

Units of Sound

Stage 2

Reading content for your reference.

Units of Sound Books

The Units of Sound books contain the content of the Reading programme, excluding the Quiz Questions. They provide a useful overview of the programme and can be used for more detailed 1:1 work with a student if needed.

The book page numbers match the page numbers in the online programme.

Content

- ✓ Units of Sound and Word Blocks
- ✓ Check Words
- ✓ Check Sounds
- ✓ Sentences & Passages
- ✓ Reading Check – ‘A’ pages

How to use this book

- For a more detailed check on a specific page covering sounds the student had difficulty with in the Reading Check.
- For 1:1 revision purposes in relation to a student’s needs.
- For an overview of the content to see how the structure builds.

www.unitsofsound.com

bl-

1

black
block
bliss
blot
blush

2

blade
blame
blaze

3

blood
bleed
bloom

-nk

4

sink
bank
tank

5

blank
blink
blanket
flank

6

plank
spank
drink
drank

7

thank
think
trunk

rob meat big meet tune less
flower duck next proud these watch
sake crawl back robe pine voice

th wh- sh- tr- sw- cl-
ee oo oo oy ar er or

ch-

1

chop
chat
chap
chin
check

2

cheese
choose
cheek
cheer
church

3

China
chatter
Chinese
chant
chart

-ng

4

sing
song
sting
wrong
clang

5

hoping
hopping
shaping
shopping

6

winning
ringing
shining
lung
England

He had a bad cut from the sharp blade because he did not know it was there.

There was blood all over the place.

His little sister found a plaster to put on it.

Soon it was a lot better and he got over the shock.

He went to thank his sister and was so nice about it that she had to blush.

br-

1

bring
brick
brim
brittle

2

broom
brood
breed
breeze
brook

3

brass
brash
brat
brag
brow

4

bride
brine
brave
broken
brute

str-

5

strip
strap
strut
stress
string

6

strike
stride
strife
street
straw

7

stray
stroke
struggle
stretch
strangle

out want down good
you nice tall do

-nd -lk -tle wa- -nt ea -ay
oi -mp -lf bl- -nk ch
-ng str- br- try -ry sorry-ry

ai

1

aim
aid

2

fail
rail
nail
trail
daily

3

gain
rain
main
pain
train

4

paid
paint
saint
faint
faith

5

air
pair
hair
fair

6

fairly
railway
raise

wheel	least	shine	happen
warm	youth	please	spell
point	China	proper	free
listen	pray	bless	pride
string	brain	chain	strain

4A

Jack and Ben have set off to go fishing. The sun is shining and the air is warm. They choose a good place beside the brook where the bank is not very steep.

This time they are hoping to get a good catch.

After a long time they still have no fish, so they begin to chat.

‘I think this is the wrong place,’ says Jack. ‘Just down there where that tree trunk sticks out over the water looks much better. That’s the sort of dark place where the fish will breed.’ Then he gets up and goes to have a look.

‘No thanks,’ says Ben. ‘Remember last time when I tried to stretch out too far and fell in. I got very wet, and my rod was broken. You can stick your neck out and be brave if you want to. But don’t blame me if you fall in. Have a look at those black clouds. There’s a breeze coming up and it will start to rain soon.’

kn-

1

knock
knot
knob

2

knee
kneel
knife
knives

3

know
knowing
knew

un-

4

undo
until
unless
unlike

5

unfit
unjust
unknown

6

unhappy
uncover
underneath
understand

ar oi aw wa- or -ce -ck dr
fr- pr- -st -sp -en bl- -nk
ch -ng br- str- ai kn- un- -lp

ey

1

they
obey

2

money
valley

3

eye

o

4

son
ton
won
done

5

some
come
front
shove

6

dove
love
loving
cover
oven

7

other
mother
brother
another

Five hundred years ago, America was an unknown land.

Now, it is the richest and strongest state of our time.

When America was found, all sea travel was in ships with sails.

There were no cars and there was no industry.

Electric power and petrol were unknown.

igh

1

light
night
tight
sight
might
fight
right

2

bright
knight
fright
flight
plight
slight
blight

eigh

3

eight
eighteen
eighty
weight

‘Make the knot as tight as you can. This rock face must be a good eighteen metres down.

Watch out for loose stones when you start going down. If you feel that you are going to slip, try to give a shout in time and hang on tight. I’m going to be very happy when you are safe and all right at the bottom.’

