

LBRIS

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books

NEW

Total English

UPPER INTERMEDIATE

Workbook with Key

Mark Foley

1 Connect

LESSON 1.1 (p. 4–5)

Reading: don't judge a book by its cover
Grammar: overview (1): the present and future
Vocabulary: ways of speaking
How to... make a good first impression

LESSON 1.2 (p. 6–7)

Listening: a history of juggling
Grammar: overview (2): the past
Vocabulary: making adjectives from nouns
How to... manage a conversation
Pronunciation: intonation: sounding tentative

LESSON 1.3 (p. 8–9)

Listening: mobile phones
Vocabulary: keeping in touch
Grammar: obligation and ability
Pronunciation: connected speech (1)

Review and consolidation unit 1 (p. 10–11)

2 Explore

LESSON 2.1 (p. 12–13)

Reading: speed tourists
Grammar: Present Perfect Simple and Continuous
Pronunciation: connected speech (2)
Vocabulary: describing situations and feelings

LESSON 2.2 (p. 14–15)

Reading: the Ice Hotel
Vocabulary: weather
Pronunciation: connected speech: linking sounds
Grammar: questions

LESSON 2.3 (p. 16–17)

Listening: market research
Grammar: modifying comparatives
Vocabulary: verb phrases about moving/travelling

Review and consolidation unit 2 (p. 18–19)

3 Old or new

LESSON 3.1 (p. 20–21)

Listening: Hollywood's greatest historical epics
How to... engage your listener
Grammar: Past Perfect Simple and Continuous
Vocabulary: time expressions

LESSON 3.2 (p. 22–23)

Reading: Asian shopping
Grammar: articles
Pronunciation: connected speech: elision
Vocabulary: materials
How to... reach an agreement

LESSON 3.3 (p. 24–25)

Reading: multinational companies
Pronunciation: speech units
Grammar: adjectives and adverbs
Vocabulary: verb phrases with *take*

Review and consolidation unit 3 (p. 26–27)

4 Work

LESSON 4.1 (p. 28–29)

Listening: jobs
Vocabulary: work
Grammar: futures (1)
How to... talk about future plans

LESSON 4.2 (p. 30–31)

Reading: sculpture of guilt
Grammar: Future Perfect and Future Continuous
Vocabulary: verb phrases about time
How to... make your point in a confident way
Pronunciation: stress: sounding sure

LESSON 4.3 (p. 32–33)

Reading: uniforms
Grammar: verb patterns: *-ing* forms and infinitives

Review and consolidation unit 4 (p. 34–35)

5 Risk

LESSON 5.1 (p. 36–37)

Reading: Matt Drudge
Grammar: conditional structures (1)

LESSON 5.2 (p. 38–39)

Reading: How much danger can you take?
Grammar: advice and permission
Vocabulary: sport
Pronunciation: connected speech (3)

LESSON 5.3 (p. 40–41)

Listening: action heroes
Grammar: emphasis
Pronunciation: stress: emphasis (1)
Vocabulary: phrasal verbs with *out*
How to... talk about which film to watch

Review and consolidation unit 5 (p. 42–43)

6 The past

LESSON 6.1 (p. 44–45)

Listening: a directing career
Grammar: *used to/would*
Vocabulary: appearance
Pronunciation: consonant clusters (1)

LESSON 6.2 (p. 46–47)

Reading: a short story
Grammar: wishes and regrets
Pronunciation: intonation: wishes and regrets
How to... reminisce about the past

LESSON 6.3 (p. 48–49)

Vocabulary: feelings
Reading: the musician with no memory
Grammar: preparatory *it*

Review and consolidation unit 6 (p. 50–51)

7 Excess

LESSON 7.1 (p. 52–53)

Listening: fast food
Pronunciation: intonation: questions
Grammar: quantifiers
Vocabulary: food and cooking
How to... give and check instructions

LESSON 7.2 (p. 54–55)

Reading: Sotheby's
Vocabulary: verb phrases about shopping
Grammar: passives
How to... complain about goods and services
Pronunciation: stress: emphasis (2)

LESSON 7.3 (p. 56–57)

Listening: pets
Grammar: *have/get something done*
Vocabulary: excess

Review and consolidation unit 7 (p. 58–59)

8 Success

LESSON 8.1 (p. 60–61)

Reading: Leading by example
Grammar: *It's time/I'd rather/I'd better*
Vocabulary: describing personality
How to... introduce general and specific points

LESSON 8.2 (p. 62–63)

Listening: getting fit
Vocabulary: adjectives and intensifiers
Grammar: reported speech
Pronunciation: intonation: reporting

LESSON 8.3 (p. 64–65)

Reading: Who's a clever boy then?
How to... report the results of a survey
Grammar: reporting verbs

Review and consolidation unit 8 (p. 66–67)

