

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

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**INTERCULTURAL PATCHWORK
(LISTENING COMPREHENSION SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT)**

Учебно-методическое пособие

Рекомендовано методической комиссией Института международных
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Учебно-методическое пособие представляет собой тематический сборник текстов и упражнений общественно-политической направленности на основе интернет конференций.

Цель пособия – формирование и развитие навыков в области говорения и аудирования, а именно: развитие речевых навыков подготовленной и спонтанной речи, умений вести беседу и делать развернутые сообщения в рамках предлагаемого тематического материала, развитие навыков аудирования аутентичной речи, а также творческого письма. Для решения этих задач тексты пособия снабжены лексическими упражнениями, вопросами для обсуждения и инструментами для ведения дискуссий, такими как модели аргументации.

Пособие соответствует профессионально-образовательным программам студентов-международников, регионоведов и учитывает содержание курса страноведения и курсов истории и теории международных отношений.

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UNIT I

THE ART OF CHOOSING

http://www.ted.com/talks/sheena_ayengar_on_the_art_of_choosing

TED TALK 2010 Sheena Iyengar

Sheena Iyengar studies how we make choices — and how we feel about the choices we make. At TED Global, she talks about both trivial choices (Coke v. Pepsi) and profound ones, and shares her groundbreaking research that has uncovered some surprising attitudes about our decisions.

WARM-UP

1. What do you understand by “culture”? What comes into your mind?
2. What do you think are the typical features of your own national culture?
3. What countries have a similar culture to your own?
4. Which factors make your culture different from those of other countries?
5. Does food eaten every day also constitute a part of national culture?
6. Have you ever had a favourite foreign dish?
7. What dishes are usually associated with your national culture?

Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space:

Someone once said that (1) _____ you are tired of London, you are tired of life. Well, this is a (2) _____ of an exaggeration but London does (3) _____ to be an exciting multicultural city.

I arrived (4) _____ London for the first time two years ago all the way from Tokyo to (5) _____ a Master’s degree in Civil Engineering. It was a bit of a culture shock. The city first appeared to be grey and unwelcoming. Everybody seemed to be busy and (6) _____ the first month, I felt pretty lonely. Meeting new people was quite

difficult (7) _____ first but many of the students at university turned (8) _____ to be friendlier (9) _____ I had expected and I ended up moving in with some of them. The flat I was staying in (10) _____ actually much bigger than my flat in Tokyo. My new flat-mates were (11) _____ different countries and we found it a bit difficult to relate to each other, especially to the British guy, (12) _____ spoke a bit quickly. We were shy about speaking. However, everyone was friendly and rather (13) _____ informal than back home; soon everyone became more relaxed and we got to (14) _____ each other better. Living in London wasn't quite (15) _____ difficult as it first appeared to be.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. While watching Sheena's talk (0:00 – 3:05), answer the following questions:

1. What did Sheena order when she went to a restaurant in Japan for the first time?
2. What was the waiter's response to Sheena's request? Why so?
3. Why did Sheena have to order a cup of coffee instead of green tea?
4. Why did she experience culture shock when the waiter brought her a cup of coffee?
5. What is the fundamental difference in American and Japanese cultures about choice?
6. Do American and Japanese people have different value systems of culture?

2. Watch Sheena's talk (0:00 – 3:05) again and fill in the gaps with the words you hear:

Today, I'm going to take you around the world in 18 minutes. My base of operations is in the U.S., but let's start at the other end of the map, in Kyoto, Japan, where I was living with a (1) _____ family while I was doing part of my dissertation research

15 years ago. I knew even then that I would encounter (2) _____ differences and misunderstandings, but they (3) _____ up when I least expected it.

