

Unit 1: One Laptop Per Child

Listening Exercise - Track 2

- M: I saw an interesting program last night on the XO computer. Did you see it?
- W: You mean that inexpensive laptop? No, I didn't. But I read about it in the paper. It's a great idea, isn't it?
- M: Actually, I'm kind of afraid that it won't be used for education. I think a lot of kids will just use it to surf the Internet.

Listening Activity - Track 3

The XO laptop computer has simple technology –except for the new kind of battery it uses. It is very powerful. In fact, you can surf the Internet for up to six hours before a recharge. If you are only reading e-books, the battery lasts up to twelve hours. Best of all, it can be recharged 2000 times. Regular laptop batteries can only be recharged 500 times.

Unit 2: Green Profits

Listening Exercise - Track 5

- W: I read that Union Tinworks has made changes to its main factory. They say they've lowered pollution levels by twenty-five percent.
- M: Wait, weren't they the ones pouring waste into the river a few years ago?
- W: That's right. The article also said something about that. The company was fined \$50,000. I guess they're trying to change their image.

Listening Activity - Track 6

Last year, home energy bills rose yet again. During the hot summer, the average monthly bill was up six percent. In the cold winter, monthly bills were up four percent. To save money, turn off the lights when you leave a room. Also, when you're not using your TV or computer, unplug it. Small moves like that could save you five to ten percent off your monthly bill.

Unit 3: Well-Loved Pets

Listening Exercise - Track 8

- W: What should we do about the animals while we're on vacation?
- M: I was thinking of asking our neighbor, Bob, to take them in. But, we've got three cats and a dog. It's really a lot to ask.
- W: Yeah, it is. You know, there's a pet motel on Woodland Avenue. I'll go online and look for reviews about the place.

Listening Activity - Track 9

Los Angeles has a new star. This one's a small black cat named Alex. Every morning, Alex takes a bicycle ride with his owner, Martin. As soon as the bike starts moving, Alex begins singing. Neighbors wave to the pair as they go by. They've already been on several TV shows. They may even make a CD, with music, of course, by Alex.

Unit 4: Italy's Fashion Kings

Listening Exercise - Track 11

- W: You should go clothes shopping with me. I know exactly what you need to improve your style.
- M: I know where you're going with this. You want me to get some really expensive designer clothes. I doubt I have enough room on my credit card for one Armani shirt.
- W: It's not that bad. Believe me, just one or two pieces could totally change your look.

Listening Activity - Track 12

This week in Milan, we're waiting for big news from Fendi. The company is expected to bring out a new line of handbags. Also, diamonds are supposed to be big this year. We've already seen some models wearing diamond-covered jackets. One of them was covered with stones worth one million euros. I would love to wear it, even if just for a minute!

Unit 5: Viral Marketing

Listening Exercise - Track 14

M: Did you get my email with the link to the coffee maker ad?

W: I did, thanks. I laughed so hard when the coffee maker started yelling, "I just made a pot of coffee. Get up and drink it!"

M: Ha ha, right. I was thinking of getting one for Paul. You know how much trouble he has waking up. It would be a perfect gift!

Listening Activity - Track 15

Freshtop Ice Cream's viral marketing campaign was a great success. It started with a free video game given away online. People who won the game received a password. Using it, one could go onto a special website. The site had lots of games and chances to win prizes. First prize was a free car. Thousands of other people won coupons for free ice cream.

Unit 6: The NBA Goes Global

Listening Exercise - Track 17

M: They're going to hold an NBA preseason game in Singapore. I think the teams are from New York and California.

W: Wow, that's cool. Everyone's going to try to get tickets. I bet they'll be expensive.

M: They're not too bad, actually. I'm thinking of flying over. Since it's low season, a plane ticket from Hong Kong to Singapore won't cost too much.

Listening Activity - Track 18

Last night's Spurs game had a very South American feeling to it. Two hundred members of the Manu Ginobili Fan Club flew from Argentina to Texas to attend the game. Ginobili, who is from Argentina, is very popular in his home country. During the game, the fans sang songs in Spanish. After the game, Ginobili signed autographs and talked to the fans for two hours.

Unit 7: The Gossip Media

Listening Exercise - Track 20

W: There's an article here about Brad Pitt. They say he spent \$30,000 during his last vacation.

M: When is the media going to leave that guy alone? It's like he has no chance at a normal life. He should just stop working, buy a big house, and disappear.

W: That's impossible. He's a movie star. It's not something you just stop doing one day.

