bed, Jiehong works a bit more on some projects for his office. Finally, he can also go to bed. It has been a tiring day for Jiehong.

Reading Comprehension

Answer these questions:

1. What is Li Jiehong's first name? _____
2. Was Jiehong born in New York City? _____
3. What is the first thing Jiehong does after he wakes up? _____
4. Where does Jiehong do Tai Chi? _____

5. How does Jiehong get to his children's school? _____
6. Do the children like pizza? _____
7. What do they like to drink in the evening? _____

Paragraph Organization

Look at the first sentence in the paragraph about Jiehong. Copy that sentence here:

The first sentence of a paragraph is called a **topic sentence**. A topic sentence is a sentence that tells the reader what is coming in the paragraph. After the topic sentence, you write several examples. Below are five examples of what Jiehong does on his busy day. *One of them is wrong!* Cross out the example that is not in the text.

1. Jiehong takes the subway to Central Park.
2. Mr. Li works as an engineer.
3. He only has one child.
4. His family likes pizza.
5. They live in New York City.

Writing exercise # 5

Go back to the reading about Li Jiehong. Take out a pen or pencil and underline every verb in the text. You should find at least 20! Write them here. I have done the first 2 for you.

1. _____ has _____
2. _____ is _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____

17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

Grammar: The subject of a verb (Group or pair work.)

With your list of verbs, look back to the text about Li Jiehong. Now circle the subject of each of those verbs. The subject is the person that does the action.

For example, the first sentence is:

Li Jiehong always has a busy day on Mondays.

The verb in that sentence is “has.” That verb is the simple present tense of the infinitive “to have.” Who has a busy day? Li Jiehong. You should circle **Li Jiehong** as the subject of that sentence.

English Grammar Rule # 1

English writing must have a subject for every verb. Except in questions, the subject is placed before the verb. We say that English is an S+V language.

Definition of a sentence in English:

1. It must have a subject and a verb. That verb must have a tense, such as present or past.
2. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a period (or a question mark, if it is a question).

Grammar exercise # 1A

Below you will see 10 statements in English. Only 6 of them are sentences. Which ones are not complete sentences? Remember that a sentence in English must have a subject and a verb with a tense. Sentences start with a capital letter and end with a period. Cross out the four statements that are not complete sentences.

1. New York City is an exciting and fast-paced place.
2. Central Park lovely.
3. Jiehong sets his alarm clock for 5am.
4. The people in the park love Tai Chi.
5. he can walk to the language school
6. Jiehong always hurries to get to work.
7. The children to love pizza.
8. The husband and wife watched TV in the evening.
9. They want to get a good night's sleep.
10. Always sleeps really well.

Grammar exercise # 1B

There are many ways to fix grammar mistakes like the four wrong sentences above. Work with a partner to suggest a way to fix them.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Chapter 3: Shopping and houses / rooms

Imagine that you won 1 million dollars. You're rich! Let's go shopping.

Reading exercise: Predicting content

Below are the titles of 5 texts. They may be short paragraphs, or they may be long books or articles in a magazine. Try to guess what they will be about.

Title # 1: *Alice Wins the Best Dressed Award at the Oscars*

I think it's probably about: _____

Title # 2: *Plane Comfort*

I think it's probably about: _____

Title # 3: *The New York Yankees*

I think it's probably about: _____

Title # 4: *My Love / Hate Relationship with Cooking*

I think it's probably about: _____

Title # 5: *The Worst Car in the World*

I think it's probably about: _____

VOCABULARY: Clothes

Where on your body do you wear these clothes?

Socks _____

Shoes _____

Pants _____

Shorts _____

Underwear (bra, panties, boxers) _____

Dress _____

Shirt / Blouse: _____

Skirt _____

T-shirt: _____

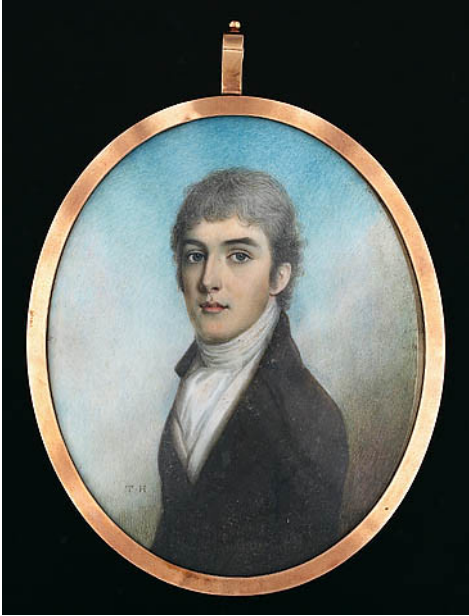
Sweater: _____

Jacket: _____

Tie: _____

Scarf: _____

Hat / Cap: _____



What is this elegant young man wearing?

Do you think he is going to a rap concert? _____

Why or why not? _____

Unidentified young man.

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Pre-reading activity

Before you read the text below, look at the title. What do you think this text will be about?

Reading text # 3

Afsaneh packs for a long trip

Tomorrow, Afsaneh is going to travel back to her native country. Afsaneh was born in Isfahan in Iran. Her parents and many aunts and uncles live there. She looks at her biggest suitcase, and she wonders if it is big enough. She takes all kinds of clothes from her closet and dresser. When she is in Isfahan, she will wear a long coat over her clothes outside. She knows there will be many family parties, and she wants to dress well. It is summer, and it will be hot. First she packs two pairs of pants. Nobody will see her pants under her coat! Then she finds shoes and sock to go with her pants. "I need a few dresses," she thinks. "If I wear long dresses, I won't have to wear pantyhose. They are so uncomfortable in hot weather!" She doesn't pack any sweaters. It will be too hot. Next, she packs her underwear. She also packs several scarves that she can wear over her hair. She will give presents to many relatives and friends, so she also packs clothes for men. Her father often wears a suit and a nice tie. For her mother, she is bringing perfume instead of clothes. Do you think she has forgotten anything?

Guessing the meaning of words from the context

What do you think a “closet” is? Afsaneh takes many kinds of clothes from her closet.

She also takes clothes from a dresser. She keeps her socks and underwear in the dresser. What do you think a “dresser” is?

Grammar Exercise # 2: Quotation marks

In the story about Afsaneh, you saw the following sentences in quotation marks:

“I need a few dresses.”

“If I wear long dresses, I won’t have to wear pantyhose. They are so uncomfortable in hot weather!”

You use quotation marks around words that are what a person thinks or says. We call that a direct quote. Add quotation marks to these quotes.

1. Dan said, I think I’ll buy a Gulfstream plane for my little brother.
2. Angie thinks, With my million dollars, I will build small houses for homeless people.
3. I want to go to a really expensive restaurant, said Timothy.

Writing exercise # 5A: Outline

Now it’s your turn to write. Think about what you will do with your 1 million dollars. Start your paragraph with a topic sentence. First, write an outline. To write an outline, you just write down a few words about what you want to write. Write them in order from the first to the last. For example, here is an outline of the text about Afsaneh’s trip:

1. Born in Isfahan
2. Many family members
3. Long coat
4. Pants
5. Shoes and socks
6. Dresses
7. No sweaters
8. Underwear
9. Scarves
10. Father: suit and tie

You can see that those are not sentences! There is no subject or verb. They are just a list to remind yourself about what you are going to write. Write your list of what you will do with your 1 million dollars on the next page. It is enough to write 5 or 6 things.

With my 1 million dollars, I will

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Writing exercise 5B: Paragraph writing

I'm sure you remember that a paragraph needs to start with a topic sentence. That sentence tells the reader what is coming in the paragraph. Here are a few examples of topic sentences that students have suggested:

1. I'm going to buy lots of things with my 1 million dollars.
2. I will fly to Milano for Fashion Week and spend it all! I will buy
3. I want to give all my money to my mom and dad. They need
4. With all this money, I am going to build houses for the homeless. I'm going to buy

Writing exercise 6: What I will do with my money

Title: _____

Grammar: Writing about the future in English

English doesn't have a future tense! You know that we have the simple present tense because we have studied that. We also have a simple past tense. We will get to that later in this book. In addition, we have two extra forms of the present and the past. But we don't have a future tense. Of course, we can write about the future. When we do, we need to use other verb forms.

