

Dictations

This document includes the dictation sentences for Levels 5 to 10. Levels 11 and 12 will be added shortly.

The final activity in each Unit at these Levels is the dictation section. This is where you find out if your (and your learner's) efforts have been sufficient! Dictate a selection of the key words, choosing the more difficult ones or any which have caused problems earlier.

Then dictate the sentences, which you will find in this document. To get the maximum benefit from this activity, use the following method:

Say the sentence slowly and clearly and get the learner to repeat the sentence. This may cause problems and need several attempts. Do it as many times as necessary until the sentence is repeated correctly. Longer sentences may need to be broken down into two chunks.

The learner is only ready to start to write the sentence when the sentence or chunks can be repeated correctly.

Writing the sentence

Explain to your learner that he is now going to write each chunk. Say the whole chunk or sentence (depending on your learner's memory skills) slowly and clearly. When you've reached the end of the chunk/sentence, your learner can start to write it. Some learners will find it helpful to say the words out loud as they are writing them.

When the sentence is complete, the learner should use the proofreading checklist to check and correct his work.

Irregular or non-list words which cause problems should be briefly explained when marking the dictation and later taught using the 3,3,3 method and added into the Word Race system (see relevant section of the Guide). Words which may cause difficulties are in italics in the Unit Guide.

Dictations are particularly useful because they check whether the learner can actually use the words in context, which is much more difficult than writing them in isolation. Using the method above also develops working memory, which is the ability to hold information in memory at the same time as processing it. Working memory is needed for most learning tasks, but is particularly applicable for tasks such as taking notes, doing maths or following verbal instructions. It is a weak area for most people with literacy difficulties.

Important note:

Many dictation items consist of two sentences. It is acceptable to only dictate the first sentence, if you feel your learner is not advanced enough to cope with the sentence in italics as well.

Workbook 5

Unit 1	1. I am afraid that this may be too much of a strain for her.
	2. He made a claim for the costs when the watches got lost in the post.
Unit 2	1. The old lady shouted loudly because she found a tiny mouse behind the curtain.
	2. He explained that we had counted the wrong number of mugs on the shelf.
Unit 3	1. The thirsty bird sat on the edge of the square bird bath and squeaked loudly.
	2. For my birthday in July, I would like to go to the circus. I will put on my new shirt.
Unit 4	1. Where is my brown towel? I need it for my shower. Can you find it for me?
	2. They will not allow us to pick flowers in the park in the town.
Unit 5	1. The shop does not employ many people and their prices are too high.
	2. My mum was annoyed when I dropped a slice of apple into her handbag. <i>She said I was a silly boy and the juice made a mess in her bag.</i>
Unit 6	1. On Thursday, I fell and hurt my foot. The nurse put some cream on it.
	2. We agreed to return to the church and take turns to tidy up the weeds near the main door.
Unit 7	1. They had to cancel the concert because the stage was too large to fit in the school gym.
	2. We sat in the middle of the garden for a rest. We both enjoy smelling the scent of the flowers and freshly cut grass.
Unit 8	1. The truck swerved to miss the herd of cows as they crossed the road. <i>He hit the kerb and stopped on the grass verge.</i>
	2. Almost every person who went through the mall had to answer questions about what they had bought.

Workbook 6

Unit 1	1. In the morning, a few of us drew pictures and the rest flew kites.
	2. I threw the old bread out for the birds, but I think it was too chewy. <i>They tried to peck at it, but then gave up.</i>
Unit 2	1. He was not fit and healthy enough to cope with the job. That meant that he got very hot and sweaty.
	2. It is important to have a healthy breakfast in the morning, instead of just drinking orange juice.
Unit 3	1. The snowball was thrown at the snowman in the garden, but it hit the window instead.
	2. The car slid slowly across the snow and crashed into the ditch. <i>Tomorrow the car's owner will have to get it pulled out.</i>
Unit 4	1. The donkey ran through the narrow alley and bumped into a woman. <i>She dropped her keys and purse and all her money fell out and rolled into the drain.</i>
	2. From the top floor of the house, we could see the whole farm and the valley beyond.
Unit 5	1. The man with a beard appeared suddenly from the shadows. He looked very weary.
	2. I had to sit at the back of the concert hall. I could not see everything, but I could hear the music clearly.
Unit 6	1. When we drove through the park, we had a scare. A bear ran up to the car and tried to scratch the windscreen.
	2. When the scouts do their camp, lots of families come along to help. <i>Some help to score for the football games and others take classes.</i>
Unit 7	1. That person's voice is so loud and noisy that I can't hear the music. <i>It is spoiling the concert for everyone.</i>
	2. Are you sure they're coming this afternoon? I thought they were trying to avoid us.
Unit 8	1. My parents are very careful and they try to avoid problems. <i>They always carry spare things with them in case we lose something.</i>
	2. He said he felt scared on the plane so he asked to sit in the spare seat by the main door near the cockpit.