Listening Activity - Track 21

In entertainment news, Michael Jackson is back in the headlines. The word is Jackson may be working on a new CD. Sources close to the singer say he needs the money. However, Jackson hasn't had a top ten song for years. Also, the singer, born in 1958, is now over fifty. It may be hard for him to attract new fans.

Unit 8: Running a SOHO

Listening Exercise - Track 23

W: I've heard good things about your T-shirt business. People love your work. I might actually order a couple myself.

M: Really? Thanks. Business is going well, but I don't get much time for myself. It's like I'm married to my job!

W: I think that's normal with new companies. Anyway, don't worry. I've been through the same thing. Things will get better.

Listening Activity - Track 24

Diamond Career Services is running a two-week SOHO course. We'll show you how to set up a SOHO and find clients. The teacher has twenty years of experience running his own business. And, he has taught more than 100 of these classes. As part of the course, you'll get a set of books and DVDs. Sign up today and get a fifteen percent discount.

Unit 9: Adventure Tourism

Listening Exercise - Track 26

- M: Instead of traveling to Paris or London again, let's do something exciting. We could go on an African safari or even take a boat down the Amazon River!
- W: I don't know. How safe would it be? Remember when we went hiking? You almost broke your leg.
- M: It wasn't that bad. Besides, Jeff, from work, just got back from Africa. He said it was incredible.

Listening Activity - Track 27

My name is Simon Little. I'm a farmer in South Australia. We'd like to welcome you and your family to stay with us. We've got three spare rooms, so there's plenty of space for you and your children. Our farm has chickens, pigs, cows, and lots of other animals. Guests are welcome to join us in our work. Kids love feeding the chickens!

Unit 10: Cannes Film Festival

Listening Exercise - Track 29

- W: I just love seeing movies on a big screen. Want to go to the theater?
- M: I'm not sure. I would rather stay home to watch a movie. The theater can be fun, and it's pretty close, but it's so much less expensive to rent a movie.
- W: That's true. Maybe we could rent a funny comedy. I don't really like horror movies. They scare me too much.

Listening Activity - Track 30

Come to the Upstate University Film Festival this coming Friday. Seven films made by over fifty of the university's students will be shown throughout the day. Discussion groups with the actors and directors will be held after each film. In addition, food and drinks will be available to all those who attend. Admission is free at this event.

Unit 11: Giving Away Billions

Listening Exercise - Track 32

- W: Yesterday's lottery was won by Roland Grant, a bus driver. They said he bought ten tickets every week, for fifteen years.
- M: And now he's worth \$25 million. I hear he plans to keep his job. He says he won't let money change the way he lives.
- W: Well, if it were me, I'd stop working and take a nice long vacation in Hawaii.

Listening Activity - Track 33

Last year, we thought the Smithville Museum would be torn down. It needed major repairs, but the city didn't have enough money for the job. So, the people of Smithville got together to save the building. Two thousand people donated things for a big auction. \$50,000 was raised. On top of that, the city added another \$25,000. The total was enough to save the museum.

Unit 12: Computer Actors

Listening Exercise - Track 35

- W: That CGI character almost looked like a real person. He was incredible!
- M: I know. They modeled him after the voice actor. One thing's for sure. The real actor couldn't jump fifty feet into the air like that!
- W: You know, there was just one problem – the mouth. I mean, the hair, eyes, and everything else were perfect, but watching him talk was strange.

Listening Activity - Track 36

One group of actors is very unhappy with Hollywood. They're worried about losing their jobs to CGI humans. The group calls itself the Real Actors of America. The R.A.A. is asking fans not to watch 100% CGI movies. They say twenty-five percent of new Hollywood films contain some CGI. They're worried that in ten years, the number could grow to fifty percent.

Unit 13: New York City

Listening Exercise - Track 38

- W: OK, we've seen the Empire State Building. How about a horse ride through Central Park?
- M: Again? We did that yesterday. I'd rather go to the MoMA. We can take a taxi there.
- W: All right, that sounds good. After that I want to sit down for a nice, long meal. The guide book recommends an excellent Greek restaurant. We can walk there from the MoMA.

Listening Activity - Track 39

Every day, there are hundreds of interesting things happening in New York City. Weekly newspapers and magazines list the events. They divide them into groups like music, art, and theater. Basic information like the time and place are given. In addition, listings may tell you the nearest subway station. A lot of event information is also listed online. That's helpful for out of town visitors.

Unit 14: Fresh Water

Listening Exercise - Track 41

- W: It hasn't rained for a month. They're going to shut off water to parts of the city for four or five hours a day.
- M: I've heard. We've started taking three-minute showers. Plus, we stopped washing our car. It's not much, but it helps.
- W: It sure does. I feel sorry for the farmers. Some of their crops are dying. That means food prices will start going up.

