

# Getting the Reading habit

Answer the questions:

- 1 Do you like reading? Why/Why not?
- 2 Which of these things do you usually read – novels, non-fiction books, comics, magazines, websites, other (specify)?

Work in a small group. Make a list of how you think reading can be good for you.

You can learn about different people and countries.



## THE POWER OF READING!



According to the National Literacy Trust, we are reading for pleasure when we read or continue reading something because we want to. Research shows that reading for pleasure is extremely important. Here are some of the benefits:

- Reading helps you to write well.
- It improves your comprehension and grammar.
- It increases your vocabulary.
- It improves your attitude to reading and your success in reading.
- It increases your general knowledge and helps you to learn new things.
- It gives you a good understanding of other cultures.
- It helps you to understand human behaviour and how people make decisions.
- It can help you to spell correctly.
- It can stop people feeling lonely.
- It can be educational and informative but it can also be relaxing and fun.

There are also people who think that reading helps our concentration. And it appears to increase creativity, too. Great writers often begin their careers as great readers. Here are some quotations about reading from three famous writers:

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”  
Joseph Addison

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies, said Jojen. The man who never reads lives only one.”  
George R.R. Martin

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”  
Margaret Fuller

Sadly, in 2012, the National Literacy Trust found that one in six children in the UK don't want their friends to see them reading a book. They're worried that their friends don't think reading is cool. It's time to stop worrying about that and to start enjoying a good book!

Answer the questions:

- 1 How does the National Literary Trust describe 'reading for pleasure'?
- 2 Why do a number of British children not want to appear in public with a book?

Discuss the following questions:

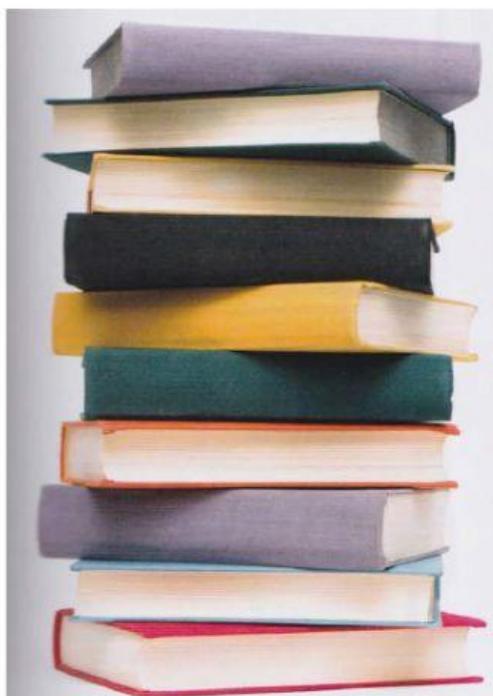
- 1 What do you read for pleasure and how often do you do it?
- 2 Which benefits of reading in the text are in your top three? Why?
- 3 Would you read a book in front of your friends?
- 4 Which of the three writers' quotations do you prefer? Why?

**SPEAKING** In James's video blog, he gives ideas about how to 'get the reading habit'. Work with a partner. Decide if you think the ideas below are Dos (a good idea to do) or Don'ts (a bad idea to do).

- 1 Ask your friends and other people for ideas about what books to read.
- 2 Let other people decide a book for you to read.
- 3 Read the back of the book before you begin.
- 4 Read the first page or two of the book.
- 5 Choose long books.
- 6 Stop reading the book if you don't like it.
- 7 Start a blog.



**LISTENING** 55 Watch the video or listen. Does James say if the ideas in 5 are Dos or Don'ts? What other ideas does he give at the end of the video?



#### LIFE TASK



You want to give the class an idea for a book to read. Work individually.

#### Follow this plan:

- 1 Choose a book you enjoyed reading. The book can be in English or in your own language.
- 2 Think about what happens in the book and why you enjoyed it. Make notes.
- 3 Make a poster to make other people want to read your book. Include text and an illustration. Look at the example on this page.
- 4 Put your poster on the classroom wall.
- 5 Look at all the posters. Choose at least one book that you want to read. You can ask the person who made the poster to tell you more about the book before you decide.
- 6 Find the book and read it!

**1b** **LISTENING** 56 Listen to a podcast about Charles Dickens and check your answers in 1a. How many were right?

Charles Dickens was British/American.

Dickens lived in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century.

Most of Dickens's stories took place in the city/the country.

Dickens's books were/weren't immediately popular.

Dickens liked/didn't like speaking in public.



**2b** 56 Listen

**Notepad**

Charles Dickens was born on (a) .....

When Dickens was a boy, his father went to (b) .....

When he was young, Dickens worked in a (c) .....

