

1 >>

What are your earliest memories of school?

1 Listening

A 1.1 Ben is telling his friend Lucy about a memorable experience. Look at the photos. Then listen to the first part of their conversation and guess what happened.



B 1.2 Listen to the second part. T (true) or F (false)? What would you have done in Ben's shoes?

- 1 Both the students and principal thought the lesson was fascinating.
- 2 Ben's lesson was interrupted by someone screaming.
- 3 Only some of the kids had left by the end of class.
- 4 Ben was hired without doing a sample lesson.
- 5 We know for sure that Ben was hired because of a shortage of teachers.

I think I might have called for help. But if it had been a snake, I think I would have fainted.

C Make it personal Share a story about a first time.

1 1.3 **How to say it** Complete the chart. Listen to check.

Reminiscing	
What they said	What they meant
1 As _____ as I can recall, ...	From what I remember ...
2 I can still see it as _____ it were yesterday.	It's still fresh in my mind.
3 It's completely _____ my mind.	I've completely forgotten.
4 I have a vague recollection _____ ...	I have a distant memory of ...
5 But come to _____ of it, ...	In retrospect ...

2 Choose a topic from the list and note down ...

- a *who, what, when, where, and why.*
- b which images, sounds, and smells are the most vivid.
- c any additional details.

Your first ...

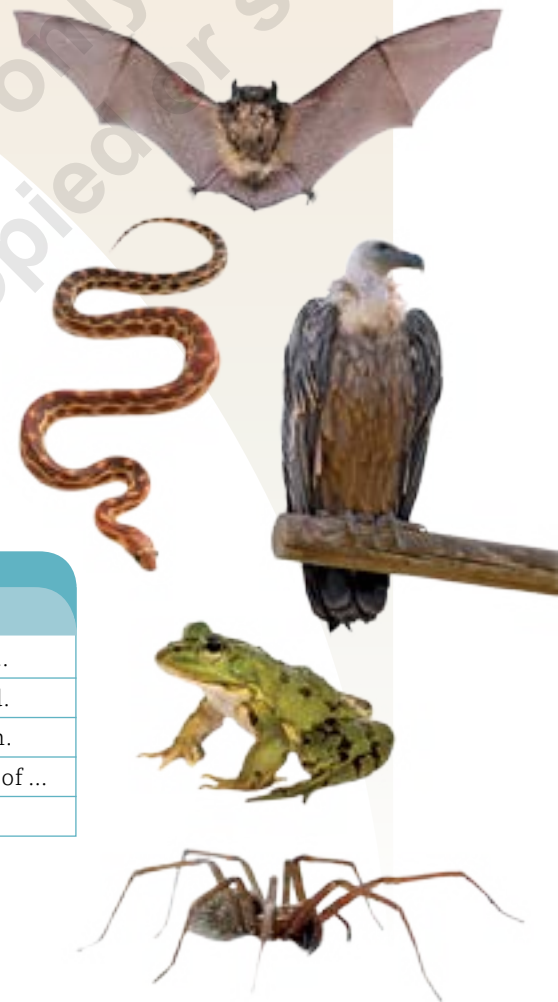
day at school driving lesson day in your current home English lesson
job interview time speaking in public sports event wedding

3 In groups, share your experiences. Use *How to say it* expressions. Whose story was the most interesting?

I'll never forget my first driving lesson. I can still see it as if it were yesterday.

What was so unusual about it?

I remember showing up early because I was so excited. And then just when ...



2 Vocabulary: Phrasal verbs with off

A 1.4 Complete 1–6 with the correct form of these verbs. Use your intuition. Listen to check.

doze go pull rush take wear

- I even tried it for a year after I graduated from college, but the initial enthusiasm _____ off (= disappeared) after a while.
- Yeah, I guess I don't regret that my teaching career never really _____ off (= succeeded).
- Even the principal was yawning and looking as if he was about to _____ off (= fall asleep).
- Anyway, it doesn't really matter because I never even had the chance to _____ it off (= make it happen).
- Tables overturned, papers everywhere ... It was like a bomb had _____ off (= been activated).
- Well, by then they'd all _____ off (= left in a hurry) and left me and the principal in an empty classroom.

