

## 14. Рабочая тетрадь № 2 „Контрольные работы“: рекомендации, тексты для аудирования

### Рекомендации по использованию

Выполнение контрольных работ не должно быть связано со стрессом и разочарованием. Контроль органично входит в любой учебный процесс, помогая учащимся увидеть свой прогресс в овладении иностранным языком и продемонстрировать практическую ценность полученных знаний.

Рабочая тетрадь № 2 „Контрольные работы“ предназначена для того, чтобы ознакомить учащихся с форматом наиболее распространенных и признанных в настоящее время проверочных заданий и подготовить учащихся к их успешному выполнению. Помимо этого, данная рабочая тетрадь предоставляет материал для дополнительной тренировки в аудировании, чтении, письме и говорении, а также обобщает и систематизирует знания учащихся в области грамматики и лексики.

Рабочая тетрадь № 2 является компонентом УМК „Enjoy English“ для 11-го класса общеобразовательных учреждений. По структуре она перекликается с учебником для 11-го класса. Тетрадь содержит четыре раздела (Units), которые тематически, по лексике и грамматике соотносятся с разделами (Units) учебника. В каждом разделе предлагаются рубрика *Warm-up* и две контрольные работы. Задания рубрики *Warm-up* организованы в блоки — по два задания в каждом. Нумерация заданий оформлена соответственно: 1А, 1В; 2А, 2В и так далее. Выполнять блок заданий в рубрике *Warm-up* рекомендуется целиком, не разрывая задания А и В, так как они связаны между собой тематически, лексически и / или грамматически. Первое задание в блоке направлено на развитие рецептивного умения (аудирование или чтение) или обобщение грамматического материала, а второе — на развитие продуктивного умения (говорение или письмо). Задания *Warm-up* могут быть интегрированы в одно из занятий при работе над соответствующим разделом учебника (в середине и в конце раздела).

Далее следует контрольная работа, которая включает задания на коммуникативные умения (аудирование, чтение, говорение и письмо) и лексико-грамматическое задание. Часть работы (аудирование, чтение, лексико-грамматическое задание) можно выполнить на одном уроке, а проверку умений говорения и письма вынести на последующие уроки. Письменные задания учащиеся могут выполнить дома самостоятельно.

Контрольные работы оцениваются в соответствии с набранным количеством баллов. Учащиеся могут сами оценить успешность выполнения частей 1–3 (аудирование, чтение, лексико-грамма-

тическое задание). Для этого предлагаются примерные шкалы оценивания — они даны в тетради после каждой контрольной работы. В целом рекомендуется выставлять оценку „отлично“ при правильном выполнении 85% заданий и более, оценку „хорошо“ — при 70–85% правильных ответов, оценку „удовлетворительно“ — при 50–70%.

### Тексты для аудирования

#### UNIT 1

#### WARM-UP 1

##### Ex. 1A

Anna: What language do you think is the most useful one nowadays? I'll be learning two foreign languages at university, and I can choose the second one.

Max: English is obviously the most widespread, but it doesn't count, does it?

Anna: No, it doesn't. It's my first foreign language, I've been learning it at school, and I'll go on with it at university. I have no choice there. But they take into account students' preferences and make up groups accordingly. There can be groups studying English and German, English and Spanish, English and Japanese and so on.

Max: Yeah, I see. Why don't you choose German... or, possibly, French.

Anna: I don't like the sound of German. Too harsh to me.

Max: Then French? It sounds nice, doesn't it?

Anna: It does. I like French songs a lot. But people say that the language is a rather difficult one, and it's not easy to gain fluency as you have to keep in mind all sorts of cases and genders. Verbs agree with nouns in gender, number, and whatever. Who can remember all that?

Max: Well, I was about to suggest Chinese. Its popularity is growing... But now I see that it wasn't a good idea. If you find French too challenging, I bet Chinese character writing won't look appealing to you either.

Anna: Chinese?! Never ever! It's incomprehensible for a European. And not only the characters! It's impossible to speak it! Do you know that one and the same word, when pronounced with different intonation, may denote completely different things? I'd pronounce them to you if I could. I've heard those words, but naturally they slipped my mind immediately. No, it's too clever for me.

Max: I see. And now I believe I know what language you need. No extended vocabulary to memorise, no grammar rules at all, no tedious drilling, no... well, it's very easy to comprehend and lots of people use it. Me too.

Anna: A language that can be learnt without much effort? Sounds tempting. And you say that you can speak it too? What's the language?

Max: Body language. The only language that meets all the requirements of a lazy student. Perfect, isn't it?

Anna: Hm.

Max: The only trouble is that you won't be able to find it in your curriculum. Not yet anyway.

Anna: You've never missed a chance to mock me. OK. But... Here I think you're mistaken. We have got it in our curriculum. Not as a second language, of course, but as a complementary feature of language. It's included in our course on Cross-cultural Communication. Body language, for your information, is extremely important and can enhance the effectiveness of communication tremendously, as well as ruin it completely.

Max: Go on. Is it really so important? Any practical application or just curious information?

