

# TRANSCRIPTS

## (Spot Dictation and Questions)

### Unit 1 Dangerous Animals

#### Spot Dictation >>

Although sharks and crocodiles are dangerous and can kill people, most human fatalities caused by animals are from jellyfish stings and snake bites. The toxicity of a snake's venom varies considerably from snake to snake, as does the ability of the snake to inflict a wound. Not all of these animals are venomous, but many are. The venom of some dangerous animals is so strong that it can kill a human within minutes.

#### Questions to Answers >>

1. Which kind of crocodile is dangerous to humans?
2. Which snake has the most toxic venom?
3. What kind of spider is the most dangerous?
4. Which country has the most dangerous creatures?
5. Which animals are the most venomous, small or large ones?

### Unit 2 Fireworks

#### Spot Dictation >>

Fireworks were invented by the Chinese hundreds of years ago. The main ingredient in fireworks is gunpowder, which contains saltpeter. Fireworks were first used as signals to warn armies of an enemy attack, and to frighten away evil spirits. They are now commonly used as displays on important occasions.

#### Questions to Answers >>

1. Who discovered fireworks?
2. Who were respected for their skill?
3. What were fireworks first used as?
4. What do fireworks contain?
5. When are fireworks commonly used?

### Unit 3 British and American English

#### Spot Dictation >>

There are fewer differences between British and American English than many people think. Most of the differences are found in vocabulary, but there are also a few differences in preposition use. For instance, the British say "at the weekend," as in, "What did you do at the weekend?" while Americans say "on the weekend." However, the biggest grammatical difference is in the past participle of "get."

#### Questions to Answers >>

1. What is the British English word for "truck"?
2. What is the American English word for "bonnet"?
3. Which type of English has changed the most over time?
4. What is the difference between the American and British spelling of the word "color"?
5. What is one of the few grammatical differences between British and American English?

## Unit 4 Flags

### Spot Dictation >>

Flags are used to communicate information. There are national flags, and flags for sending messages. At one time, armies used flags so that soldiers knew who to fight. Ships still use flags for special purposes. Also, flag semaphore is a system of communicating information at a distance by using the position of flags. The message being conveyed is read when the flags are in a fixed position.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. How many flags make up the Union Jack?
2. What is the Stars and Stripes?
3. Where did an astronaut plant an American flag?
4. What was Amundsen's nationality?
5. How many flags did signalers use at sea to send messages?

## Unit 5 Australia

### Spot Dictation >>

Australia is a huge continent with a small population. Most people live on the coast, because the interior of the country is mostly desert and is uninhabitable. Although Aborigines were the first residents of Australia, the British colonized it, and now people migrate there from all over the world. Australia is famous for the Great Barrier Reef and its unusual wildlife, which includes several kinds of marsupials.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. Who were the first Europeans to land in Australia?
2. When did permanent colonization of Australia begin?
3. How many people live in Australia?
4. Which Australian animal is the strangest?
5. Who first claimed Australia?

## Unit 6 Chess

### Spot Dictation >>

There is disagreement among chess historians about the origins of the game. Most reference books state that it was first played in India in the sixth century CE. However, Sam Sloan has found references to a game very similar to chess in Chinese literature written many centuries before this. He argues that these references are evidence that the game was invented in China.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. In which country were texts written in Sanskrit?
2. Where was the first international chess tournament held?
3. What does Sam Sloan argue?
4. When did chess spread throughout Europe?
5. Is the origin of chess still being debated?

## Unit 7 Greenwich Mean Time

### Spot Dictation >>

Times throughout the world today are based on Greenwich Mean Time, or GMT. In 1884, many nations met and agreed to establish a standard time in order to avoid confusion when reading railway timetables. There are twenty-four lines of longitude, called meridians, which divide the world into twenty-four time zones. The zero meridian passes through the village of Greenwich, near London.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. Who devised GMT?
2. How many time zones do most nations have?
3. Where was Sir Fleming born?
4. When did many nations meet to discuss GMT?