Workbook 7

Unit 1	1. The boys tried to balance on the top of the fence, but they fell off. <i>They just bounced on the ground and didn't hurt themselves.</i>
	2. We were so busy we had to cancel the lunch break. <i>We munched our sandwiches on the park bench instead.</i>
Unit 2	1. She did a drawing of a hawk, but I think it looks awful. <i>The hawk has a mouse in its claws, but it's badly drawn.</i>
	2. I did not choose to come to see this concert. It is so long and boring that I cannot stop yawning.
Unit 3	1. The thieves climbed into the old tomb and looked for things to steal. <i>They could only see a shelf with old knives and spoons, but there was nothing they would be able to sell.</i>
	2. The little children enjoy going to the petting zoo. They like to pat the lambs and calves and they give the crumbs from their lunch to the ducks.
Unit 4	1. The climber was stuck. He was wedged into a tiny crack in the rock and his feet were on a narrow ledge. <i>He was beginning to think he had misjudged the climb.</i>
	2. We stood by the tall hedge to watch the cyclists race past on their bikes. <i>They were soon over the bridge and off into the distance.</i>
Unit 5	1. There was a delay in picking the fruit, so many apples in the main area had started to decay. <i>The farmer will not be paid much money for them now.</i>
	2. I think she should repay the money we gave her to replace her fridge. She spent it on new clothes instead <i>and her old fridge doesn't work at all now.</i>
Unit 6	1. He felt it was unfair that he had to repair the damage to his car, when he was not the one who crashed it.
	2. When the fuel ran out in my car, I tried to ring for someone to rescue me. <i>I could not get hold of anyone, so I was cross.</i>
Unit 7	1. I try and avoid my employer when he is annoyed, <i>because he gets grumpy and cross with everyone and that spoils my day.</i>
	2. She made four copies of the important document, but they got spoiled because the desk was too moist.
Unit 8	1. Last August, there was a case of fraud in the local bank. The person who did the fraud got caught because she left too many clues behind.
	2. The fishermen grabbed the taut rope and tried to haul in the net of fish. <i>Sadly, the net was faulty and the fish weighed too much, so they only got a few fish onto the boat.</i>

Workbook 8

Unit 1	1. The first runners came round the curve in the road. They were all thirsty and some were dirty as well.
	2. Her business was a great success and she gave me some spare things for my new house. <i>I was very pleased to accept them from her.</i>
Unit 2	1. We wanted to be polite so we invited her to stay for dinner. <i>She was delighted to accept.</i>
	2. The little children were excited to see the building site, but they were a bit frightened of the big trucks.
Unit 3	1. We need to make sure that we prepare for the future. <i>It is important to look after nature so that our native animals are secure and protected.</i>
	2. The compound was secure and surrounded by tall trees. <i>There was a fence around the grounds so we were sure the hounds could not get out.</i>
Unit 4	1. The coach driver stretched his arm in through the open window and snatched his keys <i>before anyone else could touch them.</i>
	2. The men marched all day, but could not catch up with their mates before they were ambushed. <i>They heard echoes from the fight and watched as smoke rose from the battleground in the distance.</i>
Unit 5	1. She won the business award and was given a gold watch as a prize.
	2. We wandered through the swamp getting tired and dirty. We couldn't wait to get out of the dirty water and depart from that place.
Unit 6	1. In the beginning, they travelled a lot, but later they admitted that it was a mistake to be away from home for so long.
	2. I liked the look of the dress in the shop, but it was labelled as a designer dress, so it was too expensive.
Unit 7	1. He mentioned that the area could be risky for visitors and he told us to use caution when we travelled through it.
	2. He put the car in motion, but forgot it was in reverse. It was an expensive mistake.
Unit 8	1. These are the students' bedrooms, so we can't go into those rooms. This is the area where guests can sit.
	2. The whole story was made up. He is always telling tales about things he has seen when he explores new places, <i>but he has often misled us about what was really there.</i>

