



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?
-

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