Unit 1 As Scary as You Think?

■ Listening

W: I want to explain something about how snakes think. Snakes don't want to attack or chase people. As we read, snakes tend to move away when humans come near. If a snake thinks it can get away, it will. On the other hand, if a snake doesn't think it can get away, it will stay put and try to defend itself. One way they do this is by moving toward an enemy. They aren't doing this to attack. Really, they are just trying to make the enemy run away. In that case, if a person does run away, the snake isn't going to chase that person! It might move like it wants to strike, but that is just another part of its trick to make an enemy run. Think about it. What could a snake gain from chasing a human? A little snake couldn't eat you even if it caught and killed you.

■ Integrated Practice

M1: I am afraid of snakes. When I was young, I went camping and there was a big rock near my tent. When I moved the rock, a big snake came out! I was so scared that I couldn't move. Luckily, the snake went away, but since then I have always been afraid of snakes.

W: I hate spiders. If I see one, I scream. Last summer, I was at a picnic. I saw that a friend of mine had a spider on her shoulder. It must have fallen out of a tree or something. I saw the spider and screamed. My friend jumped because I scared her. Neither of us could find the spider after that. Anyway, we packed up our picnic and went home.

M2: Mice scare me. I hate to admit it, but they do. I think they are so gross. I used to live in an apartment that had lots of mice. One morning, I almost touched one. It came out of my shoe! My father caught it in a box and threw it out. But for a couple of weeks, I couldn't wear those shoes.

Unit 2 Counting on a Storm

■ Listening

M: I was surprised that sound travels only one kilometer every three seconds. It seems slow to me.
W: Yeah, that's because air is thin. Sound travels faster through water or iron.
M: What? Sound travels faster in water than it does in air? So, the sound of thunder would reach me faster under water?
W: Right. Sound travels faster through thick, heavy things.
M: It seems like it should be the other way around; sound should move more slowly through water than through air.
W: Well, it doesn't. Haven't you seen those old cowboy movies where people put their ear on a railroad track to listen for a train?
M: Yeah.
W: That's because the sound of a train travels faster through iron railroad tracks than through air. So, they could actually hear the train through the iron before they could hear it through the air.
M: How fast does sound travel through railroad tracks?
W: Let's look in my science book. Here it is. It travels about five kilometers per second.

■ Integrated Practice

W: The scariest storm I can remember happened just last summer. My sister and I were swimming in the middle of a big lake when, suddenly, black clouds started rolling in. Then, we saw a flash of light. We started counting—one, two, three . . . and we heard a boom of thunder. The storm was very close! It was only one kilometer away! We started swimming back as fast as we could, but we were far from land. My sister hates thunder, and she cried a lot. There was no one around to help us. Luckily, we made it back safely. I never want to be close to a scary summer storm like that again!

Unit 3 Doing the Right Thing

■ Listening

M: I was surprised to hear that Mr. Chowdhury gave back all those diamond rings.
W: Me, too, and I was even more surprised when I heard about his life.
M: What do you mean?
W: I found an article online, and I read more about him. He has a pretty tough life. The money from those diamond rings could have made a difference for him.
M: Does he have a lot of kids or something?
W: No, actually he is single. He's in his forties, but he never got married. His parents are dead, so he has to help support his sisters.
M: I'm sure living in New York is expensive.
W: Yes; but on top of that, his health isn't great. He has high blood pressure and works twelve hours a day in a cab that he rents!
M: He doesn't even own his own cab?
W: Nope. But even with all of that, he still chose to do the right thing when he found all of those diamond rings.

■ Integrated Practice

M: Driving a taxi isn't only dangerous. It's bad for a person's health as well. Taxi drivers experience a lot of stress every day out on the streets. Of course, we all know they have to drive in rush-hour traffic, but they also have to drive in bad weather conditions. Think about trying to drive in a big city during a snowstorm. In addition, taxi drivers have to work on holidays! There isn't much time for them to spend relaxing with their friends and families. All of this can affect a driver's health. It's no wonder a lot of taxi drivers have high blood pressure and other health problems. Driving a taxi is indeed a stressful job.