On my first day, I went to a restaurant, and I ordered a cup of green tea with sugar. After a pause, the waiter said, "One does not put sugar in green tea." "I know," I said. "I'm aware of this custom. But I really like my tea sweet." In response, he gave me an even more courteous version of the same (4) _____. "One does not put sugar in green tea." "I understand," I said, "that the Japanese do not put sugar in their green tea, but I'd like to put some sugar in my green tea." Surprised by my (5) _____, the waiter took up the issue with the manager. Pretty soon, a (6) _____ discussion ensued, and finally the manager came over to me and said, "I am very sorry. We do not have sugar."

Well, since I couldn't have my tea the way I wanted it, I ordered a cup of coffee, which the waiter brought over promptly. Resting on the saucer were two packets of sugar.

My (7) _____ to procure myself a cup of sweet, green tea was not due to a simple misunderstanding. This was due to a fundamental difference in our ideas about (8) _____. From my American perspective, when a paying customer makes a reasonable request based on her preferences, she has every right to have that request met. The American way, to quote Burger King, is to "have it your way," because, as Starbucks says, "happiness is in your choices."

But from the Japanese (9) _____, it's their duty to protect those who don't know any better – in this case, the ignorant gaijin - from making the wrong choice. Let's face it: the way I wanted my tea was inappropriate according to cultural standards, and they were doing their best to help me (10) _____ face.

Americans tend to believe that they've reached some sort of pinnacle in the way they practice choice. They think that choice, as seen through the American lens best fulfills an (11) _____ and universal desire for choice in all humans. Unfortunately, these beliefs are based on (12) _____ that don't always hold true in many countries, in many cultures. At times they don't even hold true at America's

own borders. As I do so, I hope you'll start thinking about some of your own assumptions and how they were shaped by your backgrounds.

TALKING POINT

1. Have you ever lived in another culture? What have been your experiences with culture differences?
2. Have you ever made any cultural mistakes? What were they?
3. Do you feel lonely and have a sense of loss while living in a different culture?
4. What do you think reverse culture shock might be?
5. When you travel, do you make a point of trying the local specialities?
6. Are you usually fascinated by all the new smells, tastes, sights?
7. The smells of certain foods trigger a strong memory or moment from the past. Are there any food smells that trigger a specific memory or feeling for you? What are they? What do you think of when you smell them?
8. Think about the expression *you are what you eat* and apply it to yourself. Choose one of your favourite foods or food traditions and discuss how it reflects who you are.

WRITING

They say, “When travelling, eat what and where the locals eat”. Do you follow this advice? Write about a memorable meal that you ate while travelling.

UNIT II

GASTRODIPLOMACY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUaZ5IGL3AY>

WARM-UP

Read the sentences below and match the words/phrases in bold with their meanings given below.

- a) The **scam** tries to trick customers into giving away confidential bank details.
- b) You can use Carol's old bike - the gears are **out of whack**, but it still goes.
- c) It's a **multifaceted** business, offering a range of services.
- d) They **came up with** a plan to make us more efficient in the workplace.
- e) The food in the cafeteria is barely **edible**. They really have to change their chef.
- f) Sales **tripled** over a six-month period. We had 20% and now it's 60%.
- g) In 2008, United started charging for bags and other airlines quickly **followed suit**.
Now, all of them do it.
- h) IBM is **taking over** the smaller company.

Meanings:

1. to increase something so that it is three times bigger than before
2. a dishonest plan, especially for getting money
3. to take control of something
4. safe or good enough to eat
5. to think of something such as an idea or a plan
6. to do the same thing that someone else has done
7. containing many different aspects, features, or qualities
8. not working normally

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. Watch the video about gastrodiplomacy and choose the best answer.

