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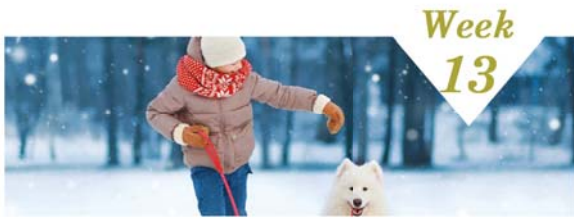
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# How to Use This Book

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In our reading plan, the 100 articles are divided into 16 weeks. Readers should read 6–7 articles each week. By following the plan, the readers will make steady progress in mastering English reading skills.



**12** The Great Wall of the Ocean


Skirting the coast of northeast Australia is the only living thing that can be seen from space. The Great Barrier Reef runs alongside Queensland for 2,600 kilometers, providing food and shelter for a huge variety of plants and animals.

**Questions**

1. What is the main topic of the article?
  - Endangered species that live in the Great Barrier Reef
  - The best time to visit the Great Barrier Reef
  - What the Great Barrier Reef is
  - How the Great Barrier Reef grew.
2. What is this article mainly about?
  - An ecosystem.
  - A sea mammal.
  - A country.
  - An event.
3. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
  - Humpback whales spend time at the Great Barrier Reef
  - The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of Australia.
  - Four hundred kinds of coral live at the Great Barrier Reef.
  - The Great Barrier Reef is 2,800 kilometers long.
4. What can we infer about Queensland from the article?
  - It's in the Great Barrier Reef.
  - It's an endangered species.
  - It's part of Australia.
  - It's part of a rain forest.
5. In the fourth paragraph, the author says the Reef isn't invulnerable. What does **invulnerable** mean?
  - Impossible to harm or damage.
  - Dangerous or threatening.
  - Vast or infinite.
  - Intricate and complicated.
6. How does the author end the article?
  - With a joke.
  - With a warning.
  - With an interesting statistic.
  - With words of praise.

The crown-of-thorns starfish eats coral. Its recent population boom put the entire reef at risk.

Constantly growing, constantly dying, this great wall relies on a complex ecological balance. We should guard it carefully.



▲ The Great Barrier Reef supports a diversity of life.

**21** Saving the World by Seeing the World

Have you ever found a place that was so beautiful you didn't want to share it? Did you try to keep it hidden from other people who wouldn't appreciate it? Did you try to protect it by keeping it a secret, by preventing other people from walking all over it, changing it, ruining it?

Ecotourism tries to protect special natural places by doing the opposite: opening them up to visitors. However, instead of just building hotels, arranging transportation, and waiting for tourists to come, ecotourism controls how many and how tourists interact with their surroundings. We've discovered that unregulated tourism can bring in money, but it also brings environmental damage. Disruption to local ways of life, the loss of old traditions, and other negative effects. Cruise ships, for example, bring tourists with negative effects. Cruise ships, for example, bring tourists with negative effects. Cruise ships, for example, bring tourists with negative effects.



**Questions**

1. What is the main topic of the article?
  - Pros and cons of ecotourism.
  - The best ecotourism destinations.
  - How to rate an ecotourism lodge
  - Ecotourism differs from regular tourism.
2. What is the article about?
  - The dangers of tourism.
  - A nation's history.
  - The benefits of ecotourism.
  - A travel writer.
3. Which statement is true?
  - Cruise ships are a big part of ecotourism.
  - Costa Rica was one of the first countries to promote ecotourism.
  - Ecotourism contrasts with traditional tourism by focusing on short-term solutions.
  - Ecotourism welcomes unlimited tourists.
4. Why does ecotourism often use local food, materials, and people?
  - They are often the least expensive options.
  - Eco-lodges like to offer local cooking classes.
  - Eco-lodges like to offer local cooking classes.
  - It puts money into the local economy and benefits the community.
  - It wants local people to have good jobs and abandon their traditional ways.
5. What does the word **pristine** in the last paragraph mean?
  - Polluted.
  - Remote.
  - Ancient or traditional.
  - Original and unspoiled.
6. What does this passage mostly resemble?
  - A biography.
  - A book review.
  - A travel magazine.
  - A serious scientific report.