Unit 4 The Art of the Brick

■ Listening

M: How does Nathan Sawaya make his masterpieces? When he starts a project, he looks at photos of the object he is going to make. He sometimes looks at hundreds of photos. He then draws sketches to help him picture the sculpture in his mind. After this preparation, it's on to building. For this, he needs bricks, time, and patience. Sculpting with LEGO materials is a slow process. Quite often, he has to change his original idea of the sculpture as he builds. Sometimes he has to tear down part of the sculpture he has already done in order to rebuild it in a better shape. What's the hardest thing about LEGO sculpture? Sawaya says it is using straight lines to represent curves. As all LEGO bricks are straight and square, it takes a little creativity to use them to make round objects.

■ Integrated Practice

W1: When I was young, I enjoyed playing with bugs. I would find worms or beetles and make homes for them. Sometimes I brought them inside our house, but my mom wasn't happy with that. Did playing with bugs prepare me for the future? Yes, it made me interested in the natural world. As a result, I enjoy science and I would like to be a biologist or a chemist.

M: When I was in elementary school, I loved reading comics. Every day after school, I would read new comics. I borrowed them from friends, rented them, or bought them. Actually, I still like reading them. However, I don't think they helped me prepare for the future. I want to be a computer programmer. Comics are not related to that.

W2: I enjoy drawing. Ever since I was little, I have liked to draw. I used to draw animals, but now I like to draw people. I don't know if drawing will help my future. My sisters say I am really good at drawing, but I don't know if I want to study art. I am interested in science and math, too.

Unit 5 Art at Your Fingertips

■ Listening

M: I think it would be boring to sit around all day getting nail art done.
W: If it takes twenty minutes per nail, I guess ten nails would take over three hours.
M: Exactly! That's too long.
W: Well, there is a faster way. These days, there are special inkjet machines that can paint pictures on fingernails.
M: You mean like inkjet printers for computers?
W: They're kind of like that. But they're special machines for printing pictures on nails.
M: That sounds cool. Are they fast?
W: They're faster than people, for sure. In fact, the fastest machine can do all ten fingernails in less than five minutes.
M: I wonder what kinds of pictures those machines can make.
W: The one that I saw can make anything. In fact, people can put their own digital photos into the machine and print those photos onto their nails. It is pretty amazing.

■ Integrated Practice

W: I read a few good tips for taking care of my fingernails the other day. I got the tips from a magazine. The first thing I learned was that I should not use metal nail clippers to keep my fingernails short. The metal clippers actually damage your nails each time you use them. Instead, it is better to use soft nail-care boards called emery boards. Using an emery board for ten or fifteen seconds per nail once a week can keep nails nice and short. Filing the nails down is better than cutting them. Another tip explained how to keep your fingernails healthy from the inside. You have to eat the right kinds of foods. Things like carrots, milk, and fish are examples of good foods to eat. It's also important that you drink plenty of water each day to keep your fingernails healthy. The magazine also said that it is good to use lotion on your fingernails. I didn't know that there are so many things to do for your fingernails.

Unit 6 Ready for College?

■ Listening

W: The two major college entrance exams in the US are the SAT and the ACT. Some colleges in the US accept either test. Which is better? Which is easier? I can't really say. However, I can tell you some of the differences between the tests. One big difference is the writing section. The SAT requires all students to write an essay. For the ACT, students can choose to write an essay, but they don't have to. Another difference is that the SAT only has a reading and math section. On the ACT, students have to do four sections: English, math, reading, and science. There are over 200 questions. The SAT only has 140 questions. So if you prefer a shorter test, you should go for the SAT. But watch out. In the SAT math test, there are some questions that are not multiple choice. You have to show your work. In contrast, all the questions on the ACT are multiple choice.