Examples of writing about the future:

I **will travel** around the world.

This sentence uses the verb "will" plus the base form of the verb "to travel."

I **am going to build** a very big house by the ocean.

This sentence uses the phrase "to be going" plus the infinitive "to build."

He **leaves** on his flight to Dubai tomorrow.

This sentence uses the simple present tense of the verb "to leave" about the future.

Grammar exercise # 3: Write sentences about the future

Use "will" in the first 3 sentences and "going to" in the second three sentences. Use the verb in parentheses.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. (to have) | I _____ my own airplane. |
| 2. (to go) | I _____ to New York. |
| 3. (to drive) | I _____ a brand-new Lamborghini. |
| 4. (to live) | I _____ on the moon. |

5. (to be) I _____ famous.
 6. (to eat) I _____ at 4-star[1] restaurants.

Reading text # 4

My new house

I won 1 million dollars in the lottery, and I'm going to buy a big, new house. My new house will be next to a lake. There will be 5 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms in this house because I have a large family. My four children will have one bedroom each. My husband and I will have a large master suite with a bathroom only for us. The house will be two stories plus a basement where the kids can play. All the bedrooms will be on the second floor. Downstairs I will have a spacious living room with many sofas and tables. I will also have a separate dining room with a dining table and 12 chairs because I enjoy cooking and entertaining. The most important room in the house will be the enormous kitchen. It will be as big as my whole apartment now! In that kitchen I will have an island where I can prepare everything we want for lunch or dinner. I will even have a walk-in refrigerator, and I will have two ovens. Sometimes I will be baking bread in one oven and cooking a delicious lasagna in the other. I am going to love my new house.

Paragraph organization

Did you notice that the paragraph above starts a few spaces (5) in from the left margin? That is an optional way of writing a paragraph. It's called **indentation**. It's not required, but many people like to start their paragraph with an indentation.

Vocabulary (rooms and furniture in a house)

Front door

Windows

Hall / Entry

Living room

Dining room

Bedroom(s)

Bathroom(s)

Master suite

Kitchen

First / second floor

Curtains / drapes

Flooring (tiles, carpet / wood)

Study
Library
Basement
Sofa / Couch
Dining table
Walls / floor / ceiling
Fireplace
Laundry

Vocabulary (adjectives)

Big
Bright
Cheerful
Comfortable
Cozy
Delicious
Enormous
Friendly
Home-made
Large
Loud
Spacious
Tiny
Welcoming

Vocabulary (prepositions of place)

Under

Above

Underneath

On top of

Next to

Beside

In front of

Behind

On the right

On the left

Between

Writing exercise # 7

Describe your dream house. Use as many of the nouns, adjectives, and prepositions as possible!

My dream house

Chapter 4: Tell me a story



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Have you heard the story about the three little pigs? It's a children's story. Before we read it, let's make sure we understand the vocabulary.

"Once upon a time"

This is the traditional beginning of a fairy tale for kids.

A house made of straw

"straw" is dried grass

A house made of sticks

"sticks" are small branches

Bricks

Square building materials made of clay and sand

A wolf

A wild animal that eats other animals

Terrified

Very scared / frightened

Chimney

Where the smoke escapes above a fireplace

A story is often told in the past tense. We use the past tense of verbs about something that happened in the past. Most verbs are regular verbs. They have an “-ed” ending in the past. Here are the **regular** verbs in the story we will read:

_____ yesterday.

4. I usually enter my house through the garage.

Last week, I _____.

5. My aunt usually boils the potatoes for dinner.

My aunt _____ last night.

Irregular verbs

Unfortunately, many of our most common verbs are irregular. That means that they have special past tenses. Here is a list of the irregular verbs from the story we will read.

Infinitive	Simple present tense	Simple past tense
To be	I am / You are / He is	was / were
To be made	It is made	It was made
To blow	I blow / He blows	blew
To build	I build / She builds	built
To come	I come / She comes	came
To fall	I fall / He falls	fell
To feel	I feel / She feels	felt
To go	I go / He goes	went
To hide	I hide / She hides	hid
To keep trying	I keep / She keeps trying	kept trying
To put	I put / She puts	put
To run	I run / He runs	ran

To see	I see / She sees	saw
To sing	I sing / He sings	sang
To think	I think / She thinks	thought
To try	I try / He tries	tried

Grammar exercise # 4B: Simple present tense and simple past tense of irregular verbs

Use the verb in parenthesis in the simple past tense in these sentences.

1. (to be) He _____ really surprised when she called him.
2. (to be) They _____ very happy to see their family again.
3. (to go) Alice and her sister _____ to the movies yesterday.
4. (to come) My best friend _____ over last night for dinner.
5. (to think) Are you Ryan's brother? I _____ that was you!
6. (to see) I know she _____ me, but she didn't say hello.
7. (to try) I _____ to study last night, but the phone kept interrupting me.
8. (to fall) The boy _____ off the ladder and hurt his head.
9. (to run) We _____ all the way home.
10. (to sing) My mom and her sister _____ while they were doing the dishes.

The story: The three little pigs

Reading text # 5

The Three Little Pigs

Once upon a time there were three little pigs. One pig built a house of straw while the second pig built his house with sticks. They built their houses very quickly and then sang and danced all day because they were lazy. The third little pig worked hard all day and built his house with bricks.

A big bad wolf saw the two little pigs while they danced and played and thought, "What juicy tender meals they will make!" He chased the two pigs, and they ran and hid in their houses.

The big bad wolf went to the first house and huffed and puffed and blew the house down in minutes. The frightened little pig ran to the second pig's house that was made of sticks. The big bad wolf now came to this house and huffed and puffed and blew the house down in hardly any time.

Now, the two little pigs were terrified and ran to the third pig's house that was made of bricks. The big bad wolf tried to huff and puff and blow the house down, but he could not. He kept trying for hours but the house was very strong, and the little

pigs were safe inside. He tried to enter through the chimney, but the third little pig boiled a big pot of water and put it below the chimney. The wolf fell into it and died. The two little pigs now felt sorry for having been so lazy. They too built their houses with bricks and lived happily ever after.

Reading text analysis

1. How did the three pigs build their houses?

1. First pig: _____

2. Second pig: _____

3. Third pig: _____

2. What did the big bad wolf think when he saw that the two pigs danced and played? Write down the quote:

3. How did the third pig solve the problem of the wolf? _____

4. What do you think is the moral of this story? _____

Writing exercise # 8

There are stories like the one we read in every language. Do you remember any stories you heard as a child? Write the story here. Afterwards, we will read the stories aloud and correct the language. If you can't remember any stories, you can write a story about your life instead. The exercise is to use the past tense.

There are two kinds of questions in English. We call the first kind “Wh- questions.” That is because they start with a word that begins with the letters W + H.

Who ?

Which ?

Why ?

And

How (I know it doesn't start with Wh-, but we still call it a "Wh-" word)

Simple present tense Wh- questions:

1. What is your name?
2. When do you go to work?
3. Where do you live?
4. Who is your father?
5. Which teacher do you have?
6. Why are you at Saddleback College?
7. How do you like this place?

Look at examples 1, 4, and 6. What is the verb in those questions? _____

You're right. It is the verb "to be" in the simple present tense.

Now look at examples 2, 3, 5, and 7. What are the verbs in those questions?

Question 2: to go

Question 3: to live

Question 5: to have

Question 7: to like

Rules for making "Wh-" questions

Rule # 1: When we ask a question with the verb "to be," that verb comes right after the Wh- word.