1. Over the last two decades, the popularity of Thai food
 - a) has risen insignificantly;
 - b) has increased dramatically;
 - c) has surpassed that of Chinese food.
2. According to the presenter, the current trend can be explained by the fact that
 - a) Thai food is delicious;
 - b) the number of Thai immigrants has increased around the world;
 - c) the Thai government sponsors the expansion of Thai restaurants.
3. Gastrodiplomacy means using food in order to
 - a) promote a country's values;
 - b) speed up globalization;
 - c) expand a country's influence.
4. Thai chef Chalisa Fitts was awarded
 - a) for serving meals at the Thai embassy;
 - b) for the authenticity of Thai food in her restaurant;
 - c) for the number of clients her restaurant has attracted.
5. Since 2002, the Thai government
 - a) has supported chefs in Thailand;
 - b) has opened a great number of Thai restaurants overseas;
 - c) has invested heavily in the promotion of Thai cuisine abroad.
6. Thailand's gastrodiplomacy
 - a) has increased tourism by 10 percent;
 - b) has increased tourist spending on food and drink;
 - c) has made Thailand a top tourist destination.
7. According to the video, gastrodiplomacy is mainly used
 - a) by small countries in an effort to set themselves apart;

- b) by great powers as a soft power tool;
 - c) by technologically advanced countries.
8. The city of Lancaster is known as the refugee capital of America because
- a) the number of refugees that settle there is the highest in the USA;
 - b) refugees outnumber local residents twenty to one;
 - c) the birth rate in refugee families is twice as high as in American families.
9. Mustafa, a refugee from Somalia, claims that after 2016
- a) hostility towards refugees increased;
 - b) people started supporting refugees more;
 - c) people started to have strong views on refugees.
10. Mustafa believes that
- a) sharing a meal helps break the ice;
 - b) the best way to introduce yourself is over a drink;
 - c) it is impossible to bring together people of different faiths.

2. Watch the video once again and answer the following questions:

- a) When did the Thai government come up with and start the program?
- b) What is gastrodiploamacy?
- c) What was Chalisa Fitts awarded for by the Thai Ministry of Commerce?
- d) What does it mean: “Foodie culture is part of foreign policy”?
- e) How does the spread of Thai cuisine all over the world affect Thailand’s economy?
- f) What other countries decided to follow suit and promote their cuisine overseas? What are their reasons for doing so?
- g) What city is known as the refugee capital of the US?
- f) How do refugees try to connect to the local residents? Why so?

TALKING POINT

1. What do you think about promoting a country through gastrodiplomacy?
2. Do you like the idea of the program connecting refugees and residents through food in neighbourhoods?
3. Is food culture an important element of your country's identity? What's the role of food?
4. What's your favourite foreign dish?

UNIT III

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT WORK

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. Watch a Pixar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6uuIHpFkuo> (Purl) for adults and discuss what it is about and what problem in the workplace it shows.
2. Now, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nK6mSsO6M8> with the writer-director of Purl. Were you right?
3. Read the text below and complete it with correct forms of the words provided.

So, What Exactly is Diversity? by Justin Fragapane

In terms of the workplace, diversity refers to an organization ensuring the talent pool they recruit, retain, and develop is a varied one. This means making efforts so that everything from different races and, genders, religions, sexual, and abilities are all well-represented within your walls.

ETHNIC
ORIENT

It's also something that you should view as an opportunity – not an obligation, or an exercise in political

CORRECT

It's about looking past the notion of employing a diverse group of people, and instead seeing such initiatives as your organization's

SIMPLE

chance to tap into a diverse set of experiences, backgrounds, world views, and methods of problem-solving. Your clients and your audience – not to mention the world at large – aren't after all, so why would it benefit you to build a team that is?

HOMOGENITY

But one of the main things to understand when considering diversity is that it counts for very little without inclusion – which represents the flip-side of the same coin – and its success begins and ends with your company's culture.

It's not just up to HR leaders, but every member of an organization to help foster a culture of inclusion and In relation to diversity, inclusion is specifically where team managers working on the frontlines hold the greatest sway over how integrated and each employee feels.

ACCEPT
PERSONAL
RESPECT

4. Complete the table with the words from the box below:

untypical varied considerate open-minded equal
 narrow-minded homogenous unusual disrespectful fair
 uniform ordinary prejudiced intolerant

ADJECTIVE	SYNONYM	ANTONYM
diverse
tolerant
typical
biased
respectful

TALKING POINT

1. What is diversity? What does it mean to you?
2. What is inclusion? What does it mean to you?

DEBATE TOPIC

Is cultural diversity necessary to develop a successful organization?

