

# Remarkable People

UNIT  
**8**

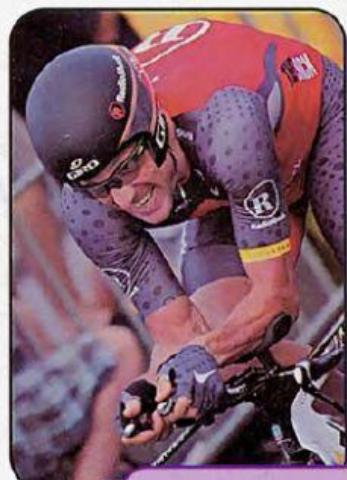


Jeanne Calment lived to be 122 years old. She met Vincent van Gogh.



Lionel Messi is a famous soccer player. He has started a charity<sup>1</sup> for children.

Chen Shu-chu (right) is a vegetable seller who doesn't earn much money, but has given a lot to charity.



Lance Armstrong is a famous cyclist. He also raises money for cancer research.

## Getting Ready

Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 Look at the photos. Which people do you know?
- 2 The title of this unit is *Remarkable People*. Why are the people in the photos special?
- 3 In your opinion, which person is the most remarkable? Why?

<sup>1</sup> A charity is a group that raises money to help people.

**Before You Read**

What are you afraid of?

**A Think about answers to these questions.**

1 Read the sentence below. Then complete the second sentence to make it true for you.

I'm afraid of spiders. They make me very scared!

I'm afraid of . . .

spiders    heights (high places)  
 the dark    \_\_\_\_\_

2 Look at the title of the passage and the photo on the next page. What is the man doing? What do you think this passage is about?

**B Discuss your answers with a partner.****Reading Skill**

Understanding the Order of Events

Some passages tell us about an order of events. You often see dates, numbers, words, and phrases about time: *one day, still, later, then, today*. These words help you understand when something happened.

**A Read the sentences below. Then put the events in the correct order from 1–5.****The Story of Alain Robert**

1 a One day, Alain Robert returned home from school.  
 \_\_\_\_ b He decided to climb the apartment building. He entered his house through an open window.  
 \_\_\_\_ c Then in 2011, he climbed the Burj Khalifa tower in Dubai.  
 \_\_\_\_ d Today, Robert still climbs buildings. In 2004, he climbed a building in Taipei.  
 \_\_\_\_ e He didn't have his keys and couldn't enter his apartment.

**B Quickly read the passage on the next page. Are your answers in correct?****C Now read the passage closely. Then answer the questions on page 100.**

**Set your reading rate goal.** As you prepare to read, set a reading rate goal. Use your data from the charts at the end of the book. Based on your previous performance, how many words-per-minute do you think you can read now? Time yourself and practice over and over until you've reached your goal.

# A Real Life Superhero



Alain Robert climbs Burj Khalifa (828 meters) in Dubai.

As a child, Alain Robert was **afraid** of heights. One day, when he was 12, he returned home from school. At the front door of his building, he **looked for** his keys. He didn't have them. It was 3:30, and his parents worked until 6:00 p.m. Robert looked at his apartment on the eighth floor. He saw an open window. He closed his eyes and **5** pictured himself **climbing** the building. When he opened his eyes, he told himself, "I can do it." Fifteen minutes later, he was in his house, and his **fear** of heights was gone.

Today, Robert (a **native** of France) still climbs buildings. In 2004, he climbed Taipei 101 (the tallest building in the world at the time), and in 2011 he climbed the Burj Khalifa tower in Dubai. To **reach** the top of a building, Robert usually uses **10** only his hands and special shoes. To climb the Burj Khalifa tower, though, he was made to wear safety ropes.

Robert climbs as a hobby. He also does it to make money for charity (for children and the homeless<sup>1</sup>). When he climbs, he wants to send a message to people. If you have a dream—something you really want to do—it can become real. But you **15** must be **brave** and keep trying. If something bad happens, don't **give up**. Close your eyes and tell yourself, "I can do it."

<sup>1</sup> The **homeless** are people who don't have homes.