Examples in simple present tense:

1. What **is** your job?
2. When **is** the test?
3. Where **are** my keys?
4. Who **are** your parents?
5. Which car **is** better?
6. Why **is** English so difficult?
7. How **are** you?

Let's make those questions simple past tense:

1. What **was** your job?
2. When **was** the test?
3. Where **were** my keys?
4. Who **were** your parents?
5. Which car **was** better?
6. Why **was** English so difficult?
7. How **were** you?

Rule for making "Wh-" questions with all other verbs:

Rule # 2: When the main verb is anything other than the verb "to be," you need to use the helping verb "to do" in addition to the main verb when asking a question.

Examples in simple present tense:

1. What does he like? (The main verb is "to like.")
2. When do you wake up? (The main verb is "to wake up.")
3. Where do they live? (The main verb is "to live.")

4. Who does she meet? (The main verb is "to meet.")
5. Which freeway do we take? (The main verb is "to take.")
6. Why do you say that? (The main verb is "to say.")
7. How do you pronounce that? (The main verb is "to pronounce.")

Let's make those main verbs simple past tense:

1. What did he like? (The main verb is "to like.")
2. When did you wake up? (The main verb is "to wake up.")
3. Where did they live? (The main verb is "to live.")
4. Who did she meet? (The main verb is "to meet.")
5. Which freeway did we take? (The main verb is "to take.")
6. Why did you say that? (The main verb is "to say.")
7. How did you pronounce that? (The main verb is "to pronounce.")

Grammar exercise # 5

Write a Wh- question to match the answer under the question. Use the Wh- word in parentheses. Use simple present tense.

Example

(What) What do you like? ?

Answer: I like working out.

1. (What) _____ ?

Answer: She likes swimming.

2. (When) _____ ?

Answer: He wakes up at 6 am.

3. (Where) _____ ?

Answer: He lives in Santa Ana.

4. (Who) _____ ?

Answer: I trust my mom and dad.

5. (Which color) _____ ?

Answer: She prefers blue.

6. (Why) _____ ?

Answer: She takes the bus because she doesn't have a car.

7. (How) _____ ?

Answer: They like to travel by plane.

Chapter 5: California History

Let's study the main vocabulary before we start our reading.

Vocabulary

Nickname	a name that people call you – not your real name
Tribe	a tribe is a group of native people
Peaceful / peacefully	calm and relaxed
Priest	a religious leader of the Catholic Church
Soldier	a person who wears the military uniform of his country
To establish	to start, to begin
The United States	please always write the name as the United States!
To become / became	to develop, to begin
An agreement / to agree	to agree is to have the same opinion
A sawmill	a business to cut planks from trees
Supplies	things you need to do your work
Farmers	people who grow food

Merchants	people who sell things
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	total value of all goods and services that we produce

Pre-reading activity #1

Before we read this longer text, let's practice a reading skill called *scanning*. To scan is to search with your eyes in a text for specific information. You don't really read the text. You just look for the information you need. That information might be a name, a number, or perhaps a quote. Here are 5 questions to scan for. Who is fastest?

1. How long have people lived in the land we know as California?
2. When did Spanish soldiers and priests arrive in San Diego?
3. Before California became a state in the United States, who owned this land?
4. When did the Gold Rush happen in California?
5. What is the GDP of California now?

Write down these 5 questions on a piece of paper. Then scan the text on the next page to search for the answers. Raise your hand when you think you have found the answers to all the 5 questions.

Pre-reading activity # 2: Predicting reading content

If the first sentence of a paragraph is a topic sentence, it tells the reader what that paragraph will be about. Look at the topic sentences again and decide what you think the paragraph will be about.

1. The first people to arrive in what is now California were Asian people who crossed the islands that connect Russia with Alaska and spread south across the whole continent.
 1. The paragraph is probably about islands. Why?
 2. The paragraph is probably about the first people in California. Why?
 3. The paragraph is probably about Alaska. Why?
2. California became the 31st state of the United States in 1850.
 1. The paragraph is probably about how California became a state. Why?
 2. The paragraph is probably about other states than California. Why?
 3. The paragraph is probably about California now.
3. In 1848, a worker who was building a sawmill for John Sutter near Sacramento found gold.

1. The paragraph is probably about sawmills. Why?
2. The paragraph is probably about who John Sutter was. Why?
3. The paragraph is probably about finding gold. Why?
4. California's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is now over 4 trillion dollars.
 1. The paragraph is probably about the economy of California. Why?
 2. The paragraph is probably about trillions of dollars. Why?
 3. The paragraph is probably about what a GDP is. Why?

Now go on to the next page to read the text.

Reading text # 6

California, a brief history

All states (and many cities) in the United States have a nickname. For example, Texas is called the Lone Star State because there is only one star in the Texas flag. New York City is called The Big Apple. California is called the Golden State. California has a short history as a state, but people have lived here for 20,000 years.

The first people to arrive in what is now California were Asian people who crossed the islands that connect Russia with Alaska and spread south across the whole continent. They developed into different tribes. We now call them Native Americans. They lived peacefully in small villages until a group of Spanish priests and soldiers arrived in San Diego in 1769. The Spanish priests wanted to establish the Catholic Church in the new land. That is the reason why we have 21 missions (churches) along the California coast. The best-known Spanish priest was Father Junipero Serra.

California became the 31st state of the United States in 1850. Until that time, there was no state of California. The land was a part of Mexico. In 1848, at the end of the Mexican American War, the two groups signed an agreement. In the agreement, Mexico had to give the land to the new country, the United States. The new state of California was quite small. It was under 100,000 people. But that was about to change.

In 1848, a worker who was building a sawmill for John Sutter near Sacramento found gold. That started the famous Gold Rush. People from all over the United States and many other countries rushed to California in search of gold. Some people found gold, but many people found nothing. The hopeful new immigrants needed food, housing, and supplies. That attracted farmers and merchants to bring them everything. By 1900, California counted 2 million people. Today, we have almost 40 million residents in California.

California's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is now over 4 trillion dollars. It is the largest economy of the United States and the 5th largest in the world after India, China, Germany, and Japan. People come to California from all over the world, some as tourists and some to stay and work. Is California still the Golden State? Only the future will tell.

Reading skill: verbs in topic sentences

Most (but not all) paragraphs in a longer text begin with a topic sentence. From that topic sentence, you can tell what the rest of the paragraph will be about. Below are the first sentences of each paragraph, but they are missing some words. Write the missing words on the empty lines.

1. The first people to arrive in what is now California _____ Asian people who crossed the islands that _____ Russia with Alaska and _____ south across the whole continent.

1. Do we say "was" or "were" on the first line? Why?
2. Do we say "connect" or "connects" on the second line? Why?
3. Do we say "spread" or "spreads" on the third line? Why?

2. California _____ the 31st state of the United States in 1850.

1. It is "become," "becomes," or "became?" Why?

3. In 1848, a worker who _____ building a sawmill for John Sutter near Sacramento _____ gold.

1. Do we say "was," or "were" on the first line? Why?
2. Do we say "find," "finds," or "found" on the second line? Why?

4. California's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) _____ now over 4 trillion dollars.

1. It is "is," "are," or "was" on the line? Why?

Writing exercise # 9: Country names

The names of all countries begin with a capital letter. Here are some examples:

Argentina

Botswana

Brazil

China

Colombia

Korea

Mexico

Norway

Russia
Turkey
Ukraine

A few country names are in plural. For example, “China” is really “The People’s Republic of China,” but we usually just say “China.”

Some country names are always in plural. Here are a few examples of countries which always have the article “the” in front of them:

- The Philippines
- The Netherlands
- The Bahamas
- The United Kingdom
- The United States

It’s wrong to write “united states” because a name is always capitalized. In addition, these country names MUST have the definite article in front of the name.

Write the missing word on the lines:

1. James came to _____ United States as a child.
2. His wife Annie was born in the _____ States.
3. The original 13 colonies became the first states in the new country the United _____ in 1776.
4. The _____ now has a population of over 350 million.

