



Upper Intermediate(B2)
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!* (Upper Intermediate level).

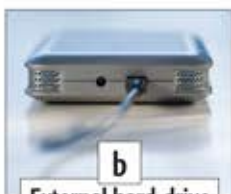
1 Gadget matching

Match the descriptions of the gadgets (1 to 6) to the gadgets (a-f).

- It's great for transferring files between computers or for backing up material. Mine's got about 500GB.
- Since we got one of these, driving has become a lot less stressful, although I still like to look things up on the map too!
- This gadget has saved me loads of money that I was previously spending in bars and cafés. It works with these little capsules that you can buy online.
- We got one of these at work so we could give presentations to clients who came to visit us. It's really easy to use – you just need to hook it up to your iPad with a special cable.
- We've had one of these for ages. The quality is incredible, but the ink is really expensive.
- We've got one of these in our living room at home. It's got hundreds of photos in it and it changes every 5 seconds.



Colour printer



External hard-drive



Coffee machine



Digital picture frame



Sat-Nav



Projector

2 Question-answer matching

Match the questions (1 to 6) to the answers (a-f). Then, answer the questions yourself.

- Where have you been living for most of your life?
 - What did you do the last time you went out at night?
 - What would you have liked to be if you hadn't chosen your current career?
 - If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
 - What's your favourite sport and why?
 - What's your biggest regret?
- New York City. There's so much to do and see there! Plus the food is great!
 - I went to a restaurant with some friends, then to the cinema to see a late-night show.
 - A lawyer.
 - Turning down this job I was offered in Melbourne last year. I think it would have been a great experience.
 - Miami, Florida.
 - Probably basketball because it's so fast-paced and exciting, and you never know who's going to win till the very last minute.

3 Question time

Answer the questions. Invent where necessary.

- What are your plans for the summer?
- What did you do last night?
- What books have you been reading lately?
- What did everyone else think of your last "brilliant" idea?
- What are some of your proudest achievements?
- Where would you like to be in five-years' time?
- Where would you like to travel to one day? Why?

4 Vocabulary

Write 4 more words for each word group.

- Architect, builder, construction...
- Yoga, Tai Chi, meditation...
- Press conference, journalist, paparazzi...
- Three-course meal, home-made food, haute cuisine, ...
- Agency, audition, role, director...
- Piano, concert, composer...





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.

READING

HOMELESS HERO

1 Pre-reading

What would you do if you found a bag full of money? Explain clearly and give reasons.

2 Reading I

Read the story about a man who found some money in a bag. Would you have done the same?

3 Reading II

Read the story again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How much did the man find?
2. Where's the man from?
3. How long has he been homeless?
4. Where did he take the backpack?
5. Where did they find the owner's contact details?
6. How much did Fenton get as a reward? How did he feel about it?

HOMELESS HERO

A homeless man has been called a hero after returning \$3,300 he found in a lost backpack. Les Fenton, a homeless man from Arizona, found over \$3,300 in the bag, but rather than keeping the money he gave it back. Fenton, 64, has been homeless for eight years. He found the backpack at a train station in Fordshire. Shortly afterwards, he took it to a community centre. A manager there found a memory stick inside the bag, and on one of the documents there was the owner's name, Stephen Spender, and a phone number. "I was going to use the money to buy a new car," Spender, a university student, explained. "This is the greatest thing I've ever experienced." Spender later gave Fenton a \$3 reward. "I think I'll get myself a coffee with that," a disappointed Fenton told journalists.



LISTENING

THE NEW EMPLOYEE!

1 Pre-listening

Imagine there's a new employee where you work. Think of three questions to ask about him/her.

2 Listening I

Listen to the recording once. Did they ask any of the questions you thought of for the Pre-listening activity?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What did she do at the conference last week?
2. What did she do in Chicago?
3. How long has she been living in Brazil?
4. What sort of person is she?
5. What sports is she into?
6. What pranks have they pulled on Jamie?



UNIT 0



NOTES



BEAR FIGHT!



1 Pre-viewing

Have you ever seen any wild animals where you live or anywhere in the wild? What type of wild animals were they? What were they doing? Did they notice you? What did they do when they saw you?

2 First viewing

You're going to watch a video about two bears in a local neighbourhood. Why do you think the two bears were fighting? Why do you think they stopped? Make notes. Then, watch the video once to compare your ideas.

Second viewing

Watch the video again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Where in the house grounds did the fight take place?
2. What did the man being interviewed see?
3. Where else have bears been seen?
4. What is attracting the bears?
5. Why are the bears fighting?
6. What happened in the end of the fight?

4 Speaking

Prepare notes to explain about a time you came into contact with some form of wildlife. Invent if necessary. Include information on the following: what you saw, what form of wildlife it was, what happened, what you did, how it ended...



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: Story telling, describing a film, writing a film review, describing a mistake

Language structures: Present tenses, and past tenses



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 Film descriptions matching

Write a movie title from below next to the mini-film descriptions (1 to 9).