■ Integrated Practice

W1: The university where I want to go will accept the SAT or ACT. Either test is OK. However, I have to take a writing test as well. I study writing a lot these days. Last year, the cut-off score for the SAT was 1400. I'm not sure what the cut-off score for the ACT was.

M: To get into the big university in my country, students have to take a national exam. It's really hard to get a good score. That exam tests math science, history, and English. The first part of the English test is on reading. You have to know a lot of English words for that part. The second part is on listening. There is no writing for the English part of the test.

W2: I will finish high school this year. Right now, I don't think I'm ready to go to university. I want to take classes at the community college near my home first. It's really easy to get in there. I don't have to take any kind of test. I just need to show that I finished high school.

Unit 7 Sweeter than Honey

■ Listening

W: Look! I found some of that UMF honey which we read about. Let's buy some.
M: Wow! They have quite a few kinds. Which one should we buy?
W: These two jars of honey are the same size, but different prices. One is twenty dollars, but the other is forty dollars! I wonder why.
M: Look at this. The label on this jar says UMF 10, but the expensive jar is UMF 25. I guess that number shows how strong the UMF is.
W: So the stronger the factor, the more expensive the honey.
M: That would make sense. The stronger the factor, the better it must work. Like with most other products, the better it works, the more expensive it is.
W: Hey, wait a second. The cheaper jar says that this honey is from Mexico. Isn't UMF honey supposed to come from New Zealand?
M: You're right. This jar that is UMF 25 is from New Zealand. Let's get the real stuff even though it is more expensive.

■ Integrated Practice

M: Honey is healthy. It has chemicals in it that can help our body fight off diseases. But some kinds of honey are better for you than other kinds. Dark honey is best. In general, the darker the honey, the better it is for you. Bees visiting buckwheat plants make a dark honey. In fact, this honey is much healthier than lighter honey. When compared, it has twenty times as much healthy stuff in it. So, the next time you're in the store, pick up a jar of the darkest honey you can find. That's the honey with the most health benefits for you. Think about it. The next time you get sick, you can enjoy your medicine. Honey!

Unit 8 Parkour

■ Listening

M: At the moment, there is a lot of argument in the sport of parkour. Some people want competitions, but others do not. Right now, it is more of an individual sport. Parkourists only compete with themselves. They try to get better every day. But lately, some of the new athletes want change. They think that competitions would be good. It would make the sport more popular. Plus, they think that the sport would improve at a faster pace. They say that it is only a matter of time before regular competitions get started. But many of the original athletes are against this change. They say that it is against the idea of parkour. There is no "best." Parkour is about learning to overcome obstacles. No one way is better than another. These parkourists are doing their best to prevent competitions from ever happening. They do not want the sport to change.

■ Integrated Practice

M1: One famous, old sport I like is soccer. Soccer was first played almost 4,000 years ago! Almost every ancient civilization, Greece, Egypt, and China, for example, played a kind of soccer. I really like soccer because the players have to be skilled. They need to run fast, handle the ball well, and think fast!

W: My dad really likes golf. He says it is an intelligent game and that people need both skill and brains. Golf was first played in Scotland in the 1100s. In fact, the oldest golf course in the world is in Scotland. Queen Mary played on it in the 1600s. Dad says that golf needs a lot of strategy and that only smart people can play it.

M2: Hockey is a famous sport. Although field hockey has been played for thousands of years, people didn't start playing ice hockey until the 1800s. The rules for ice hockey were first invented by a Canadian man. I guess that's why Canadians like me really love this sport. In addition, I like it because it's a fast sport. There's a lot of action in a hockey game!

Unit 9 Making Video Games

■ Listening

W: Besides faces, there are a few other troublesome areas for game developers. Most of these areas involve the background. One difficult thing to show is water. Water is always in motion. So programmers have to think about how it moves and how to show this. Until recently, computers were not powerful enough to be able to show all the movement in water.