Grammar: There is and There are

We use the expressions “there is” and “there are” when we describe where something is located. In some languages, we can say “A park is next to my house.” That is not correct in English. In English, we need to say:

There is a park next to my house.

or

There are two banks near my house.

Write sentences with the words below starting with “there is” or “there are.”

1. (many chairs in this classroom)

2. (a sweet old lady next door)

3. (427 beaches in California)

4. (a library on our campus)

Writing exercise # 10: Write a short history of your native country

For this exercise, you may need to look up a few things. For example, you may not remember exactly when your country got its independence. You can use your phone or any computer to look up information. Make sure any information you copy from Google or from Wikipedia is just dates and names. Don't copy complete sentences! That is something called “plagiarism,” and it is not allowed in academic writing.

Give your paragraph a title. Write it on the line in the middle of this page. A title should be short. It is enough just to write the name of the country.

Writing exercise # 11: Peer editing

Did you remember to start each sentence with a capital letter? Did you end the sentences with a period? Now it is time to correct your paragraph. Exchange books with another student. Help each other make changes to spelling, verbs and nouns, and anything else you need to change to make it correct. Ask your teacher if you're not sure! After you have marked up your paragraph on the previous page, write it again below. That's an "A" paragraph!

Do you like oranges?

Yes, I like oranges.

Yes, I do.

Does he play soccer?

Yes, he plays soccer.

Yes, he does.

Did they study at Saddleback?

Yes, they studied at Saddleback.

No, they didn't study at Saddleback.

No, they didn't.

What's the rule for yes / no questions?

Grammar exercise # 6: What's the question?

Below you will see answers to a question on the right. On the left, you have a blank line. Write the question that could have that answer.

_____ ?

Yes, it's a lovely day.

_____ ?

No, I'm not from Korea.

_____ ?

Yes, I love movies?

_____ ?	No, he doesn't work in Irvine.
_____ ?	Yes, she is my sister.
_____ ?	No, I didn't see her.
_____ ?	Yes, I went to the grocery store.
_____ ?	No, I didn't do the homework.
_____ ?	Yes, I'm a student here.
_____ ?	No, I don't take the bus.

Now exchange your books with another student and correct your questions.

Chapter 6: Food and cooking

Do you remember your favorite food from when you were a child? We often call that “comfort food.” Our childhood food has a lot of memories for most of us. Sometimes, if we close our eyes, we can still smell the wonderful aroma of mother’s or grandmother’s cooking. What was your favorite food as a child?

Writing exercise # 12: Pre-writing

[illegible]

We need a lot of vocabulary when we write about food. Let's get together a list of some of the nouns we might need for our writing. If we don't know the English words, let's use a dictionary!

[illegible]

Vegetables	Fruit	Meat	Dairy	Baked goods	Condiments

Verbs

What do you do when you cook? I'm going to bake some cookies today, so I looked in a cookbook for a recipe. Here are some of the verbs in that recipe:

To *preheat* the oven _____

To *grease* a cookie sheet _____

To *mix* butter and sugar _____

To *whip* vanilla extract, egg, lemon zest, and lemon juice

To *scrape* the sides of the bowl _____

To *stir* in flour, salt, baking soda, and baking powder

To *pour* sugar on a large plate _____

To *roll* the dough in the sugar _____

To *bake* the dough for 10 minutes _____

To *cool* the cookies _____

Reading text # 7: Americans love sweets

Chocolate Chip Cookies

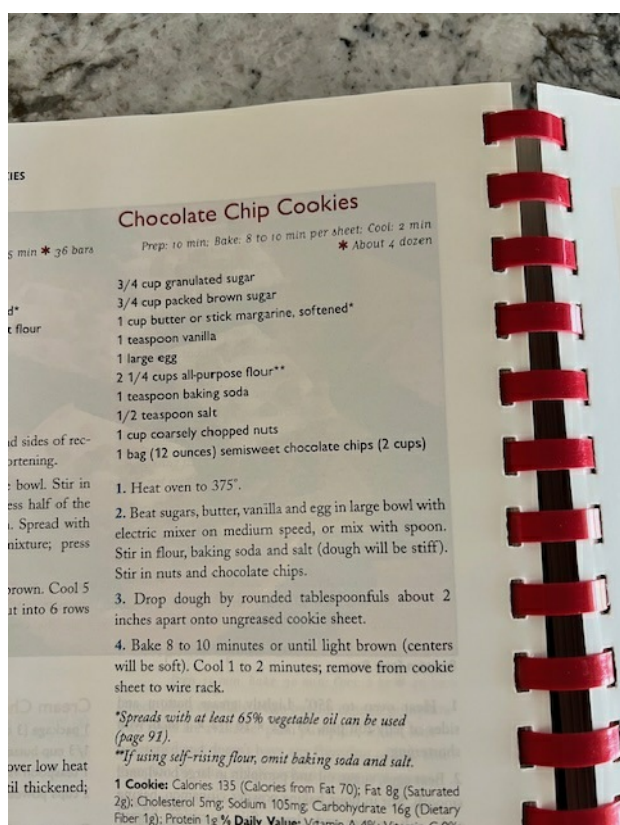
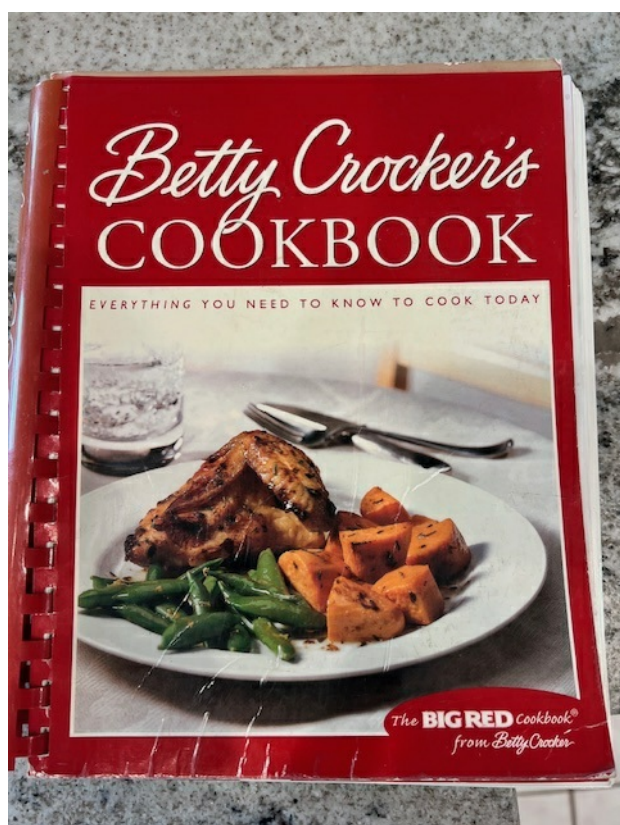
Americans love sweets. We eat a lot of sugar. We love cookies, cakes, and pies. The average American eats more than 120 grams of sugar every day. That is more than double the amount that doctors recommend. It's not surprising that we are often a bit well large. One of our favorite sweet treats is cookies. To make chocolate chip cookies, you only need a few ingredients, and the process is simple.

You will need sugar (many people mix white and brown sugar), butter, vanilla, egg, flour, salt, and chocolate chips. You also need a bowl for the cookie dough and a hand mixer or a wooden spoon. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. That's about 200 degrees Celsius. You can see the recipe on the next page.

First, let the butter soften to room temperature. You can also soften it in a microwave, but don't let it melt! It won't work if it is melted. Next, beat sugar, vanilla, and egg in a large bowl with an electric mixer or with a spoon. Stir in flour, baking soda, and salt. Now stir in the chocolate chips. Drop the dough by a soup spoon onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. Let the cookies cool a minute or two on the cookie sheet, and then move the cooled cookies to a wire rack.

