

GRADE **8**

SEMESTER 1



8A

PORTAL
TO ENGLISH

STUDENT'S BOOK

1a 1. Vocabulary

🔊 Listen and read. Which are positive and which are negative qualities? Write **P** or **N**. Do you have any of these qualities?

1. A **confident** person feels sure about what he/she can do.
2. A **stubborn** person doesn't change his/her mind easily.
3. A **bossy** person likes telling others what to do all the time.
4. A **kind** person cares about others and is helpful and friendly.
5. An **easy-going** person is relaxed and happy, and not easily upset, annoyed or worried.
6. A **quick-tempered** person gets angry quickly, without having a good reason.

P

N

N

P

P

N

7. An **outgoing** person is friendly and enjoys meeting other people.

P

8. A **selfish** person doesn't think about other people's feelings or needs.

N



1a

c   Look at the highlighted expressions in the dialogues and match them with their meanings **a-f**. Then check your answers in a dictionary. See *Using a Dictionary, p. 79*.

1. Same here!

e

2. I know the feeling.

c

3. Hang in there.

a

4. Here we go again!

b

5. What are you waiting for?

f

6. Got it?

d

a. Don't give up.

b. Oh, not again!

c. I understand.

d. Did you understand?

e. Me too.

f. Why don't you do it now?

1a

D  Now scan the dialogues. Then read carefully and write **T** for True or **F** for False.

- ? **1.** The boys have watched Billy B's videos before. **T**
- ? **2.** Dylan is the youngest in his family. **T**
- ? **3.** Andy doesn't get along with his brother. **F**
- ? **4.** Dylan's brother is easy to get along with. **F**
- ? **5.** Jack went to his room to do his homework. **F**

1a

3. Grammar

Present Simple vs Present Progressive

→ p. 63

A Read the examples and match them with the phrases a-c.

PRESENT SIMPLE

1. He always **tells** me what to do.

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

2. He's **studying** at university.

3. I'm **watching** the new video that Billy B has just uploaded.

a. right now

3

b. usually or repeatedly

1



c. this period of time

2

B Complete with the Present Simple or the Present Progressive of the verbs in brackets.

1. Rashid never **goes** (go) out with friends after school. He always **does** (do) his homework. At the moment, he **'s studying** (study) for a maths test.
2. **A:** Sorry, I **'m not coming** (not come) to the barbecue tomorrow. I **'m watching** (watch) a match with my brother.
B: Don't worry about it. We **'re having** (have) a barbecue next weekend too!
3. **A:** **Do** you and your sister **get** (get) along?
B: Well, we **don't fight** (not fight) every day, but we sometimes **argue** (argue) about different things.
A: We **'re moving** (move) house next week and my sister and I **are arguing** (argue) about the bedrooms. We both **want** (want) the big one.

1b

c   Look at the highlighted words in the text and try to guess what they mean. Match them with the meanings **1-5**. Then check your answers in a dictionary. See *Using a Dictionary, p. 79*.

1. worried: **anxious**
2. something you hope to do: **goal**
3. all the time: **constantly**
4. to think very carefully about something;
to focus on something: **concentrate**
5. good qualities: **advantages**

1b

D  Now scan the text. Then read carefully and answer the questions.

? **1.** How long did the digital detox challenge last?

It lasted a week.

? **2.** What do teenagers use their phones for?

They use their phones to watch videos, play games, communicate with friends and use social media

? **3.** According to Hamilton, why is this bad for teenagers?

Because it's bad for their performance at school and their social skills.

1b

D  Now scan the text. Then read carefully and answer the questions.

? **4.** What does Hamilton think teens must do?

Teens have to find the right balance.

They can turn off their devices every now and then and still enjoy life.

? **5.** How did Brian feel at the beginning of the challenge?

He was very anxious.

? **6.** What did Jane do in her free time during the challenge?

She read books, rode her bike and painted.

1b

D  Now scan the text. Then read carefully and answer the questions.

? 7. What did Oliver learn from the challenge?

He learnt that it's OK to disconnect, especially when he does his homework.

? 8. What changed for Leslie and her friends after the challenge?

They talk more and have more fun.

1b

2. Grammar

Past Simple → pp. 63-64

A Look at the verbs in blue. What tense is this? How do you know?

What **happened** when the teenagers **started** the challenge?

It is the Past Simple. The verbs end in -ed.

1b

- B** Find and underline all the examples of the **Past Simple** in the rest of the text in the pink box. Are these verbs regular or irregular? How do you know?

