**Unit 1 Vacations**

As you all know, vacations are great since we get to go somewhere that we have never been before. We get to enjoy new sights, foods and people. Sometimes we also get to do things we have never done before. These new experiences are the very things we get to remember later. So, what can you exactly do on a vacation? Let’s try to name a few.

First, you could go to a city. Some cities have historical museums where you can see and learn about lifestyles of past people. Art galleries are good places to see beautiful pictures and sculptures. You can also go for shopping at a local market and get an interesting souvenir. Second, you could go for a nature vacation. For example, if you went to the beach, you could go swimming or go windsurfing. If you went to the mountains, you could go hiking or go skiing. Having a vacation in nature always relaxes you. Finally, if you went to a foreign country you could meet new people and enjoy exotic foods that would pleasantly surprise you. Of course, you should write postcards to your family and friends.

I hope you have some ideas now on things you could do in a city, at the beach or mountains or even in a new country. But most importantly, remember to enjoy every moment of it!

**Unit 2 Why Everyone Should Have a Pet**

Hello, everyone. Now, don’t be afraid. This snake won’t harm you. In fact, he is a pet. He is a young corn snake. Isn’t he beautiful? Maybe a snake is not for you, but you really should think about getting a pet of some kind. A loved and loving pet can make you happier and even keep you healthy.

A pet is good for you in a couple of ways. First, pets can make you happier. Pets can keep us entertained with actions and behavior. But more importantly, pets keep us company and make us feel loved. Nobody likes to feel lonely. Studies show that most people with pets end up thinking of them as family. The second reason that a pet can be good for you is that they can help you stay healthy. Studies show that people who have pets have fewer heart problems than those who don’t. Pet owners go to the doctor less often, and children in homes with pets have fewer allergies. Also, people with animals have better mental health overall. It is easy to see why people who have pets are generally healthier and happier.

In conclusion, pets are good for you. That smiling woman or healthy old person you meet on the street may be happy and healthy because of a wagging tail waiting for them back home.

**Unit 3 Our Favorite Foods**

Eating is a very interesting activity, don’t you think? It’s something that we all have to do. And doing it is something we all enjoy. That’s true especially if we have the right food. The right food, of course, is our favorite food. A food can be a favorite because of its taste, because it makes us feel good, or because it gives us good memories.

We all have our own favorite foods and mostly for the same reasons. The first reason a food is our favorite is because it tastes good. Putting food in your mouth that makes your tongue happy can make you happy. The second reason we might call a food our favorite is that it makes us feel good. Chocolate is a food that many people say gives them a good feeling. The last reason we might enjoy a certain food is because it gives us good memories. Being taken back to your pleasant childhood by a food’s taste is a very good reason it is your favorite. Different people, of course, have different favorite foods. The result for everyone is the same, though. Our favorite foods make us happy for whatever the reason.

In conclusion, we eat not only because we have to but because we love to. And eating our favorite foods is why that is so.

**Unit 4 Will Paper Books Disappear?**

“Paper books are so old fashioned. They will not be around much longer. Electronic books are the future.” Have you heard people say this? Many people may think it is true, but I don’t. Paper books will always be around because they give us special pleasure, they can be carried everywhere, and they are easier on the eyes.

Books will be around forever for several reasons. First, books give us special pleasure. When we open a book, the first thing we notice is the smell. A book’s smell is a sort of perfume for the mind. Computers don’t have that. Also, a book just feels good in the hands. The second reason is that they are portable. Paperback books are especially good for this. We can stick one in a pocket or a backpack and take it wherever we go. We can’t do that with a computer. And an electronic book always needs batteries. The third reason is that books are easier on the eyes. We can read books a long time without getting tired eyes. That’s not true with electronic media. Also, the printed page looks much nicer than a screen.

In summary, books will always be around. Electronic texts may be popular, but they will never feel or smell as good, be as portable, or look as nice as good old-fashioned books.

**Unit 5 Why Tsunamis Occur**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Tonight, I want to tell you about a big wave. In 1946 a wave as high as a 5-story building hit Hawaii. Many people died, and many buildings were destroyed. That wave was called a tsunami. A tsunami is a huge wave of water that is caused by an earthquake.

When an earthquake happens under the sea, it can cause a dangerous tsunami. Earthquakes are caused by the movement of tectonic plates. These are the large sections of the earth’s surface, and they fit together like a puzzle. When two plates next to each other move suddenly, an earthquake happens. If the earthquake is under the sea, it causes the ocean water to move. It is similar to the effect when you throw a stone in a lake. The stone moves the water, and waves are formed. If the earthquake is strong enough, a very large tsunami can result. A tsunami moves very fast in deep water and can travel great distances. When the wave moves into shallow water, it slows down and becomes much higher. It is sometimes big enough to do great damage, as it did that day in Hawaii.

The people in Hawaii did not feel the earthquake that day, because it happened far away from them. But they never forgot the tsunami that hit their island.

**Unit 6 How Paper Is Made**

Hello, everybody. Thank you for coming today. Can you see what I’m holding in my hand? That’s right, it’s a letter. But the writing in the letter is not important. What is important, though, is the paper that it is written on. Can you believe that this simple piece of paper started as a tree? Today, I’d like to talk to you about how paper is made using wood from ordinary trees.

Most paper that we use every day is made from trees. The first step in making paper is cutting down the trees. The trees can be either hardwood or softwood. Next, the trees are cut into smaller pieces called “chips.” After that, the chips are put into a machine that wets the chips and separates the fibers in the chips. Fibers are tiny pieces of wood that look like very short strings. These wet fibers are called “pulp.” In the next step, the pulp is sprayed onto a screen, and the pulp layer is allowed to dry. As it dries, the fibers stick together, making the paper strong. Finally, the thin layer of dried fibers is removed from the screen and pressed by big rollers. After it is fully dry, we now have paper.

The paper-making process is quite simple. Wood chips are broken down into fibers, which are then sprayed onto a screen. After the fibers are dried and pressed, paper is the final product.