If you have a dog, make sure the dog doesn't get to the cookies! Chocolate is poison to dogs. In fact, my doctor says sugar isn't very good for people, either. I don't eat a lot of cookies, but I enjoy bringing them to parties. They always seem to disappear.

On the next page, you will see a picture of a traditional American cookbook. It's called the Betty Crocker cookbook. There was really no one called "Betty Crocker." The company just invented her. Next to a picture of the cookbook, you will see a picture of the recipe in the reading. I took these pictures in my kitchen. Let's look at the amounts of the different ingredients!



The Betty Crocker cookbook

Recipe for chocolate chip cookies

Reading exercise: Analyzing words in context

Let's look at some of the words in Reading # 12.

1. Americans love sweets.
 1. The word "sweets" is a noun. If it is an adjective, we say "sweet things."
2. Average
 1. "average" is an adjective. The sentence says that "The average American eats" An adjective comes in front of the noun in English.
3. an amount
 1. "An amount" is a noun. It means "how much."
4. To recommend
 1. To recommend is to suggest or to advise
5. One of our favorite sweet treats IS
 1. Note that the expression "one of the" is followed by a plural noun, but the verb is singular. That is because the word "one" is the subject. Some examples of "one of the" are:
 1. One of the tallest **buildings** in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.
 2. One of the best **cars** in the world is a Lamborghini.
 3. One of the smallest **countries** in the world is Monaco.
6. Ingredients
 1. "ingredients" are the things you need to cook something
7. A process
 1. When you write about the steps you need to complete to do something, you are writing about a process.
8. Vanilla
 1. In this country, we usually use liquid vanilla. In other countries, we use vanilla sugar or vanilla bark (sticks).
9. Dough
 1. We call the mix of dry ingredients, like flour or sugar, with wet ingredients, like egg or milk, the dough.
10. A recipe
 1. A recipe is a list of ingredients plus the process of making something.
11. To soften and to melt
 1. When you soften butter or ice cream, you let it get soft to the touch. When you melt it, it becomes liquid.
12. To beat and to stir
 1. When you beat something, you use a fast movement. When you stir it, you move more slowly.
13. A wire rack
 1. A wire rack is raised up a bit from the kitchen counter so that air can come under the cookies.

Grammar: Countable and non-countable nouns

Most nouns can be counted. For example, you can say “one man” and “two men.” There are a few words in English that are never counted. We call them non-countable nouns. Here are some of the most common non-countable nouns:

<i>Liquids</i>	<i>Powder / Grains</i>	<i>Abstract ideas</i>	<i>Feelings</i>	<i>Weather</i>
Water	Bread	Fun	Anger	Rain
Milk	Pasta	Information	Happiness	Wind
Tea	Rice	Advice	Sadness	Temperature
Coffee	Sand	Motivation	Joy	Heat
Beer	Sugar	Education	Courage	Humidity

With all these nouns we always use a singular verb.

Grammar exercise # 7: Countable and non-countable nouns

Write the verb in parenthesis in the simple present or simple past tense in these sentences:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. (to be, present tense) | Pasta _____ traditional I our house. |
| 2. (to be, past tense) | The coffee _____ bitter, so I didn't drink it. |
| 3. (to be, present tense) | Information _____ necessary. |
| 4. (to fill, present tense) | Happiness _____ his heart when he looks at her. |
| 5. (to rise, present tense) | The temperature _____ in the summer. |
| 6. (to create, past tense) | Education _____ his way out of poverty. |
| 7. (to be, present tense) | Sadness _____ common among older people. |
| 8. (to grow, present tense) | Sugar _____ in many countries. |
| 9. (to be, past tense) | His advice _____ excellent. |
| 10. (to be, present tense) | Rain _____ unusual in California in the summer. |

Writing exercise # 13: Your favorite food and how to cook it

[illegible]

Now exchange books with a partner in class. Work together to correct the grammar and spelling of your writing. Then give the book to your teacher. Your teacher will type your paragraph to show on the classroom screen.

Chapter 7: Hobbies and Interests



Do you have a hobby? A hobby can be anything you enjoy doing in your spare time. Look at the pictures above. What do these people enjoy doing? What do you enjoy doing? Write down a few things you enjoy here. After the verb “enjoy,” we put “ing” on the following verb.

Example:

I enjoy **playing** with my grandchildren.

I enjoy **hiking** in the mountains.

What do you enjoy doing?

Grammar: Verbs that are followed by another verb + ing

Many verbs are followed by the “ing” form of another verb. Here are a few of them:

Avoid
Begin
Consider
Continue
Delay
Discuss
Dislike
Enjoy
Finish
Hate
Like
Love
Prefer
Recommend
Remember
Start
Stop
Suggest
Try

Let's look up the meaning of those verbs in the dictionary.

Grammar exercise # 8: Write sentences with 5 of the verbs

Choose 5 of the verbs. The "ing" form of a verb is called "gerund" in grammar books. Write five sentences about yourself using the five verbs + another verb in gerund.

Examples:

I hate **doing** dishes.

I continued **reading** the book, but it was difficult!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Reading text # 8: Playing guitar is my passion

My friend Alice is a champion at playing poker. My other friend William loves fixing old motorbikes. I am no good at card games, and I don't care about cars or motorcycles. Playing music is my passion.

I took piano lessons when I was a child. I'm afraid I hated it. My piano teacher was an old man, and nothing I ever did was good enough for him. Finally, my mom allowed me to stop taking piano lessons. In school, I tried singing in the choir. Sadly, I have no voice, so that didn't go so well, either. I enjoyed playing on the different sports teams, such as soccer and basketball, but in soccer they always made me the goalie, and I was too short for basketball. In high school, I finally found my real interest. We had a new music teacher, and he brought a guitar to class. I was fascinated by his music. I begged my mom and dad to buy me a guitar, and one Christmas my wish came true. A bright, shiny object was under the tree. It was shaped like a guitar. It was my first guitar!

I began listening to guitar music by watching YouTube videos of musicians I liked. Then I searched for the notes online. I didn't really know how to place my fingers on the strings, so I started looking for books on how to do that. My first book was for children, but I didn't care. Pretty soon, I could play simple songs on my guitar. Of course, my voice wasn't very good, but many of the artists on YouTube didn't have good voices, either. I continued practicing with my guitar until someone said I should enter the talent show at school! I was really nervous, but I did it. I won second prize. It was a very proud moment for me.

Then I discovered that girls really liked a guy who could play guitar. Yes, I was still short and I wore thick glasses, but they came around anyway. I even made a band with three of my friends plus a girl singer. We called ourselves "The misfits." We played at many shows in my town.

Later in life, I learned to play classical guitar. Now classical music is what I most enjoy playing. I considered getting a music education in college, but I settled for history instead. I wrote my big paper on the history of the guitar from the time Arabic people came to Spain in the year 711 until the present. I think I can say that playing the guitar truly is my passion.

Reading analysis, part 1

Find all the sentences in the text that uses Verb + Verb"ing." Copy them here. I have done the first one for you.

1. My other friend William **loves fixing** old motorbikes.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

Reading analysis, part 2

Look back to pages 52 and 53. This reading is longer than a paragraph. Let's look at how the reading is organized.

It begins with statements about someone called Alice and another person called William. The reading isn't about Alice or William. So why does the writer begin with this?

That paragraph is called an introductory paragraph. It's just an introduction to the main reading, which is about playing guitar.

Look again at the second paragraph. Which hobbies does the writer say he has tried before?

1. _____ piano lessons _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Look at the third paragraph. What were the steps the writer took to learn to play the guitar?

1. He watched YouTube videos.
2. He searched for the _____.
3. He looked for books about _____.
4. He entered a _____.

The fourth paragraph is short. What does the writer say about what he did after the talent show?

The fifth paragraph is also short. What does the author say in that paragraph about what he did in college?

