



Intermediate (B1)
student's course book



English Level Booster!

- ✓ Learn over 500 useful words and expressions!
- ✓ Increase your range of vocabulary!
- ✓ Improve your listening, language and reading skills!
- ✓ Develop your pronunciation and speaking fluency!

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UNIT 0 Getting started

Welcome to the Hot English *Level Booster!* (Intermediate level).

1 Question-answer matching

Match the questions (1 to 8) to the answers (a-h).

1. What did you have for dinner last night? ☐
2. What did you watch on TV last night? ☐
3. Where did you go last weekend? ☐
4. What sport did you do last week? ☐
5. When was the last time you went to the cinema? ☐
6. What did you see at the cinema? ☐
7. What music did you listen to last week? ☐
8. Who did you have lunch with last week? ☐

- a. I saw Man of Steel.
- b. Taylor Swift's latest album.
- c. Some friends from work.
- d. Some spaghetti with a tomato sauce.
- e. A documentary on Ancient Egypt.
- f. We visited some friends who've got a house in the mountains.
- g. Last Wednesday.
- h. I played some tennis and I went swimming.

2 Verb tenses

Complete the sentences. Use the tense indicated in brackets.

1. He (live) near here. (Present Simple)
2. They often (play) tennis. (Present Simple)
3. She (not eat) at home during the week. (Present Simple)
4. They (watch) a film. (Present Continuous)
5. He (not listen) to the song. (Present Continuous)
6. We (work) in the office. (Present Continuous)
7. She (be) in the theatre. (Past Simple)
8. I (walk) home last night. (Past Simple)
9. We (not see) her in the park. (Past Simple)
10. They (take) a really good photo. (Past Simple)

11. We (not watch) any television last night. (Past Simple)

12. The film (not be) very good. (Past Simple)

3 Vocabulary

Write 4 more words for each word group.

1. Germany, Brazil, France...
2. Swimming, tennis, football...
3. Teacher, journalist, manager...
4. Hat, trousers, socks, shorts...
5. Supermarket, theatre, cinema, clothes shop...
6. Rice, sugar, honey...
7. Washing machine, dryer, microwave...

4 Vocabulary

Complete the mini-dialogues with the correct prepositions.

1. A: Who do you work _____ ?
B: Sam Griffiths. Do you know him?
2. A: Are you staying _____ Mike?
B: No, Paula. She said I could sleep on her sofa.
3. A: Are you worried _____ your exam tomorrow?
B: Not really. I think I'm going to do quite well.
4. A: Who did you speak _____ at the party?
B: A few friends from my old school.
5. A: I'd just like to thank you _____ helping me last week.
B: No problem. It was the least I could do.
6. A: Who's that man who's smiling _____ you?
B: I have no idea. I've never seen him before in my life.



UNIT 0

LISTENING

GOING OUT!

1 Pre-listening

What sort of things can people do when they go out?
Add three more things to the list below.

Go for a meal at a restaurant, go to a bar, go to a pub...

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to two people talking about what they did last weekend. Did they choose anything from the list you created in the Pre-listening activity?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What type of film did Ella see last weekend?
2. What type of restaurant did she go to?
3. What did Ben watch on TV at home?
4. What type of film is Ben going to see tonight?
5. Where is the cinema?
6. Where are they going to eat after the film?

1. A romantic comedy.
2. A Mexican restaurant.
3. An old classic.
4. A horror film.
5. On Madison Avenue.
6. A kebab restaurant.



READING

THE BIRDS

1 Pre-reading

You're going to read a review of the film *The Birds*. Before reading it, think of three questions to ask about the film. For example: *When was the film released?*

2 Reading I

Read the review once. Did you find the answers to any of your questions?

3 Reading II

Read the review again. Then, write **T** (true) or **F** (false) next to each statement.

1. The film was released in 1963. ☐
2. It's set in a small town in California. ☐
3. The film stars actress Daphne du Maurier. ☐
4. The attacks take place over a period of a few months. ☐
5. The film is directed by Alfred Hitchcock. ☐
6. It's based on a book by Tippi Hendren. ☐



THE BIRDS

The Birds is a 1963 horror classic. It was directed by Alfred Hitchcock, and it focuses on a series of violent bird attacks over the course of a few days. The film stars Rod Taylor and Tippi Hedren in her screen debut. During the film, hundreds of seagulls and crows attack the residents of a small seaside town in California. The townsfolk hide in their

houses, but the aggressive birds fly in through the windows and down the chimneys.