‘You say you’ll be happy. What do you think I feel like? I’ve never done this sort of thing before. I might have a broken neck by the time I get down there.’

oa

1

coat
goat
moat
boat
float
stout

2

road
toad
load

3

loaf
soap
soak
foam
roam

4

goal
coal
foal

5

roast
toast
boast
coast

6

loan
moan
groan

from those who click move
stood garden sort cloud dry
merry warning eight other they

ee oo oo oy ea er -ay
ow oi un- th sh aw
-ce wa- str- ai kn- igh

8A

The streets of the town seemed very still. There were lights here and there but no noise at all. They went right at the next corner, hoping they might see the shop lights on in front of them. The sight of the bright lights shining out at them made them pleased. Now they knew it was fish and chips for supper tonight.

They had to wait a long time for the chips. At last they got what they had come for.

Out they went again into the black frosty night. It did not seem so bad this time. Somehow they got home in much less time than it had taken before.

gr-

1

grab
grass
grin
grip
grub

2

green
greed
greedy
groove
grace

ow

3

blow
flow
crow
slow
know

4

glow
throw
bowl
own
slowly
below

5

blowing
growing
flowing
glowing

which strong know undo
weight thick seeking shape
foot enjoy meaning today
tight mood place brown

ch bl- oa aw wa- -ing
-ung -ong -ang oi ai

-rn

1	2	3	4	5
barn yarn	born horn corn torn morning	fern stern	turn return	warn warning

-rm

6	7	8	9	10
farm harm charm	term germ	form	disarm alarm	warm

My watch is slow, so I don't know what the right time is. I know, I'll have a look at the alarm clock in the bedroom. Oh no! Is that the time? The morning has just about gone. I must get a move on with so much to be done. At least it's a nice warm day. There's the horn of Tom's car. This lot will have to be fixed when I return.

-se

1

wise
rise
use
fuse
lose

2

nose
those
rose
oppose
suppose
impose

3

these
please
noise

4

arise
advise
amuse

Martin had been advised to look after his money and use it in a wise way.

He was woken by a noise in the night. He knew that robbers had got in and he supposed they were there for the cash. When he tried to rise he found that they had used rope to keep him down.

Out of the corner of his right eye he saw one of them. He knew then that he had been wise to keep still. He did not try to oppose them. He did not even make a sound. But he was amused that they had tied him down. They did not know that his money was in the bed right beneath him.

cr-

1

crab
crack
cross
crisp

2

cracker
crash
crust

3

crane
crime
creep

a

4

rather
father

s

5

sure
surely
sugar

cry noise barn grow float eighty
bright money knife raining struggle all
term form steam employ book sooner prove sheep

-nk br- igh eigh gr ow ow or
-se cr- -y -y er -ck ar wh-

12A

‘You can enjoy yourself with an old bike like this. It’s the same as those stock car races where they have cars as old as they can.’

‘But they smash all the cars up in races like that!’

‘Yes, I know they do but they smash the cars up because they want to. They mean to do it.’

‘Well, I’m not setting out to smash my bike up. There’s no sense in doing that is there? Anyway you go down the hill, and watch me as I turn into that field at the bottom. I bet I’ll be doing about forty as I’m passing you.’

‘OK Jack, but wait a bit. I’ll go and give you a wave from the bottom of the hill, to tell you when to start.’

Ben goes down the hill, while Jack waits at the top.

‘The gate’s open, so that’s all right. But just a minute, somebody’s put a stack of bales of hay just inside the gate. Jack can’t miss them if he’s going fast. If he hits them at forty he’ll finish up with egg-shaped wheels. And he’ll take off like a rocket as well!’

‘Why is Ben just standing at the bottom of the hill? Well, anyway, I’m not waiting any more. He’s going to get the biggest shock of his life when I go past him at forty into that empty field.’

ur

1	2	3	4
burn	church	purse	bursting
turn	churn	curse	turning
turf	blur	lurch	burning
curb	spur	spurt	Thursday
curl	burst	blurt	Saturday

-are

5	6	7
rare	spare	caring
care	stare	sharing
dare	scare	daring
fare	share	staring
bare	glare	glaring
hare	flare	beware

Try to get the car to turn the corner without hitting the kerb and bursting a tyre. Please take more care over it. When it says 'Beware – Road Up' it means just that.

So don't scare me again by trying to drive right into a big hole.

With the speed this car is going at I think it must look just like a bright yellow blur to others on the road.

-ft

1

left
lift
gift
rift
soft
loft
raft

2

theft
drift
swift
shift
craft
graft

ough

3

ought
bought
fought

4

nought
brought
thought

care shove rather sure choose
morning done rare warning groan
through obey turning found sight
soup tonight thought shoe strain

ea -ay aw -ce -ry -ry wa-
ch ai kn- oa ow ow ur

-pt

1

kept
wept
crept
slept

2

swept
adopt
adapt
empty

-wl

3

owl
howl
scowl
growl
prowler

4

crawl
drawl
trawler

5

bowl
bowler
slowly
lowly

Friar Tuck lay down on the soft green turf beside the river. He had some time to spare, so he thought to himself, 'I'll have a little nap right here.'