Grammar: Cardinal and ordinal numbers

When you count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and so on, you use what we call **cardinal** numbers. When you put a noun after the number, we call those **ordinal** numbers. Let's write the ordinal numbers from 1 to 12.

Cardinal number ***Ordinal number***

Number 1	The first person
Number 2	The second person
Number 3	The third person
Number 4	The _____ person
Number 5	The _____ person
Number 6	The _____ person
Number 7	The _____ person
Number 8	The _____ person
Number 9	The _____ person
Number 10	The _____ person
Number 11	The _____ person
Number 12	The _____ person

Writing exercise # 15: Writing about a hobby

Pre-writing

It's time to plan your paragraph about a hobby you have. A paragraph should start with a topic sentence. It is followed by several examples. It should be 6 – 12 sentences long.

First, you outline your paragraph:

My favorite hobby is _____

I like this hobby because _____

Examples of how I do this hobby:

Sample outline:

My favorite hobby is _____ watching baseball _____

I like this hobby because _____ the game has a long history, it has sudden exciting plays,
and I can enjoy it with my friends _____

Examples of how I do this hobby:

_____ I go to Angel Stadium whenever the A's are in town _____

_____ I watch the New York Yankees on TV whenever they play _____

_____ I keep track of each pitcher, how many batters he strikes out, and of the number of runs the other team gets

Your turn! Write your paragraph here or in your notebook

Punctuation in English is probably different from in your native language. Before, I said that you put a period (.) after each sentence. That is still true, but now I am going to introduce a new type of sentence: a clause. What is a clause and why do I care?

Here is that sentence again:

Clause # 2: your sentences are getting longer.

How do I know that we have two clauses here? (Good question)

First, let's find the verbs in the sentence. They are:

are writing

are getting

[We call that tense present progressive, and we will get to it in the next chapter.]

Second, let's find the subjects of those two verbs:

You are writing

Your sentences are getting

Two verbs with a tense (present progressive) and two subjects **you** and **your sentences**)

That makes it two clauses. The definition of a clause is:

A subject + a Verb with a tense

So, you have two clauses inside one sentence. That's very normal.

Types of clauses

We have two kinds of clauses in English. The sentence above has one of each kind.

Clause # 1: Now that you are writing longer paragraphs in English (= subordinate clause)

Clause # 2: your sentences are getting longer. (= main clause)

Subordinate clauses begin with what we call a subordinate conjunction. Some of them are:

- After
- Although
- Because
- Before
- Now that
- Since
- While

The clause after a subordinate conjunction is called a subordinate clause. Here are some examples:

1. **After** we went to the baseball game, we had some pizza to celebrate.
2. **Although** I usually like pizza, I didn't like that one.
3. **Because** there were hot peppers on my pizza I didn't eat any.
4. **Before** we went home, we stopped to get me a hamburger.
5. **Now that** I have had dinner, I am a lot happier.
6. **Since** I only had a hamburger, I allowed myself two cookies for dessert.
7. **While** I was eating my cookies, my dog looked so hungry that I gave him a dog treat.

Comma rule # 1:

When the subordinate clause comes before the main clause, there is a comma after the subordinate clause and before the main clause.

Grammar exercise # 9: Put in the commas. One comma in each sentence.

After David talked to his father he decided to move to Australia.

Although the weather was awful Angie and her sister went to the beach.

Because it was such a lovely day all the birds were singing.

Before they moved into Mission Viejo the Wu's lived in Irvine.

Now that it is summer I will learn to surf.

Since he was a child José had always loved cooking.

Note: The conjunction “since” can also mean “from a time.”)

While they were swimming the children thought they saw a shark.

Chapter 8: My life, a history

Do you remember our first week? At that time, I asked you to write a short paragraph about yourself using only simple present tense. You know so much more now!

First, let’s look at the past tense verbs that you will read in the text below. That text is about a famous American writer, Mark Twain.

Verbs

Look at all these verbs! In the first week, you probably only knew a third of them. Now you know so many! Search your dictionary for those verbs in the list below that you are not quite sure of.

Infinitive

1. To allow
2. To attack
3. To be
4. To be born
5. To become
6. To begin
7. To choose
8. To come
9. To continue
10. To die
11. To fall in love
12. To get

Simple present tense

- He allows
- He attacks
- He is
- (no present tense)
- He becomes
- He begins
- He chooses
- He comes
- He continues
- He dies
- He falls in love
- He gets

Simple past tense

- He allowed
- He attacked
- He was
- He was born
- He became
- He began
- He chose
- He came
- He continued
- He died
- He fell in love
- He got

13. To go	He goes	He went
14. To have	He has	He had
15. To live	He lives	He lived
16. To marry	He marries	He married
17. To mean	He means	He meant
18. To measure	He measures	He measured
19. To meet	He meets	He met
20. To move	He moves	He moved
21. To own	He owns	He owned
22. To publish	He publishes	He published
23. To read	He reads	He read (note pronunciation!)
24. To return	He returns	He returned
25. To search	He searches	He searched
26. To show	He shows	He showed
27. To sign up	He signs up	He signed up
28. To spend	He spends	He spent
29. To start	He starts	He started
30. To state	He states	He stated
31. To stop	He stops	He stopped
32. To travel	He travels	He traveled
33. To want	He wants	He wanted
34. To work	He works	He worked
35. To write	He writes	He wrote

Pre-reading activity

1. Have you ever heard of Mark Twain? If you have, what do you know about him?
2. Count the paragraphs in this reading. How many are there? _____
3. This reading begins with when Sam Clements was born. It continues to his young life and then to his later life. We call that kind of organization "chronological." How do you think the reading ends?
4. Read the first sentence in each paragraph. Copy those sentences here:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
5. Do some scanning. Find the following dates. Read the sentence those dates are in. What happened in those years?
 1. 1835 _____
 2. 1861 _____
 3. 1870 _____
 4. 1884 _____
 5. 1910 _____

Now go on to read the text. You can use your dictionary or phone for anything you are not sure of. You can also ask your professor. Your professor is a walking dictionary!

Reading text # 9

Samuel Clemens

Samuel Clemens was born in the state of Missouri, in the USA, in 1835. Missouri was a young state. Missouri, which is in the mid-west, became a state in 1821. It was the 24th state at that time. The family lived in the town of Hannibal on the banks of the Mississippi river. Missouri was a slave state. Sam's father owned one slave. His uncle owned several slaves. Sam spent many summers on his uncle's farm with the slaves, listening to their stories and songs.

Sam's first job was at a local newspaper. His job was to arrange the stories in the newspaper, and he had the chance to read about the big world outside Hannibal in that newspaper. Sam later went to New York City where he worked on several newspapers and started writing newspaper articles. In 1857, he returned home to Hannibal and got a job as a riverboat captain on the mighty Mississippi river. In 1861, the American Civil War began. It was a war between those states who wanted to continue slavery and those states who did not allow slavery. All river traffic stopped on the Mississippi during the war. Sam started searching for a new career.

