



AL NOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

English Enhancement Program

Grade 5 Modules

Name: _____ Section: _____

Academic Year: _____

Fruit Fly Fix



It is breakfast time. You have been looking forward to eating a nice ripe banana ever since you woke up. Just when you reach for the delicious piece of fruit on your counter, you see something that makes you much less hungry: a swarm of fruit flies! Fruit flies are tiny insects that are attracted to ripe or rotting fruits and vegetables. The flies not only eat the fruit, they also lay their eggs there. A single fruit fly can lay up to 500 eggs on the surface of a

piece of fruit. Within eight days, the fruit flies that hatch from these eggs are full adults that can then lay their own eggs. As you can see, what might start out as a small fruit fly problem can become very large very quickly.

Although there is a chance fruit flies can carry germs on to your food, this is not very likely. Fruit flies are annoying, but they probably will not hurt you. Because they are such a nuisance, however, most people want to get rid of these pesky bugs as quickly as possible. Some people use pesticide sprays on the fruit flies. Although this will kill the flies, it will also spread harmful poison all over your kitchen. Luckily, there is also a completely safe way for you to get rid of fruit flies in your house.

The first step is for you to remove all fruits or vegetables from your counter. Store these items in the refrigerator or in sealed containers. Clean up any spilled juice or bits of food that might be on the floor. Take out the trash and empty the recycling bin. Wash any dirty dishes that are in your sink. Doing all of these things will stop new fruit flies from finding food or places to lay their eggs.

Next, make a trap to catch all of the remaining fruit flies in your house. First, fill a small bowl with a few tablespoons of vinegar. Then, put a piece of very ripe or rotting fruit into the vinegar. Cover the bowl very tightly with a sheet of plastic wrap and poke a few very small holes in the wrap with a fork. If all goes according to plan, the flies will enter the trap through the holes but will be unable to fly

back out. This trap will catch all of the remaining fruit flies. You can either kill these flies or release them outdoors.

Fruit flies can be a pest, but they do not have to make you crazy. With a little effort, you can get existing flies out of your house and prevent new ones from taking over your kitchen.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) In reading this passage, we learn that fruit flies
 - I. die immediately after they lay their eggs
 - II. can grow into adults after only 8 days
 - III. are mostly harmless

A. I only B. I and II only C. II and III only D. I, II, and III

- 2) As used in paragraph 3, a nuisance is something that
 - A. bothers you
 - B. can be dangerous
 - C. grows fast
 - D. is very small

- 3) According to the passage, why should you not use pesticide spray to kill fruit flies?
 - A. most sprays do not actually kill all of the fruit flies
 - B. buying sprays can get expensive if you need to use a lot of them
 - C. the sprays take too much time to work
 - D. it can be dangerous to use them in your kitchen

- 4) Based on the information in the penultimate (next-to-last) paragraph, we can understand that author thinks that:
 - A. some people do not mind having fruit flies in their house
 - B. some people do not like killing insects
 - C. fruit flies do not like vinegar
 - D. making a fruit fly trap can be difficult

5) Imagine you had a fruit fly outbreak in your kitchen. What would you do to handle the situation? Would you take the advice offered in the passage? Why or why not?

6) How would you react if you only saw one fruit fly in your house? Would you take the same action you described in question five, or would you behave differently? Why?

Listening Activity

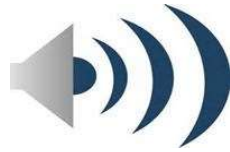
Bookstore Shopping

Pre-Listening Exercise

What are five items that students can buy from a bookstore to use for school?

Listening Exercise

Listen to the recording and answer the following questions:



1. What did the young man buy at the bookstore?
 - A. notebooks, pencils, and one eraser
 - B. three books, pens, and an eraser
 - C. some paper, five pencils, and an eraser
2. The son says he carries two smart phones because _____.
 - A. one of them doesn't work very well
 - B. his iPhone is broken
 - C. he stays in touch with different people
3. What else does the son have with him?
 - A. a jacket
 - B. suntan lotion
 - C. food
4. How did he pay for everything?
 - A. in cash
 - B. with a credit card
 - C. by check
5. About when does the conversation take place?
 - A. in January
 - B. in March
 - C. in June

Listen again to the recording and complete the dialog.

Bookstore Shopping

Father: Son, what are you . . .

Son: Dad, Dad?

Father: Son. What are you doing here down at the _____ ? I thought you said you were going to buy some things for school?

Son: Well, Uh, Dad. I did buy some things.

Father: Well, what did you buy? What do you have in your _____ ?

