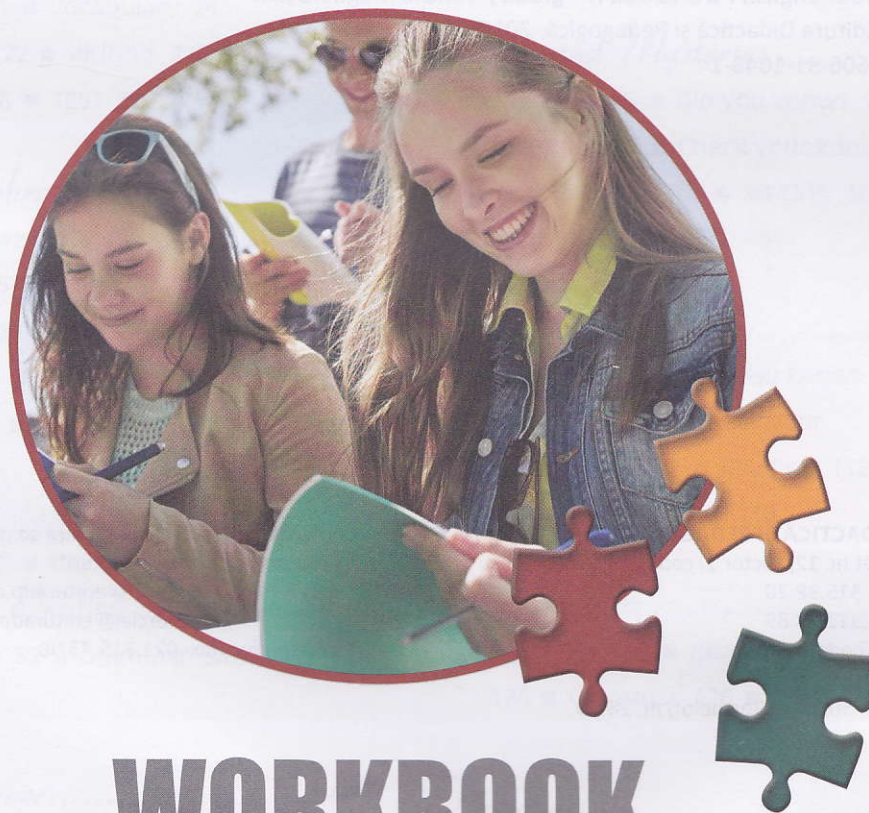


IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH



WORKBOOK 7th grade





Contents



News around the world 4



Warm-up 5 ■ Vocabulary 5 ■
Writing 8 ■ Grammar 10 ■ TEST 18

Healthy Lifestyle..... 20



Warm-up 21 ■ Vocabulary 21
■ Reading 22 ■ Writing 27 ■
Grammar 28 ■ TEST 32

Common celebrations around the world..... 34



Warm-up 35 ■ Grammar 36 ■ Writing
36 ■ Did you know? 38 ■ Check your
knowledge! 38 ■ Reading 39 ■
Projects 42 ■ TEST 44

Life in the future 46



Warm-up 47 ■ Did you know? 47 ■
Reading 49 ■ Writing 51 ■ Debate
time future 52 ■ Grammar 54
■ TEST 58

Jobs and career..... 60



Warm-up 61 ■ Reading 61 ■ Writing 64
■ Grammar 66 ■ TEST 68

Communication 70



Warm-up 71 ■ Reading 71 ■ Writing 75
■ Grammar 78 ■ TEST 80

Modern technology 82

Warm-up 83 ■ Did you know? 84 ■
Grammar 84 ■ Reading 86 ■ Check
your knowledge! 89 ■ Writing 90 ■
Projects 90 ■ TEST 92



Myths and Mysteries 94

Warm-up 95 ■ Did you know? 96 ■
Grammar 98 ■ Check your knowledge!
99 ■ Reading 100 ■ Writing 103 ■
Projects 103 ■ TEST 104



Education..... 106

Warm-up 107 ■ Did you know? 108 ■
Grammar 110 ■ Check your
knowledge! 111 ■ Reading 112 ■
Writing 115 ■ TEST 116



Social media 118

Warm-up 119 ■ Reading 120 ■ Writing
124 ■ Grammar 126 ■ TEST 130



Debate..... 132

Transcript 134

Phonemic chart..... 144

Extra practice 145

Irregular verbs 153



News around the world

“Literature is news that stays news.”