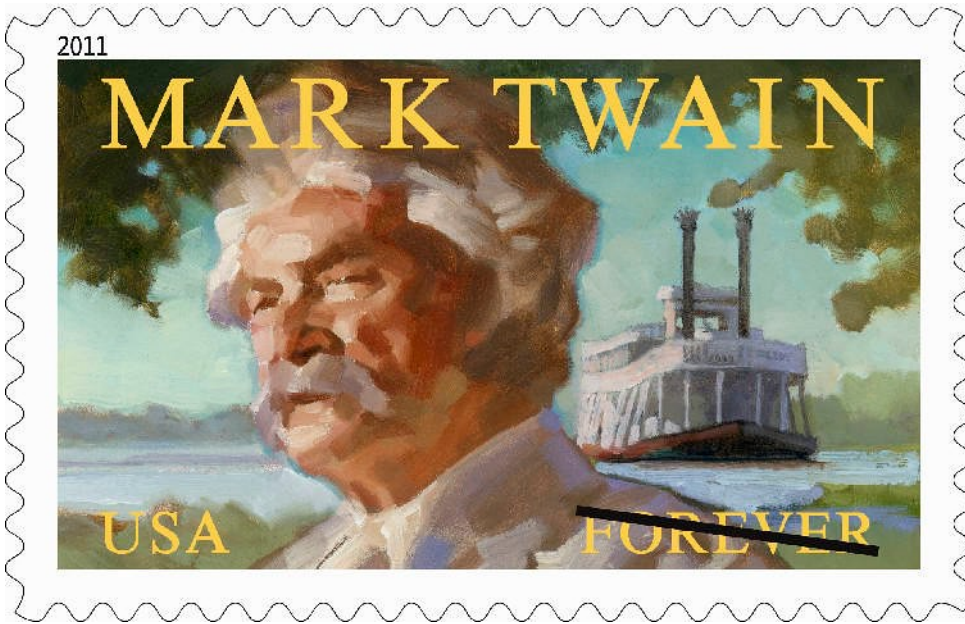
He went to what is now the state of Nevada. At that time, it wasn't a state yet. Sam traveled across the states between Missouri and Nevada in a wagon drawn by horses. This was the first time Sam met Native Americans. It was a very eventful time for the young man.

Sam began to write for a small newspaper in Nevada. This was the first time he used an invented name: Mark Twain, instead of his real name. Sam chose the name "Mark Twain" from his years as a riverboat captain. It came from the words the riverboat captains would call out when they measured how deep the water was. "Mark Twain" meant that there were 2 fathoms of water (about 12 feet). After Nevada, Sam traveled to San Francisco and finally to New York City again. In New York, Sam signed up for a trip to Europe. He wrote many letters from his travels that were published in a newspaper. He also met a man, Charles Langdon, who showed him a picture of his sister, Olivia. Sam fell in love with Olivia just from seeing the picture.

Sam and Olivia married in 1870. They found a home in Buffalo, New York (the state). Sam continued to write for local newspapers. Later on, Sam and his young family moved to Hartford, Connecticut. Sam, now known as Mark Twain, published his first book in Hartford. For the next 17 years, Sam continued to write novels about his travels and about life as a young man in Missouri. One of his famous novels from that time is "*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*." In 1884, he published "*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*," where he attacked slavery as an institution, stating that owning another person was immoral.

Later in life, Sam and his family traveled around the world. In 1903, Sam's beloved wife Olivia became ill, and she died in Italy. Sam Clemens also had the tragedy of two of his children dying before him, both his oldest daughter Susy and his youngest daughter Clara. Samuel Clemens, also known as Mark Twain, died in 1910. He has been a lasting influence on thoughts about government and human relations in this country.

The Mark Twain stamp came out in 2011.



States in the United States

There are now 50 states in the United States. 48 of them are together. The state of Alaska is north of Canada, and the state of Hawaii is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Let's learn where the states are:

From the north to the south on the west coast, we have:

1. Washington
2. Oregon
3. California

If you go east from Washington State, you get to (north to south):

4. Idaho
5. Nevada
6. Utah
7. Arizona

If you go east from Idaho, you get to (north to south):

8. Montana
9. Wyoming

10. Colorado
11. New Mexico

If you go east from Montana, you get to (north to south):

12. North Dakota
13. South Dakota
14. Nebraska
15. Kansas
16. Oklahoma
17. Texas

If you go east from North Dakota, you get to (north to south):

18. Minnesota
19. Wisconsin
20. Iowa
21. Illinois
22. Missouri
23. Arkansas
24. Louisiana

If you cross Lake Michigan from Wisconsin, you get to (north to south):

25. Michigan
26. Indiana
27. Ohio
28. Kentucky
29. Tennessee
30. Mississippi
31. Alabama

Now let's jump south to the state that sticks out into the Gulf of Mexico (south to north):

32. Florida
33. Georgia
34. South Carolina
35. North Carolina
36. Virginia
37. West Virginia

Now we get to the really small states. They are small because they were the first to become states in 1776. They are (south to north):

38. Maryland
39. Delaware
40. New Jersey
41. Pennsylvania
42. Connecticut
43. New York

44. Rhode Island
45. Massachusetts
46. New Hampshire
47. Vermont
48. Maine

And then the two states that are separate:

49. Alaska
50. Hawaii



Reading analysis

1. Go back to the reading. Find the state where Mark Twain was born. _____. Find the state on a map.
2. Now find the date when that area became a state. _____.
3. Was that state a slave state or was it not (when Twain lived there)? _____
4. Find the state where Sam (Mark) traveled to first. _____
5. When did Samuel Clemens return to Missouri? _____
6. What happened in 1861? (Second paragraph) _____
7. Where did Sam Clemens travel next? Find it on the map. _____
8. From Nevada, where did Sam travel? _____ and then _____

9. Which two states on the east coast did Sam Clemens and his family live in? _____ and _____
Find them on the map.
10. When did Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) die? _____

Pre-writing exercise 1

"I'm not famous," you probably say. Perhaps you are not as famous as Mark Twain, but your life is just as important as his. In this last chapter, you are going to write a longer paragraph about your life. Let's start planning your paragraph with a timeline.

This is a timeline:

<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>
I was born	I grew up in	I moved to.	My first job was	I married.	I had children	I live in
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Here's Jia's timeline

<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> X </u>
I was born	I grew up in	I lived in Michigan	I married.	I had my son	I worked at.	Bryan died.	I live
in Norway	Oslo	in 1969 / 1970	in 1980	in 1982	UC Irvine.	in 2011.	in Aliso Viejo

Pull out a large piece of paper and write a timeline for yourself.

Pre-writing exercise 2

Let's plan some of the words you may need for your paragraph. Here are some possibilities:

I was born in _____ in _____.

Place

Year

_____ is a small town / a big city / in the countryside in _____.

Place

Country

_____ is a beautiful area / busy city / a historical area / _____.

Place

My first job was as a _____.

I liked / enjoyed / hated / didn't like working at that job.

I continued doing this until _____.

Year

I married my husband / wife in _____.

Year

We now have _____ children.

I came to the United States with my family in _____ because _____

Now I am working as a _____ / not working.

I want to get a job as a _____ in the future.

Here is an example of what a student wrote in the beginning of his life story paragraph:

All about Anton

My name is Anton Shevchenko. I was born in Kyiv, Ukraine in 1982. I am 43 years old. Kyiv is a beautiful and historic city in Ukraine. It is also the capital of our country. The Dnieper River runs through Kyiv. It has a population of about 3 million people.

Writing exercise # 16

Now you write the beginning of your paragraph about yourself.

Here is Anton's continuation of his paragraph:

All about Anton

My name is Anton Shevchenko. I was born in Kyiv, Ukraine in 1982. I am 43 years old. Kyiv is a beautiful and historic city in Ukraine. It is also the capital of our country. The Dnieper River runs through Kyiv. It has a population of about 3 million people. I went to elementary and high school in Kyiv. From the time I was 7 years old, my mother and father let me take the bus to school. I graduated from high school in the year 2000. First I traveled around Europe for a year with one of my friends, but in 2001 I met a Ukrainian woman in Paris, and we fell in love. We married in 2004 after I finished a college degree.

Now you continue your paragraph about yourself. You don't need to repeat what you already wrote.

Here's the end of Anton's paragraph:

All about Anton

My name is Anton Shevchenko. I was born in Kyiv, Ukraine in 1982. I am 43 years old. Kyiv is a beautiful and historic city in Ukraine. It is also the capital of our country. The Dnieper River runs through Kyiv. It has a population of about 3 million people. I went to elementary and high school in Kyiv. From the time I was 7 years old, my mother and father let me take the bus to school. I graduated from high school in the year 2000. First I traveled around Europe for a year with one of my friends, but in 2001 I met a Ukrainian woman in Paris, and we fell in love. We married in 2005 after I finished a college degree. My first job was as a transportation engineer. My wife Oksana got a job as a high school history teacher. We were very happy, and we welcomed our first child, a girl, in 2008. We had two more children in 2010 and in 2013. In 2014, our beloved country began to have problems with Russia. Russian soldiers marched into the Ukrainian area of Crimea and took the land away from us.