Anna: It's crucial! Just imagine that for Italian people a hug and a big kiss on the cheek is a typical greeting, even if they don't know the person well or don't know him at all! But for a reserved Japanese this is absolutely outrageous, they'll find you rude if you use the Italian-style greeting with them. For them a greeting is a respectful bow.

Max: Well, yes, I agree that in some contexts it's very important to know how to communicate across cultures. But let's get back to our business. It's just occurred to me... How about Spanish? It's not particularly difficult. It's even easier than English as it has no complicated spelling rules — you write words just like you hear them. Grammar is not complicated either. And it sounds nice.

Anna: Yes, I think it's worth considering. An additional argument for it is that it's a language that's spoken widely, in Spain ... and in some other countries,... I suppose.

Max: "Some other countries" include the whole of South America, except Brazil, where the main language is Portuguese. Just for your information.

Anna: Geography has never been my strength but it doesn't mean that you should make fun of me, just because you know a bit more than me.

Max: OK, let's forget about it. I didn't really mean any offence. Now, have you made your choice about your second foreign language yet?

Anna: I think I almost have. But what would you say to Italian? One of my friends has been learning it, and she says that...

## TEST 1

Let me just start by saying that... that I'm very glad to be invited to your club. I really think that the problem you've raised is very important and controversial. What is democracy? And how can we make sure that our country is democratic? And what does *being democratic* mean in practical terms?

You know that democracy as a political system appeared in Greece in the 5th–4th century BC. The word *democracy* consists of two words: *demos*, which means people and *kratos*, which means power or strength. The idea is that it's the people, not the select few, who have real power and rule the country.

There are two main principles any democratic state should follow. The first — any person should be guaranteed easy access to power, and the second — any person should enjoy all essential liberties and rights, such as the right to life, the right to freedom of movement, the right to vote, the right to practise any religion and so on. All these rights are fundamental and they cannot be taken away regardless of a person's nationality, gender, physical ability, religious or political views or social status.

Apart from democratic societies there have been and still are many other political systems and among them — feudalism and monarchy. You know that there was no strong central power in feudal society. There were lots of knights or feudal lords and the king was no more than just the most important feudal lord. In a monarchy, by contrast, the almost unlimited power belonged to the king or the queen.

Over the time this power has tended to be restricted by the government or Parliament (like in Britain), and the monarchy became... kind of more civilised.

A democracy is undoubtedly the most progressive form of political system. And I'm sure about this. However, there are people who don't find it efficient enough and see lots of drawbacks.

The main problem for a democratic society is not only to declare the rights of people (no official or political party can deny them now), but to guarantee that everyone can exercise their rights in real life. The point is that individual rights may overlap. I mean that since we live in society, our rights are always limited by other people's rights. For instance, my right to speak freely or to express my opinion may conflict with other people's rights to get *true* information. Media should be free but it shouldn't abuse people. And it's not easy to strike

the right balance. What's sensational truth to one side may be lies to another.

Another thing is the right to vote. It's undoubtedly a very important right through which people can realise the first principle of democracy that everyone should have access to power. By voting we actually delegate our share of power to our representatives, who then shape the policy of the state according to our wish. However, there are people who claim that when this right is granted to everyone (being of age is practically the only requirement), it affects the efficiency of the political system. *How?* you may ask. Critics insist that lots of people are not qualified to choose and vote for their representatives. They may choose the wrong candidates because of their incompetence or indifference. You can see the point here, can't you? I'm certainly not talking about taking the right to vote away from people. We just need to be less indifferent and more civilised to make the most of this right.

The next point, which in contrast to the previous one I totally support, is that the main goal for any society that wants to be considered a democratic one is transparency. All legislative, executive and judicial institutions and their activities should be transparent and the officials should be accountable for all their actions and initiatives.

There's one more point I want to emphasise — people should be very well aware of their rights and who they can complain to if their rights are abused.

## TEST 2

There's no need to say that we are very proud of the fact that our university was recently placed at the top of the list of the most solid and reputable educational institutions. It proves that we provide our students with high quality education and with diplomas that are recognised worldwide. The number of our students is rising and currently is about 3000. Like most high-flying universities, yes, though it may seem a little immodest, I think that we are high-flying, we accept international students.

You can see students from different countries here and we certainly enjoy teaching students from Russia too. They usually perform as capable and... resourceful students. But, we need to make you aware that along with very successful students there are those who unfortunately fail their courses. And this is one of the things I would like to talk about. I'm going to let you know about some difficulties and pitfalls you may encounter when studying with us. You need to realise that being a university student differs dramatically from being a school student.

The thing is that the school education system is rather nannyish. I went to a Russian secondary school in Novosibirsk for two years. It happened when my father worked there for one of the joint ventures, and the family had to move to Siberia. I don't want to talk much about my impressions, though I enjoyed living there and even severe winter frosts couldn't spoil it. I went to a school where students learnt English from the second grade and some school subjects were taught in English, so I didn't experience any language barrier. The thing that amazed me was that the teachers were so helpful. They constantly monitored the class in order to be sure that we'd written down everything that was supposed to be written down. They checked our homework. They were in touch with our parents and informed them about our progress. Yes, they were very helpful and strict, but we were never autonomous in our education. Our teachers were our guides, advisors, and comforters, our stick and carrot, and we owe them a good share of our success.