9 Crime

LESSON 9.1 (p. 68–69)

Vocabulary: law and insurance
Reading: compensation culture
Grammar: participle clauses for sequencing
Pronunciation: consonant clusters (2)

LESSON 9.2 (p. 70–71)

Listening: a lawyer's career
Grammar: deduction: present and past
Vocabulary: compound adjectives
Pronunciation: stress: compound adjectives

LESSON 9.3 (p. 72–73)

Reading: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
Grammar: Relative clauses
How to... start, move on and finish a discussion

Review and consolidation unit 9 (p. 74–75)

10 Mind

LESSON 10.1 (p. 76–77)

Listening: the original hypnotist
Grammar: reflexive pronouns
Pronunciation: stress: reflexive pronouns
How to... talk about beliefs and opinions

LESSON 10.2 (p. 78–79)

Reading: the smell of money
Vocabulary: advertising
Grammar: conditional structures (2): with conjunctions
How to... persuade someone to do something
Pronunciation: intonation: sounding enthusiastic

LESSON 10.3 (p. 80–81)

Reading: digital nightmares
Vocabulary: verb phrases with *mind*
Grammar: futures (2)

Review and consolidation unit 10 (p. 82–83)

Answer key

(p. 84–95)

Reading

1 a Read the article quickly and tick the best summary (1–3).

- 1 It tells the story of Susan Boyle's life and rise to stardom as a singer.
- 2 It argues that we shouldn't judge people until we get to know them.
- 3 It uses the story of Susan Boyle to show that we often judge people by appearances.

b Find the words and phrases from the box in the article and match them with the definitions (1–12).

solely instant tendency bemused
 self-deluded wannabe gasp homely soaring
 standing ovation dichotomy prodigious

- 1 difference between two things or ideas _____
- 2 somebody who would like to be a star _____
- 3 having a false impression of one's own talent _____
- 4 a short sudden noise when you breathe in _____
- 5 rising, getting higher and higher _____
- 6 only, exclusively _____
- 7 ordinary-looking, not very attractive _____
- 8 showing approval of a performance by standing up and applauding _____
- 9 immediate _____
- 10 likelihood, something which often happens _____
- 11 rare, unusual, very talented _____
- 12 slightly confused, unable to understand _____

c Read the article again and answer the questions (1–8).

- 1 What is the 'well-known saying' referred to in the first paragraph?

- 2 Why do scientists think judging by appearances was necessary for early humans?

- 3 Where is Susan Boyle from?

- 4 What was watched 200 million times on YouTube?

- 5 How was Susan Boyle different from the usual contestants on *Britain's Got Talent*?

- 6 What was the audience's first impression of Susan Boyle?

- 7 What made the audience change its opinion of Susan?

- 8 According to the article, what does Susan Boyle's story prove?



Don't judge a book by its cover

Most people agree with this well-known saying but few follow its advice. For the truth is that, whether we like it or not, our brains are programmed to make immediate judgements based almost solely on first impressions. Scientists argue that this is a survival mechanism which dates from humanity's early history – a time when the world was full of danger and it was necessary for people to make instant life-or-death decisions.

The strength of our tendency to judge by appearances has recently been illustrated by the incredible story of Susan Boyle, an unemployed Scottish woman who shot to international stardom after appearing on a TV talent show. Her appearance on the show became one of the most popular videos on YouTube, with more than 200 million viewings. Her debut CD sold more than 9 million copies within six weeks of its release.

In fact, Boyle's appearance on *Britain's Got Talent* was one of the most memorable and surprising moments in recent TV history. Most of the performers on the talent show are young hopefuls. Some have talent but many are simply good-looking youngsters who dream of becoming pop stars but have no musical ability or background. On one particular show, a rather plain, middle-aged woman with an unflattering hairstyle and an old-fashioned dress appeared on stage.

If you watch the YouTube clip, you will see what happens next ...

The audience looks bemused – what is someone like this doing on a show where most contestants are in their teens or early 20s? In a strong Scottish accent, the woman tells the judges that her name is Susan, she comes from a small village near Glasgow, she's 47, and wants to become a professional singer. The audience prepares itself for an embarrassing display by another self-deluded wannabe. What hope does someone like this have of becoming a star?

Then Susan opens her mouth and begins to sing. A gasp of amazement goes up from the audience, for the contrast between her homely appearance and powerful soaring voice is almost overpowering. They begin to clap and scream. Within a few moments, most of the audience are on their feet, giving Susan Boyle a standing ovation.

For many viewers, it was the unexpected dichotomy between Boyle's physical appearance and her prodigious talent that was so memorable. But why should it be such a shock that someone like Susan Boyle can have a wonderful and rare talent? The truth is, however sophisticated we believe we are, we still make instant judgements based purely on outward appearances. If someone doesn't look beautiful, we still find it difficult to believe that they can have a beautiful voice.