## Reading Comprehension

### Check Your Understanding

#### A Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of this passage?
  - a Climbing buildings is easy.
  - b Robert is afraid of heights.
  - c You can control your fears.
- 2 When Robert climbs a building, he usually uses \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a special tools
  - b his hands and special shoes
  - c his hands only
- 3 Robert climbs for two reasons. What are they?
  - a for fun and for his health
  - b for charity and for his job
  - c for charity and for fun
- 4 If you feel afraid of doing something, what is Robert's advice?
  - a Tell yourself: "I can do it."
  - b Practice doing it alone first.
  - c Find something else you love to do.

#### B Read each pair of sentences. Which event happened first, a or b? Check (✓) your answer.

- 1  a Robert looked for his keys.  
 b Robert looked at his apartment.
- 2  a Robert closed his eyes.  
 b Robert saw an open window.
- 3  a Robert's fear of heights was gone.  
 b Robert imagined climbing the building.
- 4  a Robert climbed a building in Dubai.  
 b Robert climbed Taipei 101.

#### C 1 What do you think about Robert? Why? 2 At the end of the passage, Robert gives some advice. What is it? Do you agree with this advice?

## Critical Thinking

**A** Read the sentences below. Check (✓) true (T) or false (F). If the statement is false, change it to make it true. The words in blue are from the passage.

	T	F
1 If you are afraid of something, you like it.		
2 You <b>look</b> for your wallet if you can't find it.		
3 If you <b>climb</b> a tree, you go down.		
4 <b>Fear</b> is a good feeling.		
5 If you are <b>native</b> to a place, you have just moved there.		
6 If you <b>reach</b> a place, you arrive there.		
7 If you <b>give up</b> smoking, you start smoking.		
8 A <b>brave</b> person is afraid of many things.		

**B** Complete the sentences below with your ideas. Discuss your answers with a partner.

- 1 I think \_\_\_\_\_ is a **brave** person because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Something that I'd like to **give up** is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 When I am **afraid** of something, I usually \_\_\_\_\_.

**A** Read the sentences below. **Circle** the words that are **synonyms** for the **blue** words.

- 1 As a child, Robert was **afraid** of heights. His friends went rock climbing, but he didn't go. He was too **scared**.
- 2 Robert **looked** for his keys. He searched his backpack and his jacket, but he couldn't find them.
- 3 When Robert **climbs**, he uses no rope. This is **not safe**. "Yes, it's **dangerous**," he says, "but it is also interesting."
- 4 Once, Robert fell 15 meters. The doctors said, "You must **stop** climbing." But he didn't **quit**.

**B** Complete the sentences below with a circled word from A. You might have to change the form of the word or phrase.

- 1 Don't drive so fast in this rain. It's \_\_\_\_\_!
- 2 My father \_\_\_\_\_ smoking two months ago.
- 3 Tom: Mary, what are you doing?  
Mary: I'm \_\_\_\_\_ for my glasses. I can't find them.
- 4 Carlos is very **brave**. He's not \_\_\_\_\_ of anything.

## Vocabulary Comprehension

Words in Context

### Vocabulary Skill

Synonyms

**Synonyms** are words with similar or the same meanings (for example, *like* and *enjoy*). Learning synonyms is a good way to increase your vocabulary and improve your writing.

**Before You Read**

What's for lunch?

**Reading Skill**

Scanning

You **scan** to find information fast. When you scan, you only look for the information you need (words or numbers). You don't read every word.

**A Think about answers to these questions.**

- 1 Do you bring your lunch to school or work, or do you eat at a restaurant?
- 2 Look at the passage on the next page and answer the questions.
  - a What do you know about India? Can you name any Indian cities?
  - b Look at the photo and the word in the search box. What do you think a *dabbawallah* is?

**B Discuss your answers with a partner.****A Read the questions and answers below.**

- 1 What do the dabbawallahs do?
  - a They work in restaurants.
  - b They deliver lunches.
- 2 What is another name for the dabbawallahs?
  - a the Mumbai Men
  - b the Tiffin Men
- 3 How many dabbawallahs are there?
  - a 5,000
  - b 200,000
- 4 Which sentence about the dabbawallahs is true?
  - a They are poor.
  - b They like to read.
- 5 What do some dabbawallahs also do?
  - a They teach classes.
  - b They work in companies.

**B Now scan the passage on the next page to find answers to the questions in A.****C Look at the question at the start of the passage. Discuss with a partner. Use your answers in A.****D Now read the whole passage. Then answer the questions on page 104.**



# Your Questions Answered!

You have questions? We have the answers!