(PREPARE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OR AGAINST THE QUESTION)

Background: As we live in the times of migration, there are more and more people with diverse backgrounds living in one country. These people will be or are being employed by “national” organizations. It can cause a lot of misunderstandings between workers resulting from the lack of cultural competences and the lack of the skills how to cope with cultural risks in the organization. Should employers and employees develop their skills and learn how to deal with the risks and behaviours to work as efficiently as they can?

UNIT IV

EMBRACE THE DANISH WAY OF LIVING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI74ybpYNLk>

WARM-UP

1. Describe the photos using the following words: *cosy, welcoming, comfy, homely, snug, pleasant, airy, warm, intimate, light, neat.*



2. Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words in brackets.

- a) Life in Europe increased greatly in the 20th century. [EXPECT]
- b) There are many ways you can express your to the people who love and support you. [GRATEFUL]
- c) After the operation she was able to enjoy simple such as walking in the park. [PLEASE]

- d) This restaurant offers delicious food and has a relaxed
[AMBIENT]
- e) I rarely go for sugary products, but Belgian hot chocolate is a
little I just can't resist. [INDULGE]
- f) The book deals with the of everyday happiness.
[PURSUE]
- g) Try to master the art of creating an atmosphere of relaxation, warmth
and [COSY]
- h) The goal of our weekly meetings is to encourage a sense of
among the community. [TOGETHER]

DISCUSSION POINT

1. Have you ever heard of the concept of hygge?
 2. Do you try to create cosiness and a warm ambience at home by burning
candles, making a fire, adding some cushions, etc.?
 3. What can we do to maintain a sense of togetherness in our workplace or
local community?
 4. Which of these simple pleasures and indulgences do you do to lift your
mood during the autumn and winter season? Would you add anything to
the list?
- drinking hot tea or chocolate
 - eating comfort food
 - listening to the music
 - wearing comfy clothes
 - socializing with friends
 - sitting by the fire
 - taking long baths
 - walking in nature

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. Watch the first part of the video (0:00 – 02:12) and then answer the questions below.

- a. Who is Meik Wiking?
- b. What is hygge?
- c. Is hygge a lifestyle trend or self-help?
- d. What type of activities does hygge involve?

2. Watch the second part of the video (from 02:12). Afterwards, create questions to the answers given.

a.

It ranked 13th in the report.

b.

The Meyers decided not to use their phones.

c.

No, they're not. Other people also practise it but call it differently.

TALKING POINT

- 1. Do you like the concept of hygge? Why?/Why not?
- 2. Do you think that people all around the world practise hygge, but Danes just have a name for it?
- 3. Do you have any word in your language that refers to a similar idea?
- 4. Benjamin Franklin once said: "Happiness consists more in small conveniences or pleasures that occur every day, than in great pieces of good fortune that happen but seldom to a man in the course of his life." Do you agree with him?

5. Work in pairs. Look at the list of activities below. Choose five that would bring everyday happiness and pleasure to people from your country:

- *ice skating or sledding*
- *building sandcastles*
- *hiking*
- *eating dinner with a family every day*
- *cooking together*
- *playing board games*
- *having a picnic with friends*
- *doing some crafts together*
- *having a treat you regularly enjoy together with someone*
- *making a bonfire*

UNIT V

WHY ARE BRITS SO OBSESSED WITH TEA?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BigKlKrY0B4>

WARM-UP

Discuss these questions:

- 1) Have you ever been to the UK?
- 2) What did you see?
- 3) What landmarks, objects and people connected with the UK can you see in the picture?
- 4) What else would you add as a symbol of the UK?
- 5) What are the symbols of your country?



LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. Watch the video and write down what these figures and phrases refer to.

