



WOW! (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Is the word 'wow' used frequently in your country?
2. Do you ever use it when you're speaking your own language? If so, how? when?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. The word 'wow' was already in use in the 16th century.
2. It did not become common until the middle of the 20th century.
3. In the early 1920s, 'wow' was used only as a noun.
4. It became much more popular when it appeared in films and TV shows.
5. It has a negative meaning in business expressions like 'wow factor' and 'wow effect'.
6. It can sometimes be used in an ironic or sarcastic way.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What does 'wow' express besides surprise and excitement?
2. What was the earliest English text to contain it?
3. How was the exclamation 'I vow!' used at that time?
4. In what kind of books was 'wow' common in the 20th century?
5. Why is it often used online to react to pictures, videos or posts?
6. What meaning can 'wow' have as a criticism?

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. The cream in this cake isn't fresh. It has an _____ taste.
2. The latest version of this phone is expensive, but it has a really useful new _____.
3. To become a _____, a priest has to be at least 35 years old and have a doctorate in theology.
4. When the two girls met at primary school, it was the beginning of a _____ friendship.
5. The first castle built on this site was much smaller. It _____ to the 11th century.
6. People living in big cities in the UK say they are worried about the _____ in knife crime.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

Most people know the meaning of 'wow' because it's used in lots of languages besides English, but it's best not to use it ¹ _____ (*much/too/too much*) often if you want people to ² _____ (*take/make/have*) notice of what you're saying. To express a mixture of surprise and admiration, the exclamations 'Awesome!' or 'Impressive!' or even 'Astonishing!' can be used instead. ³ _____ (*By/On/From*) the other hand, if you're expressing shock or disbelief, you can use phrases like 'Good grief!' or 'Come on!' or 'You must be ⁴ _____ (*joked/joker/joking*)!' Some expressions, like 'You don't say!' or 'What a surprise!' are found in both positive and negative situations, but just be ⁵ _____ (*careful/caring/careless*) of the tone of voice you use. If you don't ⁶ _____ (*look/show/sound*) genuinely surprised, people will think you're being sarcastic.

F – Check your pronunciation

One of the four words in each group has a different vowel sound. Which one?

1. found though sounds noun
2. business quick surprise history
3. early word verb recorded
4. strong social over posts
5. emphasis unpleasant features expess

G – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. What expressions are used in your language to express surprise and admiration?
2. Are they slang expressions?
3. Do you know how they originated?
4. What other foreign words and phrases are used frequently in your country?
5. Do you think there are too many? Why (not)?

The Civil Rights Act (B1 -Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. When does your country's constitution date back to?
2. Did it give everyone the right to vote?
3. Have other laws been passed since then to grant equal rights to marginalised or minority groups?
4. What do you know about the American Civil Rights Act of 1964?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. The Civil Rights Act
 - a) protects voter rights.
 - b) prohibits segregation.
 - c) does both of these.
2. After the American Civil War, former slaves
 - a) became US citizens.
 - b) weren't discriminated against.
 - c) were not protected by law.
3. The Civil Rights Bill was presented by
 - a) the Civil Rights Movement.
 - b) John F. Kennedy.
 - c) Lyndon B. Johnson.
4. The number of senators who voted in favour of the bill was
 - a) seventy-three.
 - b) twenty-seven.
 - c) forty-six.
5. Other laws to prohibit racism were passed in
 - a) 1975 and 1978.
 - b) 1965 and 1968.
 - c) 1968 and 1975.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why was life still difficult for former slaves in the southern states, even after 1868?
2. Which organisation fought to end discrimination in the 1960s?
3. What event greatly increased racial tension in 1963?
4. Why didn't John F. Kennedy see the passing of the bill he had presented to Congress?
5. What was the purpose of the Fair Housing Act of 1968?
6. What name was given to the laws that separated black and white people in the American South?

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. The ministry _____ a 5 per cent pay rise to members of staff last year.
2. You can go to your local Citizens Advice service if you need _____ legal advice.
3. The _____ of water is 100 degrees Celsius at sea level.
4. Laila has a good job now, but she had to _____ lots of difficulties in the past.
5. The mistake in the first _____ of the contract has been corrected. Here is the final version.
6. International Aid is less effective in countries where corruption is _____.

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

Write one word only in each space.

Medgar Evers was a black civil rights leader ¹_____ murder gave great prominence to the Civil Rights Movement and resulted ²_____ large-scale protests across America. Evers had fought in Europe in World War II, where he ³_____ part in the D-Day landings in Normandy. After the war, he was engaged in the fight ⁴_____ segregation in schools and universities and in public facilities.

