

Oh! My Reading

- Volume 1 -

- For All Levels



Lesson 1

Vicky Vincent

Vicky Vincent lives in London. She is English. She is tall and thin . She got big blue eyes. She's got one brother and two sisters. Her mother is a doctor and her father is an astronaut. On Sundays she plays tennis. On Mondays she studies at English School. She likes swimming and reading. She can ride a bike but she can't drive a car.



True or false?

1. Vicky Vincent lives in Canada. _____
2. She is French. _____
3. She is tall and fat. _____
4. She's got big eyes. _____
5. She's got two sisters. _____
6. She hasn't got brothers. _____
7. Her mother is a doctor. _____
8. She can drive a car. _____

Compare Vicky Vincent with yourself

Lesson 2

Bobby

Read the text below, then answer the questions with complete sentences.

On Saturdays, Bobby goes to his grandparents' house. In the morning, he rides his bike in the park. In the afternoon, he plays games on the computer. In the evening, he watches TV. At night he reads a book in bed. Bobby likes Saturdays at his grandparents' house because he always has fun!

1. Where does Bobby go on Saturdays?

2. Where does Bobby ride his bike in the morning?

3. What does Bobby do in the afternoon?

4. Does he watch TV in the evening?

5. Does he read a book, at night, on the sofa?

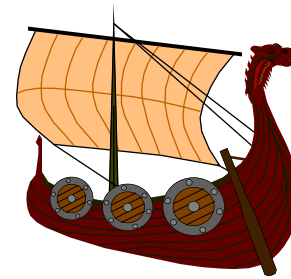
6. Why does Bobby like Saturdays at his grandparents' house?

What do you do on Saturdays?

Lesson 3

The Vikings

The Vikings lived in Scandinavia and Denmark. They were tall, strong people and very brave. They had blue eyes, long blond hair and beards.



The Vikings were farmers, fishermen, and traders. They lived on farms or in small towns near the sea. They had long boats with square sails.

Some Vikings were pirates. They sailed to other countries and attacked towns. They stole food and money from the towns and took prisoners.

According to the article...(true or false)

1. The Vikings lived in North America. _____
2. They were big and strong. _____
3. They were scared of other people. _____
4. They had short, dark hair. _____
5. Some Vikings worked on farms. _____
6. All the Vikings lived near the sea. _____
7. Many Vikings had big boats. _____
8. The pirate Vikings were friendly. _____
9. The pirates went to poor countries to give food and money to the people. _____
10. The pirates took prisoners with them. _____

**If you lived in the time of the Vikings
would you be scared of them or would
you join them?**

Lesson 4

Read the story about Santa Claus and answer the questions with complete sentences.

“Santa Claus”

Santa Claus is a big fat man with a huge red nose and a long white beard. He loves children, and he is always friendly. He lives in the North Pole with his wife, Mrs. Claus. It is very cold and snowy in the North Pole, but Santa likes living there. A few days before Christmas, Santa is very busy making toys for children all over the world. On Christmas Eve., Santa puts all the toys on his sleigh and travels around the world with his Reindeer. He stops at all the children’s houses and climbs down the chimney to get inside. Santa puts presents under the Christmas tree. When Santa is finished, he goes back to the North Pole. The next morning, on Christmas day, children get up very early to open their presents.



Understanding the article



1. What does Santa Claus look like?

2. Where does Santa Claus live?

3. Who lives with Santa Claus?

4. What is the weather like in the North Pole?

5. What does Santa do a few days before Christmas?

6. What does Santa do on Christmas Eve.?

7. How does Santa get inside the houses?

8. Where does Santa put the presents?

9. Where does Santa go when he is finished?

10. What do children do on Christmas day?

QUESTION FORMS

Write questions for these answers.

1. _____ ? His name is Santa Claus.
2. _____ ? He lives in the North Pole.
3. _____ ? He is fifty years old.
4. _____ ? Yes, he likes children.
5. _____ ? He gives presents at Christmas.