Nobody knows for sure why the birds are acting so violently. However, some locals think it's a sign that the world is about to end. Hitchcock used real birds during filming and the actors had fish paste put on their skin to attract them. The film is based on a book of the same name by writer Daphne du Maurier. Inspiration for the film also came from Hitchcock's memories of the bombing raids on London during World War II.



Really improve your English by reading and listening to just one article from Hot English magazine every day. This will really help with your listening skills, and you'll learn lots of useful words and expressions.

UNIT 0



NOTES



ALL ABOUT ME!



1 Pre-viewing

What hobbies, sports or activities did you do as a child? What about now? Make notes.

2 First viewing

Watch the video once. How did the speaker's hobbies, pastimes, etc. change as he got older? Are any of them similar to your hobbies or pastimes?

3 Second viewing

Watch the video again. Then, choose the correct answers.

1. What instrument did the speaker learn to play as a child?
 - a) The guitar
 - b) The piano
2. What sports did the speaker enjoy as a child (among others)?
 - a) Football* and swimming
 - b) Football and baseball
3. Where is he from?
 - a) North Carolina
 - b) South Carolina
4. What jobs has he had?
 - a) A cashier and a waiter
 - b) A bartender and a salesman
5. What is one of Ben's hobbies?
 - a) Cooking
 - b) Drawing

4 Writing

Write a short description of the hobbies, pastimes, etc. you enjoyed as a child and the ones you like doing now.

*Football – the speaker is American so he's referring to American football (not soccer).

Watching videos in English – top tips!

The most important thing to remember when watching a video in English is this: **you won't understand every word.** But this isn't a problem. Simply listen out for the key words – the most important words in the conversation: *the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.* By doing this, you'll be able to guess what the speakers are saying. Also, before watching the video, think about the topic. If you do this, you'll be able to predict what the speakers might say, and also guess the meaning of words or expressions, even if you don't understand them!

UNIT 1 Descriptions!

Vocabulary: Free time activities, sports, instruments, beauty products

Language structures: The present simple, present continuous and past simple



Write in English every day! It's good practice as it forces you to use the language you know. Also, you get to see where the gaps are in your knowledge. You could practise writing out stories or anecdotes. This would be good preparation for telling the stories later in conversation.

1 Music matching

Match the music genres (1 to 12) to the musicians, singers and groups (a-l).

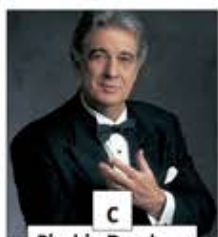
1. Rock ☐
2. Pop ☐
3. Classical music ☐
4. Blues ☐
5. Country (& Western) ☐
6. Folk ☐
7. Opera ☐
8. Indie ☐
9. Heavy metal ☐
10. Disco ☐
11. Reggae ☐
12. Motown ☐



a
Marvin Gaye



b
Bob Dylan



c
Plácido Domingo



d
Arctic Monkeys



e
Mozart



f
BB King



g
Hank Williams



h
Metallica



i
Bob Marley



j
ABBA



k
Bon Jovi



l
Britney Spears

Can you think of any musicians or bands for these types of music: hip hop, punk, ska, electronic, rap, soul, Brit pop, new R 'n' B, jazz? Other?



Think about it!

What are your favourite types of music? Which musicians / singers from this page do you like? Why? When do you like to listen to music? Why?

UNIT 1 Descriptions!

Listening – top tips!

The most important thing to remember when listening to a conversation is that you won't understand every word. So, you should only listen out for the key words – the most important words in the conversation: the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. Then, you can use your intuition to guess what the people are saying – just as you do in your own language. Knowing the context and topic of the conversation will help with this.

LISTENING

WHAT TYPE OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE?