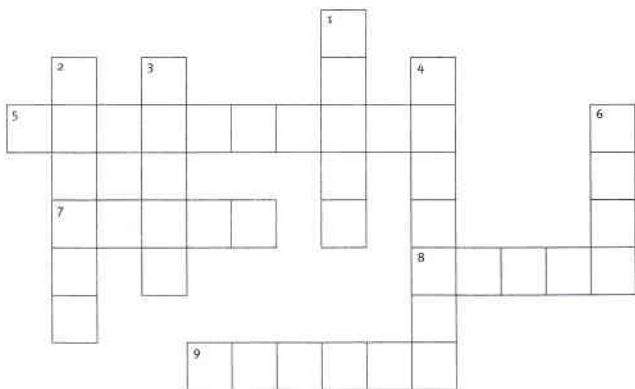
Grammar | overview (1): the present and future

2 Complete the sentences using appropriate forms of the words in brackets.

- I'm not sure, but I think I _____ the salad. (try)
- We're so excited about our holiday – we _____ the Taj Mahal! (see)
- Some form of life _____ even in the deepest parts of the ocean. (exist)
- I _____ my husband's car this week because mine is at the garage. (use)
- Peter hates buses so he _____ by car. (probably / come)
- The company _____ the factory for a month every August. (close)
- Look at those dark clouds, I think there _____ a storm. (be)
- We _____ our grandmother every Sunday. (visit)
- Don't disturb me – I _____ the news. (watch)
- Look in the bottom drawer; that's where we _____ our insurance documents. (keep)
- I can't see you next Tuesday because I _____ a conference. (attend)
- We haven't set an exact date, but the wedding _____ sometime in the spring. (definitely / be)

Vocabulary | ways of speaking

3 Use the clues to complete the crossword.



- People _____ each other differently in different cultures.
- You really shouldn't _____ about other people behind their backs.
- I can hardly hear you – could you _____ up?
- When I'm nervous I often _____ over my words.
- Everyone enjoys being given a _____.
- Let's have a _____ about it tomorrow.
- Parties can make you nervous if you're not good at _____ talk.
- I can't stand people who _____ about how much money they've got.
- Don't _____. I can't hear what you're saying.

How to... | make a good first impression

4 Complete the dialogue with words and phrases from the box.

a pleasure are you do you do
 have you lived here long
 I know what you mean pleased
 really nice talking really
 sounds interesting when did you move in

- A: Hi. I'm Karl, your new neighbour.
 B: (1) _____ to meet you. My name's Sophie.
 A: It's (2) _____ to meet you too. It's so important to know your neighbours, don't you think?
 B: Absolutely. (3) _____?
 A: Just a few days ago.
 B: Well, it's a lovely area.
 A: I know. (4) _____?
 B: Oh, yes. Ten years.
 A: (5) _____?
 B: Yes. I moved here when I got a job at the university.
 A: That (6) _____.
 B: Yes, I really enjoy working there. What (7) _____?
 A: I'm a social worker.
 B: (8) _____? That must be a fascinating job!
 A: Sometimes, but I have to deal with people with serious problems so it can also be quite stressful.
 B: (9) _____. But I suppose it's nice to know you are helping people.
 A: Yes, it's satisfying.
 B: Well, it's been (10) _____ to you. You should come over for coffee at the weekend and I can tell you all about our other neighbours.
 A: That would be great ...

Listening



1 a Cover the audioscript. Listen to a radio programme and choose the best summary (1–3).

- 1 The recent history of juggling
- 2 Different types of juggling around the world
- 3 Juggling in ancient times

b Listen again and write true (T) or false (F).

- 1 David Stourton is a juggler.
- 2 Professional jugglers use the term 'toss juggling'.
- 3 The earliest picture of jugglers is from ancient China.
- 4 There is a picture of Egyptian jugglers in a museum in Berlin.
- 5 There is no evidence of juggling in the Americas.
- 6 Tagatus Ursus was a Roman juggler.
- 7 There were probably jugglers in Ireland in ancient times.
- 8 Jugglers were usually also clowns or jesters.

c Now read the audioscript and match words with the definitions (1–8).

- 1 writer of a particular book _____
- 2 throwing _____
- 3 a building where someone is buried _____
- 4 metal weapons with sharp blades _____
- 5 restricted to one area _____
- 6 something that shows where somebody is buried (two words) _____
- 7 spoken stories about the ancient past _____
- 8 connected _____

AUDIOSCRIPT

Woman: On today's *Meet the Author* we're talking to David Stourton, author of *A Short History of Juggling*. David, welcome to the programme.

David: Thanks.

Woman: Now, I suppose we all have a broad idea of what juggling is, but could you tell us what you mean by 'juggling'?