Son: Well, let's see. I have three notebooks, five pencils, an _____, and oh yeah . . .

Father: Wait! Two smart _____ ?

Son: Well, uh . . .

Father: What, what do you _____ with two smart phones?

Son: Well, I use one to call you and Mom, and the other, I call my, uh, my _____. Yeah, yeah, yeah! That's it.

Father: Right.

Son: And, uh, yeah.

Father: And what else did you buy?

Son: Well, um, yeah. I have a new _____ .

Father: A new iPad? What do you need a new iPad for?

Son: Well, you know. My birthday is coming up . . .

Father: Your birthday isn't until June. That's _____ months away.

Son: Well, Mom thought it was a good idea. And I have, let's see, what else? Two cheeseburgers, some fries, and ooh, a melted _____ _____.

Father: How how did you pay for all that?

Son: Well, uh, ooh, uh. Time is passing. Gotta go! Bye, Dad!

Father: Hey, where's my credit card? Come back!!

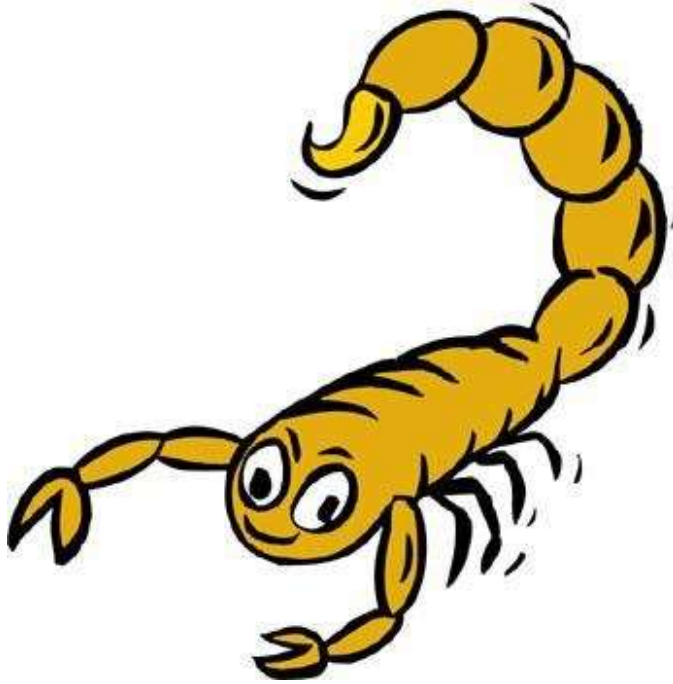
Speaking Activity

Practice the dialog with your partner and perform it in the class.

MODULE 2

Hitchhikers in the Bathroom

by Liana Mahoney



Imagine this. You step up to the sink, wet your toothbrush, and begin cleaning your pearly whites. Out of the corner of your eye, you see something moving on the wall. Suddenly, you realize you're not alone in the bathroom. Your heart pounding, you turn toward the tiny intruder to get a better look. You're horrified to see that it has eight legs, and a pair of oversized pincers on its front end. Is it some kind of miniature octopus, or a bizarre crab? Is it going to sting you?

Actually, it's a bug, and it's no more harmful to you than a housefly. This tiny bathroom bug is called a pseudoscorpion (SOO-doh-SCOR-peeuhn). But don't be fooled by its name. It's not really a scorpion; it's just a relative. The pseudoscorpion is a kind of arachnid (uh-RAKnid), which means it is closely related to spiders, scorpions, and mites. Like scorpions, pseudoscorpions have a segmented body and two enormous pincers. But pseudoscorpions lack the curved stinger that all true scorpions have.

Pseudoscorpions usually live outside in mulch, under tree bark, and in leaf litter. So how do they end up in the bathroom? They use those pincer-like claws to hitch a ride on other bugs, such as flies and beetles. When these insects come in, so do the pseudoscorpions – attached to their legs! These tiny arachnids prefer moist places. Since the bathroom tends to be humid after bathing and showering, it's a likely place to find them. But they are easily overlooked. Most pseudoscorpions are only about two to eight millimeters long. Pseudoscorpions don't bite or sting humans, and they can even be helpful. These bugs feed on common household pests, such as carpet beetle larvae, ants, mites, and small flies. Welcoming this hitchhiker into your home may mean there are fewer household pests to "bug" you!

