



Star Wars Day (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like science fiction films?
2. If so, do you have a favourite?
3. Have you seen any of the Star Wars films? If so, which?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The first Star Wars film came out in
a) 1970. b) the nineteen seventies. c) 1967.
2. The date of Star Wars Day was chosen by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.
3. The first official Star Wars Day event was held in
a) the United States. b) the United Kingdom. c) Neither of these.
4. The event consisted of
a) a costume contest. b) a film festival. c) Both of these.
5. In 2012, Lucasfilm by the Walt Disney Company.
a) was bought b) was sold c) was created

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How are dates written in American English?
2. Why was 4th May an important day for Margaret Thatcher?
3. Where did the phrase "May the Fourth Be with You" first appear?
4. How do fans dress up to celebrate Star Wars Day?
5. Why were some fans worried when Lucasfilm was sold to the Walt Disney Company?
6. When did Disney Parks begin holding official Star Wars Day events?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. James was in the street talking on his phone when a motorcyclist _____ it and rode away.
2. I preferred my friend's sweater and she preferred mine, so we _____ sweaters.
3. Chloe's singing career began when she entered a TV talent _____ and won first prize.
4. When making meatballs, it's best to add a beaten egg to _____ everything together.
5. In many French towns there are beautiful _____ on 14th July.
6. There were a lot of young people dancing on the beach and they invited us to _____.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

The Star Wars films are among those that have ¹_____ the most money for their creators. However, at first George Lucas, the writer and director of Star Wars, wasn't ²_____ all sure that his space saga would be a success. In fact, ³_____ of attending the premiere of the first Star Wars film, he went ⁴_____ holiday with his friend, Steven Spielberg. It was ⁵_____ their holiday that they had the idea for the character Indiana Jones. Spielberg liked Star Wars, but Lucas's other film-maker friends, Francis Ford Coppola and Brian De Palma, didn't think ⁶_____ of it. De Palma even called it "the worst movie ever". Only Spielberg predicted it would be a hit.

F – Write about it

Write about a science-fiction film you've seen. Mention:

- when it came out;
 - who it was directed by;
 - when/where the story is set;
 - what it's about;
 - who the main characters are played by;
 - why you liked/disliked it.
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Emmeline Pankhurst (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about Emmeline Pankhurst and the suffragette movement in Britain?
2. Can you name any of the tactics used by suffragettes to attract attention to their cause?
3. When did women gain the right to vote in parliamentary elections in your country?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. Emmeline Pankhurst was born in _____ on 14th July, 1858.
2. She attended her first women's suffrage meeting when she was _____ years old.
3. In _____, she founded the Women's Franchise League.
4. In 1903, she helped found the Women's _____ Union.
5. When imprisoned, the suffragettes began a campaign of _____ strikes.
6. In 1910, the police reacted violently when 300 women tried to _____.
7. During World War I, _____ women did the jobs of men who were away fighting.
8. In 1918, an act of Parliament gave women over _____ the right to vote.
9. In _____, a second Act gave men and women over 21 equal voting rights.
10. _____ Magazine included Pankhurst in its *100 Most Important People of the 20th Century*.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and decide whether these statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Emmeline Pankhurst's father wasn't in favour of parliamentary votes for women.
2. Pankhurst's organisation, The Women's Franchise League, was unsuccessful in its aim.
3. Pankhurst saw a link between the suffering of the poor and the lack of women's voting rights.
4. The term 'Suffragette' was invented by the press as an insult.
5. Not all suffragists approved of the radical tactics of Emmeline Pankhurst's organisation.
6. When suffragettes went on hunger strikes in prison, the prison authorities let them die of hunger.
7. The WSPU carried on with its protest throughout World War One.
8. Pankhurst did not live to see the triumph of her movement.

