Unit 1

Listen and Gather Ideas.

Use the Internet to Learn about Other Cultures.

M: Hello everyone, it’s good to be here. How do you like my grass skirt and feather head cover? I have just returned from the jungle where I stayed for two years. I lived with the natives who gave me this costume. My purpose in doing this was to learn about their culture. But you don’t have to do what I did. It’s easy to learn about another culture just by using the Internet. There are several ways you can use the Internet to learn about other cultures. The first thing you can do is visit the country’s tourism website. Here you can find good information that will tell you about the people and the country. You can also learn about the history of the country in these sites. The next way to learn about a culture online is to read travel websites. In these sites, you can learn about a culture from people who have experienced it firsthand. They often discuss the local customs and the food that the people like. And one more area of the Internet that can help you learn about another culture, is a blog. There are many people who have lived in foreign countries and who tell about their experience through a blog. Of course, the best way to learn about a culture is to live in it. But if you can’t do that, then the next best thing is the Internet.

Unit 2

Listen and Gather Ideas.

Man-made Causes of Global Warming

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. We all know how serious global warming is. And if we are going to fix the problem, we have to know what causes it. Some global warming is caused by nature- sun activity, volcanoes, and so on. And we cannot stop that. However, global warming caused by humans is the part that we can do something about. Humans helped to cause global warming by increasing two gasses- carbon dioxide and methane. We humans are partly responsible for global warming because we do things that make harmful gasses. The first gas humans generate is carbon dioxide. We make carbon just by breathing. Of course, with an increasing population comes more carbon dioxide. Another way we make carbon dioxide is when we burn fossil fuels. Most of our transportation uses this type of fuel. Also, by cutting down the trees that remove carbon dioxide, we cause the gas to increase. The second gas that humans make is methane. Methane is released from the ground when we dig coalmines and other types of mines. And you might be surprised to learn that farm animals give off a lot of methane. As our population grows, we will make more and more of these two gasses. Global warming is a problem that is partly caused by nature, but humans add to the problem by causing methane and carbon dioxide levels to increase.

Unit 3

Listen and Gather Ideas.

Kids Should Have a Savings Account

Good morning! Today I’d like to talk to you about kids and money. We all know that kids think money is only for spending. Let me tell you that all kids should get a savings account. Having a savings account will teach kids things that will be important to them as adults. There are several things about a savings account that can help children handle money-matters when they are older. The most important thing of course, is that it teaches kids to prepare for the future. When children look at some money in their hand, they do not see the future. They only see candy, toys, or a movie today and right now. If children are taught to put that money into savings, they can learn to think of it as a future purchase. Also, thinking of getting something they want at a later date will teach them patience. They will learn not to buy things suddenly and carelessly. They will learn to decide if a purchase is necessary or not. Having money in the bank also teaches kids about earning interest. When children see their money growing just by sitting in an account, they will be happy to get that extra, free money. Then they will want to save even more money. Parents, teach your kids to handle money wisely- get them a savings account. You’ll be glad you did!

Unit 4

Listen and Gather Ideas

Why Students Should Wear Uniforms

Hi everyone! I’d like to talk to you today about school uniforms. I don’t like them, do you? But even though we don’t like to wear school uniforms, I think they are very important for us students. School uniforms are good for us because they save us money, they make our lives easier, and they help us to be better students. If students have to wear uniforms to school, there are several good things that happen. First, wearing school uniforms saves us money. We only need two sets of uniforms to wear for the whole school year. And they do not cost much. Regular street clothes cost more. Also, kids like to have many different kinds of clothes. Next, by wearing the uniform to school, we don’t have trouble choosing our clothes every morning- we only have to choose a clean uniform. The last good thing about wearing a uniform to school is that it makes us better students. Research shows some interesting things about school uniforms. They seem to improve student attendance and performance. Also, in schools where uniforms are worn, there are fewer fights. These are just a few things that wearing uniforms to school does for us. So even though we might not like wearing school uniforms, they are good for us. They save money, make choosing clothes easier, and make us better students.

Unit 5

Listen and Gather Ideas

Should Students be Required to Volunteer?

Good afternoon, my fellow students. Most of us have spent our lives just studying or playing. Those are not bad things, but there is more to life than that. Before we graduate, we also need to know how to work. Also, I think we should learn how to work for others. We students should perform volunteer service before we graduate, so that we can become better people and make a better society. Students should do volunteer work for several reasons. One reason is that it teaches a student how to work. The work we will have to do in life requires self-control and physical effort. Doing those things through volunteer service will help us to be better workers later on. Another reason we should do volunteer work is that it makes us better people. When we volunteer, we give up our own time and comfort to help others. In doing these things, we learn kindness and sacrifice. The last reason for volunteer service is that we can make a better society. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone became a volunteer. There would be less fighting and arguing. Our service to others will teach them to serve others. And that will make the world a better place. If we perform volunteer service, we will learn the value of work and sacrifice. And our effort will make us better people and the world a better place to live.

Unit 6

Listen and Gather Ideas

Comic Books are Bad for Kids

Hi everyone. Do you like to read comic books? I used to read them all the time. But then one day, I began to think carefully about what I was reading. I soon changed my mind about comic books. In my opinion, comic books are bad for kids because they teach us bad things and harm our reading skills. Comic books have several negative effects on us. The first thing is that they teach us violence. In most comic books, the stories are often violent with lots of fighting and killing. These books teach kids that the best way to settle an argument is with fists or weapons. The second negative thing is that they cause us to waste our money on books that are meant to be thrown away. Real books can be kept for a lifetime. Comic books are expensive. And that money could be spent on real books for your bookshelf. The worst thing about comic books, though, is the effect on our reading skills. Dialogs in comic books are very short. That means that they do not use the longer sentences of a well-written story. Also, we don’t have to use our imagination when reading them because we can just look at the pictures. Before you read another comic book, please stop and think about what I said. Comic books teach violence and they waste your money, but worst of all they hurt your reading ability.