Verbs: felt, kept, was, got, read, rode, had

They are irregular. Regular verbs end in -ed whereas irregular verbs do not follow a specific pattern.

What happened when the teenagers started the challenge?

Brian, 16: 'On the first day, I felt very anxious. I kept putting my hand in my pocket to get my phone.'

Jane, 15: 'It was so boring in the beginning. I didn't know what to do! After a few days though, things got better. I read books, I rode my bike and I had time for my favourite hobby – painting!'

1b

C Why are the speakers using the Past Simple?

The speakers are using the Past Simple because they are talking about what happened last month when they took part in a digital detox challenge.

What happened when the teenagers started the challenge?

Brian, 16: 'On the first day, I felt very anxious. I kept putting my hand in my pocket to get my phone.'

Jane, 15: 'It was so boring in the beginning. I didn't know what to do! After a few days though, things got better. I read books, I rode my bike and I had time for my favourite hobby – painting!'

1b

The verb *used to* → p. 64

D Read the example below and choose the correct meaning **a** or **b**.

I **used to check** my phone all the time for notifications. Now I realise it's OK to just disconnect.

- a.** I checked my phone all the time for notifications in the past and still do so today.
- b.** I checked my phone all the time for notifications in the past but don't anymore.

1b

E Complete with the **Past Simple** of the verbs in brackets. Use **used to** where it is appropriate.

1. Yesterday I **went** (go) to Dan's house and we **watched** (watch) some funny videos on the Internet. Then we **decided** (decide) to make a video of us skateboarding. It **was** (be) great, but we **couldn't** (not can) upload it. We **were** (be) very upset.

1b

E Complete with the **Past Simple** of the verbs in brackets. Use **used to** where it is appropriate.

2. A: Hey, why **were you** (you / be) late for school today?

B: I **didn't hear** (not hear) my alarm clock and I **woke** (wake) up at 9 a.m.

3. In the past, Sandy **didn't have / didn't use to have** (not have) a laptop. She **did / used to do** (do) her homework on a desktop computer. Now she's got a laptop, so she can do her homework anywhere.

1c

1. Who took up a new martial art recently?
a. Harry **b.** Ross c. Both
2. Why did Harry stop doing judo?
a. It was difficult. **b.** He got the black belt. **c.** He wasn't enjoying it.
3. Who wants to become a martial arts instructor?
a. Harry b. Ross c. Both
4. What is Ross's opinion about taekwondo?
a. It's easy. **b.** It's difficult. c. It's boring.

1c

2. Vocabulary

A  Write the words in the correct category. Then listen and check your answers.

snowboarding skydiving
sailing scuba diving
tennis ice skating
volleyball parachuting



Ball games	Water sports
tennis	sailing
volleyball	scuba diving
Air sports	Winter sports
skydiving	snowboarding
parachuting	ice skating

1c

B  What verb do we use for the sports/activities below? Write **play**, **go** or **do**. Then listen and check your answers.

1. **go** rock climbing
2. **do** aerobics
3. **play** water polo
4. **do** gymnastics
5. **go** surfing
6. **play** handball
7. **do** athletics
8. **go** jogging
9. **go** hiking
10. **do** exercise



3. Grammar

Comparison of adjectives and adverbs

→ pp. 64-65

A Read the examples and answer questions a and b.

1. Judo was **easier** to learn **than** taekwondo.
2. It's the **most popular** form of martial art at my school.
3. Judo was **less exciting than** taekwondo.
4. Judo is **the least exciting** martial art of all.

a. In which sentences are two things compared? 1, 3

b. In which sentences are more than two things compared? 2, 4

1c

B Read the example and decide what it means. Choose **a**, **b** or **c**.

Martial arts are actually just **as safe as** any other contact sport.

- a.** Martial arts are safer than any other contact sport.
- b.** Other contact sports are safer than martial arts.
- c.** Martial arts and other contact sports are equally safe.



1c

C Complete the sentences with the correct form of the **adjectives** or **adverbs** in brackets.

1. Kevin Lee jumped the **highest** (high) of all the athletes that took part in the athletics tournament.
2. My mum doesn't get up as **early** (early) as my dad.
3. My cousin says that karate is the **most difficult** (difficult) martial art, but I don't agree.
4. A table tennis ball is **smaller** (small) than a tennis ball.

1c

C Complete the sentences with the correct form of the **adjectives** or **adverbs** in brackets.