B In pairs, take turns retelling the story in 1A as if you were a) the principal, b) a student. Use at least four of the phrasal verbs.

Common mistake

Class is over. The bell just ~~went~~ ^{rang} off.

C 1.5 Listen and complete the mind maps. Which collocations were you familiar with?

1
enthusiasm → wear off ←

2
career → take off ←

3
lesson → pull off ←

4
bomb → go off ←

D Make it personal In groups, share a funny story about the last time you did something. Use phrasal verbs and collocations from C. Anything in common?

sat through a boring movie were delayed traveling by bus / train / plane managed to do something difficult
were really into a fashion or fad for a while overslept / were late / delayed for something critical

I had a big day coming up; a hiking date with someone I hoped would be my boyfriend. But my alarm clock never went off!

Oh, no! Then what?

Well, I had to think of something creative fast! So I ...

3 Language in use

A ▶ 1.6 Listen to the start of a podcast. What's it about?

- People who want to innovate and turn their ideas into a small business.
- Big companies that try to meet people's changing needs.

B ▶ 1.7 In pairs, look at the photos and the slogans. What exactly do you think each start-up does? Listen to the rest to check. How close were you?



C In pairs, which start-up would be more successful where you live? What kinds of problems might each one face?

Lists and Twists would be a hard sell. Maybe it's just me, but I'd hate to wear something that's been worn before.

4 Pronunciation: Final consonant clusters

A ▶ 1.8 Read and listen to sentences 1 and 2. Cross out the letters you hardly hear at all, or don't hear, in the **highlighted** words. Then circle the correct word in the rule.

- 1 IT manager Elena Fernández left her job and created **Lists and Twists**, a company that has shipped more than 100,000 dollars in **products** since 2015.
- 2 The app **asks** where you're going and tracks you as you make your way to your destination – just like your **parents** used to do on the **weekends**.

A consonant cluster is a group of consonants with no vowels between them. In final clusters ending in /sts/, /kts/, /sks/, /nts/ and /ndz/, the [first / second / third] consonant is very weak or not pronounced.

B ▶ 1.9 Listen and complete 1–4 with words that end in consonant clusters. Then listen again and repeat.

- 1 One of our _____ seven articles of clothing.
- 2 Our team _____ new clothes based on your _____ and purchase history.
- 3 If 60 dollars _____ like a lot of money, that's nothing compared to what most designer clothing usually _____.
- 4 The feedback we've been getting from our _____, as well as the number of positive press reviews, _____ our commitment to excellence.

C Make it personal Complete 1–6 to create your own innovations. Which is the class favorite?

I'd like to see a start-up / an NGO / an app / a robot that ...

- inspects¹ _____ free of charge. scans our hard disks for² _____ .
 looks for the best discounts in³ _____. lists⁴ _____ in our area.
 reinvents the way we⁵ _____. defends the rights of⁶ _____ .

I'd like to see a robot that inspects my car free of charge. I'm tired of getting ripped off by mechanics!

5 Grammar: Subject-verb agreement

A Read the grammar box and complete the rules (a–c) with *singular* or *plural*.

Subject-verb agreement: Portions and indefinite pronouns

1 Portions and count vs. non-count	Some of the company's advertising	is very innovative.
	A lot of their strategies	are brilliant.
	A few of their apps	are unique also.
2 Indefinite pronouns	No one in our group	likes my new logo.
	Only one of us	thinks it works.

- a *Both, many, several, and a few* always take a _____ verb.
 b *All, any, more, most, a lot, some, a half, a third, etc.* take a singular verb when the noun is _____ and a plural verb when the noun is _____.
 c *One, each, everyone, no one, someone, and anyone* always take a _____ verb.