Ezra Pound

1



In this module you will learn:

Vocabulary: Types of news channels ■ **Grammar:** Present Continuous Tense & Present Perfect Continuous ■ **Reading:** A brief history of emoji ■ **Speaking:** How to spot fake news ■ **Writing:** A piece of news



Warm-up:

1. Do you read/watch the news? If so, which do you prefer: the newspaper, the radio, the TV or the Internet?
2. How do you think people read / watch the news in big cities and small villages?
3. What is the news at the moment?



REMEMBER!
News is an uncountable
noun in English.
The news is great!



VOCABULARY

- 1** Read the headlines below and decide which story is the most interesting.

Asimo – the most expensive
robot – \$ 2.5 million

10,000 students protest
climate change

School enforcing
age restrictions
on playground

Kids review
Fortnite

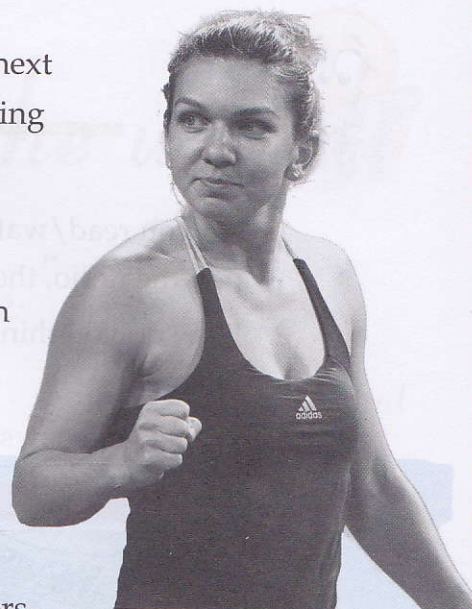
Injury forces
Halep to withdraw
from WTA finals

- 2** Read the news and match the corresponding headline.

A. More than 10,000 kids skipped school on Feb. 7 to call for action on climate change in the Netherlands. It was the fifth Thursday in a row that the students had missed school to march. The protesters filled the streets of The Hague, the city where the government of the Netherlands is located, carrying homemade signs and shouting slogans. "Skipping a climate pact is worse than skipping school," said one sign painted in colorful letters on a white sheet.

B. World No 1 Simona Halep has withdrawn from next week's WTA Finals in Singapore because of an ongoing back injury. The Romanian hoped to be fit but is still experiencing pain and will be replaced in the field by Kiki Bertens. Halep said: "Unfortunately, after much discussion with my team and doctors, I have made the decision to withdraw from the WTA Finals in Singapore."

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport>



C. The CBC Kids News team found three "loot llamas" in only three games, which is pretty sweet. But it still wasn't enough to convince our four game reviewers that Fortnite Season 8 is much to get excited about. When asked to rate the new season of the free-to-play battle royal game, which went live Feb. 28, the reviewers gave it only two out of 10. Ouch!

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/>

D. The most expensive robot in the world is the Asimo humanoid robot. It was created as a part of Honda's research and development robotics program. The Asimo can operate in crowded places like shopping malls, train stations or museums. It can adapt to its environment, walk on any terrain, dance and also run. It's the only humanoid robot capable of climbing and descending stairs independently. It can also make a limited number of gestures. It can be purchased for \$2.5 million or leased for about \$150,000 a month.

<http://abouticles.com>

E. Some kids at a London, Ont., school deliberately broke the rules at their school on Monday — and they had the support of their parents. They were climbing on play structures. While that may seem like an innocent activity, it's actually prohibited for kids who are younger than five and older than 12 at Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School. Students held signs, climbed the structures and chanted "Not too old to play!" after school to draw attention to the rule that Claire Heene, 13, called "unfair." "It's almost as if you go to the movies and everybody else has popcorn and you don't have popcorn and you're like well, I want popcorn," she said.