Comprehension Questions:

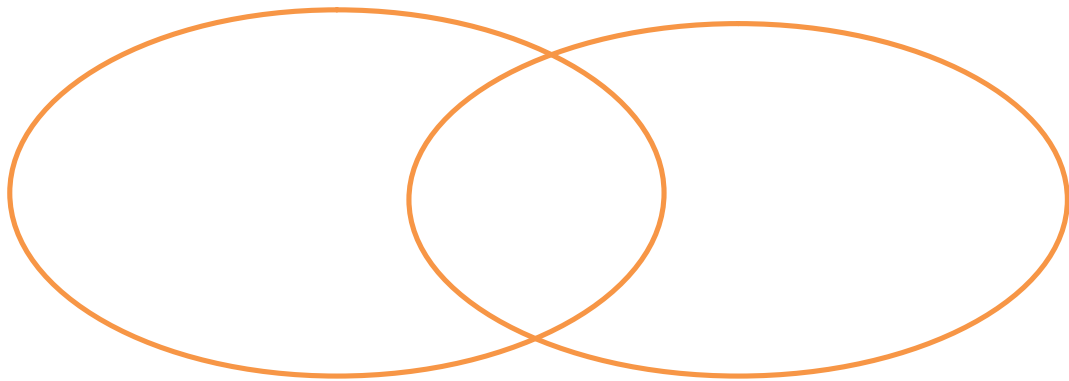
1. If you wanted to find a pseudoscorpion outdoors, where would you look?

2. Use the Venn diagram to show how pseudoscorpions and real scorpions are alike and how they're different.

Pseudoscorpions

both

real scorpions



3. How can pseudo scorpions be helpful to humans?

Listening Activity

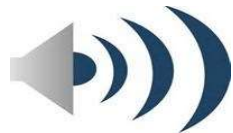
Apartments for Rent

Pre-Listening Exercise

People often look for cheap apartments or condominiums to rent when going off to college. Other students choose to stay with a homestay family, but this isn't always possible. Therefore, what are three things you look for in selecting a place to live?

Listening Exercise

Listen to the recording and answer the following questions:



1. What is the main topic of the conversation?
 - A. problems with living in an apartment
 - B. a search for a new apartment
 - C. the cost of rent near universities
2. Why doesn't Ann like her current apartment?
 - A. It's too expensive.
 - B. The neighborhood is noisy.
 - C. It's located some distance from school.
3. How much money does Ann want to pay for rent?
 - A. no more than \$200
 - B. around \$200
 - C. a little more than \$200
4. What kind of place is she looking for?
 - A. somewhere that is within a short driving distance of campus
 - B. an apartment with furniture already in it
 - C. a place where she can live alone
5. How is Roger going to help her?
 - A. He is planning on calling a friend who owns an apartment building.
 - B. He will check the newspapers to see if he can find an apartment for rent.

C. He is going to visit an apartment building near his place.

Listen again to the recording and complete the dialog.

Apartments for Rent

Roger: Hello.

Ann: Hello Roger? This is Ann.

Roger: Oh hi, Ann. How have you been? And how's your new _____ working out?

Ann: Well, that's what I'm _____ about. You see, I've _____ to look for a new place.

Roger: Oh, what's the _____ with your place now? I thought you liked the apartment.

Ann: Oh, I do, but it's a little far from _____, and the commute is just killing me. Do you think you could help? I _____ you might know more about the housing situation near the school.

Roger: Okay, what's your _____ like? I mean how much do you want to _____ on rent?

Ann: Uh, _____ under \$200 a month, including utilities, if I could. Oh, and I'd prefer to rent a furnished apartment.

Roger: Hmm. And _____ else?

Ann: Yeah, I need a parking space.

Roger: Well, I know there's an apartment complex around the _____ that seems to have a few vacancies. I'll _____ by there on my way to class today.

Ann: Hey, thanks a lot.

Speaking Activity

Practice the dialog with your partner and perform it in the class.

MODULE 3

The Rio Grande



Although not the longest river in America, the Rio Grande is one of the most important. But, unlike other significant rivers, it is not used for shipping. In fact, oceangoing ships cannot navigate the waters. No, what makes the Rio Grande so important is its location. Since 1846, it has been the official border of Texas and Mexico.

Rio Grande Geography

The Rio Grande is either the fourth or fifth longest river system in North America. It all depends on how it is measured. Because the river twists so much, it occasionally changes course. And these course shifts can cause it to be longer or shorter. At its last official measure, the Rio Grande clocked in at 1,896 miles. The river starts in Colorado and

extends downward to the Gulf of Mexico.

Downward is the best way of describing it too. Not only does the river extend south, but it also starts in the mountains and gets lower and lower in elevation as it extends to the Gulf.

