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**МЕТОДИЧНІ РЕКОМЕНДАЦІЇ
ТА НАВЧАЛЬНІ ЗАВДАННЯ**

для практичних занять з вибіркової дисципліни
«Розмовний курс англійської мови (рівень В1)»
для здобувачів вищої освіти першого (бакалаврського) та
другого (магістерського) рівня усіх освітньо-професійних
програм спеціальностей НУВГП
денної та заочної форм навчання

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Вчений секретар
науково-методичної ради

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Вступ

Дані методичні рекомендації та навчальні завдання мають на меті комплексне навчання англійської мови в рамках компетентнісного підходу відповідно до вимог, визначених у Загальноєвропейських рекомендаціях з мовної освіти, з особливою увагою до опанування студентами необхідними іншомовними компетентностями.

Метою курсу є формування лінгвістичної, комунікативної, соціокультурної компетентності студентів в рамках комунікативного та компетентнісно-орієнтованого підходу до навчання, формування інтерактивних навичок і вмінь усного та писемного мовлення з послідовним удосконаленням кожного окремого виду мовленнєвої діяльності; забезпечення практичного володіння англійською мовою як засобом ефективної світової інтеграції.

У процесі досягнення цієї мети реалізуються основні **завдання** навчання:

– **методичні**: організація процесу навчання англійської мови з урахуванням діалогу культур, інтегрованого підходу, інтерактивних методів, особистісно-орієнтованого навчання;

– **пізнавальні**: розвиток краєзнавчих знань студентів про культуру, традиції та звичаї англійських країн порівняно з національними традиціями та культурою свого народу, використання англійської мови як засобу дослідження різних аспектів суспільного та культурного життя інших країн;

– **практичні**: збільшення та активізація словникового запасу на рівні незалежного користувача англійської мови; розвиток мовної та мовленнєвої компетентності студентів до рівня усвідомленого використання англійської мови на міжособистісному та освітньому рівнях; удосконалення вмінь студентів сприймати іноземну мову на слух, висловлювати власні думки у монологічному, діалогічному усному та писемному мовленні, а також розвиток їх мовної здогадки, вміння самоконтролю; підвищення рівня мовно-граматичної компетентності на основі усвідомленого та коректного використання функціональних граматичних структур.

AN ICE BREAKER

Reflect on these questions/statements

1. Name three words to describe yourself.
2. Name three different emotions you have right now.
3. Name three personality traits that you hate.
4. Name three things that are incredible/ you can't resist.
5. Name three gifts you would regift.
6. Dogs or cats? Tea or coffee?
7. If you weren't a student, what would you do?
8. What are the five things one should know before starting university?
9. What life lessons can you share?
10. Favourite thing to do in Rivne when not studying?
11. Are you a smarty pants or fancy pants?
12. Are you a giver or a taker?
13. Who was your first celebrity crush?
14. If you could only watch one film for the rest of your life, which would it be?
15. Your friend invites you to dinner, what would you bring?
16. Besides coffee name three things you can get at a coffee shop.
17. What's your favourite food?
18. What's your favourite drink?
19. What is something that you love that everyone else hates?
20. What is the most useless talent that you have?
21. What is the most rebellious thing that you did at school/ have done at university?
22. If you can't sleep in the middle of the night, what do you do?

MEETING PEOPLE

1. Learn the ways to kick off a conversation

Greetings	Responses
How are you? How is it going? How's everything with you? How are you doing? How are you hanging?	I'm fine, thank you. And you? I'm just fine. How are you? Great, how about you? Super, how about you? I'm cool. What's up with you? Couldn't get any better. Not bad. I'm all right. Pretty good. Same as usual.
What's up?	Nothing special. Nothing much. Same old.

In common usage, “I’m fine” is a generally positive way of saying “There’s nothing particularly wrong,” yet it also means that there isn’t anything superlatively right, well, or good.

“I’m good” is an assertion that your personal situation is supererogatory compared to your usual state of being.

It is interesting to note that the answers of “fine” and “good” mean the same exact thing, whereas adding “I’m” tells the person asking you, you are actually trying to answer the question instead of giving a polite return.

Apart from that, “I’m good” is synonymous to “No, thank you, I’ve had enough,”

e.g. (a) Can I get you another drink? – No, thanks, I’m good.

(b) Me: When I die, I will leave my body to science. - Science: No thanks, we’re good.

One should keep in mind that *normal* cannot be used as a response to “How are you?” *Normal* means ‘conforming to a standard, usual, typical;

free from physical or mental disorders.’

E.g. That evening it was dark early, which was normal for the time of year. Under normal circumstances you would expect the latter to have a much lower price tag. It is perfectly normal for your children to develop a cough. Until her accident she had been a perfectly normal girl. I did what any normal person who wakes in the middle of the night would do.

2. What do you think of these ways to kickstart a conversation?

1. The small talk:

“You seem really familiar, do I know you from somewhere?”, “Haven’t I seen you somewhere before?”, “What school did you attend?”, “Where did you grow up?”, “What classes do you take?”, “What major are you in?”, “Did you get a lot out of this class?”, “What do you think of this lecturer?”, “Do you have any pets?”, “What do you like to do for fun?”, “Where’s your favorite place to hang out in town?”, “What’s your dream job?”, “If you could live anywhere in the world, where it would be?”, “Would you consider yourself an introvert, extrovert, or ambivert?”

2. A funny comment:

“Doesn’t our dean look like an Iron Man?”, “Is it just me, or is the guy in the front row asleep?”, “Growing up, what was your favorite cartoon character?”, “Who are you in the comic (cartoon, fictional) world?”, “Ever fantasize about being in a rock band? What would your group be called?”, “If you wrote romance novels, what would your pen name be?”, “What is your spirit animal?”, “What’s your worst habit you’ll never break?”

3. Complimenting people:

“That’s a nice looking dress”, “That’s a cool shirt, are you a big sports fan?”, “That scarf is a great color on you”, “That is a beautiful pendant, what kind of stone is that?”, “Is that a tattoo of a rock band on your neck? I really like it”, “That color is perfect on you”, “You have a great taste. Your style really suits you”, “Your look is on fire today!”, “I’m impressed by how beautiful your look is”, “That is such a pretty sweater”

4. Asking for help.

“I looked at the tutorial, but couldn’t find anything”, “Can you give me a hand with these books?”, “I need to translate this sentence. Can you help me out?”, “Could you do me a favor?”, “Can I ask you for a favor?”, “Would you mind showing me ...?”, “Is it possible for you to...?”, “I

was wondering if you could show me how to...”

3. Read and listen to the dialogue. What do you think you should talk about when you meet someone for the first time?

Small Talk

Feifei: Hello. This is The English We Speak. This is Rob...

Rob: And this is Feifei. So, Feifei, how did the blind date go?

Feifei: Not great – a disaster in fact.

Rob: Oh no. Why didn't you just follow my advice?

Feifei: I did! Wear something nice, turn up late and make small talk.

Rob: Yes, make small talk. Exactly.

Feifei: Well, when I started making small talk, the guy looked at me in a strange way and then walked off.