While he slept, Robin came along and saw him. 'I think he must be the biggest man in the church,' thought Robin. 'Now I can have a rare bit of fun here.'

So taking out his sword he crept up on the Friar. With the point of his sword he tried to lift the purse from the man's belt. Just as he saw that the purse was empty he also saw the glare of Friar Tuck's eyes.

-owd

1

crowd
powder

-et

2

get
let
met
pet
set

3

carpet
target
market
basket
ferret

4

packet
pocket
jacket
rocket
bonnet

5

nugget
asset
onset
upset
regret

str- un- th sh er oi oo oo
 ee ai igh -nk -ing -ft
 -et -se oy aw wa- -all -ce

There is an old saying which says 'Don't put all your eggs in one basket.' That means you should not depend on just one thing.

If we regret something it means that we are sorry about it. A thing which we regret is likely to be something which has upset somebody else.

However, even when we regret a thing we keep it to ourselves and do not tell the person we have upset, so that they never get to know how sorry we are.

16A

Robin Hood saw that Friar Tuck was very much awake. He put his sword at the big man's neck. 'Now, Friar, you will take me over the river here.'

So Robin got on Friar Tuck's back, and gave him a sharp smack with his sword. They went on into the water.

When they were some way across, Friar Tuck gave a jerk. Robin fell into the water. When he got up, he found Friar Tuck had his sword out. 'Now, my cheeky chap,' said the Friar, 'It's your turn to carry me the rest of the way.'

So the Friar made Robin take him across the rest of the river on his back. Friar Tuck was a big man, and Robin fell down when he got to the bank. Friar Tuck also fell. Soon they got up and were fighting each other. The swords rang out, clang, bang, smash, clash.

All at once they saw other men coming at them with swords. Friar Tuck turned to fight them off, while Robin got out his hunting horn. With that he sent out a call to his men to come and help him. Soon the wood was full of men in green coming to help Robin Hood. The other men ran off as fast as they could go.

gl-

1

glad
glass
gloss

2

glide
globe
glint
glitter

sl-

3

slab
slip
slim

4

slave
slope
slide

5

slush
slipper
sly

The slab of stone was too big for Martin to move by himself. He tried to pull it to one side. Ben came over to help him and together they made it slide sideways. Then all at once the stone slipped, slid over the rocks, and crashed down the slope. Martin looked into the hole and then turned to Ben to ask him what he thought of it. 'What if it's a place where somebody hid something a long time ago?' said Ben.

'Don't be silly,' said Martin. 'It's likely to be nothing more than just a hole in the side of the hill.'

ir

1

fir
sir

2

firm
bird
dirt
girl
first
stir

3

thirst
thirsty**qu-**

4

quick
quack

5

queen
quote
quite
quake

6

quest
question
quiet**-igh**

7

high
sigh

suppose	crime	sugar	daring
brought	empty	craft	growl
carpet	powder	slipper	glide

ew

1	2	3	4
few	flew	news	view
new	grew	newly	interview
knew	drew	jewel	nephew
dew	crew	newspaper	
stew	blew		
	threw		

-el

5	6	7	8
rebel	easel	kennel	towel
camel	hazel	channel	hotel
model	label	tunnel	compel

Steam power for travel came into use before 1800. It was not just for rail travel and at sea that steam was used as the driving power. Before 1850 road travel made use of steam power too. However, it did not work well as steam motors need a big load of water and coal to drive them.

The use of gas was the next step. Two Germans, called Otto and Daimler, found a way of using gas as a driving power for motors.

Then, in 1886, Daimler made a petrol motor. By 1891 the first motor cars were on the roads and by 1905 the London taxi cab and the London bus were in use in England.

-dge

1	2	3	4	5
badge	edge	ridge	dodge	nudge
badger	wedge	bridge	lodge	judge
gadget	hedge	fridge	stodge	grudge
	ledge	midge	dodging	trudge
	sledge		lodging	judging
	dredge			nudging

ch	wh-	sh	kn-	qu-	wa-	
aw	er	oa	ai	ea	ar	
or	ow	ow	ew	ir	eigh	-ey
-et	-ce	-y	-y	sl-	bl-	ur

Playing on a sledge is a lot of fun at any age. Watch out for rocks, because you have to dodge them. If you don't judge things with care, you will have an awful crash. As the sledge goes one way, you go the other, and get a mouth full of snow. Others watching will think it all far more funny than you do. So the best thing is to be careful when you set off on a sledge.

20A

I like coming to visit Uncle Alan. What I like best is getting away from town, with all its crowds and noise. All those cars, buses and trucks make noise and smells. They'll knock you down as well if you don't get out of the way as quick as you can. But here its nice and quiet, and nothing happens at all.