On 12th June, 1963, Evers was shot and killed in front of his home ⁵_____ Byron De La Beckwith, a white supremacist and member of the Ku Klux Klan. De La Beckwith was tried twice for Evers' murder, but avoided ⁶_____ to prison because the all-white male juries could not agree on a verdict. Finally, in 1995, on the basis of new evidence, he was tried again and given a life sentence. He died in prison in 2001.

F – Write about it

Write about a landmark law passed in your country regarding civil rights or civil liberties. Mention:

- when it was passed;
- what the law prescribes;
- why it was necessary;
- which parties were in favour of it.

Sadiq Khan – The Mayor of London (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What responsibilities does a town mayor usually have?
2. Who is the mayor of your town or city?
3. What do you know about him/her?
4. Have you ever met him/her?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. Sadiq Khan was elected Mayor of London for the _____ time in May 2024.
2. He was born in _____.
3. His parents came from _____.
4. Before becoming mayor, Khan was the Shadow Secretary of State for _____.
5. After the Brexit vote in 2016, many _____ left London.
6. Khan has had a difficult relationship with the _____-_____ media.
7. He accused his rival for the mayorship, Susan Hall, of condoning _____.
8. His climate action plan includes zero-emission buses and solar panels on _____.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Which political party does Sadiq Khan belong to?
2. What are the responsibilities of the Mayor of London?
3. Was Sadiq Khan's family background a privileged one? Why (not)?
4. What did he do before entering politics?
5. How did the pandemic affect London?
6. Why have recent Conservative prime ministers been anti-London, according to Khan?
7. How does he propose to help families combat the cost-of-living crisis?
8. What does he intend to do to help London students and international students.

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. Joe and his family are homeless. They've applied for a _____.
2. China's fishing _____ is the largest in the world, with over 500,000 ships.
3. I'm working for a small company now. I'm _____ financially, but a lot happier.
4. Vulnerable elderly people are often _____ by unscrupulous criminal gangs.
5. I can't invite Amy to my party because I don't have her _____ address or phone number.
6. Rosie wants to move to a quiet Outer London _____ with a lower crime rate.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

Greater London covers an area of 1579 km² and consists of thirty-three separate boroughs, fourteen of which make ¹_____ Inner London, and the others Outer London. The Inner London boroughs include the City of London, which is one of the world's ²_____ important financial centres, and which corresponds geographically to the ancient Roman city from ³_____ modern London developed, and the City of Westminster, in which the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace are ⁴_____.

⁵_____ of the London boroughs is a local government district with its own elected council and a council leader or mayor. The borough councils provide local services ⁶_____ as education, planning permission, waste disposal and collection, ⁷_____ the Greater London Authority (GLA), consisting of the Mayor of London and the London Assembly, is ⁸_____ for the strategic administration of the whole of Greater London, in areas like transport, policing, fire and rescue, development and strategic planning. The GLA is based at City Hall in the London Borough of Newham.

F – Write about it

Write about the mayor of your own town or the mayor of a major city in your country. Mention:

- which political party he/she belongs to;
- when he/she was elected;
- how popular he/she is;
- what problems he/she has had to face;
- what you think of his/her performance.

Brave New World (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like science-fiction novels?
2. If so, do you have a favourite?
3. Have you ever read *Brave New World*?
4. What do you know about its author, Aldous Huxley?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. *Brave New World* is about a futuristic society called the *World Utopia*.
2. It's a society in which family structures no longer exist.
3. All human embryos are treated with special chemicals so that everyone is highly intelligent.
4. Factory work is done by robots, not by people.
5. In this novel, as in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, people are controlled through fear.
6. People have a lot of leisure time in which they are encouraged to think.
7. One of the book's characters, John Savage, was born in an area not controlled by the state.
8. The novel highlights the dangers of relying on technology to transform society for the better.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How are babies created in the society described in *Brave New World*?
2. How are Epsilons produced?
3. Why is Bokanovsky's Process described as a major instrument of social stability?
4. How are babies' minds conditioned?
5. Who are the only people with real power in this society?
6. What means are used to keep people happy?
7. Where does the title *Brave New World* come from?
8. What aspects of our society are now seen as examples of things that Huxley's warned against?