Its name is Spanish for the “Big River,” but the Rio Grande is actually known as Rio Bravo in Mexico. “Bravo” translates as “furious,” so the name makes sense. Because of its twists and turns, it certainly does seem to be angrier than most rivers!

The Rio Grande Today

The Rio Grande today is mostly used as a source of drinking water. Sadly, much of the water has been drained from the river. Parts of the river are almost dry! This is because people use more water from the river than the river can get back from rain and other sources. Experts are working to correct this, though, with hopes of restoring the river to its past strength.

Today, the river is important as a source of water for Texans and Mexicans. More important, it is a symbol of cooperation between two nations. Though borders like the Rio Grande separate nations, they are also shared spaces. The Rio Grande is therefore a symbol of friendship and peace between two peoples.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) According to the passage, why is the Rio Grande so important?
- A. It is a source of drinking water for most of the United States.
 - B. It is the border of Texas and Mexico.
 - C. It is the longest river system in the United States.
 - D. It is known by two different names.
- 2) In paragraph 3, the author most likely writes that “downward is the best way of describing it too” to
- A. prove that the Rio Grande’s water levels have gone down recently
 - B. argue that the Rio Grande has changed shape over the years
 - C. highlight the fact that the Rio Grande flows south and from high elevations
 - D. explain why the Rio Grande is known as the Rio Bravo down in Mexico
- 3) Based on its use in paragraph 4, the word **furious** most nearly means
- A. angry
 - B. large
 - C. twisted
 - D. dry
- 4) According to the passage, the Rio Grande has endpoints in
- A. Texas and the Gulf of Mexico
 - B. New Mexico and Colorado
 - C. Texas and Mexico
 - D. Colorado and the Gulf of Mexico
- 5) At the beginning of the passage, we learn that the Rio Grande is "one of the most important" rivers in America. Can you think of another important landform that exists where you live? What makes it so important?

6) In paragraph 5, the author explains that the Rio Grande is slowly going dry. What do you think would happen if the river ever went completely dry? Why? Explain your predictions below.

7) Based on the information in the passage, explain in your own words why the Rio Grande is “either the fourth or fifth longest river system in North America.” Why can’t we say with certainty that it is only the fourth longest and not the fifth longest, for example?

8) In the final paragraph of the passage, the author says that the Rio Grande is “a symbol of cooperation” between Mexico and the United States, but also recognizes that the river divides the two countries. How do you think the river symbolizes cooperation? How do you think it symbolizes division? Explain.

Listening Activity

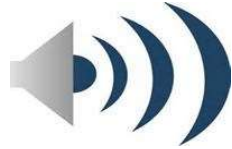
Camping Under the Stars

Pre-Listening Exercise

What camping gear would you take to the mountains to make it a pleasurable experience (e.g., tent, cooking stove, etc.)? What problems could occur and what precautions would you take to prevent them?

Listening Exercise

Listen to the recording and answer the following questions:



1. What are they planning on doing in the morning?
 - A. fishing
 - B. mountain biking
 - C. hiking
2. According to the weather report, when would it start raining?
 - A. in the afternoon
 - B. at night
 - C. in the morning
3. What did Paul forget to bring?
 - A. rain coats
 - B. umbrellas
 - C. rain boots
4. Where did Sara leave the playing cards?
 - A. next to picnic table
 - B. on picnic table
 - C. under picnic table
5. What do they finally decide to do?
 - A. stay at a hotel
 - B. return home
 - C. sleep at the campground

Listen again to the recording and complete the dialog.

Camping under the Stars

Paul: Sara, I've been looking forward to our yearly campout for three weeks. [Me too] It's going to be a wonderful day for hiking tomorrow. The great _____. Camping under the stars . This is the _____ .

Sara: Yeah, but Paul, I'm a little bit worried about the _____ though. The weatherman said it was going to rain later tonight.

Paul: Ah. nonsense. Nothing can spoil our adventure. Those weather _____ are never right.

Sara: And it said there was a chance of high _____.

Paul: Ah. Don't worry. [thunder]

Sara: Paul. Paul. Did you _____ to bring our raincoats just in case, like I told you?

[light rain]

Paul: Uh . . . no. I left them on the front porch.

[heavy rain]

Sara: What are we going to do now?

Paul: We'll have to sleep in the car! _____ get in!

[door shut]

Sara: So, Paul, what are we going to do now?

Paul: How about playing a card _____ ?

Sara: Uhh. I left them next to the picnic table. [Hmmm] Hey, you don't want me to go out in this rain and get them, do you?