That's good, Uncle Alan's left his ladder out. Now I can get up that tree, like I've been wanting to for ages.

Up here I can see everything. I can see right to the main road, and that must be two miles off. What a lovely afternoon it is. I can see people playing cricket over there.

Well, I've been up here at least a half of an hour. I'd better go down and see if tea's ready yet. Now, which branch did I lean the ladder on? Where's the ladder gone? Somebody's taken the ladder away! It's a five metre drop down to those roots. If I jump I'll have a broken leg or something! Uncle Alan! Help! Help!

-ge

1

page
stage
huge
wage
cage

2

large
barge
charge

3

damage
garage
passage
bandage
salvage

-ld

4

hold
cold
gold
sold
told
fold
held

5

wild
mild
child
childhood
soldier
field
shield

When we say something is huge, we mean it is very large.

If a car is damaged in a crash it has to be taken to a garage to be fixed.

In the past a soldier on the field of battle had a shield to protect him.

A badge is something which a person wears to show what he stands for.

A page can be a sheet of paper or a boy at a wedding.

-lt

1	2	3	4
felt	salt	result	spoilt
belt	halt	insult	fault
melt	alter	consult	quilt
			filter

-kle

4	5	6
pickle	crackle	sparkle
prickle	chuckle	ankle
trickle	freckle	twinkle
tickle	heckle	
fickle		

br-	cr-	-dge	-ge	th	-ck	
ee	-ry	-ry	-all	-lt	-kle	-ay

A bright light is something that sparkles.

If a person is spoilt it may mean that he does not care about others.

When we say that we take something that someone says, 'with a pinch of salt', it means that we do not quite trust what he says.

We ought not to say that something is someone else's fault without good cause. Many good friendships are spoilt by such foolish things.

Tickle a fish and you can catch him, but tickle a baby and he just chuckles at you!

sk-

1

skid
skill
skip
skipper

2

skull
skate
skirt
sky

sc-

3

scale
scope
scout

4

scatter
scalp
scowl

5

scarf
score
scare

Sally, her mother Helen, and her brother Martin, were picking flowers along the hedge. All at once there was the noise of a car skidding.

A black car had just gone by. It was stuck at the end of the bridge. A girl lay by the side of the road holding her ankle. The driver of the car kept saying it was not his fault. 'How was I to know she was going to cross the road?' he said.

At least he had a first aid kit in his car. Martin held the bandage while Sally made it firm.

Soon the girl said she felt better. Then she, Helen and the driver went off in the car. He said she must see a doctor, and his car had to go to a garage for a check up.

Sally and Martin went back into the field to get some more flowers.

-ld

1

would
should
could

2

wouldn't
shouldn't
couldn't

-lk

3

walk
talk
stalk
chalk

4

talking
talked
walking
walked

-gh

6

laugh
rough
tough
cough
enough

oo oo oi aw ur wa- sk-
-ft gl- -ce sc- -el oy

Some people think that if every one all over the world could talk to each other they would not fight each other.

There is an old saying about things being 'as different as chalk and cheese'.

We laugh now about the tough times we have had in the past.

24A

Tom and Mike reached the camp site quite late. Tom stopped his motor bike about ten metres from the camp fire.

‘You’re later than we hoped you would be,’ said Jack.

‘My headlight packed in, that’s why,’ said Tom.

‘But that’s not all,’ said Mike, grinning. ‘Go on, Tom, tell them what happened.’ Tom didn’t want to, but the others shouted at him so much that he had to tell them.

‘Well, you see, we met a cow. There we were, coming slowly down the road at about twenty miles an hour. The bike’s light was a bit weak, and I saw a cow standing in the middle of the road. I thought to myself, “Tom, you must be very tired. Everybody knows there isn’t a cow round here for miles, so you must be seeing things”. Then suddenly we hit the cow – thump!’

‘Did you knock it down?’

‘No we didn’t. It was the biggest cow I’ve ever seen. The bike went under it, and carried on, leaving me hanging over its back. I saw Mike sail over its rear end into some bushes. Then I fell off backwards and lay in the road looking up at it. It looked round at me sitting there and then walked slowly away into the darkness.’

ou

1

rough
tough
enough

2

touch

3

country
cousin
couple

4

half
calf

au

5

pause
cause
gauze

6

Paul
haul
fraud
sauce

7

August
autumn
daughter
slaughter
applause

8

caught
taught

quick charge use high burning
slide sparkle bridge channel blew

Applause means cheering, but a pause means to wait a bit.

Autumn comes after August and is halfway between summer and winter.

There is a saying, 'Enough is enough when the going gets tough'.

ui

1

suit
fruit
juice
cruise
bruise

ou

2

cough
trough

ea

3

head
dead
dread
tread
bread
instead

4

death
breath

5

health
wealth

If you hold your breath too long it is bad for your health.