- 165 million –
- mid 1600s -
- fake tea –
- low tea –
- high tea -
- liber tea and tea gatherings -
- 96% –
- the 1950s –

2. Choose the correct word to complete the sentences below. Then, watch again and check your answers.

- a) We're rather fond *of/for/in* a proper brew which is what we call a nice cup of tea.
- b) Invite them *up/to/over* for a cup of tea.
- c) It's how we stay *in/on/to* such great shape.
- d) Whilst our surrounding countries remained too hooked *for/in/on* coffee, England became a tea drinking nation.
- e) Americans were naturally enthusiastic *for/about/with* these new, super convenient tea bags.

VOCABULARY

1. Match halves to make popular English idioms and common phrases.

- 1. not one's cup
 - 2. feel under
 - 3. as drunk as
 - 4. cheap
 - 5. a queen
 - 6. the jewel in
 - 7. worth
 - 8. it never rains
-
- a. a lord
 - b. but it pours
 - c. of tea
 - d. as chips
 - e. bee
 - f. every penny
 - g. someone's crown
 - h. the weather

2. Match idioms from the exercise above with their meanings.

- a) the most valuable or successful part of something
- b) not what one likes or is interested in
- c) to not feel very well
- d) a woman who thinks she is the most important person in a group
- e) very inexpensive
- f) used for saying that problems often seem to happen all at the same time
- g) worth all the money
- h) extremely drunk

TALKING POINT

Talk about the last time you:

- felt under the weather
- found/bought something worth every penny
- took up some new hobby/sport, but it wasn't your cup of tea
- had to speak with a queen bee at work/school
- had a situation when you said 'it never rains but it pours'
- visited a city in your country that you consider the jewel in the crown
- bought something which used to be expensive and now is cheap as chips

UNIT VI

FOR THESE WOMEN, READING IS A DARING ACT

https://www.ted.com/talks/laura_boushnak_for_these_women_reading_is_a_daring_act

TED TALK 2014 Laura Boushnak

In some parts of the world, half of the women lack basic reading and writing skills. The reasons vary, but in many cases, literacy isn't valued by fathers, husbands, even mothers. Photographer and TED Fellow Laura Boushnak traveled to countries including Yemen, Egypt and Tunisia to highlight brave women -- schoolgirls, political activists, 60-year-old moms -- who are fighting the statistics.

WARM UP

Discuss how women are discriminated against in these areas:

- a. EDUCATION
- b. PROFESSION
- c. WORKPLACE
- d. SOCIETY

VOCABULARY

Complete the questions with the words from the box. Words in brackets will help you to get the meaning of words you have to complete. Answer these questions.

overcome mindset illiterate struggle

1. What kind of barriers do women in your country have to ? (*deal with*)
2. Do you think there are a lot of women that are in the world? (*cannot write and read*)

3. How can we change the of society in order to help women improve their situation? (*way of thinking*)
4. What countries in your opinion most with gender inequality? (*fight*)

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. Watch the first part of the talk (0:00 – 1:40) and decide if these statements are true or false.

- a. Personal experiences don't motivate the speaker.
- b. In the beginning she couldn't study at university.
- c. It wasn't difficult to make women take part in the project.
- d. The images of women with their words were shared on the streets.

2. Watch the rest of the talk (1:40 – 5:05) and circle the correct word in the sentences from the video.

- "I saw how she was longing to **gain/make/bring** control over her simple daily routines, small details that we take **on/for/with** granted, from counting money at the market to helping her kids with homework."
- "I've always dreamt **to/of/by** discovering a new bacteria."
- "She received a **money/grant/salary** from a local NGO to fund her business studies at the university."
- "The Arab states are going through **high/quite/tremendous** change, and the struggles women face are overwhelming."

TALKING POINT

1. Work in pairs and discuss if you agree or disagree with these statements:

- a. If there were more female politicians, there would be no wars in the world.
- b. If governments give more money to women's organizations, they will spend it on education.
- c. If boys and girls were treated the same way, the problem of gender inequality would be solved.