M: That's right, and portraying fire involves similar problems. If you can believe it, fire is even more of a problem than water. Fire moves faster than water. It also changes the things around it by burning them. Fire in games now is brief and explosive. And although there are ways to show more realistic fire in games, our computers are not powerful enough. Programmers think this will change within the next five years. Imagine what games will look like then!

■ Integrated Practice

M: The Half Life series is one of the world's most popular computer games. Players love its thrilling story and its excellent graphics. How are the graphics in the Half Life series different from other games'? Well, first of all, the faces of the characters look more lifelike. Ken Birdwell, the senior programmer, spent a lot of time making their faces look realistic. He made sure that the characters' faces have a natural shape. They are not square as in other games. The faces also show emotion and feeling. In addition, the game has better background graphics. The light and shadow are more natural. And the fire and water graphics are well done. It's no wonder that players are looking forward to the next game in the series.

Unit 10 Be Careful Where You Use It

■ Listening

W: Can you imagine your cell phone falling into the toilet? Gross!
M: Actually, cell phones are pretty gross even if they don't fall into the toilet.
W: What do you mean?
M: Cell phones are covered with germs and bacteria.
W: No way!
M: It's true. Some researchers did a report on it.
W: How do cell phones get so dirty?
M: People's hands get dirty from touching all kinds of stuff, like doors, handles on buses or trains, keyboards, whatever. Then they pick up their phones, so the germs and bacteria get onto the phone.
W: That is pretty gross now that I think about it.
W: That's not all. The researchers said there are more germs on cell phones than on toilet seats! Germs grow really well on phones because they are warm from electricity and they are kept in dark places.
W: Yuck! I'm going to buy some of those wet towels that kill bacteria and use them on my phone.

■ Integrated Practice

M1: Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to take off. Please turn off any cell phones or other electronic devices. They interfere with equipment aboard the aircraft. Cell phones may not be used until we land.

W: The doctor is a little late today. Please have a seat in the waiting room until the nurse calls you back. Before you sit down, remember to turn off your cell phone. It should be off while you're waiting. It might disturb other patients.

M2: Good evening, everyone. Welcome to West Lake High School's production of King Lear. Be polite and please turn off all cell phones before the show. This is how you can help our actors. Cell phones can distract the students on stage. Thank you, and please enjoy the show.

Unit 11 The King of the Skies

■ Listening

G: When I say “king of the skies,” what bird do you think of?
B: King of the skies? You mean the best flier? Hmm, I would say the swallow.
G: The swallow, not the albatross? Why’s that?
B: Well, swallows fly thousands of kilometers a year. Every fall, they fly from Europe all the way to southern Africa.
G: Wow! That must be at least 4,000 kilometers!
B: And every spring, they fly all the way back from Africa to Europe. So, swallows are amazing birds.
G: But what about albatrosses? They fly thousands of kilometers, too! They can fly weeks on end without even landing. They fly much further than swallows.
B: Sure, but albatrosses soar! Swallows flap their wings. Swallows need a lot more energy to fly than albatrosses. Plus, they’re tiny! Think how often their little wings need to flap to keep them going.
G: I guess so.
B: And swallows are considered one of the signs of spring, you know.
G: Alright, alright. Maybe there can be two kings of the skies!

■ Integrated Practice

M: I know that spring is coming when I see swallows at our house. There are two swallows, a husband and wife, that fly back to our house every March. They arrive suddenly, chirping loudly and flying in circles over our back door. As the days pass and they build their nest, the first spring flowers also start to grow in our garden. It is almost like their arrival wakes up the flowers. And as the flowers grow, so do the baby swallows. Our swallows will always represent the beginning of spring for me. I look forward to their return every year.

Unit 12 Do Animals Have Feelings?

■ Listening

W: Do animals feel love? Maybe. Maybe not. Love is one feeling that causes a lot of scientists to disagree. On the one hand, there are many signs of animal love in nature. Or, at least, there seem to be. They include mothers taking care of their babies, or even family groups protecting one another from danger. One scientist has made a notable discovery. The brains of some animals produce chemicals that are seen in human brains. In our brains, these chemicals are responsible for the feeling of love. On the other hand, some scientists doubt that animals really "feel" love. They say that we are just putting our own feelings on the animals. We expect animals to love and protect their young because we do. But these scientists say that animals do these things by instinct. They say animals have no feelings. Animals only have inborn behaviors.