A glass of fruit juice is good for you.

A new idea is like a breath of fresh air.

People used to say that bread was the staff of life.

To dread a thing means to be frightened of it.

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases.

	ei		ie
1	2	3	4
rein	eight	either	cried
vein	weight	neither	skies
veil	neighbour	height	tried
	reign		

A battle which took place nearly 2,500 years ago is still well known. 300 Spartans fought against the Persian army. The Spartans had no fear of death and would not give in.

In those days the Spartans lived a tough and simple life in the south of Greece. The King of Persia had sent a huge army to attack Greece. While the other Greeks talked about how to fight the Persians, the 300 Spartans set off. They were quick to cross the rough hill country and stop the Persians at a narrow pass. The Persian army had to pause.

Then came hard fighting in which the Spartans caused a lot of slaughter. But in the end neither their skill nor their courage was enough. They could not hold back the Persians.

When the Persians broke through the pass, they found they had lost many men. The other Greeks no longer talked but were ready to fight. The 300 brave Spartans had shown them that they could fight the Persians and win.

ie and ei

1

friend
friendly

2

foreign

3

their

-ple

4

simple
sample
temple
trample
crumple

5

steeple
people
purple
couple

6

complete

ea	oa	ai	ui	-ay	igh	
or	ur	ir	ow	ow	ew	au
wa-	-ge	-ng	-dge	un-	-nk	
sl-	qu-	ch	str-	kn-	bl-	

A temple in an eastern country is something like a church.

People like to travel to foreign countries on holiday.

They can either sample different foods or eat as they do at home.

Martin and Sally and a couple of their friends went off on holiday together.

They had eight days in a foreign place where the people were friendly and the skies were blue.

28A

It was autumn and Sally was on a visit to friends in the country. Every year she and her brother Martin had these few days away at the very end of the summer. There were clear skies, but the air was quite cold.

Sally and Martin were down by the river. As they walked they were talking about what they could do to pass the time that night.

All at once there was a shout from further up the river. 'What was that?' asked Martin.

'I don't know,' said Sally. 'Let's run further up and see if anyone is there.'

They soon saw the boy in the water. 'What a silly thing to do!' yelled Sally. 'Fancy swimming in a cold river on a day like this!' Luckily she had jeans on and strong boots. Martin held a big branch across the river just downstream. Sally half-jumped and half-swam the few metres to the boy and then tried to get back to Martin with him. She missed the rock she was hoping to grab, but held on to the branch which Martin swung round for them.

She gave a pull and a push and got the boy on to the rocks at the river side. He was gasping, panting and shivering, and so was Sally.

-lth

1

health
wealth
stealth
healthy
filthy

re-

2

remain
remove
remember

3

reply
repeat
report
repay

4

result
resist
request
require

5

refuse
refresh

6

relax
regret
rely
release

scatter	stage	scare	skies	bought	cough	cause
complete	child	neighbour	result	touch	talking	
taught	enough	would	half	foreign	juice	healthy

-ty

1

plenty
twenty
empty
duty

2

dusty
rusty
misty
nasty
frosty

ob-

4

obtain
object
oblong

5

observe
obscure
obstruct

cr-	re-	ob-	-lth	-ce	oi
aw	-y -y	-all	ai	oa	au

Remind me to get plenty of matches because these boxes are all empty.

I object to having to go out on these nasty, misty mornings, which cause coughs, colds and bad health.

The mist makes everything obscure and the frosty roads can cause trouble with the traffic.

Then there are all those mad people who don't observe the rules about driving with their lights on when there's fog.

-ly

1

hardly
slowly
softly
shortly
quickly

-y

2

healthy
wealthy
lengthy

At last Marco, his father and his uncle had returned from their foreign travels among the people of China. The three men quickly got their old friends together to tell them the complete story.

But their friends refused to believe them. 'I knew young Marco,' said one. 'He was a boy of hardly 15 years when he left here.'

Another said, 'You are wealthy men in fine clothes. The family of Marco Polo were simple men, not rich like you.'

So Marco, his father and his uncle went out. Soon they were back. They had removed their fine cloaks. Instead they now wore their old torn clothes. Then Marco began to empty his pockets. There were jewels and gifts from the temples of China. They had been away for 23 years. As a result of it all they were now objects of interest and envy.

shr-

1

shrug
shrub
shred
shrill

2

shrimp
shrank
shrine
shrew
shrewd

-my

3

dummy
clammy
stormy
army
enemy

-py

4

copy
poppy
puppy
happy
snappy
crispy

ee oo oo oy ai ui ar sc- or
er ir ew wa- au -ty -ly
-thy shr- -dge -ge -sc -ld

A shrub is a sort of small tree or bush.