The articles are written about various kinds of topics: culture, mystery, business, people, arts & literature, and more. Readers will learn English as they explore their world.

Week 15 Day 5  
Mystery

▶ Chromesthesia is a type of synesthesia in which heard sounds automatically evoke an experience of color.

## 91 Synesthesia

▶ Is October yellow? Does your breakfast taste pointy? Is the smell of soap itchy? To a person with synesthesia, all these questions might make sense.



▶ Synesthesia is a condition in which senses or perceptions are connected in unusual ways. In terms of the brain, it means when one sense is stimulated, an unrelated one is also triggered. These associations are automatic, not thought out or planned. Most people with synesthesia don't recognize that they are different for a long time.

▶ A common form of synesthesia is grapheme-color synesthesia. For these synesthetes, letters or numbers are colored. "A" may always be blue, while 1984 might be pinkish. "Linguistics is a grayish-purple-blue word," says Karen, one synesthete.

▶ There are less common, more unusual versions as well. *The Man Who Tasted Shapes* is a book about different synesthetes, including one who indeed associated different shapes and tastes. People can connect sounds with odors or textures, or dates with places in space. A rare form of synesthesia links personalities with numbers, letters, or other concepts. Each synesthete is unique, so while many people may perceive numbers as colors, they will not agree, for example, that four is green.

▶ No one is sure how synesthesia works. Scientists **speculate** that the brain becomes cross-wired, with parts of the brain that are supposed to stay in one area crossing into another. Synesthesia doesn't seem to have any negative effects on the brain. Synesthetes are as smart as everyone else. Indeed, many tests show that synesthetes have better memories than the average population for some reason.

▶ People with synesthesia may have superior memories.

**Questions**

- What is the main topic of the article?
  - The benefits of synesthesia.
  - What synesthesia really is.
  - Pros and cons of synesthesia.
  - The myth of synesthesia.
- What is this article mainly about?
  - A person.
  - A doctor.
  - A condition.
  - A debate.
- Which of the following statements is true?
  - Synesthetes are often not very smart.
  - Scientists know that synesthesia comes from crossed wires in the brain.
  - The most common form of synesthesia connects numbers and personality traits.
  - Synesthetes often have better memories than the general population.
- What does synesthesia seem to affect?
  - Rational thinking.
  - Creativity.
  - Mathematical ability.
  - Longevity.
- The fifth paragraph tells us that scientists speculate about synesthesia's causes. What does **speculate** mean?
  - Form a theory.
  - Test a theory.
  - Know.
  - Disagree.
- Which of the following might result from having synesthesia?
  - Being taller than average.
  - Being a worse-than-average speller.
  - Having a poor grasp of numbers.
  - Having a better-than-average memory.

The Man Who Tasted Shapes  
Richard E. Cytowic, M.D.

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Each article is followed by six essential questions to help readers understand the content.

### Delicious Japanese Dishes



- grilled chicken on skewers
- sushi
- curry rice
- rolled omelet
- pork cutlet
- tempura
- chicken donburi
- wagashi

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Bountiful pictures that provide additional information related to the articles will enhance readers' pleasure in reading.

Week 14 Day 3  
The Kentucky Derby



▶ mint julep, a classic Kentucky Derby cocktail

The Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes are the other two races. As of now, the last horse to win all three was Affirmed, in 1978. Each year at the Kentucky Derby, the dream begins again.

Questions

- What is the main topic of the article?
  - The most popular ghost towns.
  - Ghost towns around the world.
- What is this article mainly about?
  - The reasons for some ghost towns.
  - How to set up a ghost town.

42  
Culture

### The Slurp Heard Around the World

▶ Ramen connects us. A food that instantly evokes Japan actually came from China. It was then revolutionized by a man from Taiwan, and is a staple of American college students.

▶ Ramen is the name of both a type of noodle and a dish. Ramen noodles are thin and squiggly. They're made of wheat flour and a particular kind of alkaline mineral water. The properties of this water add to the flavor and the elastic texture of the noodles. Ramen is usually hand pulled, so it has to stretch.