Rob: Oh no. What did you say?

Feifei: Things like 'hi', 'good', 'yes', 'no', 'great' – small words.

Rob: But no sentences? I think you've got the wrong end of the stick here – I mean you've misunderstood – making small talk means making informal conversation about unimportant things. If you're meeting someone for the first time, it's a good way to make them feel relaxed – you know, break the ice.

Feifei: Right! Make 'small' conversation.

Rob: I guess we should hear some examples...

Examples

I didn't know anybody at my cousin's wedding so I tried to make small talk with the guests.

I'm shy and not very good at small talk. That's why I hate going to parties.

At the office party, we all had to stand around making small talk, but all I really wanted to do was go home!

Feifei: This is The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. And we're learning about the expression 'small talk' – that's informal conversation which is meant to make people feel more relaxed and stops any embarrassing silence. Actually, Rob, I do know about small talk. It's just that...

Rob: So, why didn't you say?

Feifei: Well, I was going to tell you that...

Rob: You'll never get a boyfriend if you don't speak up, Feifei! You

really need to talk more.

Feifei: Rob.

Rob: Yes?

Feifei: What I was trying to say was, I did not have time for small talk because my date would not stop talking. He was rude, arrogant and wouldn't let me get a word in edgeways! Now, who does that remind me of?!

Rob: Err... Nice weather for the time of year, don't you think?

Feifei: It's a bit late for small talk now, Rob. You've said far too much.

Rob: Oh.

Feifei: Bye bye!

Rob: Bye!

4. Read the article. What small talk conversation topics can you use with strangers and people you know?

Good Small Talk Conversation Topics

1. Hobbies

Most people love talking about stuff they're passionate about. And if someone has a hobby, they most certainly have passion for it – that's what hobbies are, after all.

You can ask the person about something they're already into, or go with something like “Are there any hobbies you're thinking of starting up?”

2. Food

While not everyone is a big foodie, most people do tend to eat something once in a while. So there's a pretty big chance that it's gonna be a topic that the other person can relate to.

Asking about preferences is always a safe bet: “Salt or sugar?”, or you could venture a bit deeper and talk about preparing meals at home: “What's your cooking specialty?”

3. Weather

It doesn't get too deep and it's easily relatable. So it can be a pretty good option to start off with, later transitioning into other, perhaps more interesting topics, if the conversation does pick up.

You could ask them for a personal opinion with something like “Do you think it's going to rain today?”, or “Do you think this weather is gonna keep up for much longer”. Or you could go with a more practical “Do

you know what the weather will be like today?”, but only if you genuinely want to know what the weather is gonna be like.

4. Work

Work can be a good topic for small talk – expectations, plans, funny stories, comparing your work environments, etc.

“Is your current job what you expected it to be?”. And if you know the other person doesn’t like their job very much, you can let them vent a little by asking something like, “What’s your most frustrating moment at work?”

5. Entertainment

Pretty much everyone is into something – movies, shows, books, music, theater, youtube, you name it. It’s a fun one to talk about, and it’s a great way to find commonalities.

There are endless questions you can ask when it comes to entertainment, but your best bet is asking about things the other person likes: “Do you like [Genre]?”, “Have you read any good books lately?”, or something like “Do you prefer movies that make you think or the ones that let you relax?”

6. News

You probably shouldn’t go too much into controversial or political themes when it comes to talking about the news casually, but talking about safer, rather more positive happenings – local or around the world – can be a good idea.

You can either bring up something interesting you’ve heard or ask them about something they’ve heard about: “Have you heard anything interesting lately?”, “Do you follow the news?”. The news don’t necessarily have to be huge and world defining – it can even be something simple, like a good new local restaurant opening.

7. Traveling

It’s a topic that lets you learn more about the person you’re talking to – their lifestyle, the way they like to spend their time and even their goals in life. Besides, travel is usually associated with vacation time, so it’s a pretty positive thing to talk about as well.

If you don’t know whether the person went on any trips recently, you can ask them about some of their latest travels. Alternatively, you can go for something more general, like “What’s your favorite trip ever?” or “How do you feel about being away from home when traveling?”

5. Are the following statements True or False?

Small Talk Quiz

1. It is common for people who are waiting together to engage in small talk.
2. Religion is usually considered a "safe" topic for small talk.
3. Children are taught not to speak to strangers who engage them in small talk.
4. It is rude to make small talk with someone who's delivering your mail.
5. Sport is not usually a "safe" topic for small talk.
6. When making small talk, complimenting someone's clothes or hairstyle is usually acceptable.
7. Divisive topics like politics are usually considered unsuitable for small talk.
8. It is common to talk about the weather while sharing an elevator.
9. It is polite to interrupt a conversation in order to make small talk.
10. People often use small talk to fill an uncomfortable silence.

6. Watch the video <https://eslvideo.com/quiz.php?id=25294> and answer the questions

1. According to Jeffrey Benjamin, how do most friendships begin?
 - a) as a formal introduction
 - b) as small talk
 - c) as an accident
2. Small talk becomes easy with
 - a) patience
 - b) parties
 - c) practice
3. The first tool for small talk is
 - a) be an ice-breaker
 - b) be an ice-bucket
 - c) get some ice
4. "Be an ice-breaker" means
 - a) wait for other people to introduce themselves
 - b) twiddle your thumbs
 - c) introduce yourself first

5. "Take the initiative" probably means
- a) be the one who takes action first
 - b) wait for someone else to do something
 - c) be quiet
6. Taking the initiative communicates to others that
- a) you have complaints
 - b) you are shy
 - c) you have confidence
7. When you are in a place like an elevator, the longer you wait to break the ice,
- a) the more tension builds up
 - b) the quicker the ride
 - c) the more polite you are
8. Most great small talkers are
- a) very rare
 - b) great talkers
 - c) great listeners
9. Great listeners do NOT
- a) pause after speaking
 - b) run their mouths
 - c) ask great questions
10. To be good at small talk, you should
- a) talk less; listen more.
 - b) talk more; listen less; c) run your mouth.
11. The third tool for small talk is to
- a) keep positive thoughts to yourself
 - b) keep negative thoughts to yourself
 - c) share negative opinions
12. In summary, the three tips to being good at small talk are
- a) introduce, listen, and don't share negative opinions
 - b) introduce, don't listen, and share negative opinions

c) introduce, listen, and share negative opinions

Types of Personalities

1. There are 16 personality types. Answer the questions to determine yours.

Write down the 4 letters that you got, you will need them.

1. What will you do if you feel exhausted?

go chat with friends (E);

stay at home to read/watch some movies (I).

2. Which of these descriptions suits you more?

I like to live “here and now” paying attention to details and enjoying the present moment (S);

I like to dream and imagine the future; I see the symbols and signs in everything (N).

3. You need to make an important decision. How will you make up your mind?

Logically and rationally (T);

Go with my heart, considering the feelings and emotions of other people (F).