You may wonder why I'm telling you all this. Well, I've been telling you this personal story to warn you against the dangers of a new style of learning. You need to be aware that here, in the university, no one is going to watch you and correct your mistakes all the time. You are much more autonomous now than you used to be at school. It's up to you to decide whether to do the homework or to ignore it. You choose the time to do your project — now, in a week, or some time later. And no teacher is ever going to check your lecture notes. And you have the final say in whether to attend a lecture or not. This all sounds great, doesn't it? Autonomy and freedom! And it seems great until the exam time comes. For some reason exam time always comes all of a sudden. At the exams you become accountable for *everything* and this works as a trap for some young people. My advice may sound too obvious and naïve, but I strongly advise you to do the following.

1. Stick to the daily routine you had at school, which means — attend all classes.
2. Make notes of everything the teacher says. Your notes should be legible and reasonably detailed. Leave some space in case you want to add comments or complete the notes later.
3. Read the notes the same day you wrote them, or the day after, at the latest. If you don't, the information will slip your mind very easily and you'll have to spend hours and days to restore it before your seminar or exam.
4. Do ask questions. If you feel that you don't understand something, ask the teacher. Every little bit you fail to understand now will lead to problems in the future. It's like a snowball.

5. Believe in yourself. Never give up. The course doesn't contain anything beyond your abilities.  
And to finish off, I would like to say that we, the staff of the university, are always here for you. You are welcome with all your questions and worries...

## UNIT 2

### WARM-UP 1

#### Ex. 2A

b)

Tom: To make a career choice, you need to foresee what specialists will be in demand in five to ten years. But how can we do that?

Mike: Mmm. I don't know. But there must be some forecasts, I guess. We need to scan papers for relevant articles and statistics. It may give us some idea at least.

Tom: Sounds like a good plan. But I definitely prefer the Internet to any printed information.

Mike: Yes, it's easier and faster. Let's try it right now. Let's search by keyword. What should I type in the search bar?

Tom: "Popular jobs" maybe... or "jobs in demand". I don't know.

Mike: Say "jobs in demand". Well, the list is pretty long, but it doesn't seem relevant enough.

Tom: Right. It's all about the current situation.

Let's apply the advanced search and search for the exact phrase "jobs popular in the future".

Mike: OK, let's try.

Tom: Well, this looks better, but we have to filter it anyway. This is from forums... this presents someone's individual opinion... No, it's not reliable at all. This is a phrase from an interview of school graduates — they're no more competent than we are, are they? This one looks interesting. It's an interview with an education consultant. She says that the demand for engineers is rising. Her forecast is encouraging for construction-related specialists, people in medicine, and in services like tourism and the hospitality business.

Mike: And how about computer geeks?

Programmers, site developers and others?

Tom: I expected a boom in that sphere too, but she doesn't say anything about it. Look, jobs like nurses, childminders and carers for the elderly are also mentioned. They're going to be in much greater demand in several decades, in not in a few years.

Mike: I can't really see why. It seems logical that computer specialists and people in communications and nanotechnologies can anticipate a professional boom... because

society is developing and accelerating... But childminders... and carers for the elderly... Well, I don't know...

Tom: It's absolutely logical and it's another consequence of the development of society. Lots of women nowadays don't want to choose between family and career. They want both. But it's not possible to be a true professional and a caring mother who never takes her eyes off her child. Career, whatever line of business you are in, takes up time and concentration... and children need the same.

Mike: Yes, I see. And a childminder looks after the children when mum is concentrating on her job thus enabling her to grow professionally. The demand for childminders is going to be very high, I guess. And for carers?

Tom: There are reasons for this too. Due to major advances in medicine and improvements in living standards people tend to live longer. But family ties and community ties are getting looser. Elderly people may find themselves completely on their own. It can be difficult for them to cope with everyday problems. And they can suffer even worse from lack of human contact. Carers for elderly people can lessen the problem.

Mike: In what way? Just by sitting beside an elderly person?

Tom: Not necessarily. They can organise different pastimes for elderly people in the community, like, music parties, cookery competitions... and can provide some medical care of course. And talking... The worst thing for a human being is when there's nobody to talk to. Elderly people often have to face this.

Mike: I see now. Interesting. But I still don't have an idea what career to choose.

Tom: It's OK that you can't decide straight away. I think we should start with our inclinations, understand what we find appealing and what is unacceptable for us. And only after that should we analyse job ratings. Job ratings can influence our choice, but definitely they are not the main factor.

### TEST 1

Jeff: Jeff speaking...

Tom: Hi, Jeff! Doing anything special tonight?

Jeff: Hi, Tom...

Tom: How about a little house party at Christie's place? All our guys are going to be there.

Jeff: I have to skip it, I'm afraid.

Tom: Why? What's wrong? Christie will never forgive you if you don't come to her party.

Jeff: No offence meant, but I'm working tonight and it's too late already to look for anybody who could substitute for me.