Listening Activity - Track 42

For fifty years, people have complained about Milltown River. It's dark and dirty, and it smells bad. Well, soon enough, clean water will flow through the city again. Today at City Hall, the mayor announced that the city is finally going to clean up Milltown River. The work will take three or four years. During the cleanup, swimming and fishing will not be allowed.

Unit 15: Exporting Culture

Listening Exercise - Track 44

- W: There's a French movie playing at the art theater. It sounds pretty good. It's a love story that takes place 200 years ago.
- M: Interesting. I studied French in college, but I've forgotten most of it. Are there English subtitles?
- W: Yes, there are. The movie starts at 7:30. I'm going to the bookstore now, so we could meet there or at the theater.

Listening Activity - Track 45

This weekend, a Culture Fair will be held at Westfield High School. People from fifteen countries will have booths. They will show books, paintings, and other interesting things from their home countries. On the main stage, there will be concerts and other shows. Of course, there will also be a food court. People will have a chance to try many kinds of food.

Unit 16: Aging Populations

Listening Exercise - Track 47

- W: I'm thinking of going into healthcare. A lot of reports say it's a growing field.
- M: Is it? I thought there were too many doctors.
- W: Not at all. The population is getting older, so there's a need for every kind of healthcare worker. Actually, my mother was a nurse for thirty years. I think it might suit me, too.

Listening Activity - Track 48

The average retirement age is going up. In the past, people usually retired when they were fifty-five years old. These days, the average is around sixty. The main reason behind this change is money. The cost of living is much higher than it was twenty years ago. Some seniors continue working since it gives them something to do.

Unit 17: The Power of YouTube

Listening Exercise - Track 50

- W: Peter, I saw the funniest video on YouTube yesterday. A guy filmed one of his colleagues jumping on his desk like a monkey!
- M: Are you serious? I hope his boss didn't see it. The guy would lose his job.
- W: That's the really funny part. At the end of the video, the boss walks in. He yells at the guy to get off the desk.

Listening Activity - Track 51

We need to plan our marketing campaign for the new backpacks. I think a lot more can be done with video. We already have three TV ads. Next, we should film real students using our backpacks at school and in the city. Then, we can post the videos on our site and on YouTube. Of course, we'll need to add music and other effects.

Unit 18: Replanting the World's Forests

Listening Exercise - Track 53

- W: My social studies class watched a video today. It was about how the world's forests are disappearing. It made me really unhappy to see all those beautiful trees being cut down.
- M: Yeah, but in a lot of places, they're replanting the trees. People are starting to see how important trees are for a healthy environment.
- W: That's a great idea! I'm going to plant some trees this weekend.

Listening Activity - Track 54

This Saturday, volunteers are invited to come out to Green Hills Park to help plant trees. Everybody is welcome to help out. MacGregor's Garden Center will be providing the trees, soil, and tools. A free lunch will be provided for all volunteers by Mario's Pizza. For more information, call the city's Parks Department.

Unit 19: Yoga

Listening Exercise - Track 56

- W: I'm starting a yoga class tomorrow. Do you want to come?
- M: I'm not sure. In the photos I've seen, it looks kind of painful. Plus, the people are all so thin.
- W: Don't worry about any of that. It's a beginner's class, so it will be really easy. Plus, it's for people of every height and weight. Come on, give it a try.

Listening Activity - Track 57

Yoga Garden is England's oldest yoga school. Since 1957, we've welcomed men and women of all ages. Each of our teachers has at least fifteen years of experience, and they really love their jobs. We know you'll enjoy practicing yoga with them. Classes are held every afternoon at 2:00 and every evening at 7:30. For more information, visit our website at www.yogagarden.com.

Unit 20: Crime Fighting Scientists

Listening Exercise - Track 59

- M: A Canadian man was just released from jail after fourteen years. They compared his DNA to some blood from the crime scene. It wasn't his or the victim's.
- W: I've heard of cases like that. It's a shame that they sometimes arrest the wrong people. But at least the truth finally does come out.
- M: Good point. I wonder how many people are in jail who shouldn't be there.

Listening Activity - Track 60

It's getting harder to send criminals to jail. That's because of what police are calling "the CSI effect." On the TV show, DNA evidence is often used to solve cases. Unfortunately, in the real world, many crime scenes have very little evidence. Yet, during trials, criminal lawyers say that DNA evidence is necessary. They say that without it, one cannot be a hundred percent sure that someone is guilty.