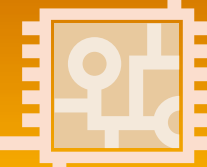


Reading Links

1

Andrew E. Bennett





Contents

Reading Links 1

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Written and designed by: Andrew E. Bennett

Reading Links 1

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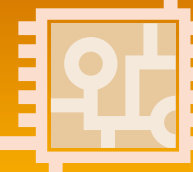
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Reading Links is a comprehensive series designed for lower-level students. Each book includes 20 units centered on high-interest topics such as the arts, careers, entertainment, the environment, and many others.

Reading passages and exercises use carefully controlled vocabulary and grammar to facilitate comprehension. Critical thinking and active student engagement are also encouraged. Unit after unit, students' reading, vocabulary, grammar, listening, and speaking skills are strengthened.

Following is an explanation of the unit components:

The general topic is given next to the unit number.

Units are divided into two parts covering different aspects of the topic. Part 1 starts with a story or article. In *Reading Links 1*, these passages are between 50-75 words long. Sentences are on average less than 10 words long. The track number next to the headphones icon corresponds to the downloadable audio recording of the passage.

This vocabulary building exercise contains four target words or phrases selected from the reading passage. They are chosen for their frequency and usefulness. To build fluency further, students can be asked to write their own sentences using the target words.

1 The Arts

Part 1: Digital Art

Read the following article. Track 2

Digital art is made on computers. Artists use different computer programs. Some programs are used to draw things and add color. Others are used for special effects.

Becoming a good artist takes time and skill. Artists learn to use at least two or three programs. Finishing a job can take a long time. One piece may take 100 hours or more.

Vocabulary Check Write the correct word in each blank.

hour learn color artist

1. What _____ should I paint my house?
2. I have to wash these clothes. It will take about a(n) _____.
3. He wants to _____ Spanish. It's an important language.
4. Theresa is a(n) _____. Her work is beautiful.

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Read by
Rachel Walzer
Chris Koprowski

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Reading Check Choose the best answer.

- () Digital artists _____.
A: all use the same programs
B: rarely use computers
C: need to have skill
D: usually finish jobs quickly
- () What does the article say about computer programs?
A: They can be expensive.
B: They take two or three hours to learn.
C: They are only used for adding color.
D: They have different uses.
- () How can you become a digital artist?
A: Draw a lot with a pen and paper.
B: Work hard to learn computer programs.
C: Spend 100 hours reading about art.
D: Find a person with time and skill.
- () In the second paragraph, what is a "job"?
A: a piece of digital art
B: a computer art class
C: a period of time
D: a way to meet artists

Grammar Check Write the correct form of each word.

Ex: We enjoy looking (look) at art.

- I like _____ (use) computers.
- _____ (Learn) to paint takes time.
- This program is good for _____ (make) movies.
- My sister is good at _____ (tell) stories.

This reading comprehension exercise includes detail, analysis, and vocabulary questions. Some questions go beneath the surface, encouraging students to consider the material more deeply and employ critical thinking skills.

Each grammar check covers an important language structure such as pronouns, word forms, verb tenses, prepositions, and so on. There are also several word order exercises in which students rearrange words to make a complete sentence.

Part 2 opens with a unique element of *Reading Links*: a visual reading component. It is included because in today's world, literacy extends beyond the ability to read passages of text. It means being able to read maps, graphs, tables, charts, schedules, dialogues, and so on.

In *Reading Links*, these components are presented in simplified, yet authentic English to provide students an opportunity to practice and improve these critical 21st century skills.

This basic true and false exercise checks students' understanding of the material. Teachers are encouraged to go further and base classroom activities on the visual reading components through role plays, student-generated materials and presentations, etc.

Part 2: Event Schedule

Look at the following information.

What to do in New York: May 12-18

Shows	Music
Chicago Tickets: \$25 - \$150 Time: Daily, 8:00 PM Phantom of the Opera Tickets: \$35 - \$175 Time: Mon, Wed, 8:00 PM	Jazz Location: The Music Well Time: Starts at 6:00 PM Rock Location: Rock the Clock Time: Starts at 7:30 PM
Museums	Free Events
Museum of Modern Art Special showing: French art Open: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Metropolitan Museum Special showing: Glass art Open: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Music in the park Location: Central Park Date: May 17 (all day) Walking tour of New York Location: Starts at Lincoln Center Date: May 18, 2:00 PM

True or False Circle true (T) or false (F).