Tom: Who could do what? Sorry, I can't hear you very well.

Jeff: There's no time to look for a person who could do my job instead of me. That's why any party is out of the question.

Tom: Yeah, I see... Bad luck... And... I didn't know that you've got a job. What kind of job is it?

Jeff: I work at a petrol station. I fill in cars on Saturdays and Thursdays. And once a week, usually it's Wednesday, I wash cars at the car wash, which is just an additional service for our customers.

Tom: I see... And you are enjoying it, aren't you?

Jeff: Yes, it's pretty well paid. Now I earn all my pocket money and can afford to buy presents for the family and friends from time to time, and I'm saving for a summer trip too.

Tom: I've been thinking about getting a job myself. But I'm not sure yet. There are so many other things to do... School, university prep courses...

Jeff: And partying three times a week.

Tom: Yes, three times... at least. And what is it like working at a petrol station?

Jeff: Pretty tough. Especially when the weather is nasty. We work in any weather, you know. During some shifts I have to work very hard, there isn't a single moment to relax. But sometimes when there are not too many customers, we can chat, and have some fun. There are several people of my age there and we can get together to have a chat.

Tom: And is the money time-related or does it depend on the number of cars you've filled?

Jeff: It's time-related, it depends on the number of hours I've spent there. It's fair, as shifts can be very busy, but also almost empty, and you can never know... And they pay every week, which is convenient.

Tom: I understand that it's stressful, isn't it?

Jeff: Not particularly. I don't like working under pressure either. It's OK, if you're efficient, helpful and polite to the customers. I felt a bit uneasy at first, as all the people were new and I didn't know who was who and what to do in emergencies, but I had a lot of back up from the senior staff, it wasn't a "sink or swim" situation.

Tom: And do you get tips? I mean when drivers are happy with your work, they may give you some extra money to show their appreciation and...

Jeff: No, it's against our company's policy. It's not allowed to accept tips from customers. And I don't mind. It's better to rely on the money your company pays you according to the contract rather than expect something from the customers. It's not civilised in my view.

Tom: And how about promotion opportunities?

Jeff: Well, I don't think about my current job as a career for life. I'm going to university this year. But this is a valuable experience anyway. I've found out a lot about business relationships and how to work in teams and how important it is not to let people down when they rely on you.

Tom: Do you compete against each other? And does your pay depend on the results of the competition?

Jeff: No, we don't compete as individuals. But teams working same shifts do. It's not serious, it just makes work more fun.

Tom: Well, if you happen to have a vacancy, let me know, will you? I'm planning a trip in the summer, and it will save me the trouble of asking my parents for money.

Jeff: Deal. But any work is a responsibility and if you decide to take it up, you'll have to forget about parties and outings.

Tom: Which is not easy. OK, I'll think it over and let you know about my decision. And now I should be off to Christie's party. See you soon.

Jeff: See you. Say sorry to Christie for me. I would come if I didn't have the job commitments.

Tom: She'll understand, don't worry.

## TEST 2

Interviewer: In today's programme we'll be talking about trends in the labour market and what our jobs are going to be like in the future.

Expert: Right. The way we do our work is going to change in the future. The main factor in developed society is the labour efficiency coefficient. In other words we need to make productivity in all industries as high as possible. We should spend less time, less resources, and less labour and... get better results.

Interviewer: We should work less and get more — is this the motto?

Expert: Exactly. This is the goal. People shouldn't spend too much time at work — they have lots of other important things to do, like developing their talents, doing sports, travelling, bringing up kids!

Interviewer: But we have to spend most of our days in factories, offices, shops, hospitals — at places where we work. Very little time is left for what you call "talent development". And when people come home from work, they have to do lots of household chores like cleaning, cooking, washing and so on. Though, to be fair, nowadays it's easier as we have smart machines at home.

Expert: Right. Running the household is getting easier and it cannot be compared with our grandparents' daily routine. Yes, the situation here has improved, in big cities especially, but

people still work too much, outside their homes I mean.

Interviewer: Yes, and I must say that it's not easy for people to find time to see friends or relatives. Kids are also suffering. Their parents are either at work or commuting there and back.

Expert: That's it. Travelling to work and back, commuting eats up lots of our time. And business meetings! Someone is always late because of traffic jams, and the others have to wait for them. And these meetings often become unreasonably expensive if people come from different cities or even from different continents. The efficiency coefficient of such events could be much higher if we managed to avoid the side costs — time and money.

Interviewer: Yes, I see the point. You mean that it's possible to optimise the working process by reducing travelling time.

Expert: Right. And modern communication systems enable us to do it right now. Why should people fly to a business meeting, if they can discuss everything via teleconferencing?

Interviewer: Teleconferencing?

Expert: Yes, teleconferencing or videoconferencing facilities allow people from different places to discuss issues online. Hundreds of people can take part in the discussion at the same time. You can see and hear your supporters and opponents. Teleconferences don't lessen the value of the discussion but save time and money. The potential is great, isn't it?

Interviewer: Yes, it sounds impressive. The "greens" will back this idea too.