▶ These noodles go into a dish that has local variations all over Japan. Almost all ramen variations start with a chicken or pork **broth**. The four basic types of ramen are defined



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# Week 1



## Day 1 People

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▶ the album 25 by Adele



01



## The Voice That Rules the Music World

- 1 Adele Adkins was born in North London, England, in 1988. Her mother, Penny Adkins, was 18 years old at the time of her birth. There were some hard times for both of them during the early years. Adele's father left when Adele was just four years old. He would keep in contact with her over the years, but it was often a troubled relationship. Adele eventually broke all contact with him when she was a teenager.
- 2 School was a problem for Adele early on. She often felt bored and uninspired in class. Fortunately, things turned around when she was accepted into the BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology. This was the same school that Amy Winehouse attended. The school allowed Adele to develop her love of music and skills in playing multiple instruments, including the flute, saxophone, and guitar.
- 3 Adele's big break came when she was still at the BRIT School. She posted a short demo album on her MySpace page. Some studio executives listened to it, and then decided to sign her to a contract.
- 4 Adele's rise to fame since then has been incredible. She has recorded three albums: *19*, *21*, and *25*. All of them are named after her age at the time of production. These albums contain memorable songs like "Rolling in the Deep" and "Someone Like You." They have sold over 40 million copies worldwide. Adele has also received countless awards. She swept the top categories of the Grammy Awards in 2012 and 2017—a first in Grammy history.
- 5 Perhaps more important than Adele's commercial success is the way she did it. Adele is unlike other pop stars, who tend to be managed and controlled by their labels. She is driven, independent, and



◀ Adele attended the 59th Grammy's Award in 2017.



immensely talented. She also feels comfortable in her own skin. Some have even described her as a “**force of nature**.” It’s hard to imagine a better female role model for her millions of fans worldwide.



► Adele’s *Skyfall* won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 2013.

**Questions**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which sentence is closest to the main point? ..... ♦Main Idea♦

  - a Adele broke records at the Grammy Awards.
  - b Adele is a special kind of talent.
  - c Adele attended the BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology.
  - d Adele recorded three albums.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What does this passage describe? ..... ♦Subject Matter♦

  - a An album.
  - b A song.
  - c A musician.
  - d A voice.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following statements about Adele is NOT true? ..... ♦Supporting Details♦

  - a She didn’t like school as a child.
  - b She recorded the song "Someone Like You."
  - c She was born in Scotland.
  - d She has won several Grammy Awards.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What can we infer from the passage about Adele’s childhood? ..... ♦Inference♦

  - a Adele’s mom had some struggles with money.
  - b Adele didn’t like to sing when she was young.
  - c Adele didn’t have many friends in her neighborhood.
  - d Adele was very religious.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What does **force of nature** mean in the final paragraph? ..... ♦Words in Context♦

  - a Someone who was born rich.
  - b Someone with a strong personality.
  - c Someone who doesn’t like the countryside.
  - d Someone who likes being outdoors.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What does the author do in the final paragraph to capture the reader’s attention? ..... ♦Clarifying Devices♦

  - a Shares a personal experience.
  - b Presents interesting statistics.
  - c Makes a strong argument.
  - d Describes several steps.

▶ Wall Street

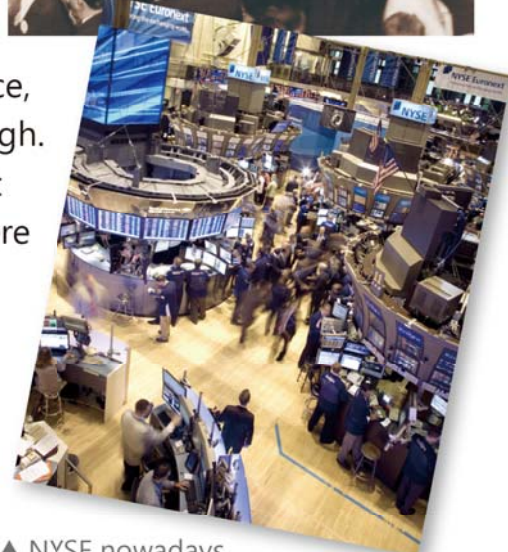
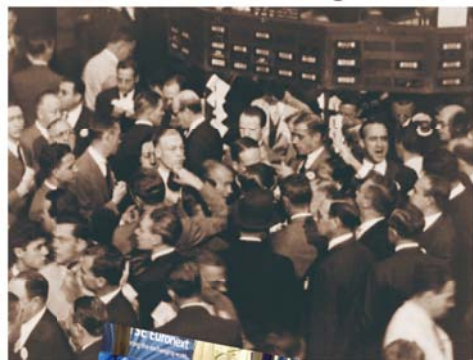
02 

