

TRANSCRIPTS

(Spot Dictation and Questions)

Unit 1 The Asian Games

Spot Dictation >>

For more than thirty years, the Asian Games were organized by the Asian Games Federation. Then, in 1982, the Olympic Council of Asia was founded, and this organization became responsible for governing all sports throughout Asia. The Asian Games are held every four years. Other events for Asian athletes include the Asian Winter Games, the Asian Indoor Games, and the Asian Beach Games.

Questions to Answers >>

1. Where was the Asian Games Federation formed?
2. What is the motto of the Asian Games?
3. Who governs all sports in Asia?
4. How often are the Asian Games held?
5. What games were held in Bali, Indonesia?

Unit 2 Unusual Fish

Spot Dictation >>

Coral reefs are very old, and as a result many of the life forms that live in them have evolved in strange ways. Among these life forms are many species of fish, some of which are so bizarre they do not even look like fish. The sea horse looks like a miniature horse, and the stone fish looks like a rock. The puffer fish can blow itself up like a balloon. However, some of these unusual fish are very dangerous and must be treated with caution.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What kind of reef do the strange fish live in?
2. When did these reefs evolve?
3. Who gives birth to young sea horses?
4. Which part of a stone fish is poisonous?
5. Why does a puffer fish expand its body?

Unit 3 Garlic

Spot Dictation >>

Garlic can survive in most countries of the world. Although the main producer of garlic is California, it has been cultivated for thousands of years in places like China, Greece, and Rome. The plant has medicinal properties and it is also used to season food. At one time, some people used it to ward off demons and vampires. Nowadays, garlic is mostly used in culinary dishes to give them flavor and aroma.

Questions to Answers >>

1. Which monsters were believed to be afraid of garlic?
2. In which continent did garlic originally grow?
3. Who fed garlic to their slaves?
4. What are the sections of a garlic bulb called?
5. Where is most garlic produced today?

Unit 4 First Aid

Spot Dictation >>

First aid is care we can apply to help a sick or injured person until professional medical assistance arrives. It is not difficult to learn the basic techniques of first aid, which we can then apply in emergency situations. First aid can save lives if immediate attention is administered to the casualty. People trained in first aid can help in serious situations such as strokes, heart attacks, poisoning, and severe bleeding.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What is the first stage of first aid?
2. What is one aim of first aid?
3. What is a general rule of first aid?
4. What is a common medical emergency?
5. Why is it important to learn first aid?

Unit 5 Oil

Spot Dictation >>

Most of the world depends on oil from the Middle East to run its vehicles and other machinery. Any interruption in the continuous supply of oil from this region means the price of oil increases. This price can also increase when the demand for it increases in developing nations such as China. When the price of oil increases, the cost of goods and labor also increases, thus leading to inflation.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What can cause an increase in the price of oil?
2. What region does most of the world's oil supply come from?
3. Which country's economic boom has affected the demand for oil?
4. What happens when there is inflation?
5. What two fossil fuels do most countries depend on?

Unit 6 The Taj Mahal

Spot Dictation >>

The Taj Mahal, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, is actually a mausoleum. A Persian emperor commissioned its construction as a tribute to his second wife, and now both their graves lie beneath its inner chamber. The Taj Mahal is constructed of white marble, and it is surrounded by elaborate gardens and pools. This amazing site attracts thousands of visitors to India every year.

Questions to Answers >>

1. How many workmen built the Taj Mahal?
2. When did work begin on building the Taj Mahal?
3. What's in the inner chamber?
4. What does Taj Mahal mean in English?
5. Who designed the Taj Mahal?

Unit 7 Great Detectives in Fiction

Spot Dictation >>

The detective fiction genre includes mystery and crime stories featuring police or private detectives solving crimes. Perhaps the most famous fictional detective is Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. Raymond Chandler created an archetype for American private detectives with his character Philip Marlowe. The most successful female detective writer is Agatha Christie. Many of her stories have been adapted for film and television.

