

Unit 1: Idol Mania!

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 2

- M: I saw a funny video on YouTube yesterday. It was from last week's American Idol. This singer was halfway through his song when suddenly, he fell down on stage!
- W: That's terrible! And in front of millions of people . . . I hope he wasn't hurt.
- M: No, no, he was fine, but he was so embarrassed. I have to say, I was impressed. The guy actually stood up and finished his song. Not many people would do that.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 3

TV shows like American Idol have music studios smiling. In the 1990s, sales of CDs sharply fell. And, most new singers were only popular for a few months before being forgotten. Thanks to Idol programs, a fresh new wave of singing talent is appearing. That means big business for the studios. Winners of shows like American Idol record CDs that often sell a million copies or more. Some winners go on to release a second and third CD that also sell well.

Unit 2: The Blogosphere

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 5

- W: Did you read my blog today? I put up photos of my trip to South America.
- M: Sorry, I haven't had a chance to read it recently. My computer was acting strange for a while, and I just got it fixed. Oh yeah, there's something I wanted to ask you. Last month, you posted a funny video of your dog. Do you mind if I put it up on my site?
- W: No problem. Just add a link back to my blog, if you don't mind.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 6

Going online is getting easier and easier, thanks to a growing number of wireless devices. In the 1990s, most people used personal computers to surf the Web. Now, many devices, including cell phones and PDAs, can go online. Cars are also getting connected. While on the road, people can get directions, movie times, and restaurant suggestions. Bloggers love the wireless world. After taking photos with a cell phone, they can upload them straight to a blog.

Unit 3: Organic Food

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 8

- W: Let's get some organic vegetables. My friend Lucy says they really do taste better.
- M: Maybe, but they're also more expensive. I was talking to Joe at work about this. I mean, yeah, he buys organic food, but his salary is also much higher than mine.
- W: OK, let's do this. We'll get some organic tomatoes, just to give them a try. Then we'll see how we like them and go from there. Anyway, the price is only twenty percent higher than regular tomatoes.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 9

Fresh Farms supermarket is proud to announce our new organic food section. We offer forty kinds of fresh fruits and vegetables. We also sell a variety of canned and packaged items—all organic. Shoppers with a sweet tooth will love our organic desserts, including delicious cookies and pies. Everyone will love our prices. This week, all items in the organic section are fifteen percent off the sticker price. Spend fifty dollars or more, and you'll get a free cookbook.

Unit 4: Franchises

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 11

- M: I want to start my own company, but I'm worried about the risk. So, I'm thinking about opening a franchise instead.
- W: Interesting. My cousin runs a franchise—one of those Cold Stone ice cream places. Anyway, he likes it since the franchisor handles the advertising. But he's still the boss, so he has to hire employees, take care of any problems, etc. You should talk to him.
- M: That would be great. I'd love to hear about his experiences.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 12

This weekend, the Asia Franchising Association will hold a trade fair in Singapore. One hundred franchisors are expected to have booths. They represent a range of industries, including restaurants, language schools, and many more. At their booths, they'll give out information to people interested in starting a franchise. Also,

on each day of the fair, three talks will be given by industry leaders. They'll talk about their experiences in the field. Entrance to the fair is free.

Unit 5: Character Culture

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 14

W: Look at this. The website says if we open a bank account at First Trust, we'll get a free Loony Rabbit doll! They say it's worth \$35.

M: That's cool. I love the new Loony commercials. "Loony, Loony, all the way to the bank!" That one with the pig and duck is also funny. So, is there a minimum amount to open an account?

W: \$200. But if you have less than \$1,000 in the account, there's a \$5 monthly fee.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 15

The importance of one man's Internet identity has taken an interesting turn. Sebastian Miller is legally changing his name to Winter Cloud. It's the name he goes by online. Mr. Miller told us it's the name of a video game character. He first played the game six years ago. Since then, he has registered as Winter Cloud on twenty websites. After a while, he also started introducing himself that way offline. Next week, Mr. Miller will officially make the name change.