5. Why was a system of telling time necessary?

## Unit 8 Ginseng

### Spot Dictation >>

Ginseng is an herb that has been used for its medicinal purposes for thousands of years. Because widespread collection of Asian ginseng endangered the wild supply, people began to cultivate it on farms. A similar event happened in North America, where it is now illegal to collect wild ginseng. Asian ginseng is believed to increase energy and improve circulation, while American ginseng is believed to produce a calming effect.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. In which country has ginseng been used for medicinal purposes for thousands of years?
2. Which type of ginseng should be taken before a stressful exam?
3. Which type of ginseng should be taken before a difficult hike?
4. What has been difficult to verify about ginseng?
5. Which type of energy does Asian ginseng promote?

## Unit 9 Chewing Gum

### Spot Dictation >>

Chewing the resin from trees is something that people have done since prehistoric times. The ancient Greeks chewed mastiche and the South American Indians chewed chicle. Modern chewing gum contains chicle and other things to give it a good taste. It was not until the late nineteenth century, however, that chewing gum became popular.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. When was bubble gum first invented?
2. What does "masticate" mean?
3. What did ancient Greeks believe about mastic resin?
4. When was modern bubble gum invented?
5. Who manufactured the first chewing gum?

## Unit 10 William Shakespeare

### Spot Dictation >>

Very little is known about the life of William Shakespeare even though he is one of the greatest playwrights in the English language. He was born in Stratford-on-Avon, a small town in the west of England, but spent most of his working life in London, where he gained fame for his work in the theater. Almost nothing is known about his education or family life, though it is believed that he earned a considerable fortune during his lifetime.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. What were Shakespeare's parents' names?
2. Where was Shakespeare buried?
3. Where did Shakespeare write his plays?
4. What was Shakespeare's wife's name?
5. What is one of Shakespeare's most famous plays?

## Unit 11 The Chinese Alligator

### Spot Dictation >>

The Chinese alligator is an endangered species in the wild because it is a nuisance to farmers, who do not want them in their ponds. The Chinese government is trying to save these alligators from extinction by breeding them in captivity. If we do not protect these alligators, Chinese culture will suffer the loss of an important species.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. Where do most Chinese alligators live?
2. How are Chinese alligators different from American alligators?
3. What has happened to the population of Chinese alligators?
4. How many Chinese alligators are in captivity?
5. What do Chinese alligators like to eat?

## Unit 12 Michael Schumacher

### Spot Dictation >>

Michael Schumacher's father built him his first kart when he was a young boy. Michael quickly became a champion kart racer and decided on a career in racing. He soon found some sponsors and gradually moved up in the motor racing world. Eventually, he joined a Formula One team and became a World Champion in 1994. In 1996, he joined the Ferrari team and drove their car to many victories.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. Where was Michael when he decided to pursue a career in racing?
2. What is a kart?
3. How many times did Michael win the Formula One championship?
4. How old was Michael when he won his first championship?
5. What kind of racing car did Michael drive in Formula One?

## Unit 13 People Who Make Movies

### Spot Dictation >>

Many different people work together to make a movie. Apart from the main characters, or "stars," the writer, the director and the various producers, there is

often a large cast and crew. The cast are the actors. The crew are the personnel who work with the director to make the movie. Altogether, these people are skilled at creating a movie people will get to enjoy watching at the theater or at home.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. When can we see a movie's credits?
2. Who is in charge of the artistic aspect of a movie?
3. Who is in charge of the lighting?
4. Who is involved throughout the entire movie?
5. Who puts all the scenes of a movie together?