Workbook 9

Unit 1	1. The house we rented was quite cheap, but it was on the edge of a field and had a great view.
	2. The thief tried to burgle my niece's house, but he did not steal her best pieces of jewellery.
Unit 2	1. Our cousin has been in touch to tell us about his new job. It took lots of courage to go to another country and find work.
	2. They are a very nice young couple, but I don't think they are tough enough to make a go of farming in this country.
Unit 3	1. The senior reporters get to travel to foreign countries and explore new places. Other employees have to cover the local news.
	2. The performers were worse than we had expected, but they seemed to be getting lots of enjoyment from it, so we were not annoyed.
Unit 4	1. He is very tall and his height makes it difficult for him to cope with low ceilings. <i>He keeps knocking his head, which he finds very annoying.</i>
	2. All of the women at the wedding wore veils. Some were bright colours and some were beige.
Unit 5	1. The cricket umpire is getting old and he is too tired to cope with long cricket matches. <i>I have a theory that he will retire soon.</i>
	2. He tries to write in his diary every day, but that can vary a little. Sometimes he is too busy or tired.
Unit 6	1. We stood in the queue for hours to get into the venue. <i>People started to get very cross and argue with each other.</i>
	2. The driver bumped into the statue and damaged it with his car. <i>Now the council wants to sue him for its full value.</i>
Unit 7	1. As valued hotel guests, we often get a discount on our bill.
	2. The guides tried to get us to walk all the way to the museum so that we could see the display of jewels. <i>We gave them some vague excuses, as we were suffering from fatigue.</i>
Unit 8	1. The group were in doubt about which route to take. It was so tricky that they could not make up their minds.
	2. The frightened dog got loose and knocked over the cupboard. <i>Then he disappeared into the distance.</i>

Workbook 10

Unit 1	1. It is always worthwhile to work out in a group, rather than on your own. <i>It can seem worse on your own because you don't have any support from your network.</i>
	2. The knight could not see his enemy because it was a dark night. <i>But he could hear him moving closer, so he was a bit frightened.</i>
Unit 2	1. Yesterday, I had a bad ache in my stomach, so I went to the chemist and bought some medicine.
	2. There was total chaos as the ship raised its anchor and started to sail out of the harbour. <i>People were shouting and the choir was singing loudly.</i>
Unit 3	1. He has always been a capable and reliable worker, so he is a valuable employee in the business.
	2. When the inspectors went to the company, they found that it didn't have a good health and safety policy. <i>There was also a deficiency of emergency medical equipment.</i>
Unit 4	1. It was impossible to find headphones which are compatible with my computer. <i>This means that nothing is audible at the moment.</i>
	2. In physics, we learned about invisible light. <i>Some light is not visible to the human eye, but it may be possible for other animals to see it.</i>
Unit 5	1. I drew a diagram in my science lesson to show how you can siphon water out of a container.
	2. My crazy neighbour collects acorns from the park to plant in his garden. <i>If they all grow into trees, he won't have any lawn left.</i>
Unit 6	1. Our neighbours had an expensive holiday in the Alps. They stayed in a holiday chalet with its own chef and the hotel even had a chauffeur.
	2. The gym has a creche on site to look after young children while their parents work out.
Unit 7	1. Every year in spring, the bears appear from their caves. <i>It is typical for them to hibernate for nearly seven months, right through the winter.</i>
	2. The pyramids in Egypt were a mystery for centuries. <i>Now scientists are learning more about their physical structure and what they were for.</i>
Unit 8	1. The lifeguards urged people not to put themselves in danger by swimming in the sea. <i>The tide was coming in and the waves surged towards the coast.</i>
	2. The hospital uses antiseptic gel to protect people against germs. <i>In this way, they manage to protect people from infecting each other.</i>