- (T/F) Some activities don't cost any money.
- (T/F) The Museum of Modern Art has a music event.
- (T/F) Every listing tells you the nearest subway station.
- (T/F) On Monday, you can see *Chicago* or *Phantom of the Opera*.

Dictation A. Listen and fill in the blanks. Track 3

Yumi: What should we do this _____ ()?
 Anthony: How about going to Central Park?
 Yumi: All right. I'll check the event guide...Wow, there's a _____ () concert! It's called "Music in the park."
 Anthony: Sounds great. Then we can _____ () in the area. Any ideas for later today?
 Yumi: We could go to the Museum of Modern Art. Their French art exhibit is open until 6:00.
 Anthony: Nice one. It's probably _____ () to buy gifts, too.

B. Choose the best answer.

- () Yumi wants to _____.
A: eat French food B: look at art
C: buy gifts D: play music
- () What is not part of their plan?
A: Visiting a museum
B: Eating lunch near a park
C: Listening to a concert
D: Meeting a friend

Discussion Discuss these questions together.

- What kind of art do you like? (Ex: drawings, paintings)
- Do you make any art yourself?
- Do you ever visit museums or galleries? If so, which ones?

This dialogue is related to the unit's general topic. The track number next to the headphones icon corresponds to the downloadable audio recording of the dialogue. Students should listen to the audio recording and fill in the blanks. As a fluency building exercise, students can then pair up and take turns reading each character's lines.

The dialogue is followed by a comprehension exercise.

Finally, there is a series of discussion questions related to Part 1 and Part 2 of the unit. Students may ask each other questions in pairs, or the class can answer the questions together. Students are encouraged to go beyond "yes/no" answers and provide examples and details from their own lives, as well as reasons for their points of view.

Additional materials for *Reading Links 1* are available. They include downloadable MP3 files of the audio recordings, which make it easy for students to listen to the recordings on their computer, phone, or other device.

The book's teacher's manual includes the full listening transcript, answer key, and other resources.

Materials to assist with online classes are also available from Nan'un-do.

I hope *Reading Links 1* helps build students' English skills while boosting everyone's interest and confidence in an enjoyable way.

Thank you very much, and best wishes for an outstanding class!

Andrew E. Bennett

Part 1: Digital Art

Read the following article.



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Becoming a good artist takes time and skill. Artists learn to use at least two or three programs. Finishing a job can take a long time. One piece may take 100 hours or more.



Reading Check

Choose the best answer.

- () Digital artists _____.
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B: rarely use computers
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Vocabulary Check

Write the correct word in each blank.

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- He wants to _____ Spanish. It's an important language.
- Theresa is a(n) _____. Her work is beautiful.

Grammar Check

Write the correct form of each word.

Ex: We enjoy looking (look) at art.

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- _____ (Learn) to paint takes time.
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- My sister is good at _____ (tell) stories.

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Look at the following information.

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Chicago

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Time: Daily. 8:00 PM

Phantom of the Opera

Tickets: \$35 - \$175
Time: Mon, Wed. 8:00 PM

Music

Jazz

Location: The Music Well
Time: Starts at 6:00 PM

Rock

Location: Rock the Clock
Time: Starts at 7:30 PM

Museums

Museum of Modern Art

Special showing: French art
Open: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Metropolitan Museum

Special showing: Glass art
Open: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Free Events

Music in the park

Location: Central Park
Date: May 17 (all day)

Walking tour of New York

Location: Starts at Lincoln Center
Date: May 18. 2:00 PM

Dictation

A. Listen and fill in the blanks.  Track 3

Yumi: What should we do this ₁()?

Anthony: How about going to Central Park?

Yumi: All right. I'll check the event guide.... Wow, there's a ₂() concert! It's called "Music in the park."

Anthony: Sounds great. Then we can ₃() in the area.
Any ideas for later today?

Yumi: We could go to the Museum of Modern Art. Their French art exhibit is open until 6:00.

Anthony: Nice one. It's probably ₄() to buy gifts, too.

B. Choose the best answer.

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C: buy gifts D: play music
- () What is not part of their plan?
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B: Eating lunch near a park
C: Listening to a concert
D: Meeting a friend

True or False

Circle true (T) or false (F).

- (T/F) Some activities don't cost any money.
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- (T/F) On Monday, you can see *Chicago* or *Phantom of the Opera*.

Discussion

Discuss these questions together.

1. What kind of art do you like? (Ex: drawings, paintings)
2. Do you make any art yourself?
3. Do you ever visit museums or galleries? If so, which ones?