



Oh! My English

High Intermediate – Vol #2



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UNIT I : FESTIVALS



Oktoberfest – Munich, Germany



- Vicky : The best brew is from Augustiner-Festhalle, one of the large tents.
James : Let's go there tonight.
Vicky : But if you wanna listen to live rock, Hacker-Festzelt is the place to go.
James : I'll try to squeeze all of them into my limited time.
Vicky : You'll enjoy it anywhere here.
James : Like no other. This is authentic, firsthand Oktoberfest experience!

Vocabulary:

Firsthand – of or pertaining to the [first](#) or original source.

Useful Expressions:

The best brew is from Augustiner-Festhalle, one of the large tents.
But if you wanna listen to live rock, Hacker-Festzelt is the place to go.
I'll try to squeeze all of them into my limited time.
This is authentic, firsthand Oktoberfest experience!

UNIT I : FESTIVALS



Fringe Festival – Edinburgh, Scotland



- Paula : I'll see you when you get here.
Karl : I'll be there in time for the Fringe Festival.
Paula : Why, we'd be honoured to have you perform again.
Karl : Actually, no. For a change I'll be a spectator this year.
Paula : Everyone's rooting up on you. You can't fail our group now.
Karl : You'll always find a fresh replacement. Let's talk when I get there.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Spectator – a person who looks on or watches

Fringe - In [London](#), the Fringe is the term given to small scale theatres, any of them located above pubs, and the equivalent to New York's [Off-Broadway](#) or [Off-Off-Broadway](#) theatres.

I'll see you when you get here.

I'll be there in time for the Fringe Festival.

For a change I'll be a spectator this year.

You'll always find a fresh replacement.

Activity:

Given the chance, what theatrical acts would you perform on a Fringe Festival? Why ?

UNIT I : FESTIVALS



Holi Festival – India



- Kareen : There has been some environmental issues with the celebration of Holi Festival.
- Harry : But it still continues as the most exciting and exhilarating celebrations of Hinduism.
- Kareen : I come from South India but we do not celebrate Holi with the same fervour that others do.
- Harry : That's one of the reasons why you remain a skeptic!
- Kareen : I'm not. I just don't see any reasons why we should waste trees and pollute the environment with the burning of woods.
- Harry : This is part our culture. Sadly, you've been westernized too much!

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Skeptic – a person who questions the validity or authenticity of something purporting to be factual.

There has been some environmental issues with the celebration of Holi Festival.

That's one of the reasons why you remain a skeptic!

This is part our culture.

Sadly, you've been westernized too much!

Activity:

EAST & WEST CULTURE: Which countries are western? Which are eastern?

The USA

The Philippines

Vietnam

Germany

India

Canada

England

Malaysia

UNIT I : FESTIVALS



Festival of the Hungry Ghosts - China



- Shen : We offer joss sticks and burn paper money to appease the dead.
Joshua : The idea of disturbed dead men has haunted men even in time past. Everywhere, there's a similar event to satisfy the dead.
Shen : I believe it's also an excuse to showcase the rich culture of a nation.
Joshua : Yes, the opera about Buddha's follower was splendid!
Shen : And the colourful lanterns atop the lotus plants are intense!
Joshua : Just now, I could glimpse on my childhood spent on a night like this.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Appease – to bring to a state of peace, quiet, ease, calm, or contentment .

We offer joss sticks and burn paper money to appease the dead.
The idea of disturbed dead men has haunted men even in time past.
I believe it's also an excuse to showcase the rich culture of a nation.
Just now, I could glimpse on my childhood spent on a night like this.

Activity:

Share in detail in what events or holidays do people in your country show their respects to the dead.

UNIT II : CULTURE



Traditional Clothes

- Steve : You will look beautiful in that hanbok.
Kim : You think so? It looks so traditional but mom insists I wear this on our wedding.
Steve : Why not? You could both wear your mother's hanbok and a white, bridal gown.
Kim : I feel like an egg is on my face wearing this hanbok.
Steve : Darling, you have to please the elders. This is equally important to them, too.
Kim : I guess you're right.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

[Egg on your face](#) - If someone has egg on their face, they are made to look foolish or embarrassed.

It looks so traditional but mom insists I wear this on our wedding.
You could both wear your mother's hanbok and a white, bridal gown.
I feel like an egg is on my face wearing this hanbok.
This is equally important to them, too.

Activity:

Find out in which countries these costumes are popular.