5. Of the four films, *Angry Birds* is the
..... **least** (little) boring.

6. My new phone is not as **big** (big) as
my old one and it was **less**
(little) expensive too.

7. Who drives **more carefully** (carefully), Mark or
Tom?

1c

B  Listen and tick (✓) the sound you hear.

	cherry /tʃ/	Jerry /dʒ/
judo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
teach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
future	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
gymnastics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
match	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
advantage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
actually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1c

Competitions

basketball

handball

volleyball

football

water polo

tennis

skateboarding

taekwondo

cycling

exciting

boring

easy

difficult

safe

dangerous

popular

tiring

I think we should include a basketball competition because it's the most popular sport. What about you?

I disagree. I think football is more popular and...

1d

B   Listen to four people giving reviews about four blogs. What type of blog is each speaker reviewing? Choose from the words in the blue box above.

sculpture model car making blogging
camel racing camping falconry
horse riding jewellery making baking
astronomy making soaps/candles
coin collecting

? 1. Anthony

model car making

? 2. Harry

horse riding



? 3. Alice

astronomy

? 4. Bridget

jewellery making

1d

C   Listen again. Which people gave a positive review and which gave a negative review? Write **P** for Positive and **N** for Negative.

-  **1.** Anthony **N**
-  **2.** Harry **P**
-  **3.** Alice **P**
-  **4.** Bridget **N**

1d

D   Listen to the following extracts from the blog reviews. What do the following phrases mean?

1. it's something else

a. It's something extra.

b. It's something that is really good.

2. were not my thing

a. weren't something I am interested in

b. did not belong to me

E Which of the four blogs would you be interested in reading? Why?

suggested answer

I would be interested in the blog about horses because I want to learn more about them. I hope to take horse lessons in the future.

1d

3. Vocabulary (2)

Read the sentences. Which of the phrases in bold mean **like** and which **dislike**? Write **L** for Like or **D** for Dislike.

1. Tony **is crazy about** geography. He knows all the capital cities of the world.
2. I **can't stand** studying maths. It gives me a headache.
3. My brother George **is interested in** astronomy. He wants to learn all about the universe.
4. Lucy **is really into** coin collecting. She's got over two hundred coins.
5. **A:** Do you want to come to a football match with me? I've got two tickets.
B: No, thanks. Football **is not my thing**.
A: Really? I'm **a big fan of** football.
6. I can't stop reading Abdulaziz Al-Mahmoud's book. **It's something else!**

L

D

L

L



D

L

L



1d

4. Listen (2)   Listen to three teenage girls talking. Which hobby does each girl do? Match the names with the pictures. Choose **a**, **b**, **c** or **d**.

TIP!

Before you listen, look at the pictures carefully. Try to predict what the topic is about.



 **Noora** **b**  **Sara** **d**  **Ameena** **a**

1d

B   Listen again and choose **a**, **b** or **c**.

- 1) **?** 1. What did Noora use to make?
a. soaps
b. candles
c. model cars
- 2) **?** 2. Who helps Sara with her hobby?
a. her dad
b. her best friend
c. both of them
- 3) **?** 3. Why did Ameena take up her new hobby?
a. because she was bored
b. because her mum told her to
c. because she read a book about it

1e

? 1. Who created this blog post?

Omar

? 2. Why did he create it?

Because he wanted his readers to find out a few things about him.

? 3. What tenses does the writer use? Find examples.

Present Simple (*swim, like, love*), Past Simple, used to (*used to go, finished*) and Present Progressive (*I'm thinking, I'm working*).

? 4. Find examples of the linking words **and**, **but**, **so**, **because** and **or** in the text. Why does the writer use these words?

To link his ideas.



The screenshot shows a blog page titled "Omar's blog!". At the top, there are navigation buttons for "HOME", "ABOUT", and "CONTACT". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a section titled "ABOUT ME" with a profile picture of a young man. Below the picture is a short bio: "Hi, I'm Omar. I'm fifteen years old, and this is my blog! Read on to find out a few things about me." There are also search and email subscription fields. The right column has two sections: "Sports" and "Other interests". The "Sports" section describes Omar's love for swimming and water polo. The "Other interests" section describes his hobby of model car making and his recent completion of a 3D puzzle of a globe.

Omar's blog! HOME ABOUT CONTACT

ABOUT ME



Hi, I'm Omar. I'm fifteen years old, and this is my blog! Read on to find out a few things about me.

SEARCH MY BLOG

FOLLOW BY EMAIL

Email address...