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/>



3 Read the news again and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Students have been protesting for 5 weeks.
- b. The government of the Netherlands is located in Paris.
- c. Simona Halep hurt her legs.
- d. Her fans decided that she should withdraw from the finals.
- e. Reviewers rated Fortnite very poorly – only 2 out of 10.
- f. Asimo can dance and run.
- g. Asimo is not very expensive.
- h. All students can climb play structures at the park.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4 Read the latest news on the Avengers series and fill in the gaps with the words given in the table below:

successful

released

superhero

days

month

films

A cinema chain in the US will show all 22 **films** in the Marvel Cinematic Universe as part of one giant marathon.

AMC Theatres is challenging the most intense fan to commit to the event that will start with 2008 film Iron Man and finish with Captain Marvel, which was released just last

That's a lot of time – 59 hours and seven minutes, to be exact (thanks for the calculation, Slash Film). That's more than two in one cinema.

This is all in anticipation for Avengers: Endgame, which will be three days after the marathon takes place on April 26.

Tickets for the film, which is strongly expected to be one of the most films of the decade, are officially on sale - and eBay is already listing them for over \$1,000.



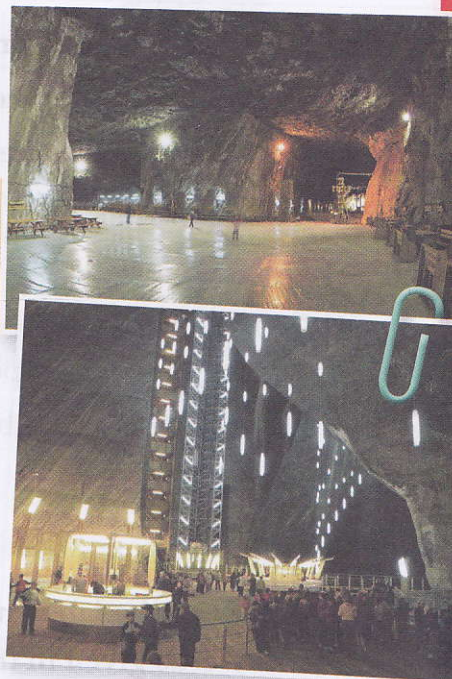
Writing

- a. **Work in pairs.** Choose two of the pieces of news shown below. Make notes about each story. If necessary, use a dictionary or ask your teacher for any new words.

Women around the world march in protest for equal pay
Expensive jewellery store hit by armed robbers in France

Discover Romania: Praid salt mine

- b. When writing your notes, answer the following questions: *where? who? what? when? how?* Add any other interesting information, but keep the format short, news-specific.
- c. Share with the class one of the stories you find the most interesting.



Fake news or **junk news** or pseudo-news is a type of yellow journalism or propaganda that consists of deliberate disinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional print and broadcast news media or on-line social media. (www.wikipedia.com)

Use the picture to devise a plan to fight fake news in your school's magazine. Talk to your classmates, in groups of four students, and decide which are the best ways to avoid fake news intoxication. Share the plans with your class and decide which is the most effective.

<https://tiie.w3.uvm.edu>

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



Consider the source
 Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



Check the author
 Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



Check the date
 Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



Check your biases
 Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



Read beyond
 Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



Supporting sources?
 Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



It is a joke?
 If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

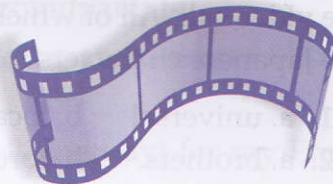


Ask the experts
 Ask a librarian, or consult a fast-checking site.



a. Watch and/or listen to this short movie about the history of emoji.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tTXLuZHYf4



b. Answer the questions about the text in exercise (a).