PREPOSITIONS

Read the letter to Santa Claus and fill the gaps with the correct preposition.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Carlos Oliveira. I live _____ Portugal. My birthday is _____ May 3. I usually get up _____ 8 o'clock _____ the morning. I always go _____ school _____ foot. I have English lessons _____ Manitoba. I visit my grandmother _____ Christmas. She lives _____ a big house _____ Lisbon. In my free time, I play football _____ my friends and I listen _____ music. I am a good boy. For Christmas, I want a train set, some computer games, and a new schoolbag. Thank you Santa.

Yours sincerely,
Carlos Oliveira

Lesson 5

Read the following text and answer the questions true or false.

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

What's the world's tallest structure? No, not the Sears Tower in Chicago but a special TV aerial in another part of the USA. What are the most popular TV programmes? Well, as many as a quarter of the world's population watched the last Olympic Games and the last football World Cup. So how did it all start? About a hundred years ago, after the invention of the telephone and the radio, scientists were beginning to think about how they could send pictures by wire. Although no one person invented television - several made it possible - John Baird gave the first television demonstration in London in 1926. He even gave an experimental colour broadcast in 1928.

The BBC started the world's first regular television service in 1937 but this stopped during the Second World War. The first regular colour broadcasts started in the USA in the 1950's and somewhat later in other countries. Today, televisions come in all shapes and sizes and the most recent are both televisions and computers in one machine.

There are, of course, the machines you can attach to the television like TV games and video recorders. Video recorders for homes first appeared in 1963 in the USA and they are now very popular for a number of reasons. It is easy to record television programmes on one channel while you are watching another and it is also possible to record even when you are not at home. It is probably cheaper these days to buy a video cassette of quite a new film than for the whole family to go to the cinema. Video also has many other uses such as in schools where children can watch educational programmes or in sport where players can watch a recording of their game; they identify their mistakes so that they will play better in another match.

According to the article...(true or false)

1. The world's tallest structure is a building. _____
2. Twenty percent of the world's population watched the last Olympic games. _____
3. Radio was invented after television. _____
4. Several scientists were responsible for the invention of television. _____
5. Colour TV broadcasts did not begin in Britain in the 1950's. _____
6. The BBC has been showing programmes continuously since the 1930's. _____
7. You can use the most modern TV sets as computers. _____
8. The video can be used in a lot of different ways. _____
9. The video recorder is the only machine that you can plug into the television. _____
10. Sports players watch videos to improve their game. _____

How important is Television? Do you like watching TV? What are some of your favorite programs?

Lesson 6

DRACULA

Read the story about Dracula and answer the questions below.

Count Dracula lives in a huge old castle in the mountains of Transylvania. He is tall and thin. He has got dark hair and his eyes are black. He wears a huge black cloak. Dracula cannot see himself in the mirror because he's a vampire. He is 300 years old. He sleeps during the day. He does not sleep in a bed, he sleeps in a coffin.

At night, he wakes up and looks for victims. He does not eat food, he drinks blood - the blood of his victims! He is a vampire and his victims turn into vampires too. Dracula hates garlic and crosses. There are a lot of films and stories about Count Dracula.

1. Where does Dracula live?

2. What does he look like?

3. What does he wear?

4. Why can't he see himself in a mirror?

5. When does Dracula sleep?

6. Does he sleep in a bed?

7. Does he eat food?

8. What does he hate?

**Are there any mythical creatures
you are afraid of?**

Lesson 7

Happy New Years!

Today is March 17th. About two and a half months ago, I said "Happy New Year!" to many of my friends. Slightly more than a month ago, I said the same thing to some other friends. In about four days, I'll relay the same wishes to yet another group of friends. I'll do the same thing in July and also in September. "How can that be?", you might be thinking (if you're from Western Europe or the Americas). "Everyone knows that New Year's Day is in January!"