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. In our history exam, we had to explain what _____ the fall of the Roman Empire.
2. Peter's brother was sent to prison for _____. He set fire to the university's chemistry lab.
3. The manager's disrespectful behaviour _____ a lot of criticism among his staff.
4. Some pupils never go on school trips, as their parents haven't got the _____ to pay for them.
5. It's no use arguing like this. We need to call a _____ and look for a solution together.
6. My grandfather's family went through a period of financial _____ when he lost his job.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: Emmeline Pankhurst was the creator and leader of the Suffragettes.

FORMED Emmeline Pankhurst formed and led the Suffragettes.

1. She was a brave and tireless fighter for the poor and oppressed, too.
BRAVELY She _____ for the poor and oppressed.
2. Some suffragists found the WSPU's militant tactics astonishing and shocking.
WERE Some suffragists _____ the WSPU's militant tactics.
3. After the war, the government couldn't ignore the suffragists' demands any more.
NO After the war, the government _____ the suffragists' demands.
4. Emmeline got on very well with her first daughter, Christabel.
CLOSE Emmeline _____ her first daughter, Christabel.
5. She stopped being on friendly terms with her other two daughters, Sylvia and Adela.
OUT She _____ her other two daughters, Sylvia and Adela.
6. Pankhurst said you need to break eggs in order to make omelettes.
CANNOT Pankhurst said you _____ eggs.

F – Write about it

Write about the road to women's suffrage in your country. Mention:

- when the campaign for women's voting rights started;
 - who the first campaigners were;
 - what methods they used;
 - what opposition they received;
 - what stages there were in the progression towards equal voting rights for women.
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Witchcraft (C1 -Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you believe there are some human beings that have supernatural powers?
2. If so, who are they? What kinds of powers do they have?
3. Have you read any of the Harry Potter books, or seen any of the films?
4. Is the witchcraft in the Harry Potter stories different from that of the Middle Ages? Why (not)?
5. Do you have a lucky charm? If so, what is it? What is its purpose?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Professor Gibson thinks few people believe their lives are affected by good and bad forces.
2. Gibson looks at what goes on people's minds when there is social or religious disturbance.
3. When looking at witch trials of the past, she focuses more on the accusers than on the accused.
4. The peak period of witch trials went from the second half of the 14th century to 1692.
5. Gibson observes that in those days anybody could be accused of being a witch.
6. Monty Summers was an ordinary Anglican priest who wasn't interested in the occult.
7. Nellie Duncan was a medium who used fake objects to trick her clients.
8. Gibson says many were persecuted just for being different, but they seldom defended themselves.
9. According to Gibson, in today's society there is more tolerance and understanding.
10. She thinks we should take no notice of Trump's use of the expression 'witch hunt'.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What evidence is there that people are still very interested in witchcraft and the supernatural?
2. Why is this strange?
3. What do some people think they can use a spell or charm for?
4. What did Marion Gibson learn by studying the historical documents related to witch trials?
5. What kind of everyday situation could lead to someone being accused of witchcraft?
6. Why does Marion Gibson describe Monty Summers and Nellie Duncan as 'great characters'?
7. Why are people in some parts of the world still accused of being witches or demon-worshippers?
8. What comparisons does Gibson make between disasters of the past and those of modern times?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. How can sensible people believe in _____? Nobody can see into the future!
2. I don't like that designer's clothes. The colours are too bright and the styles are too _____.
3. Farmers are afraid the heavy hail storms we had in spring will ruin the cherry _____ this year.
4. Marie never _____ with her mother-in-law. They had totally different mentalities.
5. Somebody stole our bikes from the garden. We never discovered who the _____ was.
6. During the murder trial, the _____ was full of reporters from all over the world.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

In the late 16th century, in the little village of St Osyth in Essex, an accusation of witchcraft was brought ¹_____ (over/against/to/across) fourteen women. Ten of these were also accused of using magic to murder people, a charge which carried the ²_____ (dead/dying/die/death) penalty.