B Read the rest. Then write the correct numbers from **A** and **B** (1–6) next to the sentences in **4B**.

Units of measurement, collective nouns, asides, and verbs as subjects

3 Units of measurement	Sixty dollars	seems like a lot.
	Two months	is an eternity.
4 Collective nouns	The agency	wants a deposit.
	In general, people	don't like having to park.
5 Asides	The start-up, as well as its competitors,	is making a lot of money.
6 Verbs as subjects	Having good ideas	takes a lot of courage.

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C Circle the correct alternative in these quotes.

- "Everyone [**have / has**] talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads." Erica Jong
- "An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time [**have / has**] come." Victor Hugo
- "One of the advantages of being disorderly [**are / is**] that one is constantly making exciting discoveries." Abraham Maslow
- "Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never [**regain / regains**] its original dimensions." Oliver Wendell Holmes
- "The achievement of excellence can only occur if the organization [**promote / promotes**] a culture of creative dissatisfaction." Lawrence Miller
- "If you're having difficulty coming up with new ideas, then slow down. For me, slowing down [**have / has**] been a tremendous source of creativity." Natalie Goldberg

D Make it personal In groups, choose your two favorite quotes from **C** and ...

- explain what they mean and why you like them.
- think of concrete examples to illustrate them.

The second really struck a chord with me.

I'm not sure I understood it well.

Well, basically he's saying that ...

6 Reading

A Read the first paragraph. In pairs, what creative ideas or solutions have occurred to you in the shower? List as many as you can in two minutes.

I've figured out the solution to some crossword clues.



You're in the shower, shampooing your hair, when – bam! – **an idea pops into your head**. Maybe you finally figure out a way around a problem at work. Or perhaps it becomes clear why a family member or friend has been acting out of character. Or maybe the perfect end-of-year project suddenly comes to mind. It seems that those aha! moments **hit us** when we least expect them and **elude** us when we need them the most.

Most brain research has traditionally focused on the downside of **letting your mind wander**, highlighting the negative **effects** of daydreaming on our work and academic performance. ¹But if **tuning out** is as bad as has been suggested, why do we spend up to 50% of our time—according to some **estimates**—thinking about tasks other than those in front of us? Surely this wouldn't make sense in **evolutionary** terms.

A few recent studies have tried to **shed new light on** the nature of **creativity**. In 2012, a team of American researchers asked 145 students to list as many uses as possible for everyday objects, for example, toothpicks and bricks. One group of **participants** took a break during the task and engaged in **recreational**, undemanding activities. When these students returned, their **creative** ability to think of uses for the everyday objects had improved by 41%. Creativity, it seems, requires an incubation period. ²But are there any biological **mechanisms** at play here?

As it turns out, our brains are not necessarily most active when we focus and try to **zero in on** a task. Things that make you switch to autopilot, like showering, working out, or even scrolling through your newsfeed, tend to relax the prefrontal cortex (the "feel good" center of the brain) and **release** hormones that can **boost** creativity. In other words, when our minds wander, ideas we might never have consciously connected seem to come together. This, of course, begs the question: ³If our brains are not wired to be **constantly attentive**, why is tuning out usually considered such a bad thing?

We're immersed in a culture of attention and mindfulness, which puts a premium on the ability to **stay on top of things** as we juggle busy **schedules**, multiple technologies, and children demanding attention. ⁴How can you allow yourself to simply space out when your project is unfinished and there's a **deadline looming**? If recent research **is anything to go by**, it looks as if maybe you should. You may have the idea of a lifetime!

B 1.10 Read and listen. In pairs, match the questions (1–4) in the article to the most likely answers (a–e). There's one extra.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> We are expected to be focused. | d <input type="checkbox"/> It's the best way to have a creative idea. |
| b <input type="checkbox"/> Creative ideas need time to develop. | e <input type="checkbox"/> When you're distracted, the pleasure centers of your brain react positively. |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> Students who daydream get better grades. | |

C Find 1–5 in the article and circle the most likely meaning in the context.