Paul: No. That's okay. So what now?

Sara: Well, we could head down the _____ and stay at that hotel we passed on the way up, or go home.

Paul: Hmm, why don't we just make the best of it here and hope the _____ clears.

Sara: That's a good idea.

Speaking Activity

Talk about popular recreational activities in your country. Include the following ideas in your discussion:

- ❖ seasonal activities for spring, summer, fall, and winter
- ❖ recreational sports that are popular among different age groups including children, teens, adults, and senior citizens
- ❖ different activities popular with men or women

MODULE 4

Read the story below. Underline all the metaphors you find.

The Haircut

When I woke up on Saturday, mom said I was a sheepdog with my long, shaggy hair, and it was time for me to get my hair cut. When I looked at her, she was a zebra, half hidden behind the drapes of my overgrown bangs. I couldn't help it. I laughed. She was right, my hair had to be cut.



The barber's chair was a tower, and he pumped it higher and higher. I didn't really mind. I was an explorer, looking at the world in a whole new way. The pieces of hair on the floor were an exotic carpet of strange brown fibers that crisscrossed in a crazy pattern. The floor was an odd new planet, and I was an astronaut looking down from above. The barber pumped the chair again, and I was a rocket coming in for a landing. I couldn't believe the adventure was over so soon.

On the way home, we stopped at the store to buy some milk. Unfortunately, there was some amazing sale going on at the time. We were tiny fish swimming in a sea of people. I couldn't wait to get out of there and go home. The drive home was a frustrating experience, because the holiday traffic had turned the street into a parking lot. I hope it's a long time before I'm a sheepdog again!

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the story all about?

2. List at least five metaphors from the text and write their meaning.

3. Use the idea below to write a sentence using a metaphor.

a mean person

a beautiful voice

an intelligent child

Listening Activity

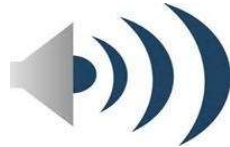
Daily Schedule

Pre-Listening Exercise

What is your daily schedule? What time do you wake up and go to work or school? What do you do when you get home? What time do you go to bed?

Listening Exercise

Listen to the recording and answer the following questions:



1. What time does the man get up?
 - A. at 5:00 a.m.
 - B. at 6:00 a.m.
 - C. at 7:00 a.m.
2. What time does he get to work?
 - A. at 7:00 a.m.
 - B. at 8:00 a.m.
 - C. at 9:00 a.m.
3. What does he do with his family around 6:30 p.m.?
 - A. They read books together.
 - B. They play games.
 - C. They eat dinner.
4. What do the man and his wife do after the kids go to bed?
 - A. They watch TV.
 - B. They clean the house.
 - C. They listen to music.
5. What is one thing the man does NOT say about his wife?
 - A. She has to take their children to school.
 - B. She helps the kids with their homework.
 - C. She goes shopping for food.

Listen again to the recording and complete the dialog.

Daily Schedule

Woman: So, what's your usual day like? You always seem so _____ .

Man: Well, I usually get up around 5:00 a.m. and work on the _____ until 6:00 a.m.

Woman: Why do you get up so early?

Man: Well, I have to _____ home at twenty to seven (6:40 a.m.) so I can catch a bus at 7:00 o'clock. It takes me about twenty minutes to walk to the bus stop from my house.

Woman: And what time do you get to _____?

Man: Uh, my bus takes about an hour to get there, but it stops right in front of my office.

Woman: That's nice. And what time do you get off work?

Man: Uh, around 5:00 o'clock. Then, we eat _____ around 6:30, and my wife and I read and play with the kids until 8:00 or so.

Woman: So, when do you work on your website? You said one time that you create it at home?

Man: Well, my wife and I often watch TV or talk until 10:00 o'clock. She then often reads while I work on my site, and I sometimes stay up until the _____ hours of the morning, but I try to finish _____ by one or two.

Woman: And then you get up at 5:00 a.m.?

Man: Well, yeah, but it's important to live a _____ life. I enjoy what I do, but you have to set aside time for the family and yourself.

Woman: I agree.

Man: But I think my wife has the toughest job. She _____ her whole day taking care of our family . . . taking the kids to school, working in the _____, buying groceries, taking the kids to piano lessons . . . [Wow!] It's a full-time job, but she enjoys what she does.

Woman: Well, it sounds like you're a busy, but _____ man.

Man: I think so too.

Speaking Activity

Now, discuss your own typical schedule for a weekday and a weekend. What activities do you usually do with family and friends?