Expert: No doubt. Less business flying, less carbon emission, less air pollution. But that's another issue, for another programme probably.

Interviewer: Right, let's get back to the optimised mode of working. Your idea sounds very good for long-distance business travelling, but we, average workers, clerks, managers, have to go to work every day. And in big cities it often takes hours to get to the work place. Cars have paralysed the traffic, public transport can't cope with crowds of people. You know what it's like in the rush hour...

Expert: I do. And people lose their time there. Even worse — it affects their health. And certainly it affects their personal efficiency when at last they get to work. They work less well, more slowly, less carefully, less creatively than they could.

Interviewer: A vicious circle, then? Do you see any way out?

Expert: You know there are lots of jobs that don't necessarily require your presence in the office. For example, if you work for a customer support

service dealing with clients on the phone, or if you analyse financial data, or prepare a presentation, there's no need to go to the office. You can do it via your computer and the Internet.

Interviewer: You mean working from home, don't you?

Expert: Exactly. It's often called teleworking. Teleworkers work from home and enjoy flexibility in working hours and location. Modern communication facilities allow us to do this. When, for completing your task, you need your colleagues' help or advice, you can get it in seconds via email or by entering your company's corporate net, or you can invite your colleagues to a teleconference.

Interviewer: Yes, journalists, writers, lawyers can all work in this way...

Expert: And in some cases the same working style can be used by managers and office workers. If they don't commute to their offices in the rush hour, other people, whose presence at their workplace is really vital, like doctors, teachers, construction workers, will be able to get there quicker and work more efficiently too.

Interviewer: Your idea looks tempting and I think lots of people will appreciate it.

Expert: It's certainly not my idea. And it's already being put into practice. But, unfortunately, it's not a panacea. Teleworking or working from home has some drawbacks too.

Interviewer: But we'll have to talk about that in our next programme as our time is running out.

Expert: Yes, sure.

Interviewer: And now we still have a few minutes for our listeners' questions. The phone in our studio is...

### UNIT 3

#### WARM-UP 1

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#### Ex. 1A

Angela: Do you believe that the world may change beyond recognition during our lifetime?

Tony: Change beyond recognition? What do you mean?

Angela: I think that technology will change the environment we live in. It will be a different world, not the same one we are living in now...

Tony: Yes, probably. We're already on this track. Society is developing and changing very rapidly now. It's amazing, but not very long ago few people knew what a mobile phone was. Few people had DVD players or computers.

Angela: And the Internet? It's a very recent innovation too, isn't it?

Tony: Relatively recent. The general public got access to the Internet in the 1990s. The number of users then was not comparable with the number of people who use the Internet on a permanent basis now. Then only the select few could do it. And, certainly, the idea had been in the air for a good while before the Internet was actually put into use.

Angela: Do you think so?

Tony: Yes, like lots of cutting-edge technologies which have a wide application in our everyday life now, the Internet was first designed for military purposes as an alternative means of communication in case of a nuclear war. You know that communication systems are crucial for any military operation, but in the case of a major conflict they're absolutely vital as traditional radio stations can easily be blocked.

Angela: I never thought about that...

Tony: I can't say that I'm absolutely sure of that myself, but I read something about it.

Angela: Yeah, interesting. And now everyone can communicate via computers and exchange any format of information — texts, pictures, videos, whatever. Amazing that only a couple of decades ago these technologies seemed very advanced and inaccessible to most people!

Tony: And we're developing very fast! The Internet allows for great information flow. It wasn't possible before. That's why we are bound to make new breakthroughs in the near future. During our lifetime, I'm sure.

Angela: And in what spheres do you think?

Tony: Well, I expect there'll be a steady growth in communications, and we'll certainly discover something new in medicine.

Angela: Are you talking about cloning?

Tony: Cloning is a buzzword today, isn't it? The media talks a lot about it — whether it's ethical or not, should the research into cells and genes be encouraged or banned...

Angela: And what's your opinion?

Tony: I don't know. Experiments with genes and cloning may lead to unexpected consequences. We can't foresee them now. But on the other hand, any technology can be dangerous if it's misused. Electricity and nuclear power can produce deadly weapons, but we don't see this as a reason to stop researching and using these things.

Angela: Sounds logical. Our great-grandparents may have seen an electrical plug and electrical wires as life-threatening objects, let alone aircraft or space shuttles.

Tony: Right. Technological progress cannot be stopped, but people should be ethically educated. And cloning and gene engineering

have breathtaking prospects in medicine.

By improving genes we can get rid of lots of diseases which are now incurable, like cancer, haemophilia, mental diseases... And cloning technologies can supply surgeons with organs necessary for transplants. Just imagine being able to grow a spare heart, or kidney or a spare leg and to replace your own one if it stops working.

Angela: Ugh... Horrifying... And tempting. I'm, kind of, in two minds about it.

Tony: You're not the only one. It's a very controversial issue, but I think that we'll be able to handle the situation and we'll see lots of amazing things soon.

