

## LANGUAGE LEARNING IN THE UNITED STATES

Most people in the United States speak only one language: English. They do not learn to speak a second language. High schools teach languages. But very few students learn to speak well. Why don't Americans speak other languages?

First, most Americans never travel to other countries. The United States is a very large country. Americans can travel a long distance and not leave the United States. They do not need to learn a second language.

Second, one of the countries next to the United States is Canada. Most people in Canada speak English. Some Americans live near Canada. They travel there often. But they do not have to learn a new language.

Third, many people in other parts of the world speak English. If Americans travel to other countries, they can speak English there, too.

Some Americans think that it is a mistake to speak only English. They believe it is very important to learn a second language. Maybe someday other Americans will agree. Then more people will speak a second language in the United States.

Circle the best answer.

1. Most Americans never learn to speak

- a) English.
- b) A second language.
- c) To people in the other countries.
- d) Fluently.

2. Most Americans speak only English because

- a) They can't learn another language.
- b) They never travel to other countries.
- c) Other languages are not important.
- d) They don't have language classes in school.

3. In other parts of the world

- a) Everyone speaks English.
- b) No one speaks English.
- c) Many people speak English.
- d) Everyone speaks a second language.

4. Some Americans think it is a mistake to

- a) Learn other languages.
- b) Speak only English.
- c) Travel to other countries.
- d) Go to school.

Circle the best answer.

1. Scientists are studying the past

- a) in the ice.
- b) in the laboratory.
- c) in 1848.
- d) in Russia.

2. Russian scientists found

- a) A man in the ice.
- b) A large animal in the ice.
- c) It was too cold.
- d) Nothing interesting.

3. American scientists worked

- a) in Russia.
- b) in the laboratory.
- c) near the North Pole.
- d) with a mastodon.

4. Doctors think frozen bodies

- a) are too cold.
- b) are near the North Pole.
- c) are interesting.
- d) are mastodons.



### BODIES ON ICE

In very cold parts of the world, scientists study the past. They find animals frozen in the ice. The animals look alive, but they are not. They were frozen many years ago.

Russian scientists found a large animal called a mastodon in the ice. It looked like an elephant. But it was larger, and it had lots of hair. In fact, the elephant is the mastodon's younger cousin.

In 1984, American scientists were working near the North Pole. They found the body of a man frozen in the ice. This man went to the North Pole in 1846. He died, and his friends buried him in the ice. Today, his body looks the same. It did not change at all in the ice.

These facts interest doctors. They have some patients who are very sick. No one can help these patients. But some day there may be a new medicine for them. These doctors want to save people for the future. Maybe patients can be frozen until there is medicine to help them.

Answer the questions on the next page. Don't look back!

## PREDICTING

To predict means to tell what will happen. You will be a better reader if you predict. As you read, guess what will happen. You can use words and pictures to help you predict.

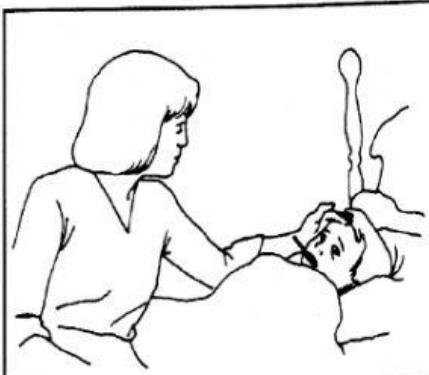
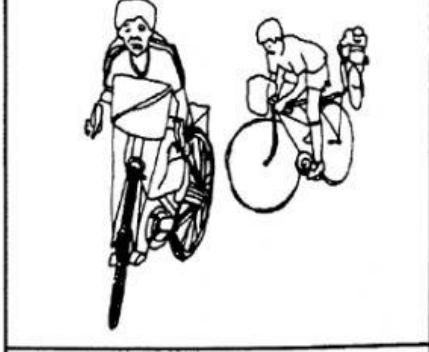
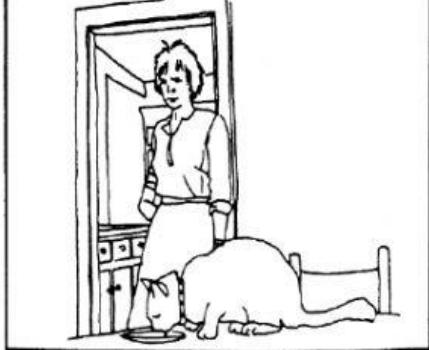
### Exercise 1      USING PICTURES TO PREDICT

Find the right story for each picture.