UNIT II : CULTURE



Marry Me

- Brandon : Marry me and we could both have a good future here.
Jessica : Your parents will think I'm only after your money.
Brandon : We don't need to worry about what they will say. We're adults.
Jessica : But we will need to live in the same house with them.
Brandon : Don't talk non-sense. Everything will turn out fine, you'll see.
Jessica : I don't know. I feel like a lamb to the slaughter.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Like lambs to the slaughter - If somebody does something unpleasant without any resistance, they go like lambs to the slaughter.

Marry me and we could both have a good future here.
Your parents will think I'm only after your money.
But we will need to live in the same house with them.
I feel like a lamb to the slaughter.

Activity:

Marry-Go-Round: Find out which should come first:

Stag party/Bridal shower	Wedding Proposal	
Honeymoon	Engagement	Wedding Day

UNIT II : CULTURE



Religious Belief

- Chloe : I'll be in deep trouble if my parents find out.
Caleb : They don't need to know. Besides, you need a break.
Chloe : I can't. I have to skip the Christmas celebration.
Caleb : You're a spoilsport. Why do you always have to stand for your belief?
Chloe : I'm sorry that I upset you. But you have to respect my beliefs the same way I respect yours.
Caleb : You're right. It's just strange that some people don't celebrate birthdays and Christmas.



Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Spoilsport – a person whose selfish or unsportsmanlike attitudes or actions spoil the pleasure of others, as in a game or social gathering.

I'll be in deep trouble if my parents find out.

I have to skip the Christmas celebration.

Why do you always have to stand for your belief?

But you have to respect my beliefs the same way I respect yours.

Activity:

Jumble the following letters to come up with the world's major religions:

aisduJm

isnyCianhitr

ctyenolSogi

udihBsdm

laslm

smiudinH

ikmishS

mSnhintios

Stisripism

saimniJ

(ans. Judaism, Christianity, Scientology, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Shintoism, Spiritism, Jainism)

UNIT III : TECHNOLOGY



Smart Phones



- Julianne : I remember getting my first cell phone when I was in fifth grade.
Back then, it was only used for sending messages and calling someone
- Carlo : So are you going to buy a smart phone or not?
- Julianne : It's not about the money. I feel I'm just jumping on the bandwagon.
- Carlo : I had my smart phone for a year now. Believe me, I've never been caught without it for even a single day.
- Julianne : And that's exactly what I don't want to happen: to be too dependent on an inanimate object.
- Carlo : Owning a smart phone is a necessary evil these days.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Jump on the bandwagon *also* get on the bandwagon - to support something that is popular.

I remember getting my first cell phone when I was in fifth grade.

I feel I'm just jumping on the bandwagon.

Believe me, I've never been caught without it for even a single day.

And that's exactly what I don't want to happen: to be too dependent on an inanimate object.

Activity:

Create as many five-letter words as you can from the letters of Smart Phones.

UNIT III : TECHNOLOGY



Men on Mars

Frank : They're sending men to Mars by 2013.

Dina : Much of the news is still under wraps.

It will be difficult to find actual men who would love to go there.

Frank : But this whole scenario is a milestone for the space program.

Dina : After the moon, it's just natural to go to other planets.

Frank : Imagine where space exploration will take us a hundred years from now.

Inter-stellar travel may be possible by then!

Dina : Too bad! You won't see that day!



Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Under wraps – concealed; suppressed.

They're sending men to Mars by 2013.

It will be difficult to find actual men who would love to go there.

But this whole scenario is a milestone for the space program.

Imagine where space exploration will take us a hundred years from now.

Activity:

How advanced would space exploration be a hundred years from now? Discuss the possibilities with your teacher.

UNIT III : TECHNOLOGY



LED appliances



- Philip : That was a masterpiece! It's another feather in your cap.
William : I don't take full credits, Phil. You see the man over there, he's the lighting director.
Philip : In stage show productions, of course, he's indispensable.
William : The indoor and outdoor lights come from LED illumination, carefully chosen to evoke the beauty that you witnessed tonight.
Philip : The visibility was indeed very high even on the far end of the auditorium.
William : I bet you, he'll be the most sought-after lights director soon!

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

feather in your cap – A success or achievement that may help you in the future.

I don't take full credits, Phil.

In stage show productions, of course, he's indispensable.

The visibility was indeed very high even on the far end of the auditorium.

I bet you, he'll be the most sought-after lights director soon!

Activity:

Look at your house. Think of how and in what ways LED are being used in modern appliances.

UNIT III : TECHNOLOGY



3D movies

- Henry : It was not worth it. Much hype on that movie goes down the drain.
Morris : I know what you mean. I was expecting more for the money I paid.
Henry : The 3-D glasses were uncomfortable. The effects were a big let-down.
Morris : 3-D is a new concept. The forthcoming movies could just go better.
Henry : They better be or I'll just content myself watching conventional films.
Morris : We better get going, the rain will fall anytime soon.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Down the drain – if work or money goes down the drain, it is wasted.

