

English
Level 5



Small Talk

- Had a good week? What have you been up to?
- What's the order of the day for tomorrow?
- Fancy some lunch/dinner?

Conversation

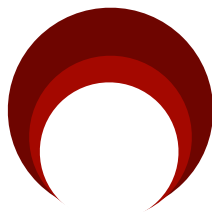
- What is a good investment at the moment?
- 'Girls become their mothers, and boys become their fathers.' Do you agree or disagree? How are you different from your parents?
- What animal does your teacher most resemble?

Past Perfect Continuous (had been ...ing)

- How long had you been waiting before the doctor saw you?
- How long had you been working there before you got fired?
- Why was Dave sweating when I saw him?
- When I saw Philip he was angry. I guess he and Anna had been ____ing.

Vocabulary: Parties & Gatherings (review)

wedding
engagement party
stag do
hen night
baby shower
bridal shower
house-warming
office opening
opening ceremony
funeral



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Consonance

What is consonance?

Consonance is the repeating of consonant sounds through a sentence or phrase

Unlike alliteration or rhyme, consonance does not have to happen at the beginning or end of a word; it just needs to be repeated.

Why use consonance?

Occasional consonance can make sentences have interesting patterns to make the reader more interested.

Like assonance, rhyme and alliteration, it is best to use consonance only occasionally. Too much consonance looks silly in general writing.

Examples of consonance

The red door opened onto the old courtyard.

Passing the gas station, they looked out at the brown fields.

The pitter-patter of rain could be heard against the window.

He took the ticket and placed it on the table.

Western Culture: Heart of Darkness (review)

- Who wrote Heart of Darkness, and when?
- What was the narrator's job in Africa, and why was he sent to find Kurtz?
- The story is about both colonialism and isolation. How does the book talk about these themes?
- Some critics criticism the book for not representing Africa. Why? Do you agree with this criticism?

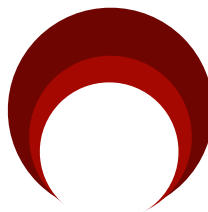
What different ways can you say:

'Hello'?

'How are you?'?

'I'm fine'?

'And you?'



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Shoes in today's theme: high heels; hiking boots; slippers; flip flops; skater shoes; clown shoes; wellington boots

Shopping for Electronics: Dialogue review + part 3

price range
make & model
bulky
tend to
have in stock
commute
should suffice
pre-installed
handy

I'm not keen on...
I'm not much of a...
I'm not very technologically-minded
Up to you

Nearly everyone knows the basics of operating a computer, and using a touchscreen could not be easier, yet very few people know how the central processing units inside a computer work, the processes involved in turning raw materials into these functional units, or how these processors can work just on the movements of your fingers.

In 2009 Intel published a page on its website showing how sand is turned into a CPU. This walk-through, using pictures, videos, and text, illustrates that there are actually many highly-technical and complex steps in the production process, from purification and melting of the sand into silicon ingots, through the treatment and etching of thinly-sliced segments, to the placement of conducting copper ions on the surface, before the final chip is ready for testing. The creation of these computer chips in the 1970s was truly a revolutionary technology.

The technology behind touchscreens is also generally taken for granted these days. To understand how these work, first one should be aware of how a basic keyboard works: two electrically conducting sheets are separated by a non-conducting membrane, the latter of which has holes in it, one for every key. As a key strikes down, it pushes the top conducting sheet through the hole, completing the circuit at a particular point and thus telling the computer what to do. The first touchscreens used the exact same process, only with invisible sheets placed over the screen.

Touchscreens have moved on, however, and many now operate not by having the user complete the circuit, but by disrupting it. The screen is now a permanently operating circuit – either an electric field, grid of infrared beams, or even bouncing sound waves – and as an object (such as a finger) is placed in the circuit, the processor knows where the disruption is taking place and responds accordingly. The swapping to this new model allows the screen to be manipulated in multiple areas at the same time, greatly increasing the interactive potential.