Type your question here: Who are the dabbawallahs of India?

**Dabbawallah:** from Hindi<sup>1</sup> meaning *lunchbox deliveryman*. Dabbawallahs are sometimes also called *Tiffin Men*.

## Description

- 5 It's lunchtime in Mumbai, India (population: 12 million), and students and businesspeople around the city have to make a choice. Should they go to a restaurant or eat a hot lunch from home?
- 10 Today, many can choose the second **option**, thanks to<sup>2</sup> the dabbawallahs.



Every day, 5,000 dabbawallahs **deliver** 200,000 lunches to people all over Mumbai. The dabbawallahs work together. They **pick up** a person's lunch from his or her house (or a restaurant). They put the hot lunch in a special box (called a *tiffin*). Then they bring the lunch to the person's office or school by lunch time. The men travel long **distances** (many kilometers a day) on bicycle, train, and foot to deliver the lunchboxes on time.

- 15
- 20 Many of the deliverymen are poor. Most cannot read. They use a special **system** of colors and lines to write a person's name and address on a lunchbox.

There are many **challenges** (traffic,<sup>3</sup> bad weather, long distances), but the men are very **organized**. On average, for every 6 million lunches they deliver, they make fewer than one **mistake**! The dabbawallahs do so well that some teach classes at business schools around the world!



a tiffin

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<sup>1</sup> Hindi is one of the official languages of India.

<sup>2</sup> If something happens **thanks to** a person or thing, it happens because of that person or thing.

<sup>3</sup> **Traffic** refers to all the cars, etc. on the roads in a particular area.

## Reading Comprehension

### Check Your Understanding

**A** Choose the correct answers.

- 1 The dabbawallahs \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a make a person's lunch at home
  - b cook food at a restaurant
  - c pick up a person's lunch from their house
- 2 The dabbawallahs use colors and lines to show a person's name and address on their lunchbox. Why?
  - a It's fast and easy.
  - b They cannot read.
  - c Their boss tells them to.
- 3 When the dabbawallahs deliver lunches, which problem do they NOT usually have?
  - a traffic
  - b long distances
  - c wrong addresses
- 4 The dabbawallahs make \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes.
  - a no
  - b very few
  - c a lot of

**B** Read the sentences below. Check (✓) true (T) or false (F). If the statement is false, change it to make it true.

	T	F
1 Mumbai is a city with two million people.		
2 The dabbawallahs deliver lunches by car.		
3 Every day, the dabbawallahs deliver 10,000 lunches.		
4 Some dabbawallahs teach business classes.		

## Critical Thinking

## Vocabulary Comprehension

### Words in Context

**A** In each sentence, **circle** the best answer. The words in **blue** are from the passage.

**B** Answer the questions below. Discuss your answers with a partner.

- 1 Do you make many **mistakes** in English?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Are you an **organized** person? Give an example to show why or why not.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What is something that is a **challenge** for you to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What is the **distance** between your house and your school?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A** Read the dialog below. Underline the phrases that use the word *make*.

Nadia: Jill, can I use your cell phone? I need to make a call. I want to make plans for dinner.

Manolo: Hello?

Nadia: Hi, Manolo. It's Nadia. What do you want to do for dinner tonight? We need to make a decision.

Manolo: We can go to the new Thai restaurant on 24th Street.

Nadia: OK, I'll make a reservation.

Manolo: Or we can make dinner at home. It's less expensive. I'll cook.

## Vocabulary Skill

### *make + noun*

In this chapter, you read the phrases *make a mistake* and *make a choice*. In English, the verb *make* goes with many nouns.

**B** Complete the sentences below with a phrase with *make* from A.

- 1 Call the restaurant and \_\_\_\_\_ for four people at 7:30.
- 2 If you need to \_\_\_\_\_, there's a pay phone on the first floor.
- 3 It's very difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ with Sue. She's always busy.
- 4 Do you want to \_\_\_\_\_ or go out to eat tonight?
- 5 Please \_\_\_\_\_: do you want to have Japanese or Korean food tonight?

**Importance of vocabulary skill development.** As you practice vocabulary skills you will find you understand new words more easily. This will help you learn more vocabulary on your own.