Much hype on that movie goes down the drain.

I was expecting more for the money I paid.

The forthcoming movies could just go better.

We better get going, the rain will fall anytime soon.

Activity:

How many words can you think of that begin with the letters "tri?"

(Sample Answers: Triangle, trilogy, trimester, triathlete, trials, tribunal, triceps, tricycle, triglyceride, Trigonometry)

UNIT IV : INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Olympics

- Sarah : In the past, Olympics competitions were held as a way to please the gods.
- Jill : In a way, it still fulfils its original goal. All the excitement, preparations, even the losses contribute to over-all fun.
- Sarah : Warring nations try to set-aside feuds for a while during Olympics.
- Jill : Of course, it wouldn't be complete without all the controversies but it's still the biggest happening on earth.
- Sarah : I wish the next winter Olympics will be held here.
- Jill : You should wish for snow to land here first.



Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Set aside – to dismiss from the mind; reject.

In the past, Olympics competitions were held as a way to please the gods.

All the excitement, preparations, even the losses contribute to over-all fun.

Of course, it wouldn't be complete without all the controversies but it's still the biggest happening on earth.

I wish the next winter Olympics will be held here.

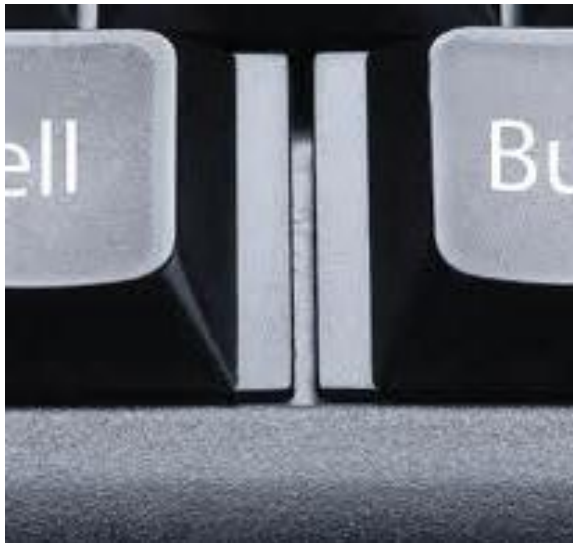
Activity:

Use the word bank to label the Winter Olympic sports.

Curling figure skating speed skating biathlon
ice hockey cross-country skiing alpine skiing
freestyle skiing

Ans. (cross-country skiing, curling, alpine skiing, biathlon, speed skating, ice hockey, figure skating, freestyle skating)

UNIT IV : INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Trading

- Sean : Antonio is saddled with debt. He failed big in trade speculations.
Paolo : I warned him but he was lured by the prospects of huge gain.
Sean : He's nowhere to be seen. I heard his home is about to be foreclosed.
Paolo : This has happened to him before. I know he could bounce back soon.
Sean : It may take years this time. The recession is just about to get worse.
Paolo : Poor Antonio. It's his kids that I worry more.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Speculation – engagement in business transactions involving considerable risk but offering the chance of large gains.

Antonio is saddled with debt.

I warned him but he was lured by the prospects of huge gain.

I heard his home is about to be foreclosed.

The recession is just about to get worse.

Activity:

Odd one out: What is not a way to refer about money?

Dollar	Bankroll	Bill	Cash
Butter	Coinage	Legal Tender	
Silver	Finances	Bread	

(Ans. Butter)

UNIT IV : INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Peace Talks

- Lana : The government is pushing for the peace talks amidst conflicting reports that only hurt the image of the country.
- Jodi : The whole world is looking at the output. Investors are wary.
- Lana : If the peace talks push through and the results are favourable, it is possible for a credit rating upgrade.
- Jodi : But you know how the communists operate. They've always banked on the vulnerable sentiments of the poor.
- Lana : This peace talks should ensure that grassroot conflicts are resolved through dialogues at the local level.
- Jodi : Otherwise, a bloody civil war may ensue.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Grassroots - A grassroots movement (often referenced in the context of a [political movement](#)) is one driven by the politics of a community.

The government is pushing for the peace talks amidst conflicting reports that only hurt the image of the country.

If the peace talks push through and the results are favourable, it is possible for a credit rating upgrade.

They've always banked on the vulnerable sentiments of the poor.

This peace talks should ensure that grassroot conflicts are resolved through dialogues at the local level.