4. You are going to attend an event. What will you do?

Plan everything in advance (J);

Will act spontaneously according to circumstances (P)

Interpretation

1. Mastermind (INTJ)

This is one of the rarest personality types. “Masterminds” make up only 2 % of the population, and there are only 0.8 % of women with this type of thinking! Such people are resolute, ambitious, curious, and have a rich imagination. At the same time, they are extremely secretive and dislike wasting energy.

2. Logician (INTP)

Only 3% of all people possess this type of personality. “Logicians” are

ingenious and creative. They also have a unique perspective and vigorous intellect. They have been the source of the most outstanding scientific discoveries in the history of mankind.

3. Commander (ENTJ)

People of this personality type are born leaders! “Commanders”, which are only 3% of the population, are a perfect combination of charisma and confidence. They can easily direct the crowd towards a common goal. At the same time, they can be ruthlessly rational giving their all to the cause and expecting nothing less from the others.

4. Debater (ENTP)

People of this type adore engaging in intellectual fights, because it gives them an opportunity to train their extremely sharp mind, to demonstrate a broad knowledge and the ability to combine different ideas. “Debaters”, which constitute about 5% of the world’s population, are uncompromisingly honest. With that they are always ready to look to an idea from a different perspective.

5. Advocate (INFJ)

This is one of the rarest types occurring in less than 1% of the entire population. “Advocates” are born with a sense of morality, but what differentiates them from other idealists is their resolution and determination. They are not idle dreamers, but those who take action and achieve long-term goals. These people can get to the bottom of any problem.

6. Mediator (INFP)

Making up 4% of the population, people representing this type are often misunderstood. Although “mediators” can come across as calm and reserved, they possess an inner flame and true passion, which at some point can truly shine. Their life is determined by personal principles, rather than logic, emotions or practicality.

7. Protagonist (ENFJ)

With only 2% of them around, these born leaders are often found among politicians, coaches, and trainers. The purpose of life for these confident people is to set a positive example and inspire others to accomplishments for the sake of making the world a better place.

8. Campaigner (ENFP)

Charming, freedom-loving, energetic, and compassionate – people of this type, of course, stand out in any crowd. “Campaigners”, which make up 7% of the population, often become the life of the party, but they

don't like to draw too much attention. They are a one-love type of people and are seeking a deep emotional relationship.

9. Inspector (ISTJ)

This is a fairly common personality type met in 13% of the population. The main characteristics of “inspectors” are integrity, practicality, logic, and sense of responsibility. These people are ready to face the consequences of their actions and are proud of their work. They don't cut corners, patiently and meticulously working on a task.

10. Defender (ISFJ)

People of this type are true altruists. When they believe in the cause, they engage with enthusiasm and generosity. There are quite a lot of “defenders” – almost 13%. They are generally quite calm, very sociable and tend to build strong social relationships. However, “defenders” can get furious if their family or friends are in danger.

11. Executive (ESTJ)

People of this type, constituting 10% of the population, are the ones holding families and communities together. They are well appreciated for giving clear advice and reasonable instructions. They are capable of uniting like-minded people around themselves, so “executives” often become public organizers or advocates of traditional values.

12. Consul (ESFJ)

“Consuls” or “providers” make up as much as 12% of the population. They are ready to do everything within their power to ensure that their loved ones are happy. These personalities are primarily concerned with tangible, practical issues, such as social status and helping others.

13. Virtuoso (ISTP)

People of this personality type make up 5% of the population. They adore trying new things, observing and exploring the world with a cool head and inspired curiosity. “Virtuosos” like to help others, share their experience, and expand horizons.

14. Adventurer (ISFP)

The main motto of this personality type is “Don't box me in!”. These are extremely creative individuals who push the limits of social conventions. More than anything in the world “adventurers” or “composers” like to be shocking, so they are constantly experimenting with their appearance and are inclined to risky behavior and extreme sports.

15. Entertainer (ESFP)

People of this personality type are very spontaneous and want others to

feel this way too. “Entertainers” or “performers” generously spend time and energy encouraging others in an irresistible style. All the world’s a stage to them. They can bring more fun in their loved ones’ and friends’ lives than anybody else.

2. Do you agree with the description of your personality?

3. What are the personality types of your friends?

4. Read the dialogue. Fill in all the gaps using the words:

<i>Cynical</i>	<i>eccentric</i>	<i>egotistical</i>	<i>imaginative</i>
<i>indecisive</i>	<i>picky</i>	<i>sensible</i>	<i>sensitive</i>
<i>sophisticated</i>	<i>thoughtful</i>		

Robin: Did you meet that guy, Richard, at the party last night?

Michelle: Oh my god, he was so He kept talking about how intelligent he was and how much money he made. He even said he was thinking about becoming a professional model. Like that’s ever going to happen!

Robin: And Brad, the artist from New York, he was rather He told me he sculpts and paints nothing but frogs. He even said he wanted to introduce a new line of frog jewelry. That’s a little odd.

Michelle: He wasn’t strange at all. I thought he was very You have to be really creative to become such a successful artist. He was also incredibly- he almost started crying as he told me about his art. By the way, look at the ring he gave me.

Robin: He gave you a frog ring? That’s the ugliest thing I’ve ever seen!

Michelle: It is not! I think it’s reallyHe said his jewelry is the latest trend among the New York elite. Wasn’t thatof him to give me one of his creations?

Robin: Not really, I think he just wanted some free advertising.

Michelle: My god, you are so Wasn’t there anybody you liked at the party?

Robin: Yeah, Bill was really nice. He was the only clear-thinking person I met there.

Michelle: Oh, the waitress is coming. Have you decided what to order?

Robin: I’m not sure what to order. I just can’t decide what I want.

Michelle: You're so Nothing is ever good enough for you.

Robin: That's not true! I'm just a little

Michelle: Well, you need to decide soon so we can order. I'm starving!

5. Fill in each gap with the word which expresses the opposite meaning:

Cynical

eccentric

egotistical

imaginative

indecisive

picky

sensible

sensitive

sophisticated

thoughtful

1. naive ↔ ...
2. easy to please ↔ ...
3. uncreative ↔ ...
4. selfish ↔ ...
5. modest ↔ ...
6. normal ↔ ...
7. quick to decide ↔ ...
8. unfeeling ↔ ...
9. illogical ↔ ...
10. having faith in people ↔...

6. Do the Positive Personality Adjectives Quiz

1. Which word is closest in meaning to "polite"?
(a) charming (b) sincere (c) courteous
2. Which word is closest in meaning to "hard-working"?
(a) pro-active (b) resourceful (c) diligent
3. Which word is closest in meaning to "funny"?
(a) humorous (b) convivial (c) plucky
4. Which word is closest in meaning to "sociable"?
(a) amusing (b) gregarious (c) diplomatic
5. If you consider the needs or feelings of others, you're a _____ person.