## Unit 14 The Speed of Sound

### Spot Dictation >>

Sound waves travel through different substances at different speeds. For example, sound waves travel through air at 344 meters per second. They travel through water at 1480 meters per second—that's more than four times faster! The speed of sound is also affected by temperature: the colder the air, the slower the sound waves. One way to measure the speed of sound is by timing an echo, which is a sound that travels a distance and then comes back to its source.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. How fast does sound travel through air?
2. What do ships use to avoid hitting cliffs in the fog?
3. What do you need to do experiments measuring sound?
4. What is an echo?
5. If it takes twenty seconds for a thunder clap to reach us after the lightning flash, how far away is the storm?

## Unit 15 The English Alphabet

### Spot Dictation >>

The English alphabet has its origins in Greek, Roman, and Phoenician scripts. The Phoenician civilization was very powerful and spread its written script to trading posts throughout the Mediterranean Sea. Although Rome eventually destroyed Phoenicia, its writing system still lives in the letters we have adopted.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. What is the name of a Greek letter that we still use today?
2. When did Phoenician civilization spread?
3. What did the Phoenicians use to represent sounds?
4. Why did the Phoenicians establish cities throughout the Mediterranean?
5. How many letters are there in the English alphabet?

## Unit 16 Animal Communication

### Spot Dictation >>

Animals use four different kinds of communication. In this way, they are similar to humans. Behavior and appearance are types of visual communication. Auditory communication includes all the different sounds animals make. Tactile communication includes all the ways animals touch each other. Chemical communication includes all the scents that animals produce and receive.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. Why do cats rub against humans?
2. What does a male peacock do to attract a female?
3. What kind of communication is chimp chatter?
4. How many different ways of communication are there?

5. What kind of communication is a tiger's licking its cub?

## Unit 17 The Spread of Disease

### Spot Dictation >>

A communicable disease is transmitted from one person to another. These diseases may be passed on by physical contact, contaminated food or water, or by animals, birds and insects. Some communicable diseases kill millions of people every year. There are also sometimes major epidemics which can devastate a population. People must take precautions to protect themselves against disease and illness.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. How is malaria transmitted?
2. How is AIDS transmitted from one person to another?
3. Where did the bubonic plague happen?
4. How was the organism causing the plague passed on to humans?
5. What disease do birds pass on in their excreta?

## Unit 18 The Lord of the Rings

### Spot Dictation >>

Millions of readers around the world have enjoyed Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The imaginative stories and mythical characters in these fantasy novels have engaged readers since their publication in the 1950s. Many Tolkien fans do not know that he was an accomplished linguist and professor at Oxford University. Three films based on the trilogy and released between 2001 and 2003 exposed a whole new generation to Tolkien's epic tales.

### Questions to Answers >>

1. At what university was Tolkien a professor?
2. What was Tolkien's first fantasy novel?
3. Who directed the films based on *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy?
4. What is the setting for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*?
5. Who is the famous hobbit from *The Lord of the Rings*?

### Unit 19 Easter Island

#### Spot Dictation >>

Easter Island is famous for its giant statues, which were carved out of volcanic rock. These massive stone figures have made this small, isolated island famous all over the world. The statues were carved by Easter Island's Polynesian inhabitants many centuries ago, but it remains a mystery how these primitive people carved and moved the heavy stones.

#### Questions to Answers >>

1. In which ocean is Easter Island located?
2. How much do the Easter Island statues weigh?
3. What is one thing Easter Island has suffered from?
4. What were the statues carved out of?
5. Who carved the statues on Easter Island?

### Unit 20 Rainforests

#### Spot Dictation >>

The rainforests of the world are disappearing because of logging. The trees in the forests are being cut down for their hardwood. This is a serious problem because logging destroys the habitat of many animals and plants. It also decreases the amount of oxygen and increases the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, which can lead to global warming.

#### Questions to Answers >>

1. What kind of wood is taken from the rainforests?
2. What is destroying the habitat of many animals?
3. What are some of the plants in the rainforests used for?
4. What do we call the study of the way the plants and animals are all dependent on one another?
5. What can lead to global warming?