■ Integrated Practice

M: I don't think animals have feelings like humans. My dog, for example, definitely doesn't think about his emotions. He is happy when I feed him, that's it. He is happy to see any person that feeds him. I don't think my dog loves me; he just wants to be fed! This is just his inborn behavior.

W: I totally think animals have feelings. They think about their emotions. Take monkeys in Japan. They like to make snowballs and have snowball fights in winter. This can't be instinct. They are doing it because they get joy from it. Another example could be the elephant. When one elephant in the herd dies, all the other elephants make sad sounds. Some elephants stop eating. These elephants know why they are sad, and they show grief.

Unit 13 The House That Dee Built

■ Listening

M: Did you know that, thanks to her small house, Ms. Williams only has to work when she wants to.
W: What? She doesn't have a regular job?
M: Not anymore. She just works part-time now, and she says that she still has extra money. Her house is paid for and she doesn't have any bills for water, electricity, or gas.
W: Except for the tank of gas she buys, but I guess that doesn't cost much.
M: Right. And since she doesn't have a lot of space for books or things, Ms. Williams doesn't buy them. She gets books from the library to read, and she only buys things that she really needs.
W: Wow! I bet she saves a lot of money that way. I wonder what she does with it.
M: I heard that she gives money to charities or uses the money to help her friends and family when they need it.
W: Maybe having a small house like that isn't such a bad idea.

■ Integrated Practice

W: I used to live in an apartment, but now I live in my own house. I love it! One thing I like about owning a house is that it saves money. Part of the money I pay for my house is saved. If I sell my house, I get the money back; and if the price of my house goes up, I can even make money! Another thing I like about my house is that I can change it. I can paint the rooms different colors, or I can change the whole kitchen. It's my house, so I can do anything I want with it. I think owning your own house is the way to go!

Unit 14 Turkish Coffee

■ Listening

M: Turkish coffee is vital for Turkish men as well as women. It has played a big role in the lives of the men. In the past, men and women socialized separately. They didn't mix. Women talked and drank coffee at home. And men went outside the home to get their coffee. They drank in coffee houses. While drinking, the men usually talked about politics and business. Coffee houses weren't just places to be with friends. Anti-government groups met in these places, too. Protests were even started there! In the past, coffee houses were centers for both light and serious talks. And this is still true today. Coffee and coffee houses are very important in Turkey. But now things have changed a little. Women as well as men drink coffee outside the home. Friends and family often meet at coffee houses to discuss topics of the day. Plus, they all enjoy cups of tasty Turkish coffee there.

■ Integrated Practice

W: Mate tea is an important drink in my country, Argentina. First, it is a very social drink. Friends all drink mate together out of the same cup, using the same straw. Mate is also a very healthy drink. It is a kind of green tea, so it is low in calories, and it helps increase energy. When I drink mate, I always feel good!

M: In Germany, one drink that we often have on holidays is Wassail. This is a hot spicy cider, made from sugar, apple cider, and spices like ginger and cinnamon. Drinking Wassail has a long history, hundreds of years in fact. We still drink it on big holidays like Christmas and New Year's. When drinking Wassail, it's important to also make a lot of noise. That way, the evil spirits will be chased away and we will have good luck the next year!

Unit 15 The Beard Olympics

■ Listening

M: Did you see the picture of the Chinese mustache category winner in the newspaper?
W: I did! It was pretty crazy-looking. I didn't think anyone could grow a mustache that long. It hung down to his knees!
M: Yeah, they said his mustache was five feet long. Did you see pictures of any of the other contestants?
W: I saw a guy competing in the Salvador Dali category. He had a thin mustache that pointed straight up.
M: Straight up? I guess he used some hair spray.
W: Yeah, they're allowed to for the Salvador Dali category. And I also saw a guy in the full beard natural category.
M: Full beard natural category? Did he just have a big beard?
W: Yes, just a big full beard. Kind of boring, but they're not allowed to use any hair spray to make it look bigger.
M: Well, I saw the winner of the freestyle beard competition. His beard was definitely not boring. It looked like an octopus!