2. Complete these sentences. Then, compare your sentences with another pair and discuss them together.

- 1. If there were more women in top management,
- 2. The position of women will change in 50 years' time if
- 3. If men took more care of children,

UNIT VII

HOW AIRBNB DESIGNS FOR TRUST

https://www.ted.com/talks/joe_gebbia_how_airbnb_designs_for_trust

TED TALK 2016 Joe Gebbia

Joe Gebbia, the co-founder of Airbnb, bet his whole company on the belief that people can trust each other enough to stay in one another's homes. How did he overcome the stranger-danger bias? Through good design. Now, 123 million hosted nights (and counting) later, Gebbia sets out his dream for a culture of sharing in which design helps foster community and connection instead of isolation and separation.

WARM UP

1. What do you normally do during the holidays?
2. Have you been abroad? If yes, where? If no, would you like to?
3. What do you know about student exchanges and studying abroad?

VOCABULARY

1. Check you understand the words and phrases below. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then tell your partner which experiences you think are positive and which are negative. Give your reasons.

1. be left to your own devices
2. find people very welcoming
3. get a bit of a culture shock
4. get a real feel for the place
5. get food poisoning
6. get off the beaten track
7. get robbed

8. go hiking in the mountains
9. hang out with local people
10. lie around a house all day
11. see all the sights
12. stay B&B
13. stay with a host family
14. take a while to get used to the food

2. Work in groups. Look at the words and phrases in the exercise above. Discuss the questions.

- Which are most / least connected to visitors in your country?
- Which have you done? Or which have happened to you? When?
- Which three do you most want to remember and use? Why so?

3. Complete the description with the words and phrases from exercise 1.

In the past, it was very common for teenagers to do student exchanges where they would go abroad and stay in each other's homes. The idea was not only to learn a new language but to (1)_____ with the local teenagers, even go to their school and get a (2)_____ the place and culture.

Sometimes the (3)_____ was very welcoming and students got on well with the people in the home, but other times the (4)_____ was too much because they couldn't (5)_____ the food and ended up being left to their (6)_____. Maybe that's why these days it is more common for teenagers to go on a group trip abroad where everyone stays in a (7)_____ or hostel together. During the trip, students go and see (8)_____ and only briefly meet up with a group from a local school.

This way teenagers don't (9)_____ a foreign house all day and there is no awkwardness. The worst that could happen might be a case of (10)_____ from a bad prawn and some sore feet from walking around the town.

PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITIES

1. Have you or your family ever asked for help from a stranger while on holiday?
What happened?
2. Have you or someone in your family ever helped a stranger while on holiday?
What happened?
3. Why might you trust / not trust a stranger? How do you decide who to trust for help or advice?

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. Watch Part 1 (0:00 – 3:04) of the talk. Choose the correct option.

1. From his meeting with the 'Peace Corps guy'. Joe learns
 - a) he should always have an airbed
 - b) he should start a hosting business
 - c) we should be less fearful of strangers
2. He decided to start his business because
 - a) there weren't many hotels in the city
 - b) he really needed somewhere to stay
 - c) it offered him an opportunity as a designer
3. The business wasn't immediately successful because
 - a) people didn't trust Joe and his co-founder
 - b) the website wasn't very well designed
 - c) it didn't get any further investment

2. Watch Part 2 (3:04 – 12:31) of the talk. Complete these notes.

- Experiment shows how host can feel _____ but guest can feel how business works. Well-designed reputation (review) system - key to _____ .
- _____ must leave reviews before they are revealed.

- _____ people stop worrying about differences (reputation beats similarity).
- _____ and prompts the right amount of honesty and sharing (disclosure).

3. Watch Part 2 (3:04 – 12:31) of the talk. Then work in groups and summarize what Joe said using these ideas.

- when trust works
- a man suffering a heart attack
- the sharing economy
- human connection
- Seoul, South Korea
- students and empty-nesters (*families whose children have left home*)

VOCABULARY

Match the words and phrases (1-6) with the sentences that illustrate them (a-f).