Questions to Answers >>

1. Who was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle?
2. Who is Philip Marlowe?
3. What story did Wilkie Collins write about Sergeant Cuff?
4. Who is Miss Marple?
5. Why is detective fiction so popular today?

Unit 8 Spectacles

Spot Dictation >>

Although no one is sure who invented spectacles, it seems likely that they were derived from “reading stones” produced by Italian glass blowers. Salvino D’Armato is credited with inventing the first form of eyeglasses around 1284. It was not until five hundred years later that a London optician had the idea of putting arms on the frames so that spectacles could be worn.

Questions to Answers >>

1. Who was Seneca?
2. Who was Alessandro da Spina?
3. When were reading stones first produced?
4. What were reading stones similar to?
5. What did Seneca use to magnify things?

Unit 9 Thomas Edison

Spot Dictation >>

Thomas Edison was a prolific inventor who patented more than 1,000 inventions during his lifetime. Although he was a poor student, he was very interested from an early age in anything mechanical and scientific. His first invention was an improved transmitter for sending telegraphs, but he is probably best known for the work he did improving electric light bulbs. Edison believed that hard work is the key to anyone’s success and that people can learn as much from their failure as from their success.

Questions to Answers >>

1. When and where was Edison born?
2. Where was he educated?
3. What was his first job?
4. What possibly happened because a conductor lifted him up by his ears?
5. How many inventions did Edison patent?

Unit 10 Ice Cream

Spot Dictation >>

Although no one knows exactly where ice cream was first made, folklore tells us that it originated in China and was brought to Italy by Marco Polo. He gave the recipe for the confection to an Italian chef, who made it for King Henry II’s future wife. She then passed the recipe on to a French chef, who later took it to England, where he made ice cream for King Charles I. The recipe arrived in the US toward the end of the eighteenth century, and it was there that improvements in freezers made the mass production of ice cream possible.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What is ice cream made of?
2. Who was Marco Polo?
3. What does a chef do?
4. When was ice cream first mass produced?
5. What are most stories about the history of ice cream?

Unit 11 Olympic Cities

Spot Dictation >>

Every two years, the Olympic Games are held, alternating between Summer and Winter. The IOC holds a bidding process to determine the most suitable city to host each Games. In addition to the national pride gained by hosting the Games, host cities also see other benefits. New facilities are built or improved. Also, the city can earn a lot more money through increased tourism.

Questions to Answers >>

1. Where in Russia will the 2014 Winter Olympics be held?
2. Who decides where the Olympic Games will be held?

- When will the Olympic Games be held in London?
- What type of facilities are needed for the Olympic Games?
- Who benefits from holding the Olympic Games?

Unit 12 Paper

Spot Dictation >>

The Chinese invented many different things, of which paper is one of the most useful. Paper was first used during the Han Dynasty more than 2,000 years ago, and it soon spread to Europe. Many different substances have been used to make paper, the most important of which is wood. Most countries today still use hand-made paper, especially Japan. Recycling paper has now become very important since the depletion of forests is leading to global warming.

Questions to Answers >>

- When was the Han Dynasty?
- What did Cai Lun do?
- What happened by the end of the sixteenth century?
- How much of the fiber for making paper does wood provide?
- What is origami?

Unit 13 Pablo Picasso

Spot Dictation >>

One of the most important figures in art history was Pablo Picasso. A prolific painter and sculptor, Picasso's importance is also notable in his influence on other important artists. Making Paris his home in the early twentieth century, Picasso's work went through a "Blue Period" and a "Rose Period" before displaying the characteristics of Cubism. *Guernica*, inspired by a violent act of war, is one of his most famous cubist works.

Questions to Answers >>

- What was Picasso's nationality?
- What were many of his paintings about during his "Blue Period?"
- Where is Guernica?
- Who were attracted to Picasso's Paris studio?
- What is Picasso famous for apart from his paintings?

