Unit 1: Strange & Unusual

Reading 1: Ghost Detective

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Think about a ghost (or another strange being) that is well known in your culture. Fill in the blanks.

1. The name of the ghost or being: _____
2. What does the ghost/being look like?

   _____

3. What does the ghost/being do?

   _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (fill in the blank): A well-known strange being in my culture is _____.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 1: Strange & Unusual

Reading 2: The Laughter Epidemic

I. GENERATE IDEAS

The left column lists questions about the human mind that science hasn't fully answered. The right column lists one possible answer for each. Match each question with the right answer.

1. Why do we laugh? •	• a. To cool our brains
2. Why do we yawn? •	• b. To process and remember the day's information
3. Why do we dream? •	• c. To show others we're upset so they'll help us
4. Why do we cry? •	• d. To show others we're friendly and connect with them

Choose one of the questions above and research one or two more possible answers. You will use this information in your paragraph.

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (fill in the blank): Scientists aren't sure why we _____, but there are some possible explanations.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 2: Computers & Technology

Reading 1: The Evolution of Music Media

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Look at the table of positive and negative effects of the internet. Add two more ideas to each column.

	ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Audiocassette tapes		
CDs		
MP3s		
Streaming		

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (fill in the blank): My favorite way to listen to music is _____.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 2: Computers & Technology

Reading 2: Hackers and Crackers

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Sharing a lot of information about yourself through email and social media has both pros and cons. Try to add two more ideas to each column of the table below.

Sharing Information Online	
PROS	CONS
Email is the fastest way to send long messages.	Worms and viruses spread through email.

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): I (share / don't share) a lot of photos and information about myself online.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 3: Health & Medicine

Reading 1: Healthy Body Images

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Imagine that a friend has come to you for advice. This friend feels bad about his/her body. What TWO pieces of advice would you give him/her? Check them.

___ Exercise every day ___ Eat a healthier diet ___ Consider plastic surgery

___ Stop caring so much about looks ___ Other: _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence: If I had a friend with an unhealthy body image, I would give him/her two pieces of advice.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 3: Health & Medicine

Reading 2: Pollution in Our Bodies

I. GENERATE IDEAS

What can people do to protect their bodies from pollution? Add one more idea to the list. Then check the two ideas that you like best.

____ Stop eating meat

____ Don't use cosmetics

____ Eat only organic produce

____ _____

_____ Read the labels on products

_____ Eat only organic meat

_____ Grow your own produce

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence: There are two important things people can do to protect their bodies from pollution.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 4: Social Issues

Reading 1: Crossing Borders, Breaking the Law

I. GENERATE IDEAS

The idea of open borders (no restrictions on immigration or travel between countries) has pros and cons. Try to add two more ideas to each column of the table below.

Open Borders	
PROS	CONS
Cheaper to travel—no visas	Countries can't keep criminals out

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): I (think / don't think) that having open borders is a good idea.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 4: Social Issues

Reading 2: The Glass Ceiling

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Circle how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statements. Then briefly explain your answer on the line.

1. Men and women are naturally different in their talents and interests.

   Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Somewhat agree Strongly agree

   _____

2. I would be glad to see a woman become the leader of my country.

   Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Somewhat agree Strongly agree

   _____

3. In my country, women and men are treated equally in the workplace.

   Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Somewhat agree Strongly agree

   _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): I (think / don't think) there will be as many women as men in powerful positions in the future.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 5: Environmental Issues

Reading 1: Living Near Volcanoes

I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. Which of these natural features are found in your country? Check them.

   ___ Volcano(es) ___ Hot spring(s) ___ Mountain(s) ___ Volcanic island(s)

   ___ Glacier(s) ___ Rainforest(s) ___ Desert(s) ___ _____

2. Which of the features that you checked above is the most famous? Briefly describe it.

   _____

3. Is it a tourist attraction? Why or why not?

   _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): The most famous natural feature in my country is _____.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 5: Environmental Issues

Reading 2: Water Rights, Water Fights

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Drinking bottled water has pros and cons. Try to add two more ideas to each column in the table below.

Bottled Water	
PROS	CONS
Can be bought and carried anywhere	Much more expensive than tap water

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (check one): I (often drink / don't drink) bottled water.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 6: Law & Crime

Reading 1: Bans on Smoking

I. GENERATE IDEAS

E-cigarettes have pros and cons as a substitute for cigarettes. Try to add two more ideas to each column in the table below.

E-Cigarettes	
PROS	CONS
(Possibly) safer for smokers	Sweet flavors appeal to kids

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (check one): I (think / don't think) that smokers who want to quit should try using e-cigarettes instead.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 6: Law & Crime

Reading 2: Victimless Crimes

I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. The following things are illegal in some places, even though they do not have actual victims. Are these acts legal or illegal where you live? Write *L* (legal) or *I* (illegal) next to each.

   ___ Gambling ___ Smoking marijuana ___ Being drunk in public

   ___ Driving without a seatbelt on ___ Riding a motorcycle without a helmet

2. Choose the item above that interests you most. Do you think it should be legal or illegal? Try to think of at least two reasons for your answer.

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence(fill in the blank and circle one): I think that _____ should be (legal / illegal).

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 7: Language & Literature

Reading 1: Steve Jobs' Commencement Address at Stanford University

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Is each statement an argument for or against going to college? Write F (for) or A (against). Then add your own idea.