1. keep in touch
2. broke
3. rush
4. anxiety
5. up for it
6. trip up

- a. Mark gets so **nervous** when he travels that he has difficulty sleeping.
- b. Leticia didn't notice how much money she had been spending until she saw **a zero balance** in her bank account
- c. When So-Jin first started studying English, the different accents she heard really **confused** her.
- d. My uncle didn't wake up when his alarm rang, and he had to **hurry** to get to his appointment on time

e. My cousins and I don't live in the same city, but we make sure to **call each other every week** to see how things are going.

f. I wanted to see the new movie last night, so I called my friends to see if they were **interested in joining me**.

TALKING POINT

1. What things can increase or reduce **anxiety** when travelling?
2. Have you ever met someone on holiday you got on with? Have **you kept in touch**? Why? / Why not?
3. Would you be **up for** doing any of these things on holiday? Why?/Why not?
 - rafting or bungee jumping
 - going to a disco
 - doing a guided tour of a museum
 - going camping
4. When did you last **rush** anywhere? Why?
5. Have you ever experienced anything that **tripped you up**? What was it?

UNIT VIII

WHY I KEEP SPEAKING UP, EVEN WHEN PEOPLE MOCK MY ACCENT

https://www.ted.com/talks/safwat_saleem_why_i_keep_speaking_up_even_when_people_mock_my_accent

TED TALK 20 Safwat Saleem

Artist Safwat Saleem grew up with a stutter -- but as an independent animator, he decided to do his own voiceovers to give life to his characters. When YouTube commenters started mocking his Pakistani accent, it crushed him, and his voice began to leave his work. Hear how this TED Fellow reclaimed his voice and confidence in this charming, thoughtful talk.

WARM UP

1. In what ways do people make fun of other people?
2. In what ways might people react to being laughed at?
3. Why do you think some people mock others?

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Watch Part 1 (0:00 – 3:25) of the talk. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. People have sometimes joked ‘Have you forgotten your name?’ because of Safwat's stutter.
2. Safwat is interested in video games.
3. The video Safwat posted only got negative feedback.
4. The negative comments were mainly about Safwat's stutter.
5. The incident led Safwat to do more voice-overs in order to prove his critics wrong in the past.

6. Safwat practised to improve his voice and accent to sound more normal.

Watch Part 2 (3:25 – 10:48) of the talk. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F)?

1. Saleem was self-conscious about his accent when he was a boy.
2. Saleem uses very different accents for each of his animated characters.
3. Saleem realized that people were reacting to his accent because they didn't think it was normal for an editor to have an accent.
4. At first, Saleem took the comments about his accent very personally.
5. Historical texts include more reference to colours than modern texts.
6. Studies show that people are treated differently because of the expectations that we have.
7. Saleem says that it isn't enough to tell children they can do anything they wish, we have to show them examples of people like them who have been successful.
8. Saleem says it is easy for him to be on the stage.

VOCABULARY

Replace the words in bold with their synonyms given below.

1. somewhat constructive
 2. breakdown
 3. around
 4. humorous
 5. huge step
 6. self-conscious
- a. Sometimes misunderstandings can lead to **funny** situations.
 - b. Saleem has always felt a little **embarrassed** about the way he speaks.

- c. The comments people made about Saleem's accent were **a little helpful** but also a little offensive.
- d. When I arrived at the concert hall, I was surprised not to see anyone **nearby**.
- e. Getting positive feedback from people who didn't know him was **a very important event** for Saleem so increase his self-confidence.
- f. Sometimes people have so many problems all at the same time that they get **anxious and upset and can't do anything**.

TALKING POINT

Work in groups. You are going to discuss a video you could make about ONE of these topics. Choose a topic and follow the steps (1 -3).