1. Where was writing invented? In Mesopotamia.
2. What was the first known medium for writing?
3. What did the ancient Egyptians write on?
4. Who invented the printing press?
5. How did the telegraph help communication?
6. What does the word emoji mean?
7. What did people use before emoji?
8. What do people use emoji for?

c. Read part of the transcript from the text in exercise (a). Match the words in bold with the synonyms given under the text.

A brief History of Emoji

With over six billion sent every day, emoji have gone truly (1) **global** in the last few years, but where did they come from and how on earth did we ever manage to communicate effectively in the pre-emoji era?

Language first evolved around 100,000 years ago, allowing our (2) **ancestors** to communicate simple ideas like "fire" or "cave" or more complex ideas like "your cave is on fire".

About five and a half thousand years ago writing was invented in Mesopotamia, when people started engraving symbols on clay tablets. At the same time, in Egypt people began scratching small pictures and (3) **symbols** onto bone and ivory. 5,000 years later, Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing (4) **press**.



In the 19th century (5) *telegraph* was invented, which led to an increase in long-distance (6) *communication*.

In the late 20th century, the combination of the internet and (7) *mobile* phone gave birth to the video call. All of which finally bring us to the birth of emoji? The world is made of the Japanese characters for (8) *picture* writing.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. a. universal | b. local | 5. a. telex | b. graphic |
| 2. a. brothers | b. forefathers | 6. a. exchange | b. extreme |
| 3. a. balls | b. signs | 7. a. immobile | b. movable |
| 4. a. media | b. encyclopedia | 8. a. image | b. copy |

d. Your turn. Do you use emoji? If yes, which is the emoji you use the most? Can you write a message using only emoji?

Present Continuous

Be + V-ing

Example:

I **am talking** on the phone right now.

He **is having** lunch with his friends.

We **are staying** with my parents for the moment.



- ✓ For actions taking place now, at the moment of speaking
- ✓ For temporary actions
- ✓ For actions which happen very usually to express annoyance, irritation
- ✓ For actions we have already arranged to do in the near future, especially when the time and place have been decided
- ✓ For changing and developing situations

Affirmative

I am eating.

You are eating.

He/She/It is eating.

We/You/They are eating.

Negative

I am not eating.

You are not eating.

He/She/It is not eating.

We/You/They are not eating.

Question

Am I dreaming?

Are you dreaming?

Is he/she/it dreaming?

Are we/you/they dreaming?

Short answer

Yes, I am. / No, I am not.

Yes, he/she/it is. / No, he/she/it isn't.

Yes, we/they are. / No, we/they aren't.

Words and expressions: now, right now, at present, today, tonight, nowadays, these days, etc.



1 Fill in the positive and negative form for the verbs in brackets:

Model: At present they *(live)* with their grandparents.
 At present they *are living* with their grandparents.
 At present they *are not living* with their grandparents.

1. He **(walk)** to school now with his new red backpack.
2. I **(study)** for my English test at the moment.
3. I **(sleep)** because I'm very tired.
4. She **(wait)** for the bus to go to her grandmother.
5. They **(read)** a new J.K. Rowling novel.
6. We **(go)** to the cinema tonight to see the latest Marvel movie.
7. They **(leave)** right now because they want to catch the 8 o'clock train.
8. At present he **(work)** in a restaurant to become a chef.
9. You **(cook)** grilled fish and baked potatoes for tonight's dinner.
10. My dog **(play)** with a new toy.

2 Complete the text with the present continuous tense of the verbs in brackets.



The latest news at the zoo!

A famous zoo in Europe *is preparing* to welcome new guests. The most interesting animal is a Komodo dragon from Indonesia. Luke, our newsman, is **(report)** from the zoo: "Well, the female dragon **(come)** by a special plane and the zoo keepers **(work)** hard to build her new home. The Komodo dragon **(arrive)** without a name, so our visitors can vote for one. The curator **(bring)** the box where your votes will be placed. The voting **(start)** right now and closes on Sunday at noon. Place your vote now!"