Martin was a very shrewd sort of person so he shrank from getting into the fight and went off quickly on his bike.

After a lengthy, stormy meeting, the people found they could agree after all, and they were quite happy when they left for home.

32A

Ben had given his neighbour a promise. Yes, he would keep an eye on her house while she was away.

When he went there that night with Jack it was dark and rather cold, with a nip of frost in the air. Inside the house was cold too, but everything was all right.

Suddenly the boys heard a funny noise outside. 'What's that?' said Jack.

'I don't know,' said Ben, grabbing a stick. 'But you go out that way – and I'll go this way.'

After waiting a bit, Ben went out into the darkness. He went very slowly and carefully round the end of the house. Then he heard Jack give a quiet laugh and say, 'Here, Ben, come and have a look at this.'

Ben took a few quick steps towards Jack. All at once something bumped into Ben's leg. There was a shrill cry and Ben could not help stumbling. As he fell forward, he put his arms up. Ben's hands, and his stick, hit Jack right in the face and they both fell down. They yelled, and got to their feet as quickly as they could to get away from the stinging nettles.

'You idiot!' shouted Jack. 'I only wanted to show you where the cat had put her kittens. Now I'll have a black eye. Ow! These nettle stings hurt!'

str-

1

struck
street
strike
stroke

2

string
strip
stretch
struggle

3

straw
straight
strain

thr-

4

thrill
thrush
thrash
thrust
throb

5

threat
through
thread

6

three
throw
throat

The man meant to throw the stone through the window.

Ben took three quick strides and grabbed his arm just in time.

There was a struggle and the man thrust Ben away.

Ben ran after him to the corner of the street, but all he could see was a stretch of empty road.

Ben went straight back to the house in case the man struck again.

gh

1

fight
sight
night

2

eight
weight
eighteen

3

fought
bought
brought
thought
ought

4

caught
taught
daughter

5

through

6

high
sigh
height

7

straight
neighbour

8

thorough
thoroughly
Borough
though
although

The two boys had fallen through the ice and got thoroughly soaked in the chilly water.

The young woman thought very quickly and brought a plank to lay across the ice.

Her friend threw a rope which one of the boys caught straight away.

Although it was quite a strain they got the boys out safely.

It taughed the boys that the weight of two of them together was too much for the thin ice.

Though their teeth were chattering with the cold, they were quite happy when they were brought home in the couple's car.

-ed

1

acted
rested
parted
fitted
lifted
pointed

2

resulted
admitted
amounted
assisted
interested

3

ended
mended
landed
demanded

We do not often think about skin. Skin is one of the most amazing things in life.

Skin is alive. It sends signals to the brain. It takes in light which helps to keep the body fit. That is why we like the sun.

The skin is elastic so it can stretch. It is also waterproof, so that when we have a bath, the water does not get in. Yet it is not waterproof the other way, because it will let water out when we get hot. In the same way it keeps dirt out.

Our skin is really many skins, one on top of the other. If we get a scrape, the outer skin may be scraped off. Under it is an inner skin, which is pink and hurts if it is touched.

-mb

1

bomb
lamb
limb
numb

2

comb
climb

3

climbing
combing
bombing

4

bombed
combed
climbed

caught	strike	weight	lengthy	obtain	observe
stormy	snappy	plenty	shrimp	softly	throat
through	lifted	sounded	listed	demanded	although

cr-	qu-	str-	br-	wh-	wa-
oa	au	ur	ai	aw	oi
ea	or	ay	ir	igh	-ey
-dge	-ce	-mb	-ed	-se	-ge
ow ow	eigh	kn-	ch	-ck	-ry -ry

36A

In 1933 two airmen flew over the top of Mount Everest. They were the first men to see the top of the mountain.

Mount Everest is nearly 9,000 metres high. It was finally climbed for the first time in 1953. Before that there had been seven groups of climbers who had tried to climb it.

The 1953 party set up eight camps in all, each of them nearer to the peak of Everest. Camp 8 was the last one before the big effort to reach the top. Two climbers set off from this last camp on 28 May 1953 to try to climb the last 1,000 metres to the top. They had to carry a big load of climbing kit and they wore masks to help them breathe and to keep them alive.

At about 8,000 metres they found a flat place. There they set up their tent for the night. Someone once made the remark that this tent was 'the highest house in the world'.

They started climbing at 6 o'clock next morning. By 9 o'clock they were in sight of the summit. They had to cut steps along the edge of a narrow ridge. But at last they struggled to the top, which was a sharp, pointed spike of frozen snow. It was half-past eleven in the morning.

To mark the 50 years since 1953, 50 groups set off to climb Everest in 2003.