- elude (paragraph 1): We **[escape from / fail to achieve]** them.
- shed new light on (paragraph 3): They **[explain / define]** it in a new way.
- boost (paragraph 4): They **[amplify or increase it / push it up from below]**.
- looming (paragraph 5): It **[appears as a large form / is about to happen]**.
- is anything to go by (paragraph 5): It **[can be followed / should be obeyed]**.

D Make it personal In groups, debate which statements are good advice. Find evidence in the article for or against. Has anyone ever said them to you?

- "Stop daydreaming! You won't get your homework done in time again."
- "Take a short break. Come back to it when you're fresh, and something will occur to you."
- "You have to learn to concentrate or you won't get ahead!"
- "Stop worrying so much about the deadline. Let's go out and have some fun. You might have a brilliant idea!"

My parents used to say number 1 all the time.

But look, in paragraph 3, it says ...

7 Vocabulary: Figurative expressions for ideas

A Look at the **highlighted** expressions in the article in 6A. Then match them to pictures 1–6.



B In pairs, explain what the expressions mean. Use an online dictionary, if necessary. Then add them to the chart. Which images in A best help you remember them?

Having an idea	Getting distracted	Staying focused

One meaning of *pop* is to "explode" or "burst open", so if an idea pops into your head, it "explodes" or "appears suddenly".

Yes, like a burst of energy. So if I say, "An idea popped into my head," it means it was very sudden and wasn't there before.

C Share true sentences about yourself using at least three of the expressions in B.

Yesterday when I was walking home from school, a great idea hit me ...

D Make it personal In pairs, share your creative process.

- Think of a time when you couldn't think of an idea.
- Where / When / How did the solution finally come to you?
- Have you applied your strategy to any new situations since then? Did it work?
- Have you ever used any of the suggestions in the article?

I took a very demanding art course, and it was hard to stay on top of all the projects. One day, an idea just wouldn't come to me.

So what did you do?

8 Language in use

A 1.11 In pairs, decide the historical significance of 1-3. Then listen to a radio interview to check. Were your reasons the same?

Wikipedia has changed the way I learn about new things.

FAMOUS FIRSTS

This week: The 2000s BY ROY MARTÍNEZ

1



A non-Hollywood movie wins eight Oscars for the first time.

2



New technological words are invented.

3



The first user-created encyclopedia is introduced.

B 1.11 Read *Uses of set*. Complete 1-5 with the most logical words from the box. Listen again to check.

Uses of set

Set is one of the most flexible verbs in English, with meanings as varied as *put*, *design*, *establish*, and *schedule*:

- a In the 90s, the Japanese **set** (= established) the standard for small cars.
- b The 2020 Olympics are **set** (= scheduled) to take place in Tokyo.

Set is also the verb in fixed expressions and idioms:

Nelson Mandela was **set free** (= released) in 1990.

fire motion record release rules stage

- 1 *Slumdog Millionaire* set a new world _____. It was the first time an international production had won so many Oscars, and this set in _____ a number of important changes.
- 2 You may feel some of these new words didn't exactly set the world on _____ initially, but by 2010, everyone had been using words like "texting" and "to Google" for years.
- 3 Maybe some of these early words set the _____ for more new ones. "To Google" and "cloud computing" were invented in 2007 and "Twitter" in 2008.
- 4 Since it was introduced in 2001, Wikipedia has set new _____ for how we build and share knowledge.
- 5 I've been working on a new book, and it's different from anything I've ever written. It's set for a December _____.

C Make it personal In groups, do you agree with Roy's "famous firsts"? Consider these questions.

- 1 What percentage of films included in the Oscars should be foreign? Considering that the Academy Awards are a U.S. ceremony, how important is it for them to be international?
- 2 How important are language changes and the addition of new words? Was the addition of technological words a groundbreaking "first"?
- 3 What do you think of Wikipedia? How accurate do you think it is?