Unit 6: Language Change

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 17

M: I just watched an old British movie. It was so funny listening to all the old slang.

W: I bet. I'm learning French, so I sometimes rent French movies on DVD. I turn on the subtitles and stop the movie when I hear something I don't understand. I've learned a lot of slang that way.

M: That's a great idea. But you should probably check the date the films were made. If they're more than ten years old, they may have slang that nobody uses anymore.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 18

Once a year, Oxford University Press honors the best new word or phrase that has entered the English language. For example, in 2005,

the word of the year was "podcast." The top phrase of 2006 was "carbon neutral." Winning words are chosen because they are interesting and important. Besides the top winner, several other new words are announced. Because there are so many words entering the language these days, it's becoming hard to pick a winner!

Unit 7: The Pursuit of Perfection

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 20

W: I can't believe how much money Alex Rodriguez is making. They say he'll earn almost \$300 million from his current contract. No baseball player should make that much.

M: He deserves it. The guy's an amazing player. Also, you have to look at the big picture. Baseball is a business, and the clubs make a ton of money. They sell tickets, TV rights, shirts . . . you name it.

W: I get what you're saying. I'm just not comfortable with the idea of athletes earning more than presidents.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 21

Believe it or not, some people are saying Michael Jordan wants to return to the NBA. The basketball legend is well over forty. However, reports say he is still very competitive. Jordan looks strong, but there are questions about his health. Getting into shape to play against people half his age would be very difficult. His legs would probably be the biggest problem. In any case, Jordan is still officially retired from the game. So, chances are, these reports are not true.

Unit 8: Yellow Dust Storms

Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 23

M: It's so nice and warm outside today! Tomorrow is supposed to be windy, though. They say it might rain, too.

W: I'm worried that we're going to get dust storms. The dust always gets in my hair and on my clothes. I always feel so dirty.

M: Oh, I don't like it either. It makes my car filthy. In that case, I hope it does rain. Then maybe the dust won't be so bad.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 24

Weather forecasters predict that the region's dust storms will continue tomorrow. Today was the third straight day of dust storms and the seventh since the dust storm season began in March. By Friday, we should see an end to the wind as clouds roll in from the west. We'll have more weather updates for you tonight at ten.

Unit 9: The End of Privacy**Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 26**

- W: I found a website with great photographs of jade rings—you know, the kind I collect. Anyway, I was going to register for their forums, but they wanted all this information.
- M: Really? I hate it when sites do that. What did they want?
- W: Well, my e-mail, of course. That's standard. But they also wanted my birth date, phone number, and all kinds of other stuff. I didn't want to write a lot of fake information, so I just left.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 27

This morning, a thief was caught with the help of the city's new anti-crime computer system. At 8:45 a.m., a twenty-seven year old man robbed a convenience store. The store's security cameras immediately sent his photograph to the police. Then, the cameras in the store's parking lot photographed the thief's car. That image was also sent to the police. At the anti-crime center, powerful computers studied the information. Within ten minutes, they told the police the thief's name and home address. Fifteen minutes after that, the man was arrested at his house.

Unit 10: Going Carbon Neutral**Listening Exercise - CD 1, Track 29**

- M: My family is worried about the environment. We've decided to cut our carbon output by fifteen percent this year.
- W: How are you going to do that?

- M: We'll start by replacing our light bulbs. That's the easiest thing to do. Also, each of us will make a small change. For example, I'll bus to work once a week. My wife will go without the air conditioner one day a week. And, our kids won't use any battery powered devices, like video games, one day a week.

Listening Activity - CD 1, Track 30

Steven and Wendy are planning a very special wedding. However, it won't take place at a church or anywhere else on land. The ocean lovers are holding the wedding out at sea on a boat that seats sixty people. After the ceremony, guests will enjoy dinner as they watch the sunset. Steven and Wendy want to make the event carbon neutral. So, they're asking people not to give gifts. Instead, guests are asked to donate \$40-\$50 to a charity that is replanting a rainforest.