(a) reserved (b) considerate (c) faithful

6. If you have a relaxed attitude and don't worry too much, you're _____.

(a) easygoing (b) versatile (c) patient

7. If you express strong feelings or beliefs about something, you're _____ about it.

(a) passionate (b) romantic (c) compassionate

8. If you often feel sympathy for people or animals that are suffering, you're a _____ person.

(a) passionate (b) romantic (c) compassionate

9. Which word is closest in meaning to "sensible"?

(a) sensitive (b) rational (c) reliable

10. If you don't depend on other people or need much support, you're an _____ person.

(a) adventurous (b) energetic (c) independent

7. What do you know about the personal characteristics of each star sign?

Try to match the star signs with their characteristics. Watch the video and check your answers <https://youtu.be/jyq4nZRw3Fo>

Aries	a) they're always changing their mind
Taurus	b) once they make up their mind it's hard to change it
Gemini	c) this is somebody who doesn't take anything lightheartedly
Cancer	d) happy-go-lucky sign
Leo	e) they love to serve other people
Virgo	f) they often make great doctors
Libra	g) they can also be very talented
Scorpio	h) highly ambitious
Sagittarius	i) nature born entrepreneurs
Capricorn	j) goes with the flow

Aquarius
Pisces

k) they are into relationship very much
l) you have to win their trust

LEISURE

1. Reflect on these questions/statements. Try to talk for at least a minute

What do you do in your free time (spare time)?

How do you usually spend your weekends / What do you like to do on the weekends?

What do you usually do after work or classes?

How do you spend your time in the evening?

Do you prefer staying at home or going out during evenings?

Is there any difference in your life now from when you were a child?

Describe a leisure activity you do with your family.

How do you relax?

What are 3 things you do to relieve stress? Why do you do these things?

How much time do you have each week for doing these things?

How often do you hang out with your friends?

How do you keep in touch with your friends?

Do you think people today have more time to relax compared to the past?

Is there some other hobby or sport you would like to try? Why?

Do you think modern lifestyles give people enough time for leisure?

What do you think is the importance of leisure time in life?

Do you think old and young people spend their leisure time in the same way?

Phrases to use: *In my opinion; Personally, I think...; As I see it...; I have to admit...; Actually...; To be honest...; One of the reasons I prefer it is ...; The main reason I like it is because ...; I suppose I have always...*

You might also need phrases:

life is very hectic and I find myself very busy with work;

I've got a whole range of hobbies that I'm really into;

I'm really into (computer games, watching movies, cooking,

drawing, listening to audiobooks, working out);
 I might just veg out (hang out with my friends);
 whenever I've got a bit of spare time, I'll call up a friend;
 I really like going out / I'm a bit of an outdoorsy person;
 I'm a bit of a homebody;
 I can spend a whole day (lying back, playing on my computer);
 I'll spend hours at/on the computer;
 I try and keep in touch with my friends over facebook or whatsapp;
 movie night is something I do routinely with my friends

TV

1. Learn the vocabulary

a commercial	an advertisement on TV
a couch potato	a lazy person who sits around all day watching TV
a documentary	an educational TV program or movie usually describing nature or history
a drama	a serious TV program, movie or play that involves all the emotions
to kick back	to sit in a big comfortable chair or lie on a couch and relax
nope	this is an informal way of saying "no"
prime-time	between 8:00 PM and 11:00 PM every night This expression is used when referring to the television schedule.
prime time	the time between 8:00 PM and 11:00 PM every night The most popular shows are shown during prime time.

a sitcom	a half-hour comedy show
trials and tribulations	problems and difficulties of life
trivia	unimportant or useless information

2. Fill in all the gaps using words: *commercials* *couch potato*
potato *documentary* *drama* *kick back* *Nope*
prime-time *sitcoms* *trials and tribulations* *trivia*

1. Tonight we are going to order a pizza, and thenand watch an old movie on TV.
2. Senara is in East Africa helping to make aon the Maasai tribe for the BBC.
3. Research shows that humor is a very effective marketing tool. That's why you see so many funnyon TV.
4. When they asked me if I wanted to help them move, I replied, "..... I hate packing boxes and carrying furniture."
5. Larry is the king of He knows millions of useless facts!
6. I need to start getting out more and exercising so I don't turn into a
7. Soap operas are usually inexpensive television programs shown during the day. They are made quickly and cheaply and lack the production quality seen indramas.
8. Although I like stand-up comedy and comic films, I don't really care for The stories always seem the same to me.
9. I love thaton Thursday nights about the difficulties of working in an inner-city hospital.
10. Her novel describes in detail theof being a pioneer in 19th century America.

3. Fill in all the gaps using words: *commercials* *couch potato*
documentary *drama* *kick back* *Nope* *trivia*
prime-time *sitcoms* *trials and tribulations*

Janet: Let's do something! Why don't we go out for dinner or go

dancing.

Jack: I'm watching TV.

Janet: You're always watching TV. Stop being such a Get up, and let's do something!

Jack: I am doing something. I'm watching TV.

Janet: You're always watching some stupid It's a waste of time, and a waste of brain power.

Jack: Sometimes it's nice just to, relax and laugh a little. There is nothing wrong with a little comedy in one's life. In fact, that's why I married you.

Janet: Ha, ha! VERY FUNNY!

Jack: Besides, I am watching something serious.

Janet: What? I bet it's some ridiculouswith perfect looking people complaining about theof daily life.

Jack:, wrong again.

Janet: Then it must be anews program describing how some woman went crazy and killed her husband.

Jack: No, I watched that last night. You had better guess quickly - theare almost over.

Janet: Is it a murder mystery? Or some science fiction show like Star Trek?

Jack: No.

Janet: A game show where they test your knowledge of useless

Jack: No, it's aon dolphins in the Caribbean.

Janet: Hey, that sounds interesting!

Jack: Why don't we make some popcorn and then watch the rest of it together.

4. Read the text and answer the question

How important is television in your life?

Here's what people in London said: "Telly takes about 40% of my day - watching telly, especially fashion and celebrities' lives. It's important for me because after school and work and everything I can relax in front of the telly. Definitely unwinding, relaxing".

Generally speaking, how do you feel about TV?

"Personally I don't watch that much TV, and when I do I kind of watch the news and stuff. I think TV has conjured up like a hyper-reality

and when people watch it their mind-set of things kind of changes. For instance fashion – women watch how women are on TV and stuff and then they automatically feel that oh, they want to be that kind of person, and things. I think that it has a negative effect - the negatives outweigh the positives”.

“Generally speaking, I think TV is a great medium for communication. You’ve got things like comedy, factual programmes, documentaries, art programmes and then things like soap operas. It covers a broad range of interests and expression”.

How important is television in your life?

5. Read and listen to the dialogue. Would you watch slow TV?

Why?

Slow TV

TV programmes need to have more and more action and excitement these days, in order to keep people watching, right? Wrong! Learn about a TV trend that is the complete opposite, and meet its number one fan: Neil!

Feifei: Hi Neil. Good weekend? Did you do anything nice?

Neil: Hi Feifei! Actually, I stayed in and watched TV.

Feifei: Football?

Neil: No, I watched this marvellous programme from Norway.

Feifei: Oh, one of those police dramas? They’re great!

Neil: Actually, believe it or not, the entire film was just the view from the front of a train, all the way from one city to another. It was seven hours long.

Feifei: Seven hours?! And that’s all that happened? No people? No police? No nothing?