David: Sure. I pretty much stuck to the traditional idea of juggling. I think the dictionary calls it 'keeping two or more objects in the air at one time by alternately tossing and catching them'. In the profession, we call that 'toss juggling'. I think that's the type of juggling most people are familiar with.

Woman: Has juggling been around for a long time?

David: Oh yes. I found references to juggling from more than 3,000 years ago. There are some Egyptian tomb paintings which show jugglers from the Middle Kingdom period and there's an ancient Egyptian statue of a juggler in the Staatliche museum in Berlin.

Woman: What about written records?

David: Well, the earliest written record that we know of is from ancient China. There's a book from the 3rd or 4th century BC which describes a juggler who could throw seven swords in the air.

Woman: That sounds like something from one of those Chinese martial arts movies!

David: Yes, juggling with swords is a well-established tradition in the Far East.

Woman: So was juggling confined to the Middle East and Asia in ancient times?

David: Not at all. There were lots of jugglers in ancient Rome. We even know the name of one of them – Tagatus Ursus.

Woman: Did the Romans juggle with knives, like the Chinese?

David: Probably not. We know that Tagatus Ursus juggled glass balls, because they're specifically mentioned on his grave stone. And, interestingly, when the Spanish discovered the Americas, they noted in their reports and diaries that the Aztecs had jugglers.

Woman: Are there any records of juggling here in Britain?

David: Well, not exactly, but jugglers are mentioned in several of the Irish and Norse myths, which date from the 5th to the 12th centuries. Of course, by the time of the Middle Ages, there are plenty of references to jugglers in Britain.

Woman: You talk about jugglers as if they were part of an actual profession. I mean, is that really the case?

David: It's hard to say with any certainty. In some cases, jugglers were also clowns or jesters, or even acrobats.

Woman: Yes, I can see how the skills might be linked. Now, can you tell us about the more recent history of juggling ... ?

Grammar | overview (2): the past

2 Complete the sentences using an appropriate form of verbs from the box.

drink go lose eat meet rain pass
release revise watch

- David _____ an apple when he broke a tooth.
- We were very excited because we _____ to Disneyland before.
- I finally _____ my driving test after three attempts!
- The weather was terrible. In fact, it _____ on the day we arrived and on the day we left!
- When I opened the fridge, I found that my flatmate _____ all the milk!
- The film *Avatar* _____ in 2010.
- I arrived home and saw my husband waiting outside the door – he _____ his key!
- My mother _____ my father at a nightclub in 1990.
- We _____ TV when the lights suddenly went out.
- I stayed at home most evenings while I _____ for my exams.

3 Find the mistakes in four of these sentences and correct them.

- That restaurant's great – I had been there last month.
- It was a lovely morning. The sun was shining and the birds were singing.
- I was phoning you three times. Where were you?
- The doorbell rang while I had a shower.
- Juan broke his leg in a motorbike accident last week.
- It was our first visit – we weren't going there before.

Vocabulary | making adjectives from nouns

4 Complete the missing word in each sentence.

- My nephew's very a _____ c. He loves painting.
- I am r _____ e for our after-sales service.
- Ice-skating well requires great s _____ l.
- J _____ y is often known as 'the little green monster'.
- Dorotea runs a very s _____ l business.
- People in big cities are often more l _____ y than people in small towns.
- I've got very big feet so I often get f _____ d when I'm trying to buy shoes.
- Albert Einstein was famous for his incredible i _____ t.



How to... | manage a conversation

5 Listen to the dialogue and match the underlined expressions (1–6) with the explanations (a–f).

- A: So, have you booked your holiday yet?
B: No. We're finding it hard to decide what to do.
A: (1) Yes, it's a difficult decision, isn't it?
B: We were thinking about Florida.
(2) Have you been there?
A: Yes, we've been to Miami a couple of times.
B: (3) So, you know it quite well then?
A: I wouldn't say that exactly.
B: I've heard the beaches are lovely.
A: They are. And the sea's warm and calm – perfect for swimming.
B: (4) That's not the experience I've had. We went to Cuba a few years ago and the sea was quite rough. And I know that's not far from Miami.
A: (5) Yes. I suppose it depends on the time of year. During the hurricane season the waves can be pretty enormous.
B: (6) I suppose you're right. We went in October and I think that's when they often get hurricanes.
- a ask a direct question
b reformulate someone's answer into another question
c comment on someone's point and back up with your own example
d refer to someone's point and back up with your own example
e agree with someone's point
f find similarities with someone else's point

Pronunciation | sounding tentative

6 a Listen to the sentences (1–4) from exercise 5. Write T (tentative) or C (more confident).

- I wouldn't say that exactly.
- That's not the experience I've had.
- The sea's warm and calm – perfect for swimming.
- Yes, I suppose it depends on the time of year.

b Listen again and repeat the sentences.