Unit 11: Retro Style**Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 2**

- W: I love this store. The owner told me they've got stuff from the 1950s through the 80s. Last week, I bought a blue hat that was made in 1963! Do you see anything you like?
- M: Maybe one of these T-shirts. I love the old designs. They've got my size, but . . . they're a little expensive.
- W: That's true, but they're in good condition, right? Hey, look at this belt. It would go great with a dress I bought yesterday. I think I'll get it.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 3

In design news, a famous product from the 1980s is showing up in stores again. Believe it or not, pocket protectors are being sold by twelve major chain stores. The function of these small pieces of plastic is simple. You put one in your shirt pocket. Then, you put pens inside it. As the name suggests, if a pen leaks, your shirt is protected against staining. How long will pocket protectors stay in stores this time around? Only time will tell!

Unit 12: It Pays to be the CEO

Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 5

M: Listen to this sad news from yesterday's newspaper. After less than two years on the job, the CEO of HL Industries was asked to retire. Basically that means he was fired. Anyway, the guy walked away with a \$25 million retirement package.

W: HL Industries . . . I remember reading about them a few weeks ago. The article said they lost \$1 billion dollars in 2007. How is it possible for a CEO to retire rich after doing such a terrible job?

M: Good question.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 6

In business news, Bluegreen, Inc. has announced a new salary structure for the company. Everyone in the California based candy company will be affected. Under the new plan, the CEO may earn a maximum of twenty times what the lowest-paid worker earns. Also, if the company has a good year, every worker will receive a bonus. Bluegreen is already known as a great place to work. This announcement will surely make the company's 800 employees even happier.

Unit 13: London

Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 8

W: Good afternoon, Mr. Miller. This is Patricia Willis, from Starbright Travel. I tried booking you on a British Airways flight to London on May 15th. Unfortunately, the flight is fully booked, and the waiting list is closed. Would you like me to try another airline?

M: No, I always fly on British Airways, since I'm a frequent flier member. Can you please try March 14th or March 16th?

W: Certainly. I'll check for availability and call you with the results.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 9

The Art Wave is London's newest museum, yet we have already welcomed 50,000 visitors. To celebrate our one year anniversary, we've got some very special things planned. This month, every Saturday is Family Day. Children get in free, and parents only pay half price.

Also, every Sunday afternoon in July, we will hold a live painting show. Watch as a UK artist paints for three hours. For more information about these and other events, please visit our website. We look forward to seeing you at The Art Wave!

Unit 14: Web 2.0

Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 11

M: Do you ever feel like there's far too much information on the Net? Sometimes, I don't know how to handle it all.

W: Yeah, there is too much, but it doesn't matter. The important thing is knowing how to find what you need. Personally, I bookmark the sites I visit every day, like CNN. For everything else, I run a search on Google or Yahoo.

M: Right, keep it simple. That reminds me, I need to check an eBay auction I'm bidding on.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 12

A new website, Purpletree.com, is bringing together the best of the Web. The site was started in April by two Australian sisters who wanted to build an "all-in-one" website. On Purpletree, members can build a homepage and start a blog. They can also store 1,000 photos. In the site's "living room," users can chat and post on a forum. The list of services goes on and on. Membership to Purpletree is free. The site owners hope to earn money from advertising.

Unit 15: Troubled Stars

Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 14

W: I feel sorry for child stars. They have a really hard time growing up.

M: Why do you say that? They're rich and famous. And, they get to spend time with movie stars and other successful people. What could be hard about that?

W: Think about all the pressure they're under. Which, if you ask me, comes from their parents. They're always filming something, traveling, or giving interviews. How can they possibly have a normal childhood?

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 15

A group of actors and actresses have set up a new charity called "Hollywood Hope." Its goal is to help other stars in need. The charity will provide medical care, money, and other services to stars who have fallen on hard times. More than 100 celebrities have donated money to get Hollywood Hope started. The charity's office is in a building owned by a movie studio, so the rent is free. The group's goal is to raise \$2 million a year to continue its services.