1. _____ In the future, more jobs will require formal education.
2. _____ A lot of people have become successful without a college degree.
3. _____ Many universities are so expensive that getting a degree isn't worth it for some people.
4. _____ Students have to study a variety of subjects that they might never learn about outside of college.
5. _____ _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (check one): _____ All young people should be strongly encouraged to go to college.
_____ Young people shouldn't be pressured to go to college if they're not interested.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 7: Language & Literature

Reading 2: "The Premature Burial" by Edgar Allan Poe

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Think of a scary story you have read, a scary movie you have seen, or a scary TV show you have watched. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the title of the story/movie/show? _____
2. What is it about?

   _____

3. Did it scare you? Why or why not?

   _____

4. Would you recommend this story/movie/show to others? Why or why not?

   _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence(check one): _____ I recommend _____.
_____ I do not recommend _____.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 8: Space & Exploration

Reading 1: Spin-Offs from Space

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Circle how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statements. Then briefly explain your answer on the line.

1. The following are some high-tech inventions that are either newly in use or are in development. Try to think of two more and add them to the list.

   - Flying car
   - 3D printer
   - Self-driving car
   - Elevator to space
   - Universal translator
   - Intelligent robot
   - _____
   - _____

   _____

2. Which of these inventions do you find the most exciting? Why?

   _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (fill in the blank): The high-tech invention that I find the most exciting is the _____.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 8: Space & Exploration

Reading 2: A New Space Race

I. GENERATE IDEAS

The idea of trying to send people (not just robots) to Mars has pros and cons. Try to add two more ideas to each column of the table below.

Crewed Mission to Mars	
PROS	CONS
A better way to search for life	Highly dangerous for astronauts

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (check one): I (think / don't think) that we should attempt to send a crewed mission to Mars.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 9: Sports & Fitness

Reading 1: Yoga and Pilates

I. GENERATE IDEAS

As a way to stay healthy, exercises like yoga and Pilates have pros and cons. Try to add two more ideas to each column of the table below.

Yoga and Pilates	
PROS	CONS
Build strength and flexibility	Possible back injuries

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): Yoga and Pilates (appeal / do not appeal) to me as a way to stay healthy.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 9: Sports & Fitness

Reading 2: The Future of Sports

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Look at the table of pros and cons of playing sports in a digital format. Add two more ideas to each column.

Playing Sports in Digital Formats	
PROS	CONS
You can play with people from all over the world.	Esports are less healthy because you're not exercising as you play.

II. OUTLINE

Fill in and complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (fill in the blank and circle): I prefer to play (choose a sport) _____ (in real life / in a digital format).

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 10: People & Opinions

Reading 1: The Architecture of Wright

I. GENERATE IDEAS

1. The following are some features of Wright's Fallingwater. Which ones, if any, would you like to have in your "dream house"? Check them.

____ Built on a mountain

____ View of a waterfall

____ Large windows and balconies

____ Colors match its surroundings

____ Made from local materials

____ Far from the city

2. Name two other features you would include in your dream house.

_____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence: If I could design my dream house, there are three features I'd definitely include.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 10: People & Opinions

Reading 2: Streaming Services: Helpful or Harmful?

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Look at the table of pros and cons of streaming services. Add two more ideas to each column.

Streaming Services	
PROS	CONS
Can watch things we missed on broadcast TV	Can make us watch too many of the same kinds of shows

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): Mostly, I think streaming services provide a (helpful / harmful) product.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 11: Cross-Cultural Viewpoints

Reading 1: Approaches to Education

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Read each sentence. Put a check mark (√) next to the sentences which are positives and a cross (x) next to sentences that are negatives for each kind of class. Add two more sentences.

Lecture-Style Lessons

- _____ Students should sit quietly and listen carefully to their teacher.
- _____ Students should take detailed notes while listening to the teacher.
- _____ _____

Student-Focused Lessons

- _____ Students should complete assignments by working together in groups.
- _____ Students should work with their teachers to set personal goals.
- _____ _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): I think (lecture-style / student-focused) lessons are the most effective way to teach students.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 11: Cross-Cultural Viewpoints

Reading 2: Responding to Declining Populations

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Read each sentence. Does it provide an argument for or against governments implementing policies to increase birth rates? Write F (for) or A (against) on the lines. Add one or two more sentences.

1. _____ Older people often rely on younger generations to support them.
2. _____ Whether or not you have children should be an individual choice.
3. _____ Many cities are overcrowded, and commuting is difficult and unpleasant.
4. _____ _____
5. _____ _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (circle one): Overall, I think governments (should / should not) implement policies to increase birth rates.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 12: Business & Economics

Reading 1: The Gig Economy

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Read each sentence. Does it show a positive of a gig economy, or does it show a negative? Write + (positive) or - (negative). Add one or two more sentences.

1. _____ Companies can make more money in a gig economy.
2. _____ Gig workers are less protected than regular workers.
3. _____ Gig workers can have more flexibility than regular employees.
4. _____ _____
5. _____ _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (check one): _____ I think the positives of the gig economy outweigh its negatives.
_____ I think the negatives of the gig economy outweigh its positives.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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Unit 12: Business & Economics

Reading 2: Evolving Wallets

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Think about paying for things digitally and how people feel about it. Complete the sentences like the examples.

People like mobile POS technology because they don't have to wait in line.

People don't like biometric authentication because they worry how data could be used.

People (like / don't like) _____ because _____.

People (like / don't like) _____ because _____.

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (check one): _____ Overall, I think the digital economy is beneficial.
_____ Overall, I think the digital economy is worrying.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

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