Neil: Just the view from the train. It was such a relaxing journey. They call it ‘slow TV’.

Feifei: Ahh, yes. I’ve heard of that. Wasn’t there one on a boat too? Isn’t it a bit boring?

Neil: Well, it’s not for everyone. But my life is so busy, I just like to slow down now and again.

Feifei: I’m still not convinced. Anyway, let’s hear some more examples about this slow TV. It’s our phrase on The English We Speak.

Examples: Michala’s company specialises in making slow TV. She

says business is great right now!

I recently discovered slow TV. My friends think it's really dull, but I find it helps clear my head after a stressful day.

A: What are you watching? It looks just like a fireplace with a big piece of wood burning.

B: It is! Isn't slow TV fantastic? It takes about four hours for the wood to burn completely.

Feifei: You're listening to The English We Speak from BBC Learning English. The expression we're looking at in this programme is 'slow TV'. So Neil, is this what you'll be doing with your free time from now on? Watching slow TV?

Neil: No, I've got an even better idea for this weekend. You know that oak tree I planted?

Feifei: Err, yes.

Neil: I'm going to film it. And make my very own slow TV! Then you can watch my tree grow, any time you like.

Feifei: Honestly, Neil. I don't think so.

Neil: Maybe this will be the next big thing in slow TV. I could call it... Slow Tree V. Get it?

Feifei: I think what you need is to take a long, slow walk outside. Then you can admire all the trees you like!

Neil: Just you wait, Feifei! This will be the slowest TV ever – oak trees take around 30 years to grow.

Feifei: Good luck, Neil. See you in 30 years. I'll stick to police dramas in the meantime.

Neil and Feifei: Bye.

6. Express your opinion on the topic using topic vocabulary

Films

1. Learn the vocabulary

alternative	something which is done in a different way, not done in the normal way In the U.S., alternative films are usually artistic films or foreign language films.
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artsy	extremely artistic, overly artistic, too artistic This often suggests that someone tried too hard to make something artistic.
entertaining	something which entertains; amusing and interesting
hilarious	something which is very funny; something which makes you laugh
intense	1) containing strong emotions or feelings 2) extreme An intense film is one which emotionally drains you or makes you tired. Intense is not necessarily negative, it just means that a movie is not light or relaxing.
light	relaxing, amusing, not too intense This is the opposite of "intense."
mainstream	something which is usual, or commonly done Mainstream films are those which are usually high-budget, popular, and made for entertainment. "Mainstream" is the opposite of "alternative."
superficial	1) not deep or profound; lacking real content 2) only on the surface
suspenseful	something which makes you keep guessing or makes you question how something will end
thought-provoking	something which makes you think used to describe many different things, such as movies, books, conversations, ideas, issues, etc.

2. Fill in all the gaps using words: *alternative* *artsy* *light*
entertaining *hilarious* *intense* *mainstream*
superficial *suspenseful* *thought-provoking*

1. If we go to a movie, I would like to see acomedy. I don't want to have to think - I just want to be entertained.
2. Most movie theaters are primarily interested in making money, so they prefer to showmovies which have a greater earning potential.
3. There is ancinema downtown which specializes in artistic films and foreign language films.
4. That movie was I have never laughed so hard in my life.
5. That documentary was just alook at the life of Oscar Wilde; it would have been better if they had gone into more depth and fully discussed his early years.
6. Although the story was simple and the acting was average, I thought the movie was still very
7. That murder-mystery was fantastic. It was incredibly- I had no idea how it would end.
8. That new Swedish film was sothat we were up all night discussing it.
9. I thought the movie was really strange. Why was half of it in black and white? Why did she keep dreaming in French? I think the whole thing was just a little toofor me.
10. I don't want to see anything that is too Can't we just see a movie which is light and entertaining?

3. Fill in all the gaps using words: *alternative* *artsy* *light*
entertaining *hilarious* *intense* *mainstream*
superficial *suspenseful* *thought-provoking*

Christine: What did you think of the movie? Did you like it?

Sarah: Not really, it was a little toofor me. It seemed like the director was trying so hard to impress us with strange close-ups and avant-garde dialogue that he forgot to include a story. I thought it was really boring.

Christine: I thought the movie was really I love it when a movie makes you think. It's a nice change from thedialogue and two-dimensional characters you usually see in films these days.

Sarah: I don't really care forfilms. They are so dark and

depressing. The characters are always soWhy does a movie have to be sad to be deep?

Christine: Yeah, I know what you mean, butcinema is nothing but gunfights and exploding cars. I get so sick of movies like that. I prefer movies with substance.

Sarah: But sometimes, you don't want to think; sometimes, you just want amovie. Like that comedy with Billy Crystal - that was so I laughed so hard that I cried.

Christine: Movies have to be more thanto me.

Sarah: Did you see that new mystery movie with Nicole Kidman that came out last month? That was soI was on the edge of my seat the whole time.

Christine: I loved that movie. The plot was great, and the acting was incredible. I wouldn't be surprised if it were nominated for an Academy Award.

Sarah: Well, at least we agree on something. I guess we'll have to stick to mysteries in the future.

4.Read and listen to the dialogue. Express your opinion or suggestion on the topic.

Why We Love a Film That Makes Us Cry

Rob: Hello, I'm Rob, welcome to 6 Minute English. With me in the studio today is Feifei. Hello there.

Feifei: Hi Rob.

Rob: In today's programme we're discussing films that make us cry and why we actually enjoy watching something that makes us burst into tears – or in other words, to cry out loud. And we'll also be looking at the language associated with crying. So, crying out loud, surely this is something that you have done Feifei?

Feifei: I'm afraid yes, I have done that.

Rob: Is there a particular film that's made you cry?

Feifei: I think, Turner and Hooch... and how about you Rob?

Rob: Well, being a man, obviously I would never cry - well almost. There is an old children's film called The Railway Children. At the end when the children's father returns from exile, his daughter runs down the station platform shouting "my daddy, my daddy!" That makes me misty-eyed.

Feifei: You big softie!

Rob: I suppose I am. Now Feifei before we discuss this subject further, here's your question for today.

Which film has won the most ever Oscar awards? a) Ben Hur b) Slumdog Millionaire c) Gone With The Wind

Feifei: I'm going to go for answer b) Slumdog Millionaire.

Rob: Ok, well let's find out if you are right at the end of the programme. Of course, the 85th Academy Awards – better known as The Oscars – were held recently and there was one major weepy that won several awards.

Feifei: A weepy? You mean a film that makes us cry?

Rob: Yes. And that film was Les Miserables. I've seen it and it really is a tearjerker – it literally causes tears to roll down our cheeks! So why do we choose to see a film – or movie – that makes us get so emotional?

Feifei: I suppose it's the mark of a good film if it causes us to reveal our emotions. A really sad story, if it's well acted and directed, can really make us blub – another word for crying. And a sob story – one where a character tries to get our sympathy for him or her – can have the same effect. But what is it about a film that can makes us cry when we can't cry in real life?

Rob: Well, according to psychologist, Dr Averil Leimon, we allow our emotions to be influenced when we watch a film. What word does she use to mean 'influenced'?