It's time to write your whole paragraph! You can write it here or you can write it on another piece of paper. It will be your longest paragraph so far. Use a dictionary and ask your teacher about words and grammar. Your paragraph should be between 10 and 16 sentences, so it's long!

[illegible]

Great job on those paragraphs! As you know by now, writing is not one single effort. We do pre-writing exercises, and we also work on the writing afterwards. That work we do after we write is called editing. Everyone edits – I do, too! Now do your editing in two steps:

- Grammar: The perfect and continuous aspects of a verb**



The aspect shows the relationship between one action and another action. For example:

Daniela **was** singing in the shower when the phone **rang**.

The first verb, “was,” is the past tense of the verb “to be.”

The second verb, “rang,” is the past tense of the verb “to ring.”

So what’s that “singing” part?

The continuous aspect

Aha! The -ing form of a verb is called the “continuous aspect.” Some grammar books call it the progressive aspect. It is not a tense. It is neither present nor past. Here are a few examples:

They **were** dancing. (Past continuous)

She **is** laughing. (Present continuous)

You **are** swimming. (Present continuous)

We use the continuous aspect when something continues for a while. We usually use the simple aspect, present or past, when something happens once or is repeated.

Compare:

They were dancing. (It continued.)

They danced. (One time, perhaps yesterday.)

She is laughing. (Right now.)

She laughs. (She laughs often.)

You are swimming. (At this moment,
you continue to swim.)

You swim. (You usually swim in the pool.)

Rule: The continuous aspect of a verb takes the base form of a verb and adds -ing to it.

Examples:

- Dancing
- Laughing
- Swimming
- Playing
- Working
- Traveling

The perfect aspect

The perfect aspect of a verb uses the “perfect participle” of a verb after the main verb “to have.” It shows that something is finished before something else happens. Let’s look at our verbs again:

Infinitive	base form	simple present	simple past	participle
To go	go	He goes	He went	He has gone
To do	do	He does	He did	He has done
To work	work	He works	He worked	He has worked
To love	love	He loves	He loved	He has loved
To be	be	He is	He was	He has been

The participle of the verbs above are gone, done, worked, loved, and been. The present tense is the verb “has.” If you put the present tense of the verb “to have” together with the participle, you get the present perfect aspect. You can also make the past tense of the verb “to have” + the participle. If you do, you get the past perfect aspect.

He had gone.

He had done.

He had worked.

He had loved.

He had been.

All these possible combinations are too much for this class. Here, we will only focus on the present perfect aspect. Here are all those verbs from the beginning of the chapter again, but now we have added the participle to the list:

Infinitive	Simple present tense	Simple past tense	Participle
1. To allow	He allows	He allowed	allowed
2. To attack	He attacks	He attacked	attacked
3. To be	He is	He was	been
4. To be born	(no present tense)	He was born	been
5. To become	He becomes	He became	become
6. To begin	He begins	He began	begun
7. To choose	He chooses	He chose	chosen
8. To come	He comes	He came	come
9. To continue	He continues	He continued	continued
10. To die	He dies	He died	died
11. To fall in love	He falls in love	He fell in love	fallen
12. To get	He gets	He got	gotten
13. To go	He goes	He went	gone
14. To have	He has	He had	had
15. To live	He lives	He lived	lived
16. To marry	He marries	He married	married
17. To mean	He means	He meant	meant
18. To measure	He measures	He measured	measured
19. To meet	He meets	He met	met
20. To move	He moves	He moved	moved
21. To own	He owns	He owned	owned
22. To publish	He publishes	He published	published
23. To read	He reads	He read	read
24. To return	He returns	He returned	returned
25. To search	He searches	He searched	searched
26. To show	He shows	He showed	shown
27. To sign up	He signs up	He signed up	signed
28. To spend	He spends	He spent	spent
29. To start	He starts	He started	started
30. To state	He states	He stated	stated
31. To stop	He stops	He stopped	stopped
32. To travel	He travels	He traveled	traveled
33. To want	He wants	He wanted	wanted
34. To work	He works	He worked	worked
35. To write	He writes	He wrote	written

You will notice that for regular verbs, the participle is the same as the past tense. Only a few verbs have a different participle. Which verbs from the list above have a different participle from the past tense? Write them here:

Infinitive	Participle
To be	_____
To become	_____
To begin	_____
To choose	_____

To come	_____
To fall	_____
To get	_____
To go	_____
To write	_____

We call the verbs above “irregular verbs.” When we list the forms of a verb, we usually say the base form, then the past tense, and then the participle. With the verbs above, that would be:

Base	Past	Participle
Be	was	been
Become	became	become
Begin	began	begun
Choose	chose	chosen
Come	came	come
Fall	fell	fallen
Get	got	gotten
Go	went	gone
Write	wrote	written

I'm afraid you just have to memorize those irregular past tenses and participle of verbs. There are a few rules, but they don't help very much. But don't worry! 90% of all verbs are regular, such as:

Base	Past	Participle
Continue	continued	continued
Live	lived	lived
Own	owned	owned
Search	searched	searched

ETC.

Grammar exercise # 9

Let's practice a bit with the **present tense, perfect aspect**. Write the present perfect of the verb in the infinitive form in the parentheses into the sentences below.

1. (to go) Where's John? He _____ to the store.
2. (to be) David _____ to Beijing many times.
3. (to work) Alicia _____ at that company for 10 years.
4. (to continue) It is difficult, but Ming _____ studying English.
5. (to stop) Tommy used to smoke, but now he _____ smoking.
6. (to write) Tamara _____ many letters to her parents.
7. (to travel) They _____ all over the world.
8. (to live) We _____ here for 5 years.
9. (to fall) He _____ in love at least 3 times.
10. (to begin) She _____ practicing Tai Chi.

Spelling

Our last job in this class is an exercise in spelling. English spelling is crazy! The main reason for this is that our words come from all kinds of languages, and the spelling has changed many times. It even keeps changing. Here are a few practical rules.

Rule # 1: If a verb is one syllable and has a single consonant after a single vowel, double the consonant before the "-ing" ending.

Examples:

To run	running
To get	getting
To stop	stopping

Rule # 2: Drop the final "e" in a word if you are adding to it with an ending that begins with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u), but not if the new ending begins with a consonant.

Examples:

To ride	riding
To live	living
To choose	choosing

To write writing

Rule # 3: Change the final “y” to “i” before adding the plural of a noun that ends in “y.”

Examples:

A party	parties
A lady	ladies
A library	libraries
A city	cities

Rule # 4: “i” before “e” except after “c” or when sounding like “ey” as in “neighbor” and “weigh.”

Examples:

A piece
A chief
A friend
A ceiling

Writing exercise # 18

The paragraph below has XX spelling errors. Find them and fix them!

Today was a good day. I went to the grocery store with a freind to do some shopping for dinner tonight. I was thinking that a nice peice of beef would be good for dinner. I also needed some vegetables. “Could you help me chooseing the vegetables?” I asked my friend. She said she would help me makeing a beef casserole. She chose 3 different vegetables. At the cashier, there were two ladys in front of us. They were lookeing at their cell phones the whole time, and they didn’t notice the clerk at all. We were both thinking that this was rude. After shopping, we went to the library to choose a new book. There are two librarys in our town. One is old and one is modern. We like the old one. Then we went to a café and had two cops of coffee. The cieling of the old library is beautiful. It has paintings in blue and yellow, like flowers. Then we went home and started makeing dinner together.

Congratulations!

You have completed this class.

Well done!

[\[1\]](#) Sorry. There aren't any 4-star restaurants. 3 stars is the highest honor.