Wikipedia definitely set the stage for a new way of accessing information.

Yes, entries in two different languages on the same topic are sometimes completely different.

Really? Let's try it!

9 Grammar: Using perfect tenses

A Read the grammar box and check (✓) the correct rules 1-3. Find an example of each rule in 8B.

Simple past vs. present perfect; present perfect vs. present perfect continuous; past perfect vs. past perfect continuous

I	watched	the Oscars last year.
	've seen	some great foreign films lately.
	've been going	to the movies a lot.
Our view of language	has changed.	We now expect new words.
	has been changing	slowly.
I	'd sent	a text message before I got home.
	had been using	the word "texting" for years when I saw it in a dictionary.

- 1 When the action is complete, use the **simple past** **present perfect** if you say when the action happened.
- 2 The **present perfect** **present perfect continuous** sometimes means the action is complete, but the **present perfect** **present perfect continuous** always means it's in progress.
- 3 The **past perfect** **past perfect continuous** is used to talk about actions in progress when the action occurs before another point in the past.

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Common mistake

've seen

I ~~saw~~ some great films lately. I saw a really good one at the festival.

You can only use the simple past if you say "when" or "where."

B Complete the discussion forum. Circle the best choice (1-7).

WHAT ABOUT MUSIC IN THE 2010S? Any defining moments?



Alanis7

To me, it was the release of Adele's 25 in 2015. Her 21 album ¹[had been setting / had set] the charts on fire a few years earlier, and no one thought she'd be able to match that kind of success. Turns out she did. 25 ²[sold / has sold] something like 3.5 million copies in the opening week alone! This is a big deal because it's shown the industry that even though album sales ³[fell / have been falling] year after year, not everybody is into singles. There's still a place for complete albums.



TaylorFan

Agreed. The last few years ⁴[had been / have been] pretty good for Taylor Swift, too. She ⁵[d won / won] like a million awards in 2014-15, but, truth be told, she ⁶[s been breaking / d been breaking] record after record long before that.



RiccoW

Well, album sales are down because most people ⁷[stopped / have stopped] downloading albums. Period. Why buy an album when you can stream it on Spotify?

C Make it personal What's your most important defining moment of the 2010s?

- 1 Choose a topic. Search on "Top defining moments of the 2010s" for more ideas.

the arts history technology sport a personal moment

For me, it was the last *Harry Potter* movie.

What was so special about that?

- 2 In groups, explain what was special about the defining moment. Use expressions with *set* as well as perfect tenses to talk about actions in the past and to bring the listener up to the present.

It was the end of an era. J.K. Rowling set a record for unknown writers: 40 million books translated into 67 languages and eight movies!

10 Listening

A 1.12 Listen to Todd and Amy discussing cross-cultural relationships. Check (✓) a or b.

It can be inferred that the couple in the article ...

- a may not have talked about cultural differences early on.
- b were aware from the beginning that culture can be very important.



B 1.13 Listen to the next part. Does Todd express these opinions? Y (yes), N (no), or NI (no information)?

- 1 Almost nothing is universal, and all aspects of life have to be talked about.
- 2 The things people say are unimportant might hide cultural assumptions.
- 3 People usually give up their old cultural assumptions when they move to a new country.
- 4 The need for security is personal, not cultural.
- 5 If you really try, you can change someone.

C 1.14 Guess whether the couple stayed together. Listen to the end to check. Note down two reasons for the outcome.

11 Keep talking

A 1.15 Read *Informal responses*. Then complete the chart. Listen to check.

Informal responses

In conversation, it's important to know how to respond appropriately. Some responses are neutral in register, while others can be very informal, for use with friends and family.