MODULE 5

Materials

A material is what something is made of. There are 5 basic materials. Most things are made with these materials. Some things are made of metal. Some things are made of glass. Some things are made of wood. Some things are made of cloth. And some things are made of plastic. There are some other materials. But they are not used as much as these five materials.

Let's talk about metal first. Metal is very heavy. And it is very hard and strong. It usually feels cool if you touch it. We use metal to make lots of things. We use it for forks and knives. We use it for keys. We use it for cars. We use it for these things because it is very strong.

Next, let's talk about glass. Glass is very smooth. It feels cool to touch. It is not as heavy as metal. It is hard. But it is not strong. It breaks very easily! Then why do we use it? We use it because it is clear! You can see through glass! That's why we use it for windows. That's also why we use it for glasses.

Now, let's talk about wood. Wood is lighter than metal and glass. It is not as strong as metal. But it is much stronger than glass. We use wood to make lots of things. Things made from wood are usually light and hard and strong. Chairs and tables are made from wood. Pencils are made from wood.

Now let's talk about cloth. Cloth is very light. It is much lighter than wood. And it is very soft. We use cloth to make lots of things. For example, it is used to make clothing. And it is used to make blankets.

Last, let's talk about plastic. Plastic is also very light. But it is different from cloth. Sometimes it is soft. And sometimes it is hard. Plastic can be used to make thin plastic bags. These are light, soft, and strong. But plastic can also be used to make bicycle helmets. These are light, hard, and strong. A helmet and a bag seem different. But they are both made from plastic.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) Which sentence from the passage best describes the main idea?
- A. "We use cloth to make lots of things."
 - B. "Metal is very heavy."
 - C. "There are 5 basic materials."
 - D. "A helmet and a bag seem different."
- 2) According to the passage, which of these things is a material?
- A. chairs
 - B. clothing
 - C. windows
 - D. wood
- 3) According to the passage, how does glass feel?
- A. smooth and cool
 - B. warm and soft
 - C. light and hard
 - D. sharp and heavy
- 4) In paragraph 4, the passage says, "Wood is lighter than metal and glass." What is the main purpose of this sentence?
- A. to explain something
 - B. to recommend something
 - C. to compare something
 - D. to demonstrate something
- 5) Which material would you use if you wanted to make something that was strong and very light?
- A. plastic
 - B. wood
 - C. metal
 - D. glass
- 6) In this passage, the author talks about
- A. hard things first, then soft things
 - B. heavy things first, then light things
 - C. strong things first, then weak things
 - D. cool things first, then warm things

7) In this passage, we learn about a 5 different materials. Which of these materials do you think is best? Why?

8) In this passage, we learn about a 5 different materials. Which of these materials do you think is worst? Why?

Listening Activity

Lost in a Crowd

Pre-Listening Exercise

When listening to a description of a lost child, what kinds of information would you expect to hear (e.g., the child's name)?

Listening Exercise

Listen to the recording and answer the following questions:



1. Where does the announcement take place?
 - A. at a baseball stadium
 - B. at a department store
 - C. at an amusement park
2. What is the boy's name?
 - A. Marshall
 - B. Matthew
 - C. Michael
3. How old is the boy?
 - A. 4
 - B. 5
 - C. 6
4. What is the boy wearing?
 - A. a solid white baseball cap
 - B. black and white pants
 - C. a blue and white sweat shirt
5. Where is the boy now?
 - A. He is at the information desk waiting for his mom.
 - B. He is waiting in the sporting goods section.
 - C. He is at the cashier where you pay for goods.

Listen again to the recording and complete the script.

Lost in a Crowd

Store Announcement:

"Hello Shoppers. We have a lost boy (1) _____ Marshall who was found in the sporting goods section of our store, and he's looking for his (2) _____. He's five years old, and he's wearing a (3) _____ and white sweat shirt, tan pants, and a black and white baseball (4) _____. You can find him at the check-out (5) _____ at the main exit. Thank you."

Speaking Activity

Share your ideas:

Whenever you travel to an amusement park with your family, what things should children do if they get lost? Where should they go and what should they say? Are there Internet Websites that help families find lost children?