At that time, working conditions were (d) .....

Dickens wanted to work in the (e) .....

When he wrote his first novel, he was working as a

(f) .....

Dickens went to (g) ..... twice to give

(h) .....

Dickens died when he was (i) ..... years old.

Listen again and complete

|             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| → 1800      |                             |
| → (a) ..... | : He was born.              |
| → 1822:     | (b) .....                   |
| → 1824:     | (c) .....                   |
| → (d) ..... | : He wrote his first novel. |
| → 1842:     | (e) .....                   |
| → 1867:     | (f) .....                   |
| → (g) ..... | : He died.                  |

Complete the sentences using the prompts. Put one verb in the past simple and the other in the past continuous.

I/read a book/when/my friend/call.

*I was reading a book when my friend called.*

My mum/wait for me/when/I/get home.

---

She/see an accident/while/she/wait for the bus.

---

He/walk in the park/when/he/have an idea for a novel.

---

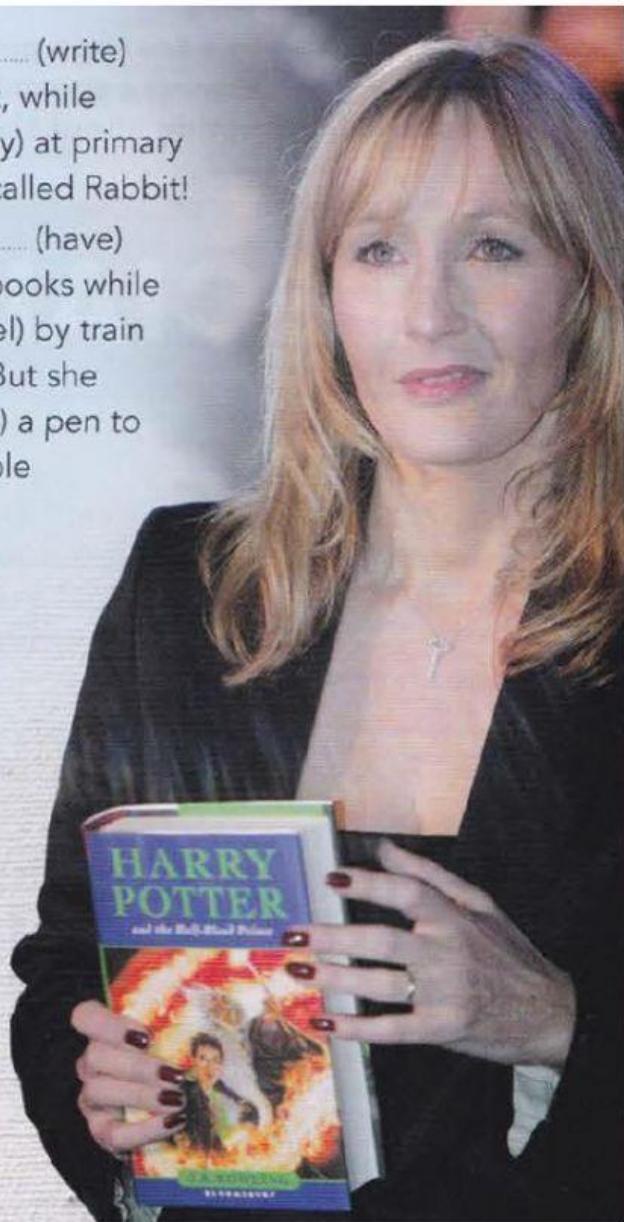
They/hear a knock on the door/while/they/watch TV.

---

Complete the text by putting the verbs in the correct form of the past continuous or past simple.

## JK Rowling Facts

- JK Rowling (a) ..... (write)  
her first book at the age of six, while  
she (b) ..... (study) at primary  
school. It was about a rabbit called Rabbit!
- JK Rowling (c) ..... (have)  
the idea for the Harry Potter books while  
she (d) ..... (travel) by train  
from London to Manchester. But she  
(e) ..... (not have) a pen to  
write down notes. Other people  
(f) ..... (travel)  
on the train but she was shy  
and (g) .....  
(not ask) anybody for a pen!
- In 1991, she  
(h) ..... (go)  
to Portugal to work as an  
English teacher. While  
she (i) .....  
(live) there, she  
(j) ..... (have)  
her first daughter, Jessica.



What were you doing ...

- 1 at 7.30 this morning?
- 2 at 10 last night?
- 3 at 10 yesterday morning?
- 4 at 3.30 yesterday afternoon?
- 5 at 8 on Sunday morning?
- 6 at 7 on Sunday evening?
- 7 at 1 on Saturday afternoon?
- 8 at 10 on Saturday evening?