Sports

I'm really into swimming, so I swim in a pool three or four times a week all year round. In the springtime, I like going to the beach with my friends. I used to go scuba diving too, but I don't any more. I love all kinds of water sports, especially water polo. In September, I'm thinking of joining a water polo team.

Other interests

I'm interested in model car making and I have a small collection of model cars. At the moment, I'm working on a racing car. I also enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles because they're a great way to relax. In fact, yesterday I finished a 3D puzzle of the globe. You can see my globe and some of my model cars [here](#).

- B** There are several mistakes in the paragraphs below, which are marked using the correction code. Read the paragraphs and correct the mistakes.

SCHOOL'S

School life

I'm in year nine and I'm ^{A a} the very good student. I like school but we've got lots of tests and exams. My favourite subject is history. It's very interesting and I ^{T learn} learnt lots of new things. The teachers are very nice too. I really like them. Professor Hobbs, the art teacher, ^{is} my favourite because he's really funny. I'm also on the school ^{Sp ^} volleyball team. I'm a great player? ^{P !} **volleyball**

Friends

I've got many friends, but only two best friends, Ian and Jack. I love hanging out with them ^{WW because} so they're great fun! We don't have time to meet ^{Pr on} in weekdays, so ^{WO} always we hang out ^{Pr at} in the weekend. We usually ^{WW play} do basketball, football and handball. We ^{T never play} are never playing video games or ^{Sp watch} wach DVDs. We think it's boring. You see, we ^{are} all very active teens! [^]

CORRECTION CODE

WW: wrong word

WO: word order

Pr: preposition

T: tense

P: punctuation

A: article

Sp: spelling

^: something missing

1. Vocabulary

A Circle the correct options.

1. Be quiet! I can't **concentrate** / **argue**.
2. I must **practise** / **compete** my kicks because I want to get my brown belt this year.
3. I love sports, **especially** / **in fact** football.
4. Khalid and I **go** / **do** surfing at the weekend.
5. I'm very **selfish** / **proud** that I won second place in the tournament.
6. Our **athlete** / **instructor** told us all about judo.
7. I use electronic **skills** / **devices** every day.

B Complete the sentences with **prepositions**.

1. I don't have enough time for both taekwondo and tennis so I have to give **up** one of them.
2. I'm really interested **in** astronomy.
3. Do you get **along** with your brother?
4. I'd like to take **up** a new hobby.

2. Grammar

C Complete with the **Present Simple** or the **Present Progressive** of the verbs in brackets.

- Layla **'s cleaning** (clean) her room now.
She **wants** (want) to finish before lunchtime.
- A:** **Do** you and your sister **often fight** (often / fight)?
B: Yes. She's very stubborn and bossy. She **doesn't change** (not change) her mind easily and she **always tells/ 's always telling** (always / tell) people what to do.
- My friends **are going** (go) ice skating tomorrow, but I **'m not joining** (not join) them. I **hate** (hate) sports.

D Complete with the **Past Simple** of the verbs in the box.

not break spend lose
not exercise borrow

1. Molly's upset because she **lost** her mobile phone.
2. In the past, my brother **didn't exercise** at all.
He **spent** his free time making model cars.
3. I **borrowed** your tablet yesterday, but
I **didn't break** it! Somebody else did.

E In which sentence in activity **D** can we use **used to**? Rewrite it using **used to**.

In sentence 2.

In the past, my brother didn't use to exercise at all. He used to spend his free time making model cars.

F Complete with the correct form of the words in brackets.

1. I think learning Chinese is as **difficult** (difficult) as learning Russian.
2. Latifa's English isn't very good, so I try to speak **more slowly** (slowly) than I usually do when we're together.
3. Mubarak is the **most outgoing** (outgoing) student in the class. He's got so many friends!
4. May doesn't draw as **well** (well) as me.
5. Tennis is **less** (little) fun than hockey.

3. Communication

G Choose **a** or **b**.

1. **A:** I have to run.

B:

a. Take care.

b. I'm off.

2. **A:** How many times have I told you not to take my things?

B:

a. Here we go again!

b. I know the feeling!

3. **A:** What do you think of my painting?

B:

a. Long time no see!

b. It's something else!

4. **A:** Barbara? I haven't seen you for ages!

B:

a. Fancy meeting you here!

b. What are you waiting for?

Now I can...



- describe someone's personality
- refer to the present and the past
- talk about past habits
- make comparisons
- talk about what I like and dislike
- write two paragraphs describing a person
- start, maintain and end a conversation
- introduce myself and present aspects of my life
- link ideas with *and, but, so, because* and *or*
- write a blog post presenting myself