MODULE 6

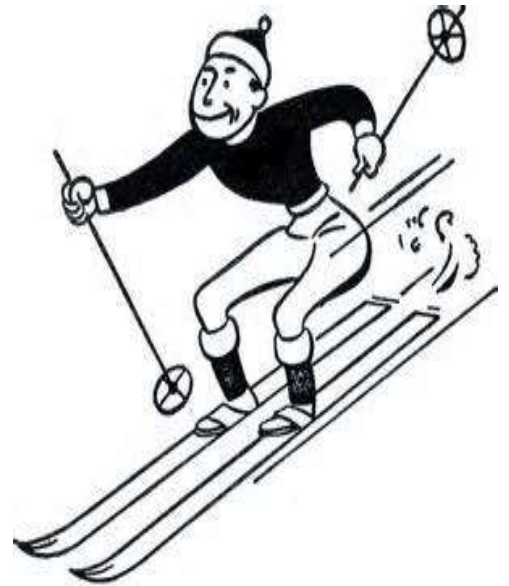
The Skier

by Chris Rose

Afel was only a very small boy when he first saw snow. But it wasn't real snow that he saw. No, there was no real snow where he lived. He saw the snow in a picture book. The book had lots of pictures of children playing in big white fields. He asked his mother,

"What are those white fields?" and his mother laughed and said;

"That's snow!" She tried to explain to him what snow was, but Afel didn't really understand. Sometimes there was rain where he lived, but not very much, so it was very difficult for him to understand what this cold, ice rain that his mother described was. It didn't matter. Even when he was only a very small boy, Afel was already in love with snow. He dreamed about snow all the time, trying to imagine how it really was. He thought of big white fields. He thought of the big, heavy clothes the children playing in the snow wore. He thought about feeling cold.



He dreamed of being able to fly across the white fields of snow. Then, when Afel was twelve years old, the next thing happened. One day he was watching the TV at his uncle's house. His uncle had a big new TV, with all the satellite channels. Afel was watching one of the satellite channels, and a program came on, and the program was full of snow. Lots and lots of it. And not only snow – there were people flying across the snow.

They looked like strange animals, like fantastic birds. They had hats which covered all their heads and big goggles over their eyes. They wore brightly-colored clothes. And on their feet, they had things that looked like strange shoes.

"What are those?" he asked his uncle excitedly.

"Skis," replied his uncle, "And those people are called skiers." Afel was in love. Here was the snow, and here were people who were flying across the snow. It was just like one of his dreams. It was perfect. At that moment, he decided. He wanted to be a skier. He asked his uncle what the program was.

"The Winter Olympics," said his uncle. "It's like the normal Olympics, but for sports where you need snow –skiing, ice skating, bobsleigh, those sorts of things. They have it every four years."

Afel found out that the next Winter Olympics was in Vancouver in Canada, in 2010.

“Perfect,” he thought. “Enough time for me to become a brilliant skier. Then I’ll go to the Winter Olympics, and win the gold medal for skiing.”

“But there’s no snow here!” people told him.

“Where are you going to ski?”

Afel didn’t care. He made himself a pair of skis from two pieces of wood. He tied them to his feet and practiced skiing holding two sticks in his hands. At first he couldn’t move, but he practiced and practiced and practiced until he could move quite quickly across the sand or the earth where he lived. He tried to fly down the hills like the people on TV, but he couldn’t. He could only move slowly.

“Never mind,” he thought. “It’s a start...”

“How will you go to the Olympics?” people asked him. “Our country doesn’t even have a team that goes to the Winter Olympics. Why don’t you do up athletics instead? You don’t need lots of expensive equipment to practice. Our country is very good at athletics. We have lots of runners. And every time we win lots of medals at the Olympics. But no skiing, no.”

Afel didn’t care. He found that Jamaica had sent a bob sleigh team to the Olympics a few years ago.

“If Jamaica have a bobsleigh team,” he thought, “then our country can have a skier.” So every night, out in the middle of the desert, Afel now practices skiing down sand dunes. He dreams that the yellow sand and brown earth of the desert is the white snow of the mountains he saw on the television. He dreams that the yellow sand and brown earth are as gold as the medal he will bring home with him, when he is the world champion.

After Reading

The following questions will help you understand the story. Choose the correct answer for each question:

1. Which of these is best for skiing?
 - a. Snow
 - b. Rain
 - c. Ice
2. Which type of clothes are best for skiing?
 - a. Warm clothes
 - b. Brightly-colored clothes
 - c. Heavy clothes
3. What are goggles?
 - a. More than one internet search engine
 - b. A very big number
 - c. Things similar to glasses to protect the eyes
4. The Winter Olympics happen ...
 - a. every year
 - b. every four years
 - c. every five years
5. Which of these sports are NOT played at the Winter Olympics?
 - a. Skiing
 - b. Bobsleigh
 - c. Athletics

6. You win a gold medal when ...
- a. you come first b. you come second c. you come third
7. The word "Athletics" usually means ...
- a. running and jumping games c. football and rugby
- b. board games

Comprehension Task

True or false

Decide if each of the nine statements about the text is true or false.