From surviving records of the trial, it seems that the situation ³_____ (had/was/is/has) been brought about by local quarrels and vendettas. The first person to be arrested was a local woman called Ursula Kempe, who was said to be ⁴_____ (capable/able/used/good) to heal people and remove evil spells. Kempe had cured a young boy of illness but the boy's mother had not allowed her to look ⁵_____ (over/out/for/after) his baby sister. When the baby ⁶_____ (was dead/died/is dead/has died) after falling out of her cot, and the mother became unwell, the family accused Kempe of witchcraft. Kempe was promised clemency if she named other witches. These were called to court and, in ⁷_____ (turn/reverse/accordance/alarm), named others.

In the end, only Ursula Kempe and her friend Elizabeth Bennet were executed. Their skeletons were found in St Osyth in 1921. Both of them had iron rivets in their knees and elbows to stop them ⁸_____ (raising/to raise/to rise/rising) from their graves.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Have any witch trials ever taken place in your country?
 2. If so, when?/where? What was the outcome?
 3. Have there been any other forms of persecution in your country over the centuries?
 4. If so, what forms? (Religious? Political? Racial? Sexual orientation? Disability or disease?)
 5. Do any of these still exist, in your opinion?
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Vanity Fair (B2 Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like novels or films set in the past?
2. If so, which period in the past do you prefer as a setting? Why?
3. What were the most important events in Europe in the early 19th century?
4. Who are your country's most important novelists of the 19th century?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. William Makepeace Thackeray's novel contains some elements of his own life.
2. The main characters are two women with similar personalities.
3. Becky refuses to marry Amelia's brother Jos.
4. Becky marries the man she works for.
5. Becky and her husband Rawdon Crawley have no money but live well.
6. Amelia and Becky both lose their husbands in battle.
7. Major Dobbin loves Amelia but she doesn't want to marry him.
8. All the characters in Vanity Fair have some weaknesses.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What information does the article give you about the historical setting of the novel?
2. Why is Becky Sharp an anti-heroine?
3. Why does Amelia cry after reading the note her brother has left?
4. What do Becky and Rawdon's friends find mysterious about the kind of life the couple lead?
5. Why does Major Dobbin warn Amelia not to trust Becky?
6. What faults does Major Dobbin see in Amelia?
7. In what way does she take advantage of him?
8. How did the people who were the objects of Thackeray's satire react to the novel?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. I didn't enjoy the show because someone in the row behind talked _____ the performance.
2. When Ian was little, he didn't see his parents very often. He was brought up by a _____.
3. Sandra will manage to persuade her parents to let her come. She's very _____.
4. When plastic was invented, it was _____ as a miracle material. Now it's everywhere!
5. The main _____ in his character is that he's very competitive and always wants to win.
6. The story follows the lives of two groups of people whose destinies eventually _____.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. *Vanity Fair* was published in monthly _____ (INSTALL) during 1847-1848.

2. Its anti-heroine Becky Sharp is one of literature's most _____ (MEMORY) characters.
3. She and her husband have no income but live extravagantly in a _____ (COMFORT) house.
4. Major Dobbin speaks _____ (RESPECT) about Becky, describing her as a "little devil".
5. He reproaches Amelia and says she isn't _____ (WORTH) of his devotion.
6. He realises Amelia has become _____ (CUSTOM) to taking advantage of him.
7. Thackeray's contemporaries regarded *Vanity Fair* as a _____ (MASTER).
8. The novel made Thackeray famous and brought him _____ (PROSPER).

