

CONTENTS

<i>Authors' Note</i>	7
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1. WE, THE HUMANS

1.1. Describing People	11
1.1.1. People's Appearance	11
1.1.2. People's Character	16
1.2. Clothes	20
1.3. Health	24
1.4. Family	29

2. EDUCATION

2.1. Types of Education	39
2.2. School Subjects	44
2.2.1. Foreign Languages	45
2.2.2. Mathematics	49
2.2.3. Chemistry	54
2.2.4. Physics	60
2.2.5. Biology	62
2.2.6. Geography	65
2.2.7. History	71

3. LEISURE ACTIVITIES

3.1. Types of Leisure Activities	83
3.2. Books	88
3.3. Visual Arts	93
3.4. Photography	97
3.5. Cinema	100
3.6. Theatre	106
3.7. Music	110
3.8. Television	116
3.9. Computers	119
3.10. Gardening	122
3.11. Sports	126
3.11.1. Athletics	129
3.11.2. Football	132
3.11.3. Handball	135
3.12. Fishing	139
3.13. Shopping	143

4. THE WORLD AROUND US

4.1. Home	149
4.2. City Life/Country Life	155
4.3. Transport	164
4.3.1. Road Travel	170
4.3.2. Railway Travel	171
4.3.3. Air Travel	172
4.3.4. Sea Travel	173
4.4. Animals	176
4.5. Weather	180
4.6. Mankind's Problems	184
<i>Key to Exercises</i>	189
<i>Bibliography</i>	203

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Improve
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Vocabulary Practice

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3.7. Music



Comment on the following quotation:

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and charm to life and to everything." (Plato)

131. *Match the words in the first column, referring to music, to their correct definition in the second column:*

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. acoustics | a) a person who creates music for interpretation |
| 2. ballet | b) five horizontal parallel lines and the spaces between them on which musical notation is written |
| 3. band | c) dramatic work combining the text and music, usually in a theatrical setting |
| 4. choir | d) the text used in a musical work, such as an opera, operetta, oratorio or musical |
| 5. composer | e) a demand by an audience for an additional performance usually expressed by applause |
| 6. concert master | f) a long piece of classical music played by an orchestra |
| 7. conductor | g) a musician or a dancer who performs alone |
| 8. duet | h) a small group of people who perform popular music together |
| 9. elevator music | i) quiet music played in shops, restaurants and other public places |
| 10. encore | j) one who directs a group of performers, indicating the tempo, dynamics and style, through gestures and facial expressions |
| 11. harmony | k) a set of five musicians who perform a composition written for five parts |
| 12. key | l) a group of singers |
| 13. libretto | m) the first violin in an orchestra |
| 14. musician | n) the characteristics of a room or auditorium that determine the fidelity with which sound can be heard within it. |
| 15. opera | o) a fixed sequence of musical notes from the lowest to the highest or from the highest to the lowest |
| 16. operetta | |

17. overture p) a very skilled artistic dancing with carefully planned movements
18. quartet q) a person who composes, conducts or performs music
19. quintet r) pleasing combination of tones
20. rhythm s) a musical composition for two performers
21. scale t) instrumental introduction to an opera
22. soloist u) a scale of musical notes that starts on a specific note
23. staff v) a set of four musicians who perform a composition written for four parts
24. symphony w) a short opera, with a less serious story
- x) the timing of musical sounds and pauses, of the steps of a dance, or the metre of the spoken language

132. An orchestra is a large instrumental ensemble that contains string, brass, woodwind, percussion and keyboard instruments. Put the following instruments into the corresponding columns :

- 1) accordion ; 2) banjo ; 3) bell ; 4) cello ; 5) clarinet ; 6) clavinet ; 7) cornet ; 8) cymbal ; 9) drum ; 10) flute ; 11) guitar ; 12) harmonium ; 13) harp ; 14) horn ; 15) mandolin ; 16) oboe ; 17) ocarina ; 18) organ ; 19) piano ; 20) piccolo ; 21) saxophone ; 22) tambourine ; 23) timpani ; 24) triangle ; 25) trombone ; 26) trumpet ; 27) tuba ; 28) viola ; 29) violin ; 30) xylophone

Brass instruments	Woodwind instruments	Percussion instruments	String instruments	Keyboard instruments

133. Choose the correct words referring to musical genres :

- is a genre of music borrowing elements from other styles, including : country, dance, Latin, rock and urban.
 - Classical
 - Pop
 - Techno
 - Jazz
- is a genre of music with a strong beat played on electric guitars and drums.
 - Latin
 - Heavy metal
 - Rap
 - Rock
- is the music that has a traditional, established harmony and form.
 - Classical
 - Rock