Unit 14 Diamonds

Spot Dictation >>

Diamonds, the hardest known natural substance, come from igneous rock created billions of years ago. Diamond deposits were first discovered in Indian riverbeds, and later in several other countries. Diamonds are mined from beneath the Earth's surface, and are used to make jewelry and tools. They are valued for their durability, and because they sparkle and hold light.

Questions to Answers >>

- When were diamonds first discovered?
- What does the Greek word for diamond mean?
- How was igneous rock formed?
- Where are most diamonds mined today?
- What happens if diamonds are cut in the wrong place?

Unit 15 The Koran

Spot Dictation >>

The Qur'an, or Koran as it is often called, is an important sacred text. It consists of a compilation of the revelations to Muhammad by his God, Allah. These were written down by people close to him during and after the period of these revelations. The Koran

consists mainly of commandments and warnings unlike the Bible and the Torah which contain stories presented in chronological order. The Koran is revered by Muslims because it is the holy text of Islam.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What is the name of the Muslim sacred text?
2. Who had the revelations that were written down and compiled in the Koran?
3. What are the different sections of the Koran called?
4. What were often omitted above certain letters in ancient Arabic?
5. What does the Koran consist mainly of?

Unit 16 History

Spot Dictation >>

History is the study of the past. Modern historians have many resources available to them, such as official documents of all kinds. These include diaries, letters, and other written material. They also have audio resources, such as speeches, telephone conversations, and filmed records. Archivists have a problem because there are so many historical records to be safely and efficiently stored.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What do we call people who study history?
2. How do people who have no written language know their history?
3. Who studies the ruins of ancient civilizations?
4. What is an example of an audio record?
5. What do archivists do?

Unit 17 The Dollar

Spot Dictation >>

The origin of the word *dollar* comes from the name of the town in Bohemia, Joachimsthal, where silver coins were minted. *Dollar*, the English version of *thaler*, was widely used in Europe and the Spanish took it to South and Central America. It was not long before the word was adopted by the US and then other countries in the British Empire when they became independent. Nowadays, the dollar is a popular form of currency in many countries.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What is *thaler* an abbreviation of?
2. What was the name of the Spanish silver coins that were later called dollars?
3. What is the main unit of currency used in Britain?
4. Which countries have adopted the dollar as their unit of currency?
5. Which letters is the dollar sign probably based on?

Unit 18 Fame

Spot Dictation >>

Many people achieve fame for only a short time, especially those who work in the arts and entertainment industries. Many past best-selling authors, for example, are not read—or even remembered—today. This is because their fame is often dependent on fashion. Writers, artists, and musicians are fashionable for awhile, but as soon as someone else becomes more fashionable, the public and the media quickly forget about them.

Questions to Answers >>

1. Who was Andy Warhol?
2. How long did Andy Warhol say everyone will be famous for?
3. Who was Charles Dickens?
4. When do some people become famous?
5. What are some celebrities famous for?

Unit 19 Earthquakes

Spot Dictation >>

Unlike volcanic eruptions, earthquakes cannot be accurately predicted. When they do occur, they can be devastating, causing massive damage and loss of life. Scientists know what causes them, but they cannot prevent them. Some parts of the world are more likely to have earthquakes than others. For instance, some cities lie on top of earthquake belts that can potentially cause buildings, homes, and streets to crack and collapse.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What can be fairly accurately predicted?
2. What causes earthquakes?
3. In which countries are there often earthquakes?
4. What often causes fires in countries struck by earthquakes?
5. What is a tsunami?

Unit 20 SF

Spot Dictation >>

Science fiction is fiction about life in the future in this world or other worlds. Sometimes it is inspired by scientific ideas, but a lot of SF is fantasy and has no basis in reality now or in the future. Written SF has become less popular in recent decades and is being replaced with fiction about magic and the supernatural. SF has mainly gained recognition on TV, and in movies, such as the *Star Wars* trilogy.

Questions to Answers >>

1. What might be a more accurate name for science fiction?
2. Who is H.G. Wells?
3. What is the name of a very popular TV SF movie trilogy?
4. Which popular fantasy novels feature magic and the supernatural?
5. What is a novella?