

Future Literacy 50-2

Unit 1. Busy Bees

Bees are winged insects that live together inside beehives. One beehive can house thousands of bees. Such a group of bees are referred to as one colony. Inside the hive, bees are very busy. Each bee has a role, and everyone works together to make food. Bees have a special role. They go out in search of flowers so that they can collect nectar. They drink the nectar and bring it back to the hive. The nectar is then deposited inside the hive to create honey. Like the sugary nectar, honey is very sweet and can attract many predators such as bears and humans. Some humans farm bees in order to collect as much honey as they can. But unlike natural beehives, humans harvest honey by creating honeycombs in square trays. This makes it easier to organize the beehives and collect the honeycombs when they are ready.

Unit 2. The Parts We Eat

Potatoes are one of the most popular ingredients in North American recipes such as fries and chips. Potatoes were first brought to North America by Europeans in the 1600s after Spanish explorers found them in Peru in the 1500s. The word “potato” originates from the Spanish word *patata* which comes from the South American Indian word *batata*. Potato plants grow near the ground and have rounded leaves in the shape of a heart or oval. The plants produce white and purple flowers, and green berries as fruit. However, these green berries are inedible and should not be eaten. The part of the potato that is actually used in meals grows underground and is called a tuber. The tuber is the stem of the plant. Each tuber has several buds which can be used to grow more potatoes.

Unit 3. Fly Far, Butterflies

Butterflies can't survive the cold winters, so they fly south to warmer places each autumn. The places where butterflies stay over during the winter are called overwintering sites. In North America, the migration process usually starts in October. However, if the weather becomes colder ahead of schedule, then the butterflies will start their journey sooner. Butterflies will spend their winter hibernation in warm areas such as Southern California and Mexico. Butterflies usually migrate to the same tree that their parents flew to even if they've never been there before. Surprisingly, butterflies fly up to 4000 kilometers during their migration, the only type of insect to do so. Unfortunately, many of the overwintering sites are destroyed by humans cutting down trees to build houses and roads. This could put all the butterflies in danger since it is destroying their winter homes. That is why it is important to educate people about butterfly conservation.

Unit 4. Meat-Eating Plants

The Venus flytrap is famously known for its unique ability to eat small insects by snapping its leaves shut very quickly. This is because the plant grows in soil that lacks proper nutrients like nitrogen that is required for healthy growth. The Venus flytrap has small clam-shaped leaves that attract insects with its flower-like appearance and scent. What the insect does not know is that there are tiny hairs inside the clam that act as triggers. If an insect crawls inside and touches two hairs in quick succession, the clam will shut tight. This two-touch system prevents the Venus flytrap from closing on stray inedible objects that might touch the hairs by accident. Once the insect is trapped inside, the plant will release a liquid that digests the trapped prey. When it is fully digested, the Venus flytrap eats the insect and absorbs the nitrogen from the body.

Unit 5. The Fastest Game

Jai alai is a ball game that originated in Basque. It is played in a court with three walls and a hard rubber ball. The players will catch and throw this ball using a long, curved scoop called a cesta which is strapped to their arm. The rules of game are fairly simple. The player with the ball must throw it against the front wall. The aim is to have the ball land in a designated serving zone. The opponent must catch the ball and throw it against the wall again before it touches the floor more than once. When catching the ball, players cannot hold the ball but must catch and throw it in one fluid motion. Players can score points if the opponent fails to catch the ball in time or their ball goes out of bounds. The ball is out of bounds if it falls outside a zone marked in red or strikes the overhead screen.

Unit 6. The Highland Games

The Highland Games are an old tradition in Scotland. The Games feature traditional Scottish sporting events. These events include the caber toss, hammer throw, shot put, and tug-o'-war. In the caber toss, contestants take a full-length log made of Scots pine, run forward, and then toss the caber into the air so that it lands embedded in the ground. The goal of this game is to make sure that the caber lands in line with the direction that the contestant was running in. If correctly done, the toss will land in a 12 o'clock position. The hammer throw is where a metal ball is swung around on the end of a wooden pole or handle and flung as far as possible. Men must throw a heavier weight than women. Similarly, the shot put is a game where a large stone is thrown as far as possible. The contestant can throw the stone standing still or after a short run-up. Lastly, the tug-o'-war involves men on either end of a rope pulling with all their strength. The team to pull the other side over the line wins.

Unit 7. Cheese Rolling

The South West England Gloucester region holds an annual cheese rolling event where people from all over the country travel to compete. The rules are very simple. A wheel of cheese weighing roughly 4 kilograms is rolled down a hill. The competitor must chase the cheese down the hill and cross the finish line first. The winner gets to keep the cheese they were chasing as a prize. In total, there are four downhill races. Three are for men and one for women. A maximum of 14 racers can compete in one race, although this is a loose rule. In some years, up to 40 have competed in one race! The race begins when the Masters of the Ceremony announce the beginning of the event by explaining the rules. Originally, the goal was to catch the cheese. However, the speed at which a wheel of cheese can roll makes it very difficult and highly dangerous to catch.

Unit 8. Egg Toss

While it might sound messy, the egg toss is a traditional game played at family reunions, birthday parties, field days, and even on Easter. The game is played in pairs. Each pair of competitors gets one egg. Each pair then stands an equal distance apart. The goal of the game is to toss the egg back and forth between teammates without dropping or breaking the egg. If the egg is dropped during the game but is not broken, the team may pick it up and resume the game. If the dropped egg cracks, then the team is out of the game. This continues until only one team is left standing in the game. In some cases, the rules can change to accommodate the players. For example, if very young children are playing and there is a danger of getting hurt by the hard shells following a toss, the egg can be replaced with a small water balloon.