	Pictures	Names of stories
1. _____		a. Women in Science
2. _____		b. How Americans Shop for Food
3. _____		c. How Beavers Build Their Homes
4. _____		d. When Your Child Goes to the Dentist
5. _____		e. The Violin in the Symphony Orchestra

**Exercise 2****GUESS WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT**

Look at each picture. Predict what will happen next. Find the best sentence for each picture. Work with another student.

	Pictures	What will happen next?
1. _____		<p>a. Henry will play with his friends all day. OR b. Henry will not go to school today.</p>
2. _____		<p>a. This family will buy tickets. OR b. This family will meet a friend at the airport.</p>
3. _____		<p>a. They will stop and rest. OR b. They will go faster.</p>
4. _____		<p>a. Mary will give the cat a nice dinner. OR b. Mary will put the cat outdoors.</p>

## Exercise 3

Will you find these ideas in the story? Check Yes or No.

### Boston: A Good Place to Live

1. There are many poor people in Boston.
2. The spring flowers are beautiful in Boston.
3. There are many universities in Boston.
4. Jobs are hard to find in the Boston area.
5. Winters in Boston are cold and snowy.
6. Boston City Hall is very beautiful.
7. There are many famous old buildings in downtown Boston.
8. People are not very friendly in Boston.
9. The Charles River flows by the city. People like to walk along the river in the parks.
10. Apartments are very expensive and hard to find.

Yes	No

## Exercise 4

Will you find these ideas in the story? Check Yes or No.

### Modern Dentists: How They Can Help You

1. Dentists hurt your teeth.
2. Dentists have many new machines.
3. Some dentists play the radio for their patients.
4. Some dentists will pull out all your teeth.
5. A nurse cleans your teeth at the dentist's office.
6. The dentist's office is very comfortable.
7. Dentists want everyone to have healthy teeth.
8. A visit to the dentist is too expensive.
9. The dentist may x-ray your teeth.
10. Modern dentists must study for many years.

Yes	No

## Exercise 5

## PREDICTING THE NEXT IDEA

### EXAMPLE

Yesterday, there was a big snowstorm in Boston.

Which idea comes next?

- a. It was a warm, sunny day.
- b. It was very cold, but the snow on the trees looked beautiful.
- c. Only one inch of snow fell.

The correct answer is b.

- a. is not correct. It is not warm and sunny in a snowstorm.
- c. is not correct. In a big snowstorm, many inches of snow fall.

Read the sentence. Then tell which idea comes next. Work with another student.

1. There were many good shows on TV last night. The Smith family stayed home.
  - a. They turned off the TV and went to bed early.
  - b. The only interesting show was about traveling by bicycle.
  - c. They saw a play, a music show, and the news.
2. John and Alice Babson are not happy with the school in their town.
  - a. Their children love to go to school.
  - b. The classes are very crowded.
  - c. It is a beautiful building.
3. The roads were covered with ice and were very dangerous today.
  - a. Sam drove home very quickly.
  - b. Sam took a long time to drive home.
  - c. Sam enjoyed driving home.
4. Boston is a nice place to live in, but New York City is more fun.
  - a. New York is a very dangerous city.
  - b. There are many interesting things to do in New York.
  - c. There are no good restaurants in New York.
5. Fly Happy Time Airlines! Take an exciting trip to Holiday Island.
  - a. This trip is very expensive.
  - b. Holiday Island has warm, sunny weather.
  - c. Happy Time Airlines is never on time.
6. Alex had trouble falling asleep last night. He was awake until 3 a.m.
  - a. This morning, he feels rested and ready to work.
  - b. This morning, he is very hungry.
  - c. This morning, he feels very tired.