### TEST 1

1. I don't like science fiction very much. All sci-fi stories are very much alike which doesn't make reading particularly exciting. The authors' imagination doesn't go further than depicting different versions of contacts with extraterrestrials. The only difference is in how aliens look — they may be little green men or highly advanced cyborgs. There are usually only two reasons for them to come to Earth — they either want to conquer or eliminate the population of the planet or to save us from a catastrophe. Normally the authors offer us two catastrophe scenarios — a collision with a meteorite or a "bad" alien invasion. Anyway, when I start reading a science fiction book, I know from the very first pages what the plot is going to be like and what the characters will end up with. So, what's the point in reading it?
2. I'm definitely not a science fiction fan. This doesn't mean, though, that I'm ignorant of science and that I take no interest in scientific issues. On the contrary. Nowadays, scientific knowledge and the amount of information about the universe doubles every fifteen to eighteen months. The information is enormous and absolutely fascinating, and it would be too disappointing to miss it. Wouldn't you like to know about the past history of the planet, when and how everything started, or about the latest findings in people's paranormal abilities, or about new discoveries in cloning, photon teleportation, and so on? The information is right here for you — in science journals and on the Internet. And believe me, real science is much more interesting and breathtaking than any science fiction story.
3. My friends say that I devour books. And this is true as I read everywhere — on public transport, when I wait for people, when I watch TV and when I eat. And I can consume almost any genre! But my favourite reading is popular

science. I'm equally interested in what's going on in cybernetics and medicine, in archeology and space technology. My second choice in reading is books about mysterious events of the past, like Atlantis and the Maya civilisation, but they should be based on scientific facts or hypotheses, not just imaginary things. And my third choice is science fiction, as I believe that science fiction literature foresees the future. Technologies described as fictional get implemented into our real life surprisingly soon.

4. My friend is crazy about any sensational information. Practically every day she comes to me with absolutely unbelievable news. For instance, once she told me that scientists have discovered the gene responsible for aging, and they've already found out how to block it, which means that, from now on, people can become immortal, that is they can live forever. Another time she announced that researchers have found very reliable evidence of extraterrestrial life. She feels hurt that I'm sceptical about all that and tell her not to trust everything she reads on the Internet. The Internet and newspapers contain lots of inaccurate information or even lies. In my opinion, it's better to read science fiction as the authors don't pretend that their stories are true.
5. I enjoy reading science fiction. I think that it's a very interesting genre. It gives people ideas and helps them stretch their imagination. For instance, when Jules Verne was writing about Captain Nemo's adventures and described his submarine equipment, those technologies were unbelievably advanced for the time and most people thought the writer was no more than a tale-teller. However, those technologies became reality in less than a century. The same goes for travelling in space and creating smart robots. I'm sure that in several decades scientists working on artificial intelligence will present very impressive results, and the machines will learn how to think creatively and experience feelings! Lots of scientists, by the way, say that they got ideas and inspiration from the old science fiction books they read in their childhood!
6. It's assumed that it's usually young people who like science fiction. But I'm in the fan club too, though I retired several years ago. Being retired doesn't mean being indifferent and bored. Probably vice versa — the older I grow, the more curious about life I get. I enjoy reading science fiction as it gives food for thought. There are lots of ideas there! I wonder if it's really possible to apply the technologies described in the books and what results it can lead to. It's all very stimulating and it prevents my brain getting lazy.

### Ex. 1A

...And we certainly shouldn't forget that keeping a pet is a great responsibility. Dog adoption, for instance, means a serious commitment. Dog owners must provide their pets with necessary feeding and care, medical care included. In this program we would like to remind dog owners in Rockhampton about the mandatory vaccination. The local authorities have started a new veterinary centre, which you can visit this month and have a free veterinary consultation. The vet is available every weekday from 8 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. As for the vaccination prices — they depend on the type of the vaccine and the weight of your dog. The owners of assistance dogs, that is guide dogs or any dogs trained to assist a person with a disability, don't have to pay anything for vaccination — it's free regardless of the size of the dog. In the veterinary centre you may want to join "A Dog's Life" Club, where dog coaches will teach you how to train your dog using positive reinforcement. Dog owners gather there every Saturday at 4 in the afternoon. Apart from training advice you can get lots of other useful information and meet people who share your interests. The Club sessions are free, you only have to pay an annual registration fee of \$20. It goes without saying that dogs are not only allowed, but very welcome to the sessions too...

### TEST 2

People have always dreamt of living long lives. And the trends are actually encouraging. However, a long life is not exactly what we are looking for. Talking about a long life we mean an active life, not a miserable and helpless one.

And modern technology can give us hope that our dream can come true. Actually, we already live longer. Statistics show a significant increase in life expectancy. This increase has become possible due to several factors.

First of all, now we know how to fight lots of deadly diseases that used to kill people. Smallpox, typhoid, malaria, the plague — were the infectious diseases which left people with very little chance of survival, and even if they managed to survive, they usually suffered very serious complications. These diseases devastated cities, countries and even vaster territories. And I'm not talking about ancient times only — it happened relatively recently.