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. The heart is a muscle that _____ blood through the body.
2. This jam is very expensive. It costs £8 for a small _____.
3. _____ is the alteration or control of someone's mind through various methods.
4. _____ his childhood, George had spent all his spare time practising various sports.
5. The repair shop in the High Street is excellent. They _____ our TV last year.
6. The survey was _____ by a team from the University of Edinburgh.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

Aldous Huxley wrote *Brave New World* in 1931, ¹ _____ World War I and World War II, when there was a widespread belief that technology could ² _____ the problems caused by war and disease. He did not share the optimism of many of his ³ _____ citizens and therefore decided to criticise it by imagining a world in ⁴ _____ rapid technological advances led to a loss of individual identity.

The story is ⁵ _____ in the World State city of London in the distant ⁶ _____, 2450 CE or, as it is called in the novel, 632 AF (After Ford). The main characters are John Savage, who ⁷ _____ up outside the World State, Bernard Marx, who is discontented with the World State, Lenina Crowne, ⁸ _____ values are those of a typical World State citizen, and Mustapha Mond, the World Controller of Western Europe.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. *Brave New World* is a society in which, through science and technology, individuality is suppressed, pleasure is considered of prime importance and information is manipulated. Do you think there are any signs of this happening in our society?
 2. Are there any scientific or technological advancements that you find worrying? If so, which?
 3. Do you think the arrival of social media has encouraged people to express their own ideas or to conform to those of others?
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Answers: Wow!

B – Listen and answer

1. T
2. F – It was already in common use by the late 1800s.
3. F – It was also used as an adjective and a verb.
4. T
5. F – It has a positive meaning in these expressions.
6. T

C – Read and answer

1. It also expresses admiration.
2. An English language version of *The Aeneid* by Virgil.
3. It was used to add emphasis to a statement.
4. In comic books.
5. Because it's a quick and easy way to show appreciation or surprise without writing lengthy comments.
6. It can mean "That was a lousy/unpleasant/improper thing to say!"

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. unpleasant
2. feature
3. bishop
4. lasting
5. dated back
6. rise

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. too
2. take
3. On
4. joking
5. careful
6. sound

F – Check your pronunciation

1. though
 2. surprise
 3. recorded
 4. strong
 5. features
-

Answers: The Civil Rights Act (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

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

C – Read and answer

1. Because discrimination was still rife, as there was massive resistance to desegregation in the southern states.
2. The Civil Rights Movement.
3. The murder of civil rights activist Medgar Evers.
4. He was assassinated before it was passed.
5. To prevent discrimination in the buying or renting of property.
6. The Jim Crow Laws.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. granted
2. unbiased
3. boiling point
4. overcome
5. draft
6. rife

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. whose
 2. in
 3. took
 4. against
 5. by
 6. going
-

Answers: Sadiq Khan – The Mayor of London (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. third
2. South London
3. Pakistan
4. Justice
5. EU citizens
6. right-wing
7. racism
8. school roofs

C – Read and answer

1. He belongs to the Labour Party.
2. The Mayor of London's responsibilities are setting the budget and directing the entire metropolitan area of London.
3. No, it wasn't. His parents came to the UK as immigrants. His father was a bus-driver and his mother worked as a seamstress.
4. He worked as a human rights lawyer.
5. During the pandemic, more people

worked from home and many families moved out of the capital. 6. Because they think it will help them win votes in the Midlands and in the north of England. 7. He wants to make free school dinners permanent in state primary schools and introduce baby banks in London boroughs, where parents can get free essentials for their children. 8. He intends to introduce an Erasmus-style scheme.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. council home 2. fleet 3. worse off 4. targeted 5. current 6. borough

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. up 2. most 3. which 4. situated/located/found 5. Each 6. such
7. while/whereas 8. responsible

Answers: Brave New World (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It's called the World State. 2. T 3. F – Only some of the embryos receive the special chemical mix. 4. F – It's done by low-grade workers or identical clones. 5. F – In this novel, they are controlled through pleasure, not fear. 6. F – They have no time to sit down and think. 7. T 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. They are created in glass jars at places like the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre. 2. Their embryos are deprived of oxygen to make them semi-moronic. 3. Because it produces standard men and women in uniform batches, who all do the same job. 4. They are conditioned using brainwashing techniques like hypnopedia while they are asleep. 5. The Controllers. 6. People are kept happy through perfume and music in the air, massage, the feelies, orgies and a drug called soma. 7. It comes from Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*. 8. Areas like genetic engineering, mass production and popular culture.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. pumps 2. jar 3. Brainwashing 4. Throughout 5. fixed 6. carried out

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. between 2. solve/remedy 3. fellow 4. which 5. set 6. future 7. grew
8. whose