1. A superhero has to save his city from a criminal mastermind. _____
2. A husband and wife discover that they work for competing contract killing agencies and that their next targets are each other! _____
3. A girl from Kansas gets swept up in a tornado and finds herself in a mystical land. _____
4. The son of a Mafia boss reluctantly takes over the family business. _____
5. An orphan boy who's living with his aunt, uncle and cousin discovers that he's a wizard. _____
6. Three men retrace their steps to find the missing groom after a crazy Las Vegas bachelor party. _____
7. A magical nanny, and her flying umbrella, transforms the lives of an unhappy British family. _____
8. A private detective who becomes involved in a dangerous scandal, with Faye Dunaway as the femme fatale. _____
9. A lonely young boy helps an alien stranded on earth find his way home. _____



Think about it!

What makes these films interesting stories? What are some of the best films you've ever seen? Why were they so interesting? Have you ever thought of an idea for a film? What was it?

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

MY FAVOURITE FILM SCENE



1 Pre-listening

You're going to listen to a description of a film scene. Look at the words below. What do you think happens?

fast food restaurant **breakfast** **checkout girl**
manager **gun**

2 Listening I

Listen once. How accurate was your description of the scene?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why does William Foster leave his car in the middle of the road?
2. Why does he go into the convenience store?
3. Why does he get angry there?
4. Why can't he have breakfast in the fast-food restaurant?
5. What expression does Foster remind the manager of?
6. What does the manager do for Foster in the end?

VOCABULARY

1 Sentence analysis

Read over the sentences. What does the verb **get** (or the expression with this verb) mean?



1. They **got stuck** in the cable car.



2. She **got angry** when she saw all the mess.



3. He was having difficulty **getting out of** the parking space.



4. Can we **get** some food to take out?



5. He **got** a real shock when he saw how short my hair was!



6. **Get on with** your work and stop complaining!

2 Questions & statements matching

Match the questions or statements (1 to 6) to the answers (a-f).

1. Did you get lost on your first day there? ☐
 2. Good news! I just got promoted! ☐
 3. Sandy and Jeff have decided to get married! ☐
 4. She took it all, but I'll get my revenge one day. ☐
 5. He got pretty upset when he heard about it! ☐
 6. So, what can I do to get you to change your mind? ☐
- a. Nothing. I've made up my mind and that's it.
b. I can imagine!
c. Yeah, the map they gave us wasn't clear at all.
d. I can't believe she did that!
e. That's great! So, what's your official title now?
f. Fantastic! When's the big day?

UNIT 1 Descriptions!

SPEAKING

Ask and answer these questions with a friend or classmate.

- What are some of your favourite film scenes? Why do you like them?
- What makes a good film scene?
- What are some of the most frightening scenes you've seen in a film?
- What are some of the funniest film scenes you've ever seen?
- How important is the script in a film?
- Have you ever seen a film with a really bad script? Why was it so bad?
- Which actors / actresses do you enjoy watching? Why?
- What are some of the most exciting scenes you've seen in a film?

WRITING

Your turn!

Write a short film review. Use the text from the listening activity on the film *Falling Down* as a model for your text. Include information on the following:

- The name of the film
- The basic story
- The director
- The actors
- What you thought of it
- Etc.

READING

FILM REVIEW: THE QUEEN

Pre-reading

In just one minute, write down as many words as you can in association with Queen Elizabeth II. For example: *crown, Prince Charles, Princess Diana, Buckingham Palace...*

Reading I

You're going to read a film review of a film about Queen Elizabeth II. Read it once. Did you notice any of the words you thought of for the Pre-reading activity?

Reading II

Read the text again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What news does the queen hear about while she's on holiday?

2. What's unusual about this film?
3. What does the writer say about Helen Mirren's interpretation of the queen?
4. What does most of the movie deal with?
5. What is the "stark contrast" that the writer mentions?
6. What is the film a fascinating insight into?

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Reviews >>> The Queen

It's 1997 and the UK has a new prime minister, Tony Blair. Princess Diana is being entertained in Paris by her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed. And, 72-year-old Queen Elizabeth II is holidaying in Balmoral Castle – the Royal Family's estate in Scotland.

But what happens next will shake the nation. News arrives that Princess Di and Dodi Fayed have been killed in a Paris car crash. The nation goes into shock. These dramatic events are taken as inspiration for this film by Steven Frears.

The Queen is unusual because the Queen herself is still a living monarch, yet she is played by an actress, Helen Mirren. In the past, films have traditionally been about deceased monarchs - never living ones! Mirren does a fantastic job and is utterly convincing. Martin Sheen plays the part of Prime Minister Tony Blair. Much of the movie is concerned with the tensions between these two characters, each with their own political and personal agendas.

Meanwhile, there's a stark contrast between the British public, who are mourning the loss of their Princess, and the royal family who remain on holiday in Balmoral. As the flowers and wreaths left at the gates of Buckingham Palace start to pile up, Blair, with the support of Prince Charles, tries to convince the Queen to return to London to be with the people. Will she go? *The Queen* is a fascinating insight into the relationship between power, privilege and tradition.