The answer to the question you might've posed is that exactly when New Year's Day is depends on the calendar--and I have friends who use one or more of **five different calendars** to keep track of at least part of their lives:

1. January 1st: New Year's Day on the Western/international calendar
 2. Between January 10th and February 19th (in 1996, February 19th): New Year's Day on the Chinese calendar (China, Korea, and a few other places)
 3. March 21st: New Year's Day on the traditional Persian calendar (Iran)
 4. mid-July (usually the 16th): New Year's Day on the Islamic (Muslim) calendar
 5. September: New Year's Day (ecclesiastical) on most Eastern Orthodox Church calendars (Central and Eastern Europe) and, usually, on the Jewish calendar.
- And these are just the New Year's Days that I know about! Actually, there are probably even more!

Pick the letter of the correct answer

The first time the writer said, "Happy New Year!" was around January 1st. The second time was on or after _____ .

- a. February 28th
- b. the middle of March
- c. February 19th

The author will say "Happy New Year" around March 21st to some _____ friends.

- a. Korean
- b. Persian (Iranian)
- c. Eastern Orthodox

In July, the author will say "Happy New Year" to a _____ group of friends.

- a. third
- b. fourth
- c. Fifth

The author uses quotation marks (" ") in the first paragraph to show that the words inside the quotation marks are _____ .

- a. not his thoughts
- b. very important
- c. incorrect English

Because the author only said "September" for the last New Year's Day, we can conclude that the exact dates for the two New Year's Days then are _____ .

- a. probably different
- b. not always in September
- c. probably the same

The meaning of "keep track of" (last sentence, paragraph two) is _____.

- a. understand
- b. confuse
- c. manage or regulate

The Chinese calendar is used _____ .

- a. only in China
- b. in several different places
- c. only in China and Korea

The Islamic calendar is used in _____ .

- a. most of the world's countries
- b. countries where most people are Muslims
- c. most Far Eastern countries

Which of the following countries are in Central and/or Eastern Europe?

- a. Russia, Greece, Bulgaria
- b. France, Spain, Belgium
- c. Niger, Egypt, Ethiopia

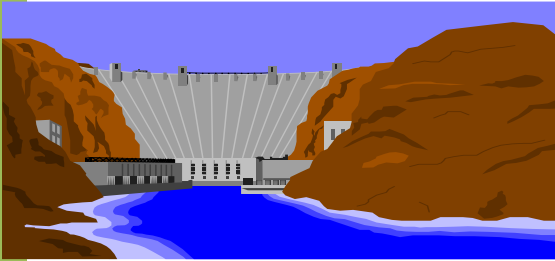
The word "Years" in the title of this short article _____ .

- a. suggests that January 1st is at different times on different calendars
- b. is grammatically incorrect and should actually be New Year's
- c. was used because New Year's Day is at different times on different calendars

Lesson 8

The Aswan Dam

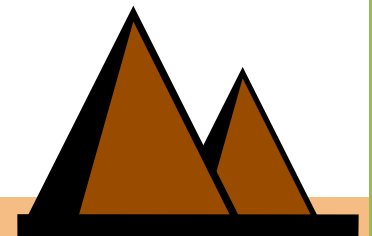
Read the text and answer the questions **true** or **false**.



What is a dam? Dams are walls which are built across rivers to hold back water and form a man-made lake or reservoir. They can be used to make electricity but in hot countries they are usually built to provide water for people and agriculture. In the 1950s Egypt started to make plans to build a huge dam on the Nile River at Aswan. They needed more water from the Nile for their farmers.

The architects realized, however, that the three ancient temples of Abu Simbel at Aswan would disappear as the waters of the dam got higher. These temples were built 3000 years ago and the most important included four huge statues of King Rameses II. A huge archaeological operation to save the temples began in 1960 with the help of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

By 1968, the four enormous monuments to Rameses had been cut out of the rock and put together again exactly as they were high up on a cliff away from the water. Six more statues of Rameses and his queen were also cut out and moved to a safe place together with other parts of the temples. The Aswan High Dam was completed in 1971 and now provides water for large areas of land in Egypt and neighbouring Sudan. At the same time, tourists are able to visit the reconstructed temples nearby.