Dr Averil Leimon, Psychologist: People want to have their emotions manipulated, because then they're allowed to have them. We spend so much of our life being told you shouldn't feel like that, you don't feel like that when in fact we do feel like that. And both the visual and the, you know, the auditory allows us to know what emotion we're meant to feel.

Feifei: So Dr Averil Leimon says we like to have our emotions manipulated – influenced by a film. In real life we are told how we should feel.

Rob: But when watching a film, at the cinema for example, we can let our emotions loose. But there is something else in a film that effects our emotions and gives us goose bumps – or a feeling that makes our hair stand on end and we get little bumps on our skin.

Feifei: Yes, Dr Leimon says there are visual and auditory clues that provoke our feelings – so that's the style of the pictures and the music or

sound effects that are used.

Rob: (Mimics theme to Jaws) Like the music in the Jaws movie, although that's not really a tearjerker.

Feifei: Come on Rob, I bet you cried at the scary bits?!

Rob: I told you, men don't cry. Although there is one film that has had grown men crying their hearts out – which means they've been crying uncontrollably. That's the film Toy Story 3.

Feifei: Really?

Rob: Yes. I don't think it's because the film is sad but because watching it makes men nostalgic about their youth and perhaps they can see their kids reflected in the story too.

Feifei: Well I bet these men were crying alone. They wouldn't want to be seen crying in public?

Rob: Well not according to Philip Sheppard who composes – or writes – film music. He thinks letting our feelings out – he calls it catharsis – is better in a group...

Philip Sheppard, Film score composer: All of us sort of need to find a catharsis, especially within a group to have this sort of place to have an emotional response. It ends up being something where you need to have that kind of release. As British people we're terribly bad at it I think. But when people find an outlet for it such as a film, especially when they are in a crowd, people's emotional responses are much more instantaneously responsive.

Rob: So he says we all need to find a catharsis. Being in a group is a good place for letting your emotions out. When you watch a film with others you react to other people's emotional responses.

Feifei: So if one person cries then other people will start to cry too. Unless you're British of course!

Rob: That's what Philip Sheppard thinks. And we could say 'it's a crying shame', meaning it's regrettable or it's an unfortunate situation.

Feifei: OK Rob, well let's not cry over spilt milk!

Rob: Uh?

Feifei: Let's not get upset over something quite small. Could I just have the answer to today's question please? Rob: Yes of course. Earlier, I asked you, which film has won the most ever Oscars?

Feifei: And I said Slumdog Millionaire.

Rob: And you were wrong. The answer was Ben Hur. The 1959 film has won 11 awards – the same number has also been won by Titanic and

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of The King. Well, Feifei before we go, please could you remind us of some of the crying-related words and phrases that we've heard today.

Feifei: Sure. We heard...

5. Take a brief look at the list of topics and express your ideas in conversations.

- Broadway musicals made into movies.
- Musicals in the 20th century.
- Trained animals in films.
- Cradle of future pop stars.
- TV shows as an extension of films.
- The power of recorded nature sounds.
- To scare before it gets scary.
- Impact of music on human senses.
- Picture vs. sound.
- Opera elements in the film industry today.

Books

1. Learn the new vocabulary

skimming / skim reading / skim-read	reading a text quickly to get the general idea
scanning	a type of reading wherein you only look for specific information such as the name of author, a particular event, telephone number or address
intensive reading	reading intensively with full comprehension
plot twist	an unexpected development in a book, film, television program, etc..
hard copy	a printed version of book
review	a formal assessment of something with the intention of instituting change if necessary
breathhtaking story	astonishing, so as to take one's breath away, account of imaginary or real people and events told for entertainment
compelling character	character evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way

atmospheric	creating a distinctive ambience
crime story	the literary genre that fictionalises crimes, their detection, criminals, and their motives
tension	feelings of excitement or apprehension experienced in response to sth, eg a film or play
beautifully crafted book	book that made in a skillful manner
science fiction	a book with imaginative concept about advanced science and technology, time travel, and extraterrestrial life
adventure book	a story of adventure, such as travel, difficult quests and discoveries
romance novel / romantic novel	a story of a romantic relationship between two people
self-help book / self-improvement book	a book with the intention of helping readers solve personal problems

2. Express your opinion on the topics using new vocabulary.

1. What is your favourite book?
2. What kind of book do you like best?
3. Are there any kinds of books that you particularly dislike? If so, what are they? Why do you dislike them?
4. What book genres do you know?
5. How often do you read books?
6. When do you usually read books?
7. Do you buy books or borrow them from a library?
8. How often do you go to the library?
9. Do you read books on your computer?
10. Do you find downloading books from the Internet a theft?
11. Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction books?
12. If there is a movie based on a book that you really enjoyed, will you go to the cinema to see it?
13. Do you think that books are facing the danger of being dominated by movies?

14. What are the most important factors in evaluating books?
15. Has any book ever made you cry?
16. Who is your favourite writer?
17. Who is your favourite hero of a book?
18. What was the last book you read? Did you like it?
19. Do you sometimes find it difficult to tear yourself away from a book?
20. What kinds of books have an educational value?
21. Do we read to show off? What do you read when you are on the bus or train? Some people might hold a copy of a classic novel to impress other commuters.

3. Read and listen to this discussion.

Do we read to show off?

What do you read when you are on the bus or train? Some people might hold a copy of a classic novel to impress other commuters.

Neil and Alice discuss people's reading habits.

This week's question. These days are people buying...

- a) more classic books?
- b) the same number of classic books?
- c) fewer classic books than they used to?

Neil: Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Neil...

Alice: ... and I'm Alice. Sorry, wait a minute Neil. I'm just finishing this book.

Neil: OK.

Alice: Last page... nearly there... ohh - fantastic book!

Neil: Well I'm glad you enjoyed that. I'm glad you finished your book there Alice! We're talking about books in today's programme. What was it you were reading there?

Alice: No, never mind Neil. It's not your kind of book. You wouldn't like it.

Neil: How do you know?

Alice: Well, I just think you might read something a little more intellectual.

Neil: Oh I see... Well we are talking about the kinds of books people read and what they say about them today.

Alice: Yes. Perhaps you read the works of a famous writer – the classics – Charles Dickens, Shakespeare.

Neil: People will think you are an intellectual. You can show off by reading these books – the classics.

Alice: Or perhaps you read popular novels or romantic fiction – a light easy read.

Neil: When you go on holiday – maybe to the beach – what kind of books do you read? And what do you read when you're going to work?

Alice: We're going to hear part of a BBC interview with David Adshead from the Commuter Book Club. A commuter travels to work by bus, train or here in London, The Tube, a train that goes all over the city, mostly underground.

Neil: And Alice as usual, we have a quiz question. Are you ready?

Alice: Yes, absolutely.

Neil: OK. It's about classic book sales. So these days are people buying...

- a) more classic books?
- b) the same number of classic books?
- c) fewer classic books than they used to?

Alice: Oh that's an interesting one. Tricky to guess but I'm going to say c) fewer classic books.