## History of Wall Street



- 1 What is now New York City was once a Dutch colony. After the Dutch bought the land from the Native Americans in the area, they built a wall to protect themselves from attacks. The wall lasted for about 50 years in the mid-1600s, but the name it gave to the street that ran along it has lived for centuries.
- 2 Wall Street became a center of commerce early in New York's history. Though it was only a **handful** of blocks long, it connected the East River with other major streets, which made it a convenient place to set up warehouses for imported goods and facilities for exports.
- 3 The idea of buying and selling bonds, contracts, and other investments in businesses wasn't new. The first stock exchange was set up in Belgium in 1531, followed by exchanges in Amsterdam and Paris. In New York, wealthy merchants along Wall Street traded stocks by word of mouth. They would meet under a buttonwood tree at the end of the street. In 1792, they got tired of this informal state of affairs. That year, a group of men formally established what they called The Stock Exchange Office, a formal, regulated entity to buy and sell stocks through.
- 4 The stock exchange in New York wasn't an instant success. **On the contrary**, in 1817, some members were upset with the poor performance of their exchange and went to observe the bustling, thriving exchange in Philadelphia. They came back with new ideas and made the first of many changes. In 1863, the organization was given its current name, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

▼ stock traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in 1936



▲ NYSE nowadays

5 The NYSE has weathered the storms, from bubbles, panics, and depression to acts of terrorism. So far, it continues to dominate American finance. In 1800, only about 20 companies were traded publicly. Today, a billion shares change hands every day. Prices rise and fall, but the bell that opens the NYSE every morning just keeps ringing.



**Questions**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is the main topic of the article? .....♦Main Idea♦

  - a How to succeed on Wall Street.
  - b A history of stock exchanges.
  - c The NYSE today.
  - d How Wall Street rose.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What does the passage mainly deal with? .....♦Subject Matter♦

  - a A country.
  - b A road.
  - c A financial institution.
  - d An era.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following statements is NOT true? .....♦Supporting Details♦

  - a The NYSE was not the name of America's first stock exchange.
  - b Early traders met under a tree to exchange stocks.
  - c The NYSE was the world's first stock exchange.
  - d Wall Street was named after a wall.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What can we infer about the NYSE from the article? .....♦Inference♦

  - a It was the first of its kind in the world.
  - b It's a very durable institution.
  - c It has shrunk in power over the years.
  - d It is owned and run by the Dutch.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The second paragraph mentions a handful of something. What does the word **handful** mean? .....♦Words in Context♦

  - a A small number.
  - b A large number.
  - c Something that can be manipulated by hand.
  - d Something that can be hidden.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. How is the phrase **on the contrary** used in the fourth paragraph? .....♦Clarifying Devices♦

  - a To lead into a contrast.
  - b To lead into a myth.
  - c To provide context for a quote.
  - d To indicate an emotion.

03 

## Spray, Connect, Touch

- 1 Touchscreen technology is commonplace nowadays. It's on our phones, on our TV sets, and on our laptops. At the moment, though, touchscreen technology is limited mostly to small, flat surfaces like phone or computer screens. It isn't really suitable for large or irregular-shaped objects, like toys or living room walls, for example. However, a new invention called Electrick is set to change all that. It could be the first step in turning any surface into a working, **interactive** touchscreen.
- 2 So, what is Electrick exactly, and how does it work? Essentially, Electrick is a conductive spray paint. You spray it on something and send a small electric charge through the object. The electrodes attached to the object then detect where you touch. Though it's not quite as accurate as the touchscreen on your smartphone or laptop, it can detect your finger to within about a centimeter. It's also durable, able to retain its sensitivity over hundreds and hundreds of uses. It's not yet known how well it will work under conditions like rain or electromagnetic interference, but it's early days, yet.
- 3 So what exactly could the applications of this spray-on touchscreen be? Think about it—you could place shortcuts to your TV's functions on your favorite chair or coffee table. You could turn something like a map into an interactive learning device. How about programming your electric guitar with different sound effects? Then simply turn them on by touching different places on the instrument's body. You could customize toys, your house, your car—anything!—to respond to your touch.