Unit 16: M-Shaped Society**Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 17**

- W: I saw a job in the newspaper that looks perfect. It's at an interior design firm, which is exactly what I want to do.
- M: That's excellent. So, are you going to give them a call?
- W: No, I don't think so. It only pays \$1,000 per month. I mean, it's not like I'm wasteful. I almost never buy clothes, and I eat at home every day. But my fixed costs, like rent, are so high that I can't live on less than \$1,200.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 18

Get set for higher prices. As oil, corn, and other basic items become more expensive, it's going to cause a wave of price increases. Food prices are expected to rise five percent this year. Home energy costs may rise seven percent. Companies will also feel the hurt. Everyday office supplies like paper and computer ink will become more expensive over the next twelve months. The main reason for all these increases is higher demand. Worldwide demand for most consumer goods is greater than ever.

Unit 17: Space Colonies**Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 20**

- M: Wow, I can't believe it! Our space agency just decided to spend another \$5 billion on the Mars colony project. They said they may actually finish it within twenty years.

W: That's incredible. Twenty or thirty years ago, people would have laughed if you told them that. It's like something out of a movie!

M: I know, but technology is changing very quickly these days.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 21

An Italian scientist, Antonio Russo, feels the time may be close for a colony on the moon. In this month's issue of *Space Time*, Mr. Russo talks about advances that will make a lunar colony possible. He feels that by 2020, round trips to the moon will cost fifty percent less than they do now. Problems with the water and food supply should also be solved by then. Experiments performed on the International Space Station will answer the final questions we have about living in space.

Unit 18: Office Gossip**Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 23**

- M: I can't believe what happened to Richard. After twenty years on the job, he was next in line to be promoted to vice president.
- W: But instead, he was fired. I wonder how safe any of our jobs are. He was a good supervisor, too.
- M: He was. Well, I think I'd better update my résumé and see what the job market is like. I'm not planning to quit, but I want to be ready if things get bad around here.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 24

May I have your attention everyone. Hi, thank you. As you know, we're talking with another shipping firm about merging our companies. I know people are worried about losing their jobs. Trust me, we are doing everything we can to prevent that from happening. However, we need to put an end to all the rumors, starting immediately. This merger is important to our company's future. We need everyone's support and cooperation. If you have any questions, please talk to Kate in human resources.

Unit 19: Lost Arts

Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 26

- W: The Toronto Art Fair starts this Friday.
Are you going?
- M: Probably not. My brother is flying in from Vancouver. He wants to see a hockey game and visit some friends. We might also go to Montreal for a day or two.
- W: Ah, I see. It's a shame you'll miss the fair. Jack Winters is supposed to be there. He's a famous metal worker from Winnipeg. Jack makes knives and swords using the same tools that were used 500 years ago.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 27

One traditional craft that has been brought back to life is quilt making. A quilt is a kind of bed covering. It's made by sewing together two layers of cloth, with something warm like cotton or feathers on the inside. One hundred years ago, most Americans covered their beds with beautiful handmade quilts. However, as machine-made bed covers became cheaper, fewer people made quilts. In the 1960s, interest in quilt making grew again. Now, many people enjoy making them as a family activity.

Unit 20: Stem Cells

Listening Exercise - CD 2, Track 29

- M: I saw an article in the paper this morning about stem cell research curing all kinds of medical diseases.
- W: I'm not positive about that. I read on the Internet that it could help some patients, but stem cells aren't going to cure everything. It really matters what kind of cells are affected by the illness.
- M: I still think it's interesting. I'm going to go to the library to find books on stem cell research.

Listening Activity - CD 2, Track 30

As part of its lecture series, the university is proud to welcome Dr. Rachel Bowman. Dr. Bowman is a respected scientist in the field of stem cell research. She will be talking about the potential of stem cells in medicine. Following her lecture, there will be a question and answer session. The lecture will be held in the Biology building auditorium on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free for all students and faculty. Guests will be charged \$5 to attend.