Unit 9. Murals

The word mural comes from the Latin word for wall: “murus”. The contemporary meaning of mural is any depiction of artwork that is applied directly to a wall, ceiling or other large permanent surface. This technique was used by many famous artists including Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti. Historically, the art of muralism became a popular tool of visual communication during the 1920’s following the Mexican revolution. During this time, murals were used to send powerful message about politics and society. Murals became an important form of expression and was often at the center of controversy. Its political nature inspired many other movements around the world such as the 1960’s Chicano art movement. Murals are also an important feature of European culture and history. In Northern Ireland, murals depict the history of the region with visual representations of its political and religious divisions. Another well-known European mural is the Berlin Wall. Between its creation and destruction, the Berlin Wall hosted a variety of murals by artists such as Keith Haring and Thierry Noir.

Unit 10. Best Artist

Miyazaki Hayao is a Japanese anime director whose critically acclaimed work has been embraced by many fans across the globe. After finishing his studies in economics at Gakushuin University in Tokyo, Miyazaki began working as an entry-level animator at Toei Animation. There he met other animators, some of whom would become lifelong friends and business partners. Miyazaki quickly moved up in rank at Toei and worked on many projects. He then left the company in 1971 and wrote a monthly manga strip for *Animage* magazine. The story was so successful that it was adapted into a film. Soon after, Miyazaki and his friend Takahata launched Studio Ghibli in 1985. Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli has produced famous works such as *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Princess Mononoke*. His works have set the standard for animation and continue to inspire many artists.

Unit 11. Dressing Up for Fun

Many people dress up as famous characters. Whether it's for Halloween or a comic book convention, people enjoy cosplaying. Cosplay is a type of performance art. It combines two words *costume* and *play*. The term was first used in an article in *My Anime* magazine in 1983. They borrow from a wide variety of characters from their favorite television shows, comic books, movies and so on. People who cosplay are called "cosplayers". Some are amateurs and often sport costumes that look like they were bought at a cheap costume store or homemade. Others are dedicated cosplayers who show intricate costumes that look professionally made. Instead of just dressing up like characters, cosplayers will sometimes act like the characters as well by adopting the character's speech and behavior. This adds to the performance and is an expression of how much they love their fandom.

Unit 12. Kinds of Art

There are many different tools you can use to create art. Some of the more traditional and commonly used tools include pencils, pens, paint brushes, chalk and many more. For beginners, it's important to have quality drawing pencils as beginners will need to learn the basics of sketching, shading and drawing. It's a good idea to get a variety of drawing pencils by purchasing a pencil set that includes both harder and softer graphite. Another important staple is a sketchbook. The sketchbook can be used on a daily basis and allows artists to practice daily. For mistakes and other corrections, an eraser should also have a place in your pencil case. Use a rubber eraser for removing graphite. Lastly, beginners should get a felt tip pen. It can be used to make stronger lines on top of pencil sketches and is also good training for an artist mentally. What that means is that artists are mentally forced to be more deliberate with what they put down on paper since ink cannot be erased.

Unit 13. Let's Eat Together!

When eating out with a group of people or alone in public, it's important to have good etiquette. Although it might seem like a daunting task to act that way, it is actually quite easy. The basis of good etiquette is to have an understanding of basic social rules. For instance, even before you sit down at the table, a common rule is to always be on time. Being late is something that will annoy even the most accommodating guest. Secondly, communication should always be civil and polite. Don't gossip and spread rumors about other people to your fellow companion. Not only is it rude, but also it will eventually get back to the person you are badmouthing. Another tip is to put away your smartphone. In fact, texting during a meal is at the top of the list of things that break good etiquette.

Unit 14. It's Noisy in Here!

Noise from neighbors or construction work can be annoying. However, noise can also be the source of both physical and mental damage. Physical damage can occur when eardrums are exposed to loud noises for a long time. This could lead to temporary or permanent hair loss as the sensitive hair cells of the inner ear are repeatedly damaged. Noise can also increase blood pressure and heart rates. This can cause irritability, anxiety and mental fatigue. If it gets really bad, it will ruin sleep patterns. This could potentially ruin personal relationships as well as communication will be difficult after a sleepless night. That is why it's important to stay away from noisy environments whenever they can be avoided. In addition, it's important to be courteous of others and follow community rules in apartments and public spaces. By following these rules, everyone works to prevent noise pollution and help the rest of the community work and rest in peace.

Unit 15. Wait for Me!

Waiting in line may seem like an unavoidable and tedious task. Lines are formed at bus stops, subway stations, popular restaurants, movie theaters and concerts. All of these places require the universal etiquette of patiently waiting one's turn to enter a building or use a service. Historically, lines were made necessary not so much by rules of etiquette but by industrialization. Factory employment caused many people to live their lives on similar schedule. People would go to work at the same time, causing crowds to form around bus stops and at work where people needed to punch their time cards. There was also a limited time frame when people could go shopping or go to the bank, so lines formed at shops as well. While many stores weren't so strict about lines, some stores took line equality to whole new level by ensuring that people were always served in the order that they arrived. For example, Wendy's, the fast food restaurant chain, used a single-file line system with crowd control belts that are used in airports.

Unit 16. Take a Ride!

Anyone who uses the public subway system should be aware of the rules of etiquette. First, allow the passengers on the train to get off first. Trying to shove past people before they have exited causes confusion and congestion. There is plenty of time to board the train once everyone who needs to get off has gotten out. Another rule is to share the pole in the car. When the train moves, some people need to hold onto the pole or handle for extra balance. If you are taking up the entire pole or handles by yourself, others may not be able to use it. Another important thing is to use the priority seating as indicated. Subway trains have certain seats set aside for pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. If you do not fall into any of the indicated categories, do not occupy these seats.