■ Integrated Practice

M: Besides cleaning and conditioning, there are other things to consider when maintaining your beard. First, you should trim your beard regularly. Just like you get a haircut, you should get your beard cut. This keeps it healthy. It also keeps it looking nice and neat. In addition, you should think about the shape of your beard and the shape of your face. Your beard should complement your face. For example, a short, square beard makes a round face look thinner. Finally, you should think of your beard as a fashion statement. What do you want your beard to say about you? A modern style of facial hair, such as a goatee, can give you a stylish look.

Unit 16 For Shame

■ Listening

M: What do you think about punishing people by embarrassing them?
W: I think it's a bad idea.
M: Why? Don't you think it will work?
W: It might, but it's still a bad idea. Embarrassing someone on purpose is cruel.
M: Punishment isn't supposed to be nice.
W: Well, giving someone a bad report or written notice of a mistake isn't nice, but it isn't cruel either.
M: You have a point there.
W: The goal of any kind of punishment should be to correct offenses. Cruel punishment may not do that. In fact, the person being punished may end up getting mad. Then he or she won't think, "Oh, I shouldn't do that again." Instead, he or she may think, "I'm going to do something else bad because I think this kind of punishment is wrong."
M: Do you think police officers would get mad because they have to wear Hello Kitty armbands?
W: They might. We'll just have to see if this idea works in Thailand.

■ Integrated Practice

M: How should parents punish teenagers? Just like with smaller kids, taking something away from a teenager can be a kind of punishment. Taking away a teenager's social life by making them stay home is called "grounding." A parent may ground a teenager for a night or even a weekend. Why is grounding better than hitting or talking? When a parent hits or talks to a teen as punishment, it only lasts for a short time. Grounding can last for a day or a few weeks! Of course, teens hate that. They may be able to take a short punishment, but not a long one. So, grounding is probably the best way for parents to punish teenagers.

Unit 17 The Benefits of Chocolate?

■ Listening

W: Do you know how chocolate gets its flavor? As you know, chocolate is made from the cocoa bean. Cocoa beans come from the fruit of cocoa trees. After the cocoa beans are taken out of the cocoa fruit, the beans are put in big boxes or baskets. Now the beans are just left to sit. Before this point, the cocoa beans actually do not have any of that good chocolate taste. Like with wine or cheese, the longer these foods are allowed to sit, the more flavor these foods will have. Giving the beans time to sit is only the first step in making chocolate, though. After they get some flavor, the beans are dried. At this point, the cocoa beans are sold to chocolate makers. There are still many more steps to go to make good chocolate. But the most important thing, that chocolaty taste, has already been taken care of.

■ Integrated Practice

M: Some of the best chocolate in the world comes from France. What makes theirs so great? First of all, French chocolate makers use Arriba beans. These beans come from Central America. They are one of the best types of cocoa beans. Not only do the makers use great beans, they also use other top quality ingredients. For example, they use only the highest quality butter, cocoa butter. They never use animal or vegetable fat. These fats are bad for us. Plus, they use a high percentage of chocolate liquor. It is this liquor that adds a rich taste to the chocolate. So, it is not surprising that the French make some of the most delicious chocolate in the world.

Unit 18 What Do You See?