- *Challenge the idea of what is 'normal'*
- *Raise awareness of discrimination*
- *Discourage bullying*

1. Decide on one aspect of the topic to focus on.
2. Think of two or three different messages for the campaign.
3. Brainstorm some ideas to illustrate these messages.
4. Choose the best idea and develop it further.
5. Share your idea with the rest of the class.

UNIT IX

WHY I'M A WEEKDAY VEGETARIAN

If all of us ate half as much meat, it would be like half of us were vegetarians.

GRAHAM HILL

https://www.ted.com/talks/graham_hill_why_i_m_a_weekday_vegetarian

TED 2010 Graham Hill

We all know the arguments that being vegetarian is better for the environment and for the animals -- but in a carnivorous culture, it can be hard to make the change. Graham Hill has a powerful, pragmatic suggestion: Be a weekday veg.

WARM UP

Work in pairs. Make a list of reasons why somebody might be a vegetarian.

Example: It's good for your health.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Watch Part 1 (0:00 – 1:30) of the talk. Put the problems with eating meat in the order that Graham mentions them. Which problem doesn't he mention?

- a. It is bad for the planet.
- b. The animals suffer in poor conditions.
- c. It is expensive.
- d. It is unhealthy.
- e. People are eating more and more meat.

Complete these facts about eating meat. Then watch Part 1 again and check your answers.

1. If you eat one _____ every day, it can increase the possibility of dying by a third.
2. We keep _____ animals for meat each year in factory-farm conditions.
3. Meat causes more emissions than all _____ together.
4. Beef production uses 100 times more _____ than most vegetables do.
5. We are eating _____ meat as in the 1950s.

Watch Part 2 (1:30 – 3:48) of the talk. Choose the correct option.

1. Why does Graham say to the audience: 'imagine your last hamburger'?
 - a. He wants them to see what a difficult decision becoming a vegetarian is.
 - b. He wants to help the audience prepare to become vegetarians.
 - c. He wants them to feel sorry for him.
2. Which of these rules is part of Graham's solution?
 - a. Only eat fish at the weekend.
 - b. Don't eat meat on Saturdays and Sundays.
 - c. Reduce the amount of meat you eat by 70%.
3. Which part of Graham's solution is he happiest about?
 - a. He's not creating so much pollution.
 - b. He's got more money.
 - c. He's healthier.

AFTER-LISTENING ACTIVITIES

1. **Work in pairs. Graham says that we as a society are eating twice as much meat as we did in the '50s'. How has diet changed in your country in the last 100 years?**

2. There are many ways that speakers can use to persuade their listeners to do things. They can:

- a. describe personal experiences that others can relate to.
- b. make it sound achievable.
- c. offer choice and flexibility.
- d. point out the personal benefits of doing it.
- e. ask themselves and the audience questions.
- f. ask listeners to imagine a situation.

How does Graham try to persuade his audience? Match the extracts with techniques (a-f). In each extract, more than one technique may be used.

1. Knowing what I know, why am I not a vegetarian?
2. Any of these angles should have been enough to convince me to go vegetarian. Yet, there I was - chk, chk, chk - tucking into a big old steak.
3. Imagine your last hamburger.
4. I'd commit to doing it later, and not surprisingly, later never came. Sounds familiar?
5. I've been doing it for the last year, and it's great. It's called Weekday Veg.
6. On the weekend, your choice. Simple. If you want to take it to the next level...
7. it's okay to break it here and there.
8. Best of all, I'm healthier, I know that I'm going to live longer, and I've even lost a little weight.

TALKING POINT

Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- Which of Graham's reasons for becoming a weekday vegetarian are the most convincing?

- Would you consider becoming a weekday vegetarian? How easy or difficult do you think it would be? Why?
- If you are a vegetarian, do you think part-time vegetarianism is a good thing?

WRITING

Write an essay on the following topic:

- *Every one of us should become a vegetarian because eating meat can cause serious health problems. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

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**INTERCULTURAL PATCHWORK
(LISTENING COMPREHENSION SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT)**

Учебно-методическое пособие

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