

# READING SUCCESS

Second Edition

# 5

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# Contents

01	Smart Tablets	4
02	Fishing	6
03	Who's Calling, Please?	8
04	Charlie Chaplin	10
05	Some Helpful Advice	12
06	Saving Money	14
07	Meeting for a School Trip	16
08	Giant Pandas	18
09	A Picky Husband	20
10	Fires	22
11	Gray Hair	24
12	The Taj Mahal	26
13	New Shoes	28
14	Watering the Garden	30
15	Team Brazil	32
16	Florence Nightingale	34
17	Going North	36
18	Smithville High School Goes to Indonesia	38
19	Review of <i>Casablanca</i>	40
20	Iceland	42
21	The New Job	44
22	Email from Indonesia	46
23	Lost and Found	48
24	Water	50
25	The Queen's Birthday	52
26	Formula One Hero	54
27	Email to Indonesia	56
28	The Ming Dynasty	58
29	Bad Spelling	60
30	Real Estate for Sale	62
31	A Bad Day	64
32	Nuclear Weapons	66
33	The Winter Olympics	68
34	More Helpful Advice	70
35	The Turtle and the Ice Cream	72
36	The Amazing Surfer	74
37	The Broken Car	76
38	The Nervous Taxi Driver	78
39	The Broken Mower	80
40	Wimbledon	82

<sup>6</sup> **detonate** to explode a bomb

<sup>7</sup> **demonstration** the showing of

<sup>16</sup> **retaliation** the act of fighting back against someone's attack

<sup>20</sup> **disarmament** the process of getting rid of weapons

<sup>25</sup> **collapse** to fall down; to stop existing

<sup>26</sup> **deter** to stop; to try and prevent

<sup>35</sup> **elimination** complete removal

# Nuclear Weapons

<sup>5</sup> On August 6, 1945 during World War II, the USA dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They instantly destroyed over 50,000 buildings and killed about 80,000 people. Japan surrendered, and the war was over. Nuclear weapons have not been used in war again although over 2,000 bombs have been **detonated** for test and **demonstration** purposes.

Nuclear weapons are extremely powerful. Unlike other bombs, they were designed to destroy entire cities rather than just enemy weapons. Defenders of the use of nuclear weapons argue that those two bombs saved many tens of thousands of soldiers' lives by ending the war so quickly although many historians say that Japan was almost defeated already, and the bombs were not necessary. After the war the Soviet Union, formerly Russia, and the USA made many thousands of nuclear weapons each. This was the Cold War, where neither country dared to attack the other for fear of **retaliation** with nuclear weapons.

In the 1980s the number of nuclear weapons made by the USA and the Soviet Union increased rapidly, and people became afraid of an "accidental" nuclear war. This led to the nuclear **disarmament** movement, where millions of people marched on the streets to demonstrate against nuclear weapons. At various times world leaders made joint promises to reduce the number of nuclear weapons they have.

<sup>25</sup> Since the **collapse** of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the idea of having nuclear weapons to **deter** other countries has become less effective. The USA and Russia have each promised to further reduce the numbers of bombs they have. The great fear today is not so much the threat that countries will use nuclear weapons in a war. It is the technology to make these weapons that will fall into the hands of terrorists. Terrorist groups are not countries and will not be deterred by their opponents possessing nuclear weapons.

<sup>35</sup> The reduction or **elimination** of nuclear weapons is still one of the most important issues that the world faces today.

Reading Time \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds **343 words**

## Vocabulary Review

### Choose the word or phrase with the same meaning.

- Japan admitted defeat after the bombing.
  - was destroyed
  - surrendered
  - was deterred
  - detonated
- The USSR and USA were both afraid of the other's fighting back if attacked.
  - disarmament
  - demonstration
  - collapse
  - retaliation
- Today terrorists are a greater danger than enemy countries.
  - threat
  - issue
  - fear
  - technology

## Reading Comprehension

### Choose the best answer.

- How many atomic bombs were dropped on Japan during World War II?
  - Two
  - Fifty
  - Eighty
  - Two thousand
- What were nuclear weapons designed to do?
  - To destroy cities
  - To destroy enemy weapons
  - To save soldiers' lives
  - To stop terrorism
- How do supporters of nuclear weapons justify their use against Japan?
  - The bombs killed many thousands of Japanese civilians.
  - The bombs killed many thousands of Japanese soldiers.
  - The bombs ended the war sooner than expected.
  - The bombs had to be tested.
- What are the USSR and USA doing about nuclear weapons now?
  - They have destroyed all their nuclear weapons.
  - They are increasing the number of nuclear weapons they have.
  - They are reducing the number of nuclear weapons they have.
  - They are selling their nuclear weapons to terrorists.

## Summary

### Fill in each blank with the correct word.

ability

deterrent

effective

issue

relations

The 1 \_\_\_\_\_ of nuclear weapons continues to play a major role in international 2 \_\_\_\_\_. Such weapons have the 3 \_\_\_\_\_ to destroy all civilization. They are often defended as a(n) 4 \_\_\_\_\_ against war, but this argument is less 5 \_\_\_\_\_ against the fear that terrorists may use them one day.