Neil: OK, well, let's find out the answer at the end of the programme. But now, here is David Adshead from the Commuter Club. What kind of book does he say people usually take with them to the beach?

David Adshead, Commuter Book Club: People often think that, you know, traditionally you take a light easy read for the beach and on the train, um, you maybe read something very different.

Interviewer: ... if only to show off.

David Adshead: Exactly, to appear to others to be more intellectual. But actually, what we find in this is that it really comes down to the individual – what they like to read and actually we've seen this summer a lot of the book sales - summer reads is generally lighter books, easier to get on with, to take away on holiday - but the big retailers have seen a shift actually - people moving sort of slightly higher brow, taking away more classic books. Sales in that way have increased.

Neil: David Adshead from the Commuter Book Club there. He says that people usually – traditionally - take a light, easy read to the beach or on the train.

Alice: Yes. He says these books are easier to get on with. David says that it really comes down to the individual - each person is different. But he says that there has been a shift – a change – in what people read.

Neil: Yes, he says that the shops that sell books – that’s the retailers – say the books people are buying are more highbrow – the classics, as we were talking about.

Alice: Absolutely. Highbrow books are read by intellectuals or perhaps the people who read these books are just showing off.

Neil: Yes, maybe they are. Well I wonder if these people have read any books by Fiona Harper. She writes romantic novels – that’s stories about love.

Alice: Light reading – not highbrow. She was also at this interview about the Commuter Book Club.

Neil: Now, do commuters read her romantic novels on the Tube?

Alice: Well here is novelist Fiona Harper talking about how she writes her romantic novels. She wants people to not stop reading her stories once they start – she wants them to be hooked.

Author Fiona Harper: I think what it comes down to most of the time is you just want to write a really good story because if you write a good story then hopefully people are hooked, they’ll keep turning the pages and..

Interviewer: And do you wonder whether they are reading them on holiday? I mean presumably, they’re more likely to read your stuff on holiday than when they’re sitting on the Tube being looked at by lots of other people. I don’t know.

Author Fiona Harper: Possibly, although with the advent of e-readers, you can read anything you like and no one knows – or on your phone – no one knows what you’re reading.

Interviewer: And that’s an important point.

Neil: That’s the author Fiona Harper talking about romantic novels. So do commuters read her books on the Tube?

Alice: Well perhaps you don’t want others to see you reading that stuff. It can be a bit embarrassing. It shouldn’t be, but Fiona says you can also use an e-reader.

Neil: An e-reader – that’s an electronic book. Instead of pages, you read off a screen.

Alice: Well if you use an e-reader or tablet, no one knows what you’re reading.

Neil: So perhaps they are reading a romantic novel – no one knows. OK. Let's take a moment to look at some of today's words.

Alice: Here they are: intellectual, show off, the classics, romantic fiction, light read, heavy read, retailers, highbrow, shift, hooked, advent, e-reader.

Neil: And before we go, the answer to today's quiz question. I asked about classic books. Are people these days buying...

(a) more classic books? (b) the same number of classic books? (c) fewer classic books than they used to?

Alice: Yes. And I said c) fewer classic books.

Neil: Well I'm afraid to say Alice that you're wrong.

Alice: Oh no.

Neil: I know. They're reading more classic books!

Alice: Oh excellent!

Neil: Sales of these books are apparently increasing.

Alice: Well that's good to hear.

Neil: And that's the end of today's 6 Minute English. Please do join us again soon.

Alice: And keep reading books... in English. Highbrow classics or a light read – it doesn't matter.

Neil: It doesn't matter at all.

Both: Bye.

4. Express your opinion on the topic using topic vocabulary

5. Match the words with the definition

show off	a person who has studied a lot and knows a lot about their area of study
intellectual	someone who does something well and always wants others to know that
romantic fiction	very well-known old novels
the classics	love stories
heavy read	entertaining and easy reading material, such as romantic fiction
light read	very difficult reading material, such as academic textbooks

hooked	people or shops that sell things
e-reader	culture (book, art, theatre) that intellectuals enjoy
shift	change
retailers	addicted
highbrow	(here) beginning
advent	electronic device that contains lots of written text

6.Do the language quiz https://www.eltbase.com/quiz/305_01.htm

7.Complete the sentences or answer the questions.

Movies and Books Quiz

1. When I was a child I liked reading _____. ; now I read _____.

- a) novels, story books
- b) story books, novels
- c) fiction books, story books
- d) fairy tales, story books

2. I liked the music in the film so much, I went out and bought _____

- a) the DVD
- b) the disc
- c) the soundtrack
- d) the musical

3. Leonardo diCaprio _____ Jack in Titanic

- a) stars
- b) starring
- c) casts
- d) plays

4. The film _____ two brothers who love the same woman

- a) topic

- b) is talk about
- c) is about
- d) is talking about

5.I find thrillers_____

- a) very scary
- b) very horrible
- c) very exciting
- d) very terrible

6.Jackie Chan is famous for

- a) Chinese fighting movies
- b) sci-fi movies
- c) horror films
- d) martial arts movies

7.“The Harry Potter” films have been

- a) a great box-office success
- b) bestsellers
- c) hits
- d) stars

8.“The Harry Potter” books are

- a) a great box-office success
- b) bestsellers
- c) hits
- d) market leaders

9.“Anna and the King”

- a) is take place in Thailand
- b) is set in Thailand
- c) is happen in Thailand
- d) was happened in Thailand

10. I liked the book "Rebecca", so much that

- a) I couldn't put it down
- b) I couldn't pick it up
- c) I couldn't put it up
- d) I picked it up

Internet

1. Learn the new vocabulary

a browser	a program used to view the Internet Microsoft Internet Explorer and Firefox are examples of popular Internet browsers.
to click	1) to press the button on a computer mouse 2) to make a small, sharp sound
a click	1) the pressing of the mouse button 2) a small, sharp sound
content	subject matter; the main idea of a book, a paper or a web page
to copyright	to legally protect content with a copyright
a copyright	the right in law to be the only producer, seller or distributor of a book, a play or a web page
to design	to artistically arrange the shape or layout of something
a design	1) the artistic shape or layout of something 2) an architectural or technical plan for something
to format	to determine the size, shape and form of a written document
a format	the size, shape and form of a written document

infringement	breaking a law or rule, disregarding a legal protection
Internet (Net)	a series of interconnected computers and databases around the world
to lay out	to design the technical arrangement of a web page, building, garden, etc.
a layout	the technical arrangement of a web page, building, garden, etc.
World Wide Web (Web)	a series of commercial, educational and governmental web pages on the Internet

2.Fill in all the gaps using words: *browsers click content copyright design format infringement Internet layout World Wide Web*

1. I don't like theof that building. The entrance is too small, and there are no windows in the lounge.
2. They cannot simply reproduce that book without his permission. Thelegally protects it from unauthorized reproduction.
3. When youa document in a word processing program, you change the size, shape and font of the words
4. Not allowing them to vote is anof their rights.
5. The book which Richard wrote is fascinating. Theis both thought-provoking and educational.
6. When I pressed that button, I heard a loudI hope I didn't break the computer.
7. Internet Explorer and Firefox are
8. She attended a school for fashion
9. The Web is an international collection of commercial and educational sites on the
10. The "www" in an Internet address stands for

3.Fill in all the gaps using words: *browsers click content copyright design format infringement Internet layout World Wide Web*

Tim: Hey! What are you looking at, Barbara?

