

Creative Reader

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Introduction

The authors of **Creative Reader** are delighted that you are using this textbook to exercise and improve your English. The key to becoming a good reader is to read and enjoy as much material as possible. In actuality, one does not learn to read; one reads to learn.

As you will soon discover, almost all of the main readings, and many of the exercises, are based on true stories. It is often said that truth is stranger than fiction; after completing this text, you might arrive at the same conclusion.

In using this textbook, you will exercise a number of reading skills and strategies. The focus of each chapter is not on the acquisition of a specific skill. Rather, the skills are integrated into the content. In real life, too, more than one strategy is used at a given time to understand written information. Therefore, it is important to employ a variety of skills in engaging actual content. It is hoped that you will be able to put these strategies into effect unconsciously and automatically when you encounter material in English-language publications such as scholarly journals and news magazines.

The reading comprehension process is made up of several factors, such as grammar, background knowledge, vocabulary, and L1 reading ability. In addition to focusing on these elements, it is hoped that the activities in this book will serve as a stimulus for language production, more specifically for writing and discussion. The authors hope that learners, upon completing this text, will be able to move on to increasingly sophisticated material and tasks, and deal with them efficiently, appropriately, and skillfully.

Above all, it is hoped that this text will help you to raise your reading ability, increase your vocabulary stock, and consequentially, improve your confidence in using English in daily interaction.

Contents

Unit 1	The Christmas Gift	9
	Warm-in Getting the Main Idea	
	Quick Reading Reading for Organization	
Unit 2	A Magical Coat	15
	Warm-in Putting the Ideas in Sequence	
	Quick Reading Scanning	
Unit 3	Tchaikovsky's Greatest Fan	21
	Warm-in Understanding Vocabulary in Context	
	Quick Reading Meaning in Context	
Unit 4	Crazy Cooperation on a Dictionary	27
	Warm-in Getting the Main Idea	
	Quick Reading Inferring Meaning	
Unit 5	The Hidden Identity	33
	Warm-in Understanding Details	
	Quick Reading Predicting	
Unit 6	Death from Double Miscommunication	39
	Warm-in Giving a Title to a Passage	
	Quick Reading Drawing the Correct Picture	
Unit 7	The Young Animal Killer	45
	Warm-in Understanding Details	
	Quick Reading Scanning	

Unit 8	Japan's Electronic Parade	51
	Warm-in Inferring the Meaning	
	Quick Reading Predicting	
Unit 9	Creating Neverland	57
	Warm-in Inferring the Meaning	
	Quick Reading Choosing a Concluding Sentence	
Unit 10	Why Is There Spring?	63
	Warm-in Inferring the Meaning	
	Quick Reading Reading for Organization	
Unit 11	The Remarkable Crocodile	69
	Warm-in Reading for Specific Information / Scanning	
	Quick Reading Reading for Details	
Unit 12	A Strange Prediction	75
	Warm-in Finding the Topic Sentence	
	Quick Reading Vocabulary in Context	
Unit 13	A Short History of Coffee	81
	Warm-in Generating a Title	
	Quick Reading Vocabulary in Context	
Unit 14	A Great Accomplishment?	87
	Warm-in Grammar in Context	
	Quick Reading Reading for Details	
Unit 15	The Theremin	93
	Warm-in Reading a Graph	
	Quick Reading Reading an Advertisement	
	Glossary	99

How to Use This Textbook

Warm-in Before starting a chapter, there will be a reading activity and a question or two to acquaint the reader with the theme of the chapter.

Warm-up A short series of quiz questions will be given on background knowledge relevant to the topic of the chapter. These questions represent a trivia quiz of sorts.

Main Reading Each reading consists of two pages of text. Enjoy reading the text while trying to grasp the overall meaning. Afterwards, a multiple-choice quiz will follow. Assess your own comprehension based on your quiz score results.

Summarizing Without referring back to the story, try to complete the summary sentences in your own words. The objective of this activity is to help you develop your skills in paraphrasing and rephrasing your own ideas.

Vocabulary In Context This exercise will help you review key words from the passage. It will also help to reinforce your understanding of the words.

Group Chat After completing the story for a certain chapter, discuss the suggested topic with a partner or small group to improve and exercise your skills in discussion in English.

All Write! You will be given a topic on which you are to write a target number of words. The topics are connected to the main reading.

Quick Reading At the end of each lesson, there will be an additional skill-focused reading activity. The main aim of this activity is to help you exercise additional reading skills.

The Christmas Gift

Warm-in Getting the Main Idea

Read the following passage quickly. Then choose the best letter to answer the question that follows the passage.

Audio 1-02

Dear Aunt Demi:

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift last month. I know that I have already sent you a thank you card, but I just wanted to tell you again that the sweater is great. I wear it to school twice a week and my friends always compliment* me on it. I wanted to let you know something more important, however. I hope that you are not angry, as I still have not sent you your Christmas present. Anyway, I promise that I will mail your Christmas present before Valentine's Day. Won't that be nice? In other words, you will still have one present to look forward to! Just keep in mind for now, however, that I am really sorry about sending your present two months late.

Your loving (and slow!) nephew,*

Alan

(136 words)

Why did Alan write this letter?

- He wants to buy his aunt a sweater for Christmas.
- He wants to thank his aunt for sending a present.
- He wants to apologize to his aunt for being late.

Warm-up

Read each quiz selection. Then choose the letter from the box at the bottom of the page that best completes each sentence. Two of them will not be used.

