

Unit 9 The Blue Sky

B : Joe asked me something about science just now.
But I didn't know the answer.
G : I'm good at science. Ask me.
B : OK. Why is the sky blue?
G : I'll explain it in a simple way. Light comes through the air from the sun in waves.
B : The light is in many colors, right?
G : Right. Blue light waves are smaller than air molecules. They sometimes get absorbed by these molecules.
B : OK. What happens then?
G : Then the blue light waves scatter in many directions. Your eyes see this blue light from above you, after it leaves the air molecules.
B : So that is what makes the sky blue! What happens to the other colors?
G : They reflect off the things that they hit. Your shirt is red because our eyes see the red light reflected from it.
B : Now I understand why the sky is blue!

Unit 10 A New Camera

M: I just bought a digital camera!
W: What is wrong with your old camera?
M: Nothing. I bought this one because I want to store my pictures on my computer.
W: I see.
M: I can also delete pictures that are not very good. I don't have to print them.
W: I like to print all my photos. That's why I like the old cameras.
M: Oh, you can print digital photos, too. Many shops will print them for you.
W: Really?
M: Yes. You can even buy a good printer and do it from home.
W: That seems easy! How do you store these digital pictures?
M: You can store the pictures on your computer. But you might run out of space. I save all the pictures I like on compact discs. You can store more than seven hundred photos on one CD!
W: Great! Maybe I should get a digital camera, too.

Art and Culture

Unit 11 Gold

M: Gold has been a part of many cultures for hundreds of years. People made coins and jewelry with gold.

Gold is a soft metal. It is easy to shape into sheets, long wires, or rings. People sometimes mix gold with other metals. This makes the gold harder. Then it can be made into beautiful jewelry.

Why do we value gold so much? It has a special color. No other metal is a bright yellow. We also value gold because it is rare. A rare thing is hard to find. Even after hundreds of years, gold is still a precious metal now. It is still valued for its beauty. It is still rare.

Today, banks store gold in the form of bars. Its value is more than \$600 per ounce. Gold is more useful now than ever before.

Unit 12 The Summer Music Festival

W: Have you heard about the music festival next summer? I read that it is going to have about 20 different bands playing in it.
M: I think I did hear someone talking about it. Are you planning on going?
W: I'll go if I can get tickets. I heard that people are going to line up overnight to get tickets. I might line up overnight, too.
M: I don't think I want to line up all night long!
W: Well, I'm going to do it. I think it is going to be a great music festival that I won't want to miss.
M: Maybe. Do you know how much the tickets are going to cost?
W: I'm not sure, but I think each ticket will be about \$75.
M: That's a lot of money! I don't think I want to spend that much on a ticket. Good luck, anyway!

Unit 13 The School Play

B : Are you going to the school play on Saturday night?
G : The school play? I didn't know there was going to be a play on Saturday night.
B : Yes, I heard about it in English class yesterday. I think it will be really good.
G : Who told you about it?
B : Ms. Martin, our English teacher, told us all about it. This is the drama club's first play of the year.
G : What is the play about? I hope it's nothing boring.
B : Can you guess what it is?
G : Oh, come on, tell me please!
B : It's *The Sound of Music*.
G : Really? I watched *The Sound of Music* on TV last month! It's very good! Are you sure?
B : Of course I'm sure, that's what Ms. Martin said. Would you like to watch the play with me on Saturday night?
G : That would be great! Let's go early so we get good seats!

Unit 14 Ballet Class

W : Hi Cindy, where are you going?
G : Good afternoon, Mrs. White, I'm going to ballet class.
W : Ballet class? I didn't know you were studying ballet. How long have you been studying ballet?
G : Today is my first day, and I don't want to go. My mom and dad want me to learn ballet. I'm not sure I want to learn how to dance.
W : I used to learn ballet too, when I was your age. Now I teach ballet in a dance school.
G : Oh, I didn't know that! Where do you teach your classes?
W : Down the street at Easy Steps Dance Academy. Ballet is fun to learn, and it's a very graceful dance. You'll need to learn the steps and practice a lot of course, but I think you'll enjoy it.
G : I hope so!
W : Well, go and have some fun dancing!

Unit 15 Monet's Garden

W : Claude Monet was a great artist. He was the first of a group of artists called the Impressionists. This group of artists thought about how things in the world made them feel. They tried to show this in their work. This way of painting shows how light can change shapes and colors.

Monet did a lot of his work outdoors. He wanted to show how daylight made things look. Many of his paintings are of gardens. He liked to paint flowers and trees. He loved to paint in his own garden. His garden was in a village. He lived there for many years.

Today, many visitors come each year to this garden. They come from all over the world. Most of them are art lovers or artists. They come to see the place that Monet loved so much.

Leisure and Entertainment

Unit 16 A Haunted House

G : Oh no, it's raining! I wanted to go to the beach today.
B : Well, I'm visiting a haunted house this afternoon. You can come with me if you like.
G : A haunted house? What is it like?
B : It's really dark, with lots of old furniture and pictures on the walls. It's called a haunted house because it's full of ghosts!
G : You're joking, right? I don't believe in ghosts! Where is the haunted house?
B : The house is in the old forest.
G : Oh! Are you really sure you want to go?
B : What's wrong? I thought you didn't believe in ghosts!
G : Well, I don't really believe in ghosts, but . . .
B : That's OK, I don't believe in ghosts, either! I was only joking. The old house isn't really haunted; it's just a very old, empty house.
G : Whew, I'm glad to hear that! Sure, I'll come with you!