Barbara: I am taking a class called 21st Century Advertising. The teacher wants us to study different web sites to learn about web page

Tim: That sounds like a great class for people who are studying business.

Barbara: It is. The.....is the future of business. And theis going to be the storefront of the next century. To be competitive, businesses have to adapt their current advertising techniques. However, creating a good web site is much more difficult than most people think.

Tim: Have you discovered anything interesting which you consider to be well designed?

Barbara: Yeah, this site is fantastic. Take a look. It's very artistic and the technical.....is convenient and very logical. It also looks good in different.....I have already viewed it in Microsoft Explorer and Firefox. The.....is also fantastic; the size and shape of the text are perfect. I am going to borrow some of their techniques when I make my own web page for class.

Tim: Borrowing ideas is OK, but you have to remember that the.....of all web pages is legally protected.

Barbara: I know. Our professor taught us about intellectual rights. He told us thatinfringement is a real concern for people who publish on the Web.

Tim: That's right. Hey, that picture says "continue on." Why don't youthere so we can see the next page.

Barbara: OK.

4.Read and listen to this discussion.

Is the Internet a Good or a Bad Thing

This week's question:

When did Berners-Lee first suggest the idea for what would become the World Wide Web? Was it in...

(a) 1985; (b) 1989; (c) 1991

Rob: Hello welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Rob.

Neil: And I'm Neil.

Rob: Can you remember the first time you ever used the World Wide

Web or as we often call it, the internet, and what you used it for?

Neil: Oh that's a good question. I do remember. And nothing really changes does it? Because I looked up pictures of cats!

Rob: Cats! Very useful, anyway do you think the internet has generally been positive or negative for the world?

Neil: Wow, that's a big question. A huge question. I don't know if I can answer that.

Rob: Well one person who perhaps can answer it, is the man who invented it: British computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee. We'll find out what he thinks has become of his 'child' shortly but before that, a question for you all. When did Berners-Lee first suggest the idea for what would become the World Wide Web? Was it in...a) 1985b) 1989c) 1991

Neil: Tricky but I think it's earlier than people think so I'm going to go for 1985.

Rob: Well that was a long time ago but we'll reveal the answer a little later in the programme. I think it's true to say that the internet has been one of, if not the most important technological developments perhaps of all time. Would you agree Neil?

Neil: Well it's hard to imagine living without it. Not impossible, but not nearly as convenient.

Rob: These days we take the internet for granted. We share our lives on social media and not just with friends and family. And that isn't always a positive thing according to the father of the internet, Tim Berners-Lee. In a recent BBC Tech Tent programme he talked about his concerns with the internet and particularly the companies that control its information. Companies which he calls 'internet giants'. What does he say he thought these companies had to do?

Tim Berners-Lee: Initially I felt the main thing an internet giant had to do was just to be neutral, just be a platform and humanity, once connected by technology, will do wonderful things. And clearly it doesn't work like that. If you connect humanity via Wikipedia then they do produce, in general, wonderful things. If you connect people by social network where they have anonymity, then it can bring out the very nastiest of people.

Rob: So what did he say he thought these internet giants had to do?

Neil: He said that he thought initially, that they just had to be neutral. Initially means 'at first', 'in the beginning' and it also suggests that later

he changed his mind. Anyway, he said that he thought they just had to be neutral. Neutral here means that they didn't need to do anything, they didn't need to control the internet or information. He thought it would be a tool to connect people and ideas and information and it would be wonderful.

Rob: But it's not all good, is it?

Neil: No. He does say that giving people access to sources of information is generally a good thing but that when it comes to social networks, social media, people have anonymity.

Rob: Anonymity?

Neil: Yes. It means that on the internet people can hide their true identity or personality. Some people write things that they would never say to someone in person because they think there will be no consequences. Berners-Lee says anonymity can bring out the nastiest side of people. People saying horrible and terrible things to each other.

Rob: Berners-Lee does have some suggestions for how this could be changed. And it's based on the idea of likes and shares, which he calls kudos. What's his suggestion?

Tim Berners-Lee: The different social networks and different platforms are in different situations and in some cases they have acknowledged there is an issue. I think they realise that the issue could be hugely ameliorated by tweaking the way the thing works by changing the way retweets are propagated or changing the way people get kudos - give them more kudos for being constructive for example.

Rob: So how does he think companies could address the problem?

Neil: Well, he says that some of the social networks have agreed that there is a problem and they know what could improve it.

Rob: He didn't use the word improve though, did he?

Neil: No he actually used the rather formal verb ameliorate, which means 'to improve or make something better'.

Rob: So how does he suggest the problem could be ameliorated?

Neil: By tweaking the way in which people give or receive kudos. Tweaking means 'making a small change to the way something works'. Much of what happens on the internet is driven by our desire to get likes and shares – this is the kudos that Berners-Lee talks about. He feels that tweaking this could lead to a better experience. For example, getting more kudos for constructive or positive actions.

Rob: Mmm, interesting – but I wonder who would decide if

something is constructive?

Neil: Well that's another big question for another day, I guess.

Rob: For now though, let's have the answer to our small question. In what year did Berners-Lee present the idea for what would become the World Wide Web? The options were a) 1985, b) 1989 or c) 1991. It was in fact 1989. Now before we go let's have a quick recap of today's vocabulary.

Neil: Initially – means 'at first - in the beginning'. Then we had neutral.

Rob: In this case it meant 'not controlling' or 'not taking any action to control'.

Neil: Then there was the noun anonymity which is the state of having a hidden identity or personality.

Rob: Next, to ameliorate a situation is to make it better.

Neil: To tweak something is to make a small change to the way something works.

Rob: And then we had kudos. Kudos is praise and appreciation for something you've done.

Neil: Well kudos to you Rob for today's programme. Thank you very much.

Rob: Well, thank you Neil and thank you everyone for listening. That's all we have today but you can, find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, and of course our website bbclearningenglish.com! Bye for now.

Neil: Thanks for joining us and goodbye.

5. Express your opinion on the topic using topic vocabulary

Джерела

1. The Art of Small Talk. URL: <https://eslvideo.com/quiz.php?id=25294>
2. BBC Learning English. URL: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english>
3. ELT Base. URL: https://www.elibase.com/quiz/305_01.htm
4. Good Small Talk Questions. URL: <https://socialpronow.com/blog/small-talk-questions/>
5. IELTS Vocabulary. URL: <https://www.ielts speaking.co.uk/ielts-vocabulary/>
6. The type finder personality test. URL: <https://www.truity.com/test/type-finder-personality-test-new>
7. 12 Zodiac Signs & What They Mean | Astrology Charts. URL: <https://youtu.be/jyq4nZRw3Fo>