1. Kids get a lot of sweets on this day. Historically, it was a celebration of the coming of spring. People held big, happy festivals to say farewell to winter. _____
2. This is an old holiday on which ghosts are said to come out and walk the earth for a night. _____

a. Halloween b. Christmas c. Easter d. Thanksgiving

Main Reading

Audio 1-03

- 1 One day in September, Terry Schafer was shopping for a present for her husband. That year, she knew just what to get him for Christmas. She thought that she would buy and give it to him early that year, months before Christmas Day.
- 2 She found what she wanted on her first day of shopping. There, in a small shop on 5th Avenue, she saw it in a window. She went to the counter and asked to see it. The clerk showed it to her, explaining that it was the very best money could buy.
- 3 After he told her the price, however, Terry looked disappointed*. It was too expensive. She asked the clerk to hold it for her and told him that she would come back in early December. It would become a proper Christmas present after all.
- 4 No, the clerk answered, he would not hold it for her. He smiled and said that he would wrap it for her. Terry protested but the clerk insisted. He told her that she could come back and pay for it when she had the money.
- 5 With her gift wrapped, Terry left the shop to go home. She could not wait to give it to her husband. Although David had wanted to exchange presents on Christmas Day, Terry could not endure* the long wait. She wanted her husband to have his present early.



- 6 A couple of weeks later, a police car pulled up in front of the house. An officer got out and began walking toward her house. Panic gripped* Terry. Her husband was also a policeman and this was his partner. Where was David?
- 7 His partner removed his hat and spoke calmly*. There had been an accident. “We got a call on our radio. A liquor store was being robbed* on the other side of town. So we raced over there and found the criminal* running for his car. David yelled* at him to stop, but he didn’t.
- 8 “David got into his car and took off after him. Three blocks later, the criminal pulled over. David got out and started walking toward the car. Just then the door of the other car flew open*. Terry, the driver fired two shots and one of them hit your husband.”
- 9 Tears began to form in Terry’s eyes. This was her biggest fear about her husband’s profession*. His partner, however, sensing* Terry’s misunderstanding, immediately said, “There is nothing to worry about—your husband is fine. Anyway, we took off after* the guy and caught him. He shot David in the chest, but when we got him to the hospital the doctors found nothing wrong with him. I think you know why.”
- 10 Tears of joy poured down Terry’s cheeks. “I’m so glad! I’m so, so glad that I couldn’t wait to give him his present early! I just knew it would come in handy*.”
- 11 Terry had still paid for only part of that Christmas present, but now she had given him a second present—his life. What was his first Christmas present?
- 12 Terry had bought him the very best bulletproof* vest available.

(514 words)

Comprehension

Read the following questions. Then choose the best answer for each.

1. Why was Terry buying a present for her husband in this story?
 - a. Christmas was coming.
 - b. She was buying one for no special reason.
 - c. His birthday was coming soon.
2. Why did Terry ask the clerk at first to keep the present in the shop?
 - a. She was going to see if another shop had a better one.
 - b. She didn't want her husband to see it before she gave it to him.
 - c. She didn't have enough money to pay for it yet.
3. What does David do for a living?
 - a. He is a shop clerk.
 - b. He is a police officer.
 - c. He is an accountant.
4. What did the store clerk tell Terry?
 - a. She should not shop for gifts if she doesn't have enough money.
 - b. She should come to the back of the store and wait for the police.
 - c. She could take the gift although she had not paid for it yet.
5. Which of the following sentences is true?
 - a. David's partner caught him robbing a bank and shot him.
 - b. Terry's early Christmas gift saved her husband's life.
 - c. A liquor store owner had secretly paid for the present.

Summarizing

Complete each sentence based on events from the story. Try not to look back at the story.

1. A couple of weeks after Terry had bought the gift, a car came to her house.
2. First, David and his partner got _____.
3. Next, they went quickly _____.
4. Then, David shouted _____.
5. After that, David _____ in his car.
6. Three blocks later, _____.
7. Next, David began _____.
8. Finally, the criminal _____.

Vocabulary In Context

There are some words from the story in the box below. Choose the best word to complete the sentences.

1. A _____ was arrested outside of our home last night. He had been trying to break into it.
2. Thank you very much for inviting me to your party. _____, I will be busy that night.
3. Burger Palace is not far from here. Go to the next corner, turn right, and drive three _____. It will be on the right-hand side, across from a gas station.
4. My brothers and sisters always _____ presents on Christmas Eve, not Christmas Day.
5. I like the _____ at Marcy's Department Store. They are always polite and helpful.
6. I cannot drink _____ yet because I am under 20.
7. My father is a teacher. What is your dad's _____?
8. You cannot shoot through this jacket with a gun. It is _____.

blocks / clerks / criminal / however / bulletproof / exchange / liquor / profession

Group Chat

1. What was the best present you received last year?
2. Who gave it to you? Why did you like it so much? If you could receive a present tomorrow, what would you like to have? Why?

[EX.] The best present I received last year was a smartphone. My mother gave it to me on my birthday. It was the best one available at the time. If I could get a present tomorrow, I would like a car. Then I would not have to commute to university by train.

All Write!

What is your favorite holiday? Write a paragraph about your favorite holiday and give two or three reasons to explain why that is your favorite holiday.

Quick Reading Reading for Organization

Read the following passage. Which present is his? Find it and then circle it in the picture.

Audio 1-04

Christmas Morning

I saw my folks wrapping our presents for Christmas last week. That really big one is for my brother. The tall, thin present is for my sister Liz. Mary, my other sister, gets two presents, the two smallest ones. Mine is pretty big. It is wrapped in striped paper. I am not sure what it is, but I am going to shake it later to find out.

(67 words)