For instance, the Great Plague. That epidemic happened in France in 1720s. It killed about 50 per cent of the population of Marseille. England



experienced its worst ever smallpox epidemic in 1872. It claimed about 45,000 lives. Russia survived a terrifying typhoid epidemic between 1917 and 1922. People didn't know how to fight these diseases. Their herbal remedies were not effective enough. Hygienic measures like using clean water were useful, but could not stop the epidemics.

Fortunately for us, the creation of vaccines stopped the spread of most infectious diseases. Due to effective medicine some of them don't exist any more. This doesn't mean, however, that there are no dangerous diseases nowadays. There's AIDS, heart disease... Even influenza can be very dangerous. And our doctors still have lots of room for research. But the rate of early death because of an illness is considerably lower now than it used to be, and there is also longer life expectancy.

The other thing I would like to mention is the importance of mental activity. No one doubts that physical activity, exercise, and regular sport prolong our life. And this is true, but mental activity is very important too. To put it simply, our body is ruled by our brain. When the brain is active, it generates lots of ideas, lots of plans which need to be realised. The body gets the message — you've got a mission, you need to be active to fulfill it, you need to resist diseases, be optimistic and live on. And the body obeys. It looks for additional resources which would be left unactivated if they weren't needed. The opposite example is when people feel that they've done everything and they don't want to develop further — their brains get stale. They transmit another message — the life program is completed, there isn't any other task to fulfill. And the body responds accordingly — as there's nothing to do, and it's not crucial to sustain strength and energy, all organs can relax. So, they relax... they stop resisting illnesses and aging processes and... ultimately die.

Actually, I want to focus on this very factor today — and to talk about what we can do to prolong and stimulate our mental activity in order to achieve a longer life.

## **UNIT 4**

### **WARM-UP 1**

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#### **Ex. 1A**

##### **b)**

Can we choose where we live? We certainly can, at least that's what it says in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. According to this, we have the right to live wherever we want — in the highlands or in the lowlands, near the sea or in the desert, in a big city or in a little village. Which place to choose? Which is better? There's no single answer

to these questions. Different people prefer different places. But most of us would like to live in a safe place. It's mainly for safety reasons that people gathered together and founded cities. Most cities were surrounded by high walls. They resembled or actually were fortresses and their aim was to protect the population from all kinds of invaders. Created for safety, are big cities a safe place now? Most people would say "no". We conducted a survey of the students in our city, and the results confirm this opinion.

Let's try to look at the situation to understand why young people do not consider a big city a very comfortable place to live in.

The results of the survey say that young people think that the situation in a big city can actually be life- or health-threatening. In their opinion, the level of street crime is too high. It's much higher than in small towns or villages. The explanation is quite easy. Community ties are less tight in a big city than in a village or a small town, if they exist at all. People come and go. They often don't know their neighbours living next door to them. Even if they do, they don't value their opinion very much, so there's no need to gain and sustain their respect. People don't care very much if their reputation is damaged. "What's the point in worrying", they say, "if somebody is not happy with my behaviour, I don't care, their opinion can't affect my life in any way".

In a smaller community the situation is different. Families have been living there for a long while and a good reputation is important. Neighbours are not indifferent to each other. Kids and teenagers are looked after and brought up by the whole of the neighbourhood, not only by the parents. Antisocial and criminal behaviour are disapproved of by the community, and bad behaviour will affect the troublemaker's life — his or her status in the community and even education and job prospects. The same may be true not only for the troublemakers themselves, but for the members of their families. And no one would enjoy being treated as a social outcast.

Another danger of a big city that was mentioned by the students in the survey is the traffic and dangerous driving. The number of accidents and injuries is higher in big cities too. Yes, there are more cars and speeds are higher — these are things we can't do anything about. However, there's one more thing that makes the situation even worse. It's careless and dangerous driving. Drivers lack responsibility because they don't care much about people around them.

And the last thing I would like to comment on, which was mentioned by the respondents quite often, is the general level of stress that

contributes to the poor safety levels in a big city. Commuting, crowds of people, traffic jams, air and noise pollution develop a feeling of alienation and insecurity, which trigger diseases and often provoke people to act aggressively in their turn. This escalates a new round of aggression and hostility and... we are in a vicious circle.

Can anything be done about this? Can the environment of a big city be improved or are we doomed to live in a place we are not happy with? I'm absolutely positive that the situation is quite manageable but we all need to get together to improve it. I believe that we need to start with...

### TEST 1

1. People of all ages enjoy communication. We all need to feel that we are popular, that our opinion, sense of humour, genuine ideas are appreciated by other people. Our lifestyle, however, doesn't provide too many opportunities for banding together. And if a person is not sociable enough, and it often happens to teenagers, they may feel lonely and... like... outsiders. The longer this goes on the worse it gets — it's more and more difficult for them to socialise. Social networking sites can be good for people who are not confident enough. They can have some virtual practice in meeting new people, even in dating before doing it in real life.
2. Social networking systems are very popular with people, whatever age they are. In my friend's family they have four computers — which is almost one for each person, only the seven-year-old twins have to share one machine. And even they have individual keyboards. Well, everyone in the family spends hours in their online networks. Even the grandmother is an active member of a network where they exchange recipes, and ideas on how to prepare a remedy for some diseases. Crazy, but when they need to inform each other about some news, they may send a message through the network instead of telling each other about it.
3. Social networks can help people who share similar interests meet each other, make friends and even create real, not virtual families. And I don't mean networks geared primarily towards dating — my elder brother married a girl he met in one of the ordinary social networks. A film was discussed in the network and they, my brother and that girl, had opposite opinions about it. When all the arguments were over, but neither of them wanted to compromise, they agreed to watch the film together and continue their dispute. I don't know what their final

decision about the film was, but my little niece is almost one year old already.