- _____ a. When Afel was a small boy he played in the snow.
- _____ b. Afel's mother explained to him what snow is.
- _____ c. Afel understands what snow is.
- _____ d. Afel dreams of the desert.
- _____ e. Afel sees skiers on the television.
- _____ f. The skiers on the television are flying.
- _____ g. The skiers wear unusual shoes.
- _____ h. Afel wants to be a skier when he sees the program.
- _____ i. Afel buys some skis.
- _____ j. Afel finds skiing quite difficult.
- _____ k. People encourage Afel.
- _____ l. Afel keeps his dreams.

Language Task – Vocabulary from the story

Fill in the gaps

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences below.

channel	equipment	field	goggles	ice	medal	stick
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- My uncle has a small farm with one big _____ where he keeps cows and where we played when I was a small boy.
- When water freezes it becomes _____ nice to have in a cool drink!
- Which _____ are you watching? Can you turn over? I don't like this program.
- _____ are useful for swimming as well as skiing! I hate getting water in my eyes.
- The first prize is a gold _____ with your name written on it.
- When you walk up hills, a _____ can help!
- You don't need much _____ to play football – just a ball, really.

Listening Activity

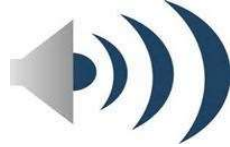
Travel Arrangements

Pre-Listening Exercise

Consulting travel websites can be very helpful in planning trips. After deciding where to travel, would your family prefer to talk to a travel agent about your vacation plans, or make all of the arrangements online? How important is it to you to find cheap or discount plane tickets versus flying first or business class?

Listening Exercise

Listen to the recording and answer the following questions:



1. What is the man's destination?
 - A. Salt Lake City, USA
 - B. New York City, USA
 - C. Helsinki, Finland
 - D. Stockholm, Sweden
2. When is the man's departure date?
 - A. the twenty-first
 - B. the twenty-second
 - C. the twenty-third
 - D. the twenty-fourth
3. What is the flight number for the second half of his journey?
 - A. 555
 - B. 90
 - C. 1070
 - D. 830
4. How long is the man's layover between flights?
 - A. less than an hour
 - B. less than two hours
 - C. less than three hours
 - D. more than three hours
5. What request did the man make regarding his flight?
 - A. He asked for a specially-prepared dinner.
 - B. He wanted an aisle seat.
 - C. He requested a bassinet for his baby.
 - D. He asked for a seat near the front of the plane.

Listen again to the recording and complete the script.

Travel Arrangements

Travel Agent: Freedom Travel. How may I help you?

Caller: Yes, I'd like to make a flight (1) _____ for the twenty-third of this month.

Travel Agent: Okay. What is your (2) _____?

Caller: Well. I'm flying to Helsinki, Finland.

Travel Agent: Okay. Let me check what flights are (3) _____ ? [Okay] And when will you be returning?

Caller: Uh, I'd like to (4) _____ a return flight on the twenty-ninth. Oh, and I'd like the cheapest flight available.

Travel Agent: Okay. Let me see. Um, hmm . . .

Caller: Yeah?

Travel Agent: Well, the price for the flight is almost (5) _____ the price you would pay if you leave the day before.

Caller: Whoo. Let's go with the cheaper flight. By the way, how much is it?

Travel Agent: It's only \$980.

Caller: Alright. Let's go with that.

Travel Agent: Okay. That's flight 1070 from Salt Lake City to New York, Kennedy Airport, transferring to flight 90 from Kennedy to Helsinki.

Caller: And what are the (6) _____ and arrival times for each of those flights?

Travel Agent: It leaves Salt Lake City at 10:00 AM, arriving in New York at 4:35 PM, then transferring to flight 90 at 5:55 PM, and (7) _____ in Helsinki at 8:30 AM the next day.

Caller: Alright. And, uh, I'd like to (8) _____ a vegetarian (9) _____.

Travel Agent: Sure no (10) _____. And could I have your name please?

Speaking Activity

With a partner, create your own dialogue based on the conversation in this quiz. Consider adding information on the destination of the flight, departure and arrival times, ticket price, layovers and transfers, discounts for children and frequent fliers, meals, cancellation charges, and tour packages. Use the Internet to search for specific flight information from a major airline or travel company. Of course, there are many forms of travel. If you travel by car, why would it be important to have reliable car insurance?