■ Listening

W: I just finished a great book by Oliver Sacks. He's a doctor that specializes in the brain. It was about some of his patients.
M: I've heard of one of his patients—the guy who mistook his wife for a hat, right?
W: Right, and there are plenty of others. Like this one painter, Jonathan I.
M: What's his problem?
W: Well, Jonathan became color blind after a car accident. His eyes weren't damaged, but his brain could no longer recognize color.
M: That sounds like a serious problem for an artist!
W: Right! He lost the ability to see, imagine, or remember color. He can't even dream in color anymore.
M: Terrible!
W: At first he was depressed. But then he slowly changed his painting style. Now he paints in black and white, and his new paintings have been great!
M: No way!
W: And now, three years after the accident, he rejects any of the doctor's suggestions for restoring his sense of color! He wants to keep his vision the way it is.

■ Integrated Practice

M: The brain is an amazing thing, but you can fool it. One simple way to fool it is to stare at something without blinking or looking away for about thirty seconds to a minute. For example, stare at the picture of the white batman on the black background for one minute without blinking. Then, quickly look at a white wall or the ceiling. What will you see? You'll see a black batman. This is called an afterimage trick. It happens because some parts of your eyes get more tired than other parts.

W: Another trick we can do to fool our minds uses two pencils. First, hold them horizontally in front of your eyes, about thirty centimeters away. Looking at them with both eyes open, slowly bring the two points of the pencils together. Simple, right? Now try the same thing but with one eye covered or closed. Did the tips of the pencils miss this time? This is because you can't judge distance with just one eye, so your brain doesn't know how far the pencils are from one another.

Unit 19 A Vacation for Your Computer

■ Listening

M: Do people choose their vacations by thinking about Internet access? Not yet, but it might happen in the future. Today, people visiting big cities can find Internet access easily. In places like New York, London, and Seoul, you can access the Internet almost anywhere. A visitor to any of these cities can find Wi-Fi access in hotels, coffee shops, and even parks! There is Wi-Fi access all over the place. This means that more people can combine work and fun. And things are still changing. Now, it is more common outside of cities, too. Even when you go camping, you can get Wi-Fi access in some places. Some camping sites in the desert in Arizona and in the mountains in California offer campers free Wi-Fi access. Some camping sites in Alaska do as well! Think about it. One day, we might be able to wake up in a tent, go for a hike, and then sit near a river to work from our laptops.

■ Integrated Practice

W: Some people say email is for older people. Instant messages, or IMs, are more popular with young people these days. One reason for this is because they can send and get IMs on their cell phones. So, they don't have to be in front of a computer to send or get messages. Young people have freedom to send or get messages almost anywhere. They can be in a class, in a coffee shop, or even riding a bus. This fact is important to know for anyone trying to get a message to a student. That person should send an IM to the student's cell phone, not send them an email. These days, some young people don't check their email accounts regularly. An email may not be read for days, but an IM is usually read right away.

Unit 20 The Air Car

■ Listening

W: That air car sounds great!
M: Yeah, it could solve some of our pollution problems.
W: I wonder why we don't see any of them on the streets. After all, they were invented in 2002.
M: I read that there were problems with the air car. In theory, the car is supposed to go over 200 km on one tank of air, but in reality the car has only gone seven km.
W: Seven km? That's a huge difference.
M: Yeah. I also heard there was an issue with the body of the car.
W: The body of the car?
M: Well, I guess that it's made from a very weak material, fiberglass. If the car is in a crash, it will break apart.
W: That's not good.
M: But on the positive side, I think MDI has fixed these problems. According to today's newspaper, MDI has sold its design to twelve countries, including Germany, India, Israel, and South Africa.
W: So maybe we will see it soon after all!

■ Integrated Practice

M1: Public transportation is one way to reduce CO2 pollution. If you ride the subway or bus, you reduce the amount of CO2 produced per person. This has added benefits, too. It cuts down parking problems and traffic jams.

W: I heard that a good way to reduce CO2 is to wash all our clothes in cold water, not warm or hot water. It takes a lot of energy to heat water, and the process makes a lot of CO2. Most people don't even notice a difference in their clothes. Why not try it?

M2: I think the easiest way to reduce CO2 is to turn off the lights when you leave a room. And make sure to unplug computers and other machines you are not using. Even though they are not in use, they waste energy when they are plugged in.