4. Social networking is certainly a good idea and it connects people when they don't have an opportunity to see each other. My grandmother says that it helps her feel young. She lives on her own and though we drop in to see her quite often, it's not the same as communicating with friends. She often chats with people much younger than she is, but they obviously enjoy it, as grandma is very young for her age. They would be surprised to find a seventy-year-old lady behind the nickname Missis X! She feels a bit disappointed that not many people of her age communicate online. She believes that it could improve the quality of their lives.
5. I was invited to join the online network by a friend. It was a new experience for me and I enjoyed it very much. It made it possible for me to be in touch with lots of people. However, now I realise that it's turning into an obsession. The first thing I do when I come home is to log in to check the messages. I spend hours chatting and then it takes me an enormous effort of will to log out and go to bed, well past midnight, tired, with a desperate feeling that one more day has gone by, but I haven't even started my project work, and the essay hasn't been drafted yet, and I haven't done the shopping I promised my mum. It seems that I don't have time for anything but social networking...
6. If you ask me, I think that online networking is a very unhealthy habit. It eats up your time, it makes you sit in front of the computer for hours, and it makes you avoid real healthy life. People forget hobbies, don't do any sport and don't go out. Meanwhile, healthy living is a very popular trend now, so I think that very soon people will get tired of network communication online and will give it up.

### TEST 2

Anna: I can't understand people who prefer virtual life and friendship in cyberspace to real ones. A friend of mine often sends me Internet messages instead of dropping in, though he lives next door to me!

Sam: Typical of our digital world. People will soon forget how to write with a pen and paper and even how to talk.

Anna: You're exaggerating... I mean about talking.

Sam: I'm afraid I'm not. I saw something very unusual yesterday. I mean that I saw it myself, not just "I heard it from a friend who heard it from a friend..."

Anna: I'm intrigued. What did you see?

Sam: I was in a café yesterday, which is near our sports centre. They have Wi-Fi there you know, that's why there are always lots of people with notebooks there.

Anna: I know the place, yes. And I often go there too. It's nice there and I enjoy a cup of coffee while checking and writing my e-mails.

Sam: But what I saw wasn't just writing e-mails! It was a date as both he and she were there, sitting at the same table, in front of each other!

Anna: So? I don't think I understand. What's unusual in a date?

Sam: They were both there with their computers. And they were not talking. They were e-mailing each other.

Anna: Are you kidding?

Sam: No. The girl and the guy were sitting in the café, drinking juice, sharing food, and not saying a word. Instead of chatting they were typing on the laptops.

Anna: Wow! A date without speaking! The waitress must have thought that they were crazy!

Sam: But... you know... I think... there is probably something to it.

Anna: Something to it? Are you saying that you find their behaviour normal?

Sam: Not exactly. And being normal is a very relative criterion, by the way. Things people considered abnormal a hundred years ago are absolutely normal now, and who knows, messaging may become the usual way of communicating in several years.

Anna: But it's a relationship! How can messaging replace a live talk? And how about feelings? Emotions?

Sam: That's it — emotions. Emotions often ruin relationships. People can't communicate their ideas because they're overwhelmed with emotions. So they can't get heard and understood. You know, my parents' friends once shared the secret of their happy marriage.

Anna: Happy marriage secret? Interesting. What is it?

Sam: When they happen to quarrel, they stop talking to each other. They communicate in their weblogs.

Anna: Sounds weird.

Sam: It does, doesn't it? But it helps. In contrast to speaking, when you write you have to be rational and logical. Otherwise, your writing looks absurd. They can't interrupt each other, and they have to stick to the point, express the point of view clearly and find arguments to support it.

Anna: I see. And it helps sort things out, I suppose?

Sam: Exactly, conflicts get resolved more easily. And they often..., I mean my parents' friends, they often use different images or music to enhance their messages.

Anna: You mean that even if you have to say some harsh things that are unpleasant to your partner, a funny picture, or nice music can lessen the negative impact and emphasise your good intentions?

Sam: Exactly. And I think it's a good strategy. Anyway that couple have been together for many years and they've never had a row. They started to use the same strategy with their kids too, as soon as the kids acquired the necessary computer skills.

Anna: A family of computer geeks!

Sam: That's right, but they seem to understand each other OK. And the kids can never invent excuses like "I didn't know... You didn't tell me..." when the parents ask them to do something via the Internet.

Anna: Amusing. I should try it with my boyfriend I think. He always complains that I don't tell him anything about my weekend plans. But I do! He just doesn't listen! Now I'll have written evidence.

Sam: Funny. Let me know how it works...