Activity:

How does terrorism hurt a country's economy and social stability? Share the answer to your teacher.

UNIT IV : INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Miss Universe Pageant



- Mindy :They say the pageant has been rigged.
- Sue :It's very apparent. The other contestants were better looking and more talented.
- Mindy :This happened twice already. Their bet would not have won outside their turf.
- Sue :We cannot avoid things like this to happen in the future unless the board imposes fair policies on host countries.
- Mindy : The girls prepared for this all year long only for their dreams shattered by one biased decision.
- Sue : Everything has its price nowadays.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Turf – a familiar area, as of residence or expertise.

They say the pageant has been rigged.

The other contestants were better looking and more talented.

Their bet would not have won outside their turf.

The girls prepared for this all year long only for their dreams shattered by one biased decision.

Activity:

Discuss: Do you think some winners in the Miss Universe are not deserving of the title? Why ?

UNIT V : ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Climate Change

- Kristen : The authorities have issued the second flood advisory for this day alone.
Byron : If the flood continues to rise, we will have to evacuate quickly.
Kristen : I have never experienced flooding as severe as this.
Byron : They say the rapid urbanization is the culprit. However, I think the climate change also worsens the situation.
Kristen : Both and other factors such as the ineffectual government contribute to heighten our suffering.
Byron : I could not agree more.



Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Culprit – a person or other agent guilty of or responsible for an offense or fault.

The authorities have issued the second flood advisory for this day alone.

If the flood continues to rise, we will have to evacuate quickly.

However, I think the climate change also worsens the situation.

Both and other factors such as the ineffectual government contribute to heighten our suffering.

Activity:

Group these disasters whether they are man-made or natural disasters or both.

Earthquake	Landslides	Car Accident
Floods	Global Warming	Air pollution
Factory Fires	Oil Spill	Terrorist Activities
Tsunami	Tornadoes	Volcanic Eruptions
Hurricanes		

UNIT V : ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Recycling



- Joash : What's taking you so long Jahm? I need a hand in here.
Jahm : I am separating our waste: the recyclable and non-recyclable.
Joash : Why do you need to do that? You have always stacked them in the same bin.
Jahm : Well, I wanna help the environment and I am starting right now.
Joash : It is taking forever. Why don't you leave them be?
Jahm : Stop it, Joash! Believe me, once you get used to this habit, it'll be easier.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Non-recyclable – Non-recyclable materials are those that cannot be broken down and reused into another item.

I need a hand in here.

I am separating our waste: the recyclable and non-recyclable.

Well, I wanna help the environment and I am starting right now.

Believe me, once you get used to this habit, it'll be easier.

Activity: Prefix clues

Re means again and suggests continuity. Based on this information, explain the meaning of these words:

Retouch	Retell	React
Reabsorb	Recover	Rearrange
Rebuild	Retake	Remarry
Rewrite		

UNIT V : ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Illegal Fishing



- Gene : This sea used to draw a lot of fish in the summer season.
- Junia : Over fishing and the illegal use of dynamites have killed fish spawns. Even the corals are getting affected.
- Gene : Luckily, there has been a concerted effort among environmentalist to protect the sea from further damage.
- Junia : So, I heard. I hope it will be appreciated by the locals.
- Gene : The locals must be educated about the ill-effects of illegal fishing.
- Junia : In the meantime, there must be a new source of livelihood available for them.

Vocabulary and Useful Expressions:

Spawn -the mass of eggs deposited by fishes, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans, etc.

This sea used to draw a lot of fish in the summer season.

Over fishing and the illegal use of dynamites have killed fish spawns.

The locals must be educated about the ill-effects of illegal fishing.

In the meantime, there must be a new source of livelihood available for them.

Activity:

What is not a way to call a group of fish?

Shoal	Colony	School
Run	Haul	Catch Draft

(Ans. Colony)

UNIT V : ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Energy Conservation

- Carmi : It's Earth Hour. Could you please switch off the main power line?
Peter : Alright. Ready? One, two, three...snap!
Carmi : Let's camp here on the patio while we wait for one hour.
Peter : This habit is fast catching up with everyone in the town.
Carmi : We can really do a lot to conserve energy. It only takes willpower and concern for the next generation for everyone to get involved.
Peter : Not to mention the amount of money saved for every minute spent less on electricity.

Activity:

Talk about the ways you can help to conserve the energy.

Catch up – to become involved or entangled with
Could you please switch off the main power line?
This habit is fast catching up with everyone in the town.
It only takes willpower and concern for the next generation for everyone to get involved.
Not to mention the amount of money saved for every minute spent less on electricity.



Thank You !

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