1. Dams are built for different reasons. _____
2. A dam creates a natural lake. _____
3. Egypt began planning the Aswan Dam about 50 years ago. _____
4. The architects didn't know that the dam would cause some problems. _____
5. Egypt received international help to move the ancient monuments. _____
6. The operation only managed to move certain things to safety. _____
7. Only statues of Rameses were moved. _____
8. The rescue operation took more than 20 years to complete. _____
9. A lot of countries benefit from this dam. _____
10. The temples can now be seen by visitors to Egypt. _____

**If you were an engineer,
What would you build and why?**

Lesson 9

Easter Camp

Read the following story and answer the questions **true** or **false**.



Last Easter my parents agreed to let me go to a basketball Easter camp by the sea in Oporto. My cousin, Steven, and a couple of friends came too. We were all very excited because it was our first time away from home.

We went to the beach every day and some of the younger boys and girls learnt how to swim but we all knew how to swim already. The best thing was playing ball games in the sea. The only other sport was table tennis but there were always other children using the table.

I took a lot of comics with me and read them all three times because I didn't know what else to do. The food was quite good but there wasn't enough so we bought a lot of extra snacks and ice-cream. Steven also spent a lot of money phoning home in the first week because he felt homesick and his parents took him home before the end of the camp. Never again!! Now I realize how great Manitoba's summer camp is and I'm really looking forward to it.

true or false

1. The writer went to the camp with a lot of friends. _____
2. He didn't want to go to the camp. _____
3. The advertisement said that the children could play on famous teams. _____
4. The children expected to do a lot of interesting things at camp. _____
5. There was usually an adult to give advice during basketball games. _____
6. Some children learnt to swim at the camp. _____
7. The writer bought some comics at the camp and read them a lot of times. _____
8. The food was awful. _____
9. The writer's cousin left before the end of the camp. _____
10. The writer is looking forward to going to this camp again. _____

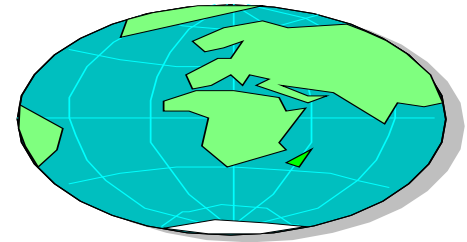
*Practice basketball with
trainers from famous teams.
Wonderful food.
Learn lots of new sports.
Never be bored.*

**Take a look at this ad.
How do you feel after reading it?**

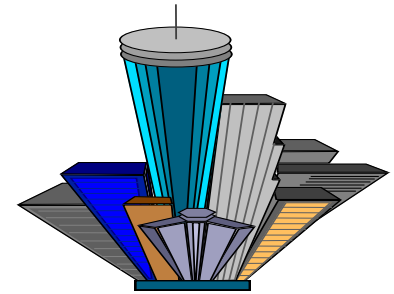
Lesson 10

Numbers Around the World

Russia is a very large country. Vatican City is very small. Just how big are they? Russia is 6,593,000 square miles, Vatican city is 0.17 square miles.



The Nile is a very long river. It flows through east Africa to the Mediterranean Sea. It is 4,195 miles long. Lake Superior between the United States and Canada is a huge lake. It is 31,800 square miles.



One of the tallest buildings in the world is the Sears Tower in Chicago. It is 1,454 feet tall. Mount Everest is also very high. It is more than 29,000 feet high.

Every day the world's population increases by about 215,000 people, or 150 people per minute. Mexico City has a population of 17,000,000.



Match the numbers with the places.

1. 1,454 feet tall
2. 4,195 miles long
3. 0.17 square miles
4. 17, 000,000 people
5. 29,000 feet high
6. 6,593,000 square miles
7. 31,800 square miles

Lake Superior
Mexico City
Sears Tower
Russia
Nile River
Mt. Everest
Vatican City

**Can you tell me some
facts about your country
with numbers?**

END