I'm not sure I agree. (neutral) You've got to be kidding! (informal)

	What they said	What they meant
Very informal	1 That's what I'm _____ you.	I just said that.
	2 That's for _____. OR I'll _____.	Definitely! I know.
	3 You're _____ me? How _____ I know?	I don't know.
Neutral	4 Let's _____ it.	You have to consider this.
	5 Just give it a _____.	Don't decide in advance.

B In groups, discuss these questions. Use expressions from A.

- 1 Did anything that Amy and Todd said surprise you? Why (not)?
- 2 What other sorts of conflicts can you imagine between cross-cultural couples?
- 3 Is a cross-cultural relationship a "first" experience you've tried or would like to try?

C Make it personal What unusual "firsts" have you tried? Make notes and share your story. Whose was most surprising?

Common mistake

was
It ~~went~~ bad / awful.

I love danger and last summer I decided to try rock climbing. I was a little nervous, though.

I'll bet! How did it go?

Well, it didn't go very well.

12 Writing: An autobiographical narrative

A Read the narrative and answer 1–3. Underline examples.

Which tense(s) does the writer primarily use to ...

- 1 give background information?
- 2 introduce and describe the events?
- 3 bring the reader up to the present?

B Read *Write it right!* Match the **highlighted** *as* in the narrative to the meanings 1–4 below.

Write it right!

As is a versatile word that has many functions:

Slightly more formal

- 1 **As** we're from different cultures, Mayumi and I have some cultural differences. (= because)
- 2 **As** a student, I used to like French. (= when I was a student)

Neutral

- 3 I ran into Laura. She's working **as** a salesclerk. (= in the role of)
- 4 I used my jacket **as** an umbrella. (= for the purpose of)

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 1 because | 3 for the purpose of |
| 2 when | 4 in the role of |

C Complete these expressions with *but* from the narrative.

- 1 It was _____ but sheer luck.
- 2 I couldn't _____ but overhear.
- 3 I was _____ but certain.
- 4 I did _____ but study.

D Your turn! Write a four-paragraph autobiographical narrative (250 words) on a first experience.

Before

Plan background information, introduce and describe the events, and bring the reader up to the present.

While

Write four paragraphs following the model in **A**, adding a summary *as* the fourth paragraph. Be careful with narrative tenses. Include at least two examples with *as* and an expression with *but*.

After

Post your narrative online and read your classmates' work. Whose narrative was most surprising?

Share your most original first experience!



If I can do it, so can you!

By Mitch Pebble

I'd always dreamed of having a sailboat. I love the water, and **as** a child, I'd learned to swim by the time I was four. But I never, ever thought I'd have the chance to live on one until I moved from my home in Miami to the Caribbean island of Grenada. The most astonishing part of all is that I went there to take a temporary job **as** a waiter over the winter break. After that, it was nothing but sheer luck!

One night, *as* I was serving customers in the capital city, St. George's, I couldn't help but overhear the word "sailboat" in a conversation. Of course, my ears pricked up immediately, and I got up the courage to introduce myself. Lo and behold, it turned out that a young couple from Grenville, the island's second largest city, was looking for someone to take care of their boat **as** they were going to be abroad for a year. They explained that they needed an experienced "captain," who could also handle repairs. I wasn't a certified captain, and I was all but certain I had no chance at the job. Still, I couldn't let this marvelous opportunity pass, so instead of meeting friends when my shift ended, I did some research and enrolled in a sailing exam-preparation course.

I had a lot of work ahead of me, and for two months, I did nothing but study. In the end, though, I passed the test with flying colors. I had to refresh my knowledge of astronomy and meteorology. But now it's over, and I can do nautical calculations using the sun and stars **as** a reference. At the beginning of May, I moved ... into their sailboat! My new home is a little small, and my parents are a little disappointed that I haven't gone back to school, but I've never been happier.

My friends always told me to follow my dreams, and at first, I was a little skeptical. Now I couldn't agree with them more!

Common mistake

I had the experience of a lifetime. ~~I've~~ ^{I'd} never felt that way before.

Remember to maintain tense consistency in your writing.