-ed

1

called
loved
cared
aimed
used

2

applied
continued
considered
supposed
troubled

3

remembered
questioned
answered

-nge

4

hinge
fringe
singe
sponge
plunge
revenge

5

change
danger
range
arrange
strange
stranger

spl-

1

splash
split
splint
splinter

2

splitting
splutter
splendid
splice

scr-

3

scratch
scramble
scraper

4

screw
scrawl
scream

Martin turned the screw to make it tighter but that just caused the wood to split.

He went to change the piece of wood for a fresh piece.

Then he got a splinter in his thumb.

He pulled the splinter out with a pair of pliers before boring a fresh hole.

The new screw fitted in very nicely.

He went to show the completed job to the teacher.

‘That’s a splendid bit of work, Martin,’ said his teacher.

He didn’t know about the wood which the screw had split, nor about the splinter which Martin had got in his thumb.

spr-**ea**

1

spring
springtime
sprinkle
sprint

2

spray
sprain
spread
sprawl
sprang

3

break
breakdown
breakers
breakage

4

great
greater
greatly
steak

In the history of England the year of 1588 is remembered as the year of the Spanish Armada.

The daring English sea captain, Sir Francis Drake, had made a raid on the Spanish port of Cadiz in 1587. There he sunk and burnt many of their ships. These ships were being made ready for an attack on England. Drake's raid meant that it took longer for the Spanish fleet to get ready.

By the spring of 1588 they were able to set sail at last. The Armada was in sight of the south coast of England by June 20. There were 126 ships and nearly 30,000 men in the great Spanish fleet.

The sea battle began the next day. However, the Spanish had a shock. They had not seen the English ships, which came at them from behind.

ie

1

thief
chief
brief
grief

2

piece
niece
siege

3

field
yield
believe

ei

5

receive
deceive
perceive
conceive

6

receipt
deceit
ceiling

7

seize

oy	-ce	-nk	-dge	-ld	-lt	-ceive
-mb	ar	or	qu-	au	sc-	-ieve
spr-	ew	ai	br-	ea	eigh	

The thief sprang up and began to sprint across the field.

If you think I believe you, you are making a great mistake.

An old proverb says it is better to give than to receive.

When a fly walks on the ceiling does it think we're upside down?

To sprain your ankle is bad enough, but not as bad as if you break it.

Ask the man for a receipt when you pay him.

40A

I was just a boy when the great Spanish Armada came. I helped with the guns on our ship, bringing powder when fighting started. I've seen a lot of fighting since then but I remember that first day best.

The great tall ships of the Spanish lay there ahead of us. They were watching a few English ships sailing beyond them, so they didn't see us at first.

When we got closer they suddenly saw us. Their ships were full of soldiers in suits of armour, with helmets and great long pikes. They looked a grand sight, and they frightened me, I must admit. Then, as we went past them, they started to shoot. Our gunners cheered, because the enemy shots just splashed into the sea. Their guns were too small and weak to hit us hard.

We carried on across the Spanish rear to reach their left wing. The ships here were stuck out on their own. The wind was against any others who might have wanted to help them.

Then we ran out our heavy guns. We cheered Queen Elizabeth as we opened fire, but we gave blessings to old King Harry. He was the man who had ordered these ships to be made. Our guns roared out together and taught the Spanish what real guns were. They couldn't touch us, but by heaven they were brave. I've never seen braver men.

ie and ei

1

fierce

pierce

weird

-ed

2

hoped

helped

passed

forced

placed

asked

3

laughed

produced

advanced

approached

trapped

pushed

It was cold, and the wind was so fierce that he felt it pierce through his thick climbing suit.

In spite of the darkness he forced his way up the rocky slope.

He thought he could hear weird noises and sobbing up ahead of him.

Suddenly he saw something move and found the hurt boy. He helped him up.

The boy seemed dazed and half asleep from the blow on his head. Together they approached the hut, where food, warmth and first aid were waiting.

own

1

down
town
brown

2

crown
drown
frown

3

own
known
owned

4

drowned
frowned
crowned

5

drowning
frowning
crowning

pushed pulled placed owned forced
through enough fierce ceiling pierced
piece approached break sprained scramble
split called cared remembered strange

er ur ir ch kn-
bl- un- -ey gr- ow ow

ge-

1

gentle
gently
general
generally

2

germ
Germany

3

generous
gentleman
genuine
gesture

4

genius
genial
geography

5

edges
George

About two hundred years ago in France they had a war of their own. It was a civil war, which means that Frenchmen fought against each other.

Those who were rich were hated by the poor. Many of these rich people tried to flee and escape from France.

Sometimes they were caught and packed together in carts, which were pulled through the streets of the towns. Each of them had his neck pushed down on a block of wood. A heavy, sharp blade swept down with a clatter. The body was dragged away while drums were beating.