1 Pre-listening

Match the instruments (1 to 11) to the pictures (a-k)

1. Electric guitar ☐
2. Acoustic guitar ☐
3. Bass guitar ☐
4. Drums ☐
5. Saxophone ☐
6. Cello ☐
7. Violin ☐
8. Organ ☐
9. Piano ☐
10. Trumpet ☐
11. Trombone ☐



2 Listening I

You're going to listen to two people talking about music. Listen once. What genres (types) of music do they mention?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What instruments does Zach play?
2. Where did his band the Toucans play while he was in London?
3. In which other city was he in a band?
4. Who are Abigail's favourite classical composers?
5. Where do they arrange to go?



VOCABULARY

1 Vocabulary

Add words to the lists.

- Listen to... *a song, an MP3*
- Play... *the guitar, the piano*
- Download... *a song, an MP3*
- Record... *a song*
- Sing... *a folk song*
- Sing along to... *a song on the radio*

2 Unusual sports analysis

Read the information below. Then, write **T** (true) or **F** (false).

TWO UNUSUAL SPORTS

What sports are you into? Football? Tennis? Swimming? If you're looking for a change, you might like to try one of these.

Octopush

Octopush (or underwater hockey as it's also known) is a form of hockey that's played in a swimming pool. Participants wear a mask and snorkel and try to move a puck across the bottom of a pool. The sport has become popular in countries such as the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.



Zoobombing

Zoobombing involves riding a children's bike down a steep hill. The sport originated in the US city of Portland in Oregon in 2002. Participants carry their bikes on the MA X Light Rail and go to the Washington Park station next to Oregon Zoo (which is why it's called "zoobombing"). From there, they take a lift to the surface, and then ride the mini-bikes down the hills in the area.



1. Octopush is played in a swimming pool. ☐
2. It's a form of hockey. ☐
3. Participants breathe through oxygen tanks. ☐
4. Zoobombing originated in Canada. ☐
5. It involves riding a child's bike down a steep hill. ☐
6. Participants ride down hills near a library in Oregon. ☐

SPEAKING

Ask and answer these questions in pairs.

- What's your favourite music radio station? Why?
- What's your favourite instrument? Why do you like it?
- What's the best way to learn how to play a musical instrument?
- Which instrument would you like to learn to play?
- Do you listen to music online?
- Which sites do you use?
- Can you play an instrument?
- What's your favourite instrument? Why?
- What sport do you do?
- Which sports do you like to watch?
- What do you do in your free time?

UNIT 1 Descriptions!

READING

THE 39 STEPS

1 Pre-reading

Match the words (1 to 6) to the definitions (a-f).

1. Spy
 2. Assassin
 3. Plot
 4. Smuggle
 5. Murder
 6. Suspect
- a. Someone who is paid to kill another person.
 - b. A person who tries to find out secret information.
 - c. A person who the police think may have committed a crime.
 - d. To take something in or out of a country illegally.
 - e. The unlawful killing of a person.
 - f. A secret plan to do something bad.

2 Reading I

You're going to read about a book and film called *The 39 Steps*. From the words in the pre-reading activity, what do you think the book is about? Make notes. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read over the text again. Then, tick (✓) "Yes" or "No".

1. The film opens in a theatre.
2. Annabella tells Richard that she's a spy.
3. Annabella goes to Scotland with Richard.
4. The police are looking for Annabella.
5. Richard is a suspect in Annabella's death.
6. The film stars actor Richard Hannay.
7. The film is more or less based on a 1915 novel.

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THE 39 STEPS (1935)

This was Alfred Hitchcock's 23rd film. It was a big hit in the US, and it helped to launch his Hollywood career. Hitchcock loved stories about innocent men who are accused of a crime they didn't commit. In *The 39 Steps*, the main character, Richard Hannay, becomes a murder suspect and has to fight to clear his name.

The film opens at a London theatre. Richard Hannay is watching a show when shots are fired. A frightened woman, Annabella Smith, persuades Richard to take her to his apartment. There, she tells him that she's a spy and that she's trying to escape from a gang of assassins. She also reveals that she's uncovered a plot to smuggle military secrets out of England. The next day, she bursts into Richard's apartment, fatally stabbed in the back. She dies shortly after. Richard finds a map of Scotland in her hand, with a town circled. He decides to find out what's going on, so he boards a train to Scotland. Once on the train, he learns that the police are looking for him, and that he's suspected of Smith's murder.

The film stars Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll. It's loosely based on the 1915 adventure novel *The Thirty-Nine Steps* by John Buchan.