- C. Dance
 - D. Hip hop
4. is a type of music invented by African American musicians, with very strong rhythms and often involving improvisation.
- A. Rap
 - B. Blues
 - C. Jazz
 - D. Dance
5. is the music composed specifically to facilitate dancing.
- A. Reggae
 - B. Dance
 - C. Classical
 - D. Techno
6. is a type of music in the style of the traditional music of rural regions of the Southern United States.
- A. Rock
 - B. Rap
 - C. Jazz
 - D. Country
7. is a type of music originated in Jamaica, with elements of unusual rhythms and a very strong beat.
- A. Reggae
 - B. Rap
 - C. Hip hop
 - D. Rock
8. is a form of electronic dance music, using drum machines, synthesizers and a very strong beat.
- A. Classical
 - B. Jazz
 - C. Techno
 - D. Folk
9. is a genre of music that includes rhythms and styles which originated in Latin America.
- A. Rap
 - B. Latin
 - C. Reggae
 - D. Country
10. is a type of music in the traditional style of a country or community and has no known composer.
- A. Techno
 - B. Dance

- C. Rock
- D. Folk

11. is a genre of rock music, characterized by highly amplified distortion, extended guitar solos, emphatic beats and overall loudness.

- A. Heavy metal
- B. Country
- C. Rap
- D. Hip hop

12. is a melancholic type of music of African American folk origin.

- A. Rock
- B. Dance
- C. Blues
- D. Pop

13. is spoken and chanted using rhyming lyrics.

- A. Rap
- B. Pop
- C. Reggae
- D. Folk

14. is a type of stylised rhythmic music that commonly involves rapping and also includes graffiti.

- A. Rap
- B. Hip hop
- C. Blues
- D. Jazz

134. *The voice types are : alto (contralto), baritone, bass, countertenor, mezzo-soprano, soprano and tenor. Decide which of them are female voices and which are male voices :*

Female voices :

Male voices :



Idiom Corner

135. *Match the idioms on the left with their corresponding meaning on the right :*

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. call the tune | a) meaningless talk |
| 2. play second fiddle | b) all that stuff and other similar things |
| 3. face the music | c) says the same thing over and over again |
| 4. blow one's own trumpet | d) very clear |
| 5. strike a false note | e) tell other people how good and successful you are |

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. ring a bell | f) something pleasing to hear about |
| 7. chin music | g) in an excellent state of health |
| 8. play it by ear | h) cause someone to remember something or for it to seem familiar |
| 9. strike a chord | i) teach someone something through constant repetition |
| 10. set something to music | j) try to show that you are brave when you are afraid |
| 11. go for a song | k) pleasant but boring recorded music, played in public places |
| 12. all that jazz | l) make something seem more important than it really is |
| 13. fine tuning | m) create an emotional response |
| 14. drum something into someone's head | n) behave inappropriately |
| 15. jam session | o) have the most power and authority in a situation |
| 16. sounds like a broken record | p) spend time enjoying yourself or doing unimportant things when you should be dealing with a serious problem |
| 17. blow the whistle | q) sold very cheaply |
| 18. as fit as a fiddle | r) playing improvised music |
| 19. ring/sound hollow | s) to completely change your opinion |
| 20. as clear as a bell | t) report an illegal or unacceptable activity to the authorities |
| 21. make a song and dance about something | u) improvise |
| 22. whistle in the park | v) accept criticism or punishment for something that you have done |
| 23. fiddling while Rome burns | w) write music for a text |
| 24. music to one's ears | x) small adjustments for a better performance |
| 25. change your tune | y) to not sound true or sincere |
| 26. elevator music | z) be in a less important position than someone or something else |



Time for Fun

Pupil (after singing a song horribly): How did you like my execution?
Music teacher: I'm all in favour of it.

*

When Beethoven died, he was buried in a churchyard. A couple of days later, the town drunk was walking through the cemetery and heard some strange noise coming from the area where Beethoven had been buried. Terrified, the drunk ran and got the priest to come and listen to it. The priest bent close to the grave and heard some faint, unrecognizable music coming from the spot. Frightened, the priest ran and got the town magistrate. When

the magistrate arrived, he bent his ear to the grave, listened for a moment and said: 'Ah, yes, that's Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, being played backwards.' He listened a while longer, and said: 'There's *The Eighth Symphony*, and it's backwards, too. Most puzzling!' So the magistrate kept listening. 'There's *The Seventh...*, *The Sixth...*, *The Fifth...*' Suddenly, realizing what was happening, the magistrate stood up and announced to the crowd that had gathered in the cemetery: 'My fellow citizens, there's nothing to worry about. It's Beethoven decomposing!'

•

'Why is a piano so hard to open?' 'Because the keys are on the inside!'

•

'What's the most musical part of a fish?' 'The scales!'

•

'What is a cat's favorite song?' 'Three Blind Mice!'