The watchers shouted and clapped, pleased with the show. The next victim, blank-faced with fright, was dragged to the block. It was a class war, a time of black hate and revenge in France.

gi

1	2	3	4
giant	ginger	region	original
gigantic	engine	regiment	originally
	engineer	register	surgical

th wh- sh- -lth -ge -el re-
 cr- sl- gl- ui oa -gh -gh
 igh -all aw -ay oi oo oo
 -ry -ry ow ow -lt -ft -ing

When we study geography we generally read books about the different regions of the world.

But if we travel, geography comes to life as something wonderful and new for us.

The engines of our ships or aircraft can take us where it seems no one else has been before.

As we look on great forests and giant mountain peaks, we feel we must be the first ever to see them.

44A

China has far more people than any other country. She claims, with good cause, to have the longest history in the world.

In the England of King Alfred, men could write and copy books. They did this by hand with pen and with paint brush. In China, at the same time, they could print books by using wood-cut blocks. Long before the birth of Christ the Chinese had trade-routes to Tibet and India.

Then for hundreds of years China and her rulers had little contact with the rest of the world. Right across the north of their land they still had the Great Wall of China. This had been built almost two thousand years ago. It is roughly 10 metres high, and 5 metres wide at the top. It crosses hills, valleys, rivers, rocks and sand. Its total length is about one thousand five hundred miles.

However, things have now changed. China has become a world power. She has many new factories, roads, bridges and dams. More and more tourists are visiting China and learning about the history of the Chinese people.

-ct

1	2	3
act	expect	subject
fact	direct	object
tact	neglect	project

-ct-

4	5	6
acted	expected	subjected
practice	directed	neglected
suspected	objected	inspected

spr-	spl-	scr-	str-	thr-	shr-	wa-
gi-	gi-	own	own	-nge	-ple	-kle

Ben suspected that his friend would try to change the subject.

It takes a lot of practice for a tennis player to become expert.

The policeman inspected the car carefully.

The driver had neglected to check her lights.

The girl expected a letter from her friend that day.

The children in the play acted their parts very well.

-tion

1

action
section
mention
station
nation

2

addition
attention
direction
production
condition
position

3

information
operation
education
situation
conversation

4

association
organisation

Steve's friend, Alan, lent him his car for the weekend. Steve had not expected this, but he could not object to such a friendly act.

However, Alan neglected to mention that the petrol would show FULL all the time. Nor did he give Steve the information that the engine would sometimes give a loud bang.

Steve had a dreadful time that weekend. He took great care in any conversation with Alan after that. He was scared that Alan would offer him that car again. If cars were mentioned, Steve would change the subject quickly.

-ive

1

give
forgive
active
motive
native

2

attractive
effective
selective
constructive
destructive

3

positive
negative
relative

The care of rare birds gets a great deal of attention these days. We hear about them on TV and radio. We read about them in the papers and on the Internet.

But we ought not to forget the birds we see all the time. In the winter one of our most attractive birds is the robin, which is native to this country.

The robin has been a friend of man for hundreds of years. Some people can remember the poem, which asks the question 'Who killed Cock Robin?' Another poem about the robin starts with 'The north wind doth blow and we shall have snow'.

Watch out for the robin when snow is on the ground.

ph

1

phone
photo
photograph
photographic
photography

2

phrase
physical
phantom
alphabet

3

triumph
triumphant
emphasize
elephant

gentle	drowning	laughed	obey	another
cousin	talking	should	staring	generally
region	directed	deliver	addition	physical
original	situation	practice	engine	attractive

ee	oy	oo oo	ea	ar	or
er	-ce	wa-	ch	str-	ai
eigh	ur	qu-	ir	ew	-dge
sk-	au	-lth	-ty	-thy	-mb
ge- ge-	gi- gi-	-ct	-tion	-ive	ph

48A

Mike and Tom were resting on the hillside on their way home from fishing.

Tom suddenly pointed down the valley. 'Look at that idiot with that bus. Fancy bringing a coach that size down a country road. There's no room for it. What if something comes the other way?'

Just then they saw a car coming in the other direction. The coach and the car went to meet each other without either driver knowing it. The high walls and the trees blocked off their view. The coach and the car almost hit each other at a sharp bend. The car turned right, and smashed partly through a gate and partly through the wall.

Mike tried to phone for help, but there was no signal for his mobile phone in such a remote area.

Mike and Tom ran faster than they had ever run before. Tom remained by the crash, while Mike sprinted down to the village. In the telephone box he rang 999.

'There's been an accident about a mile out on the moor road. A coach and a car are both off the road and some people are hurt.'

The voice on the phone said, 'Can you tell me where the crash happened?' Mike told him and the emergency operator said, 'Help will reach you shortly'.

'I'll go back straight away then,' replied Mike and he was off like a shot, back up the road.