► Touchscreen technology is commonplace.



▲ The applications of this spray-on touchscreen is vast. It can detect your hand location and gesture on the steering wheel.



- 4 Of course, you must be asking yourself, is it really possible to make anything touch-sensitive? In a word, yes. Electrick technology is not only compatible with traditional manufacturing methods such as spray-coating and casting. It works with newer, state-of-the-art technology like 3-D printing, too. The technology might be brand new, but the possibilities appear to be endless.

◀ You can customize toys to respond to your touch.

## Questions

- \_\_\_ 1. What is the author's main point? .....♦Main Idea♦
- a Spray-on touchscreens are not yet fully developed.
  - b Touchscreens are commonplace nowadays.
  - c Spray-on touchscreens have great future potential.
  - d Spray-on touchscreens are actually quite durable.
- \_\_\_ 2. What is the article about? .....♦Subject Matter♦
- a A new invention.
  - b A famous inventor.
  - c Interior decoration.
  - d The future of smartphones.
- \_\_\_ 3. What is true about spray-on touchscreens? .....♦Supporting Details♦
- a They're more accurate than conventional touchscreens.
  - b They can be used on irregular-shaped objects.
  - c They are completely waterproof.
  - d They can be used only on small objects.
- \_\_\_ 4. Which best describes the author's attitude towards spray-on touchscreens? ♦Inference♦
- a He's afraid of them and wants to see them stopped.
  - b He thinks they will only be available for rich people.
  - c He's looking forward to them becoming more popular.
  - d He's not really interested in them.
- \_\_\_ 5. In the first paragraph, the author mentions an interactive surface. If something is **interactive**, what does it do? .....♦Words in Context♦
- a Breaks down easily.
  - b Refuses to follow instructions.
  - c Gives up when things get hard.
  - d Responds to a person's input.
- \_\_\_ 6. How does the author structure the article? .....♦Text Form♦
- a As a series of questions and answers.
  - b As a series of events in a sequence.
  - c As a series of personal stories.
  - d As a series of causes and effects.

04 

▼ henna powder



## The World's First Bridal Shower

► Indian bride

- 1 What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Indian weddings? It's probably the elegant designs painted on the bride's body. This is called the Mehndi ceremony, and some say it's the "oldest bridal shower in the world."
- 2 During the Mehndi ceremony, a bride's hands and arms are decorated with a colorful paste made from henna plants. Henna has been used for body decoration for thousands of years. The Egyptian Pharaoh Cleopatra, who lived from 69 BC to 30 BC, is said to have used henna to paint her fingernails. The Mehndi ceremony is more recent, but it still **traces** its **roots back** to the 15th century.
- 3 The Mehndi ceremony takes place on the night before the wedding. It's known for being fun and relaxing, unlike many other wedding ceremonies, which are more formal. The ceremony is a chance for the bride to spend time with close family and friends. Traditionally, it would be the last chance before the bride leaves to live with her husband's family. Guests of the ceremony come over to laugh, tell stories, sing, and dance. All the while, the bride's hands and arms are painted with elaborate henna designs. After the evening is over, the bride remains home until her wedding begins the next day.
- 4 Families approach the Mehndi ceremony differently. Sometimes the ceremony is very low-key: a few loved ones gather for a "girls' night in." Other times, it is a big event, with an outside venue and a long guest list.
- 5 Who does the actual body painting? It used to be any neighborhood auntie with experience and a steady hand. But nowadays, brides tend to hire professionals to do the henna painting. These pros will paint peacocks, flowers,