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's best-known 19th-century novelists. Mention:

- some biographical facts;
 - the type of novels he/she wrote;
 - his/her best-known works;
 - how they were received at the time;
 - whether they are still read today.
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Answers: Star Wars Day (B1)

B – Listen and answer

1. b 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. a

C – Read and answer

1. In American English, the month is written before the day. 2. Because on 4th May 1979 she was elected as Britain's first female Prime Minister. 3. It appeared as a headline of a British tabloid newspaper. 4. They dress up as their favourite characters. 5. They thought Star Wars Day might disappear. 6. They began holding them on 4th May 2013.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. grabbed 2. swapped 3. contest 4. bind 5. fireworks shows 6. join in

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. made/earned 2. at 3. instead 4. on 5. during 6. much
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Answers: Emmeline Pankhurst (B2)

B – Listen and answer

1. Manchester 2. fourteen/14 3. 1889 4. Social and Political 5. hunger 6. enter Parliament 7. two million 8. thirty/30 9. 1928 10. Time

C – Read and answer

1. F – Her parents were strong supporters of the Suffragist movement. 2. F – Its aim was to give women the right to vote in local elections. This was achieved in 1894. 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. F – They force-fed them or released them until they were better. 7. F – Both sides called a truce. 8. T

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. brought about 2. arson 3. aroused 4. means 5. truce 6. hardship

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. also fought bravely and tirelessly 2. were astonished and shocked by/at 3. could no longer ignore 4. was very close to 5. fell out with 6. cannot make omelettes without breaking
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Answers: Witchcraft (C1)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – She claims many people believe there are good and bad forces shaping our lives and

fortunes. 2. T 3. F – She focuses on both, but primarily on the people accused of witchcraft. 4. F – It went from the second half of the 15th century to 1692. 5. T 6. F – He was interested in demons and believed in vampires, werewolves and witches. 7. T 8. F – She says they fought back.

9. F – She says we don't seem to be moving towards more tolerance and understanding, but rather in the opposite direction. 10. F – She says we've got to pay attention to it.

C – Read and answer

1. The evidence is the abundance of films, TV series and books on the subject. 2. It's strange because in many parts of the world spells and curses have long ceased to be seen as a serious threat. 3. To counteract negative forces and keep themselves safe. 4. She learned about the religious and political motivations behind many of the witch hunts and the ordinariness of the people accused of witchcraft. 5. You could be accused of witchcraft after having a cross word with a neighbour or for being assertive or being seen to cause a problem. 6. She thinks Monty Summers was a fascinating figure who had the courage to be open about his sexuality and she thinks Nellie Duncan may have helped many heartbroken people who had lost loved ones during World War Two.

7. Because there is still the impulse to find some demonic culprit to blame for the more complex problems of society. 8. She talks of past disasters like the Little Ice Age, which ruined harvests and caused panic and dislocation, and the bubonic plague and other diseases, which killed millions of people. She compares these with more recent disasters linked to global warming, the Covid pandemic, the resulting conspiracy theories and the polarisation of politics, and finds that our modern times are quite similar to the period of the witch hunts.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. fortune tellers 2. flamboyant 3. harvest 4. got along 5. culprit 6. courtroom

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. against 2. death 3. had 4. able 5. after 6. died 7. turn 8. rising

Answers: Vanity Fair (B2)

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – They are two women with very different characters. 3. F – Jos rejects Becky as a possible wife. 4. F – She marries the son of the man she works for. 5. T 6. F – Only Amelia loses her husband in battle. 7. T 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. It tells us the novel is set in the Regency period, at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. 2. She is an anti-heroine because she's amoral and manipulative and doesn't follow the rules of society. 3. Because she's upset that her brother has rejected Becky. 4. They find it mysterious that the couple are able to live well "on nothing a year" (= without an income). 5. Because he knows Becky brings mischief wherever she goes and he suspects she has been living dishonestly. 6. He sees her as weak and ungrateful. 7. She wants him to continue being devoted to her, although she doesn't love him or want to marry him. 8. They hailed it as a work of genius.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. throughout 2. governess 3. strong-willed 4. hailed 5. flaw 6. intertwine

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. instalments 2. memorable 3. comfortable 4. disrespectfully 5. worthy 6. accustom 7. masterpiece 8. prosperity