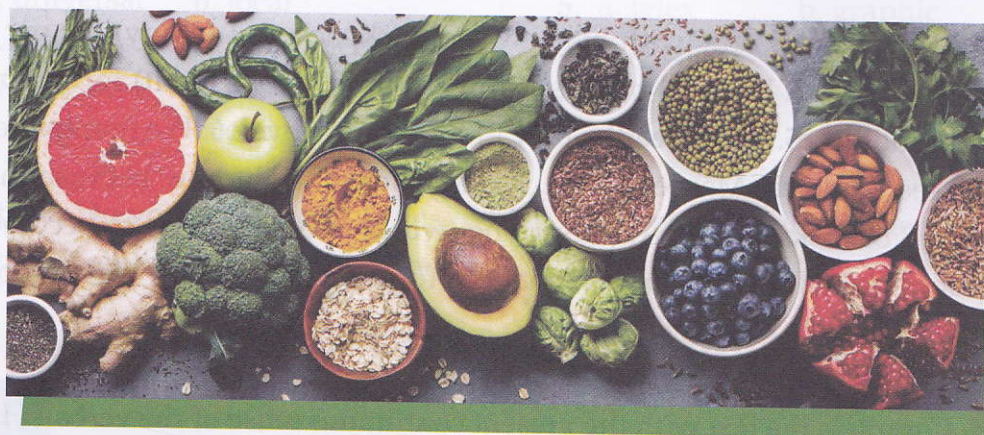
3 Choose the best option in each sentence.

1. Alice is in her room now. She *is reading / read / has read* a book.
2. Look! It *snows / is snowing / is being snowing*. It's so beautiful!
3. The teacher *explains / explained / is explaining* our English homework.
4. Bob is at a restaurant. He *didn't eat / is not eating / hasn't eaten*. He is only drinking a tea.
5. Look at the little girl! She *is smelling / smells / doesn't smell* the flowers in the garden.
6. Are they *trying / is they trying / do they trying* to help the old lady with her bags?
7. This summer she *studied / did study / is studying* English at a summer camp in Oxford.



Respect pentru oamenii și cărți

8. Are we *going* / *is going* / *go to* the new movie premiere tonight?
9. The children *take* / *are taking* / *does not take* a test at the moment. Do not disturb them!
10. This weekend we *didn't visit* / *is visiting* / *are visiting* our grandparents in the countryside.



4

Put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous:

1. A. Why *are you smelling* the food?
B. Because it smells delicious.
2. A. Do you know that Rose (*learn*) to drive at the moment?
B. Yes, I think she'll be a good driver.
3. A. Are you busy?
B. Very. I (*write*) my report for my English class.
4. A. What (*you look*) at?
B. The sky. I think a storm is coming.
5. A. What (*you cook*)?
B. Mashed potatoes and tuna salad.
6. A. Alice (*pack*) her bags for her trip to Hawaii.
B. When is she leaving?
7. Is John home?
Yes, he (*watch*) the match with his friends.
8. A. It's already October.
B. I know. And it (*get*) colder and colder every day.





Present Perfect Continuous

Have/Has + been + V-ing

Example: I **have been talking** for 30 minutes.

He **has been talking** for quite a while now.

We **have been talking** about it for months.

- ✓ To put emphasis on the duration of an action which started in the past and continues up to the present
- ✓ For actions which started in the past and lasted for some time. The action may have finished or may still be going on. The result of the action is visible in the present.
- ✓ To express anger, irritation or annoyance

Affirmative

I have been sleeping.

You have been sleeping.

He/She/It has been sleeping.

We/You/They have been sleeping

Negative

I have not been sleeping.

You have not been sleeping.

He/She/It has not been sleeping.

We/You/They have not been sleeping

Question

Have I been sleeping?

Have you been sleeping?

Has he/she/it been sleeping?

Have we/you/they been sleeping?

Short answer

Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.

Yes, he/she/it has. / No, he/she/it hasn't

Yes, we/they have. / No, we/they haven't.

Words and expressions: *all day, since, for, how long, lately, recently, etc.*

