General Learning Suggestions for Students

Introduction

Welcome to CBS News World. This textbook uses video segments from American news broadcasts to help you improve your general English comprehension and communication skills. It is designed to help students primarily at the intermediate level and below improve listening and communication skills in a setting that combines interesting and engaging topics with a series of structured exercises that allow you to progress through the material, building vocabulary and gaining confidence as you go, in a format that allows lower level students to challenge themselves with difficult material in a format that is not intimidating or frustrating.

CBS News World is made up of fifteen units that are divided into five different themes representing different aspects of society and culture. You can learn about a wide variety of topics related to life in the United States as you do the listening exercises. You will also have many opportunities to expand on what you have learned about each topic by discussing and writing about some of the similarities and differences between America and Japan. You will work with your classmates to compare the cultures, laws, and social and business customs of the two countries.

Before You Watch

Comprehension Warmup: an exercise with four multiple-choice questions where you answer questions about photographs that have been taken from the video segments you will study in that unit. Try to learn as much as you can before you watch the video to make it easier to understand. If more than one answer seems to be correct, try to look for hints or clues that can lead you to the right answer.

Communication Warmup: a functional activity at the beginning of each unit that gives you the chance to talk with your classmates, build vocabulary, and ask each other questions about the topic of the video before you watch it. This is a great opportunity for you to brush up your spoken English.

Key Vocabulary: many of you will know the words in the vocabulary exercises, but beware. Many of these words are used in different contexts than you might be used to. Also, many of these words may be familiar to you because you have

read them before, but they may sound new or unfamiliar to you when you hear them spoken on the video. Remember these key vocabulary words and the way they are used in the example sentences to give you a head start when you watch the video in the next section.

While You Watch

With the Sound Off: it may seem strange to watch a video news segment without sound, but you will be surprised how much you can learn about something just by watching. Use this exercise to learn as much as you can about the video by watching the characters and their facial expressions, the locations, and all of the objects they are talking about. Remember, a big part of communication is non-verbal.

What's it About: this is both a reading and a listening exercise. It has been taken from the introduction to the video segment, but the speaker is different. Make sure that you understand this section to get a general idea of the topic and tone of the segment. It will help you understand some of the details that you will be listening for in the next exercises.

Getting Specific Information: in this exercise you are asked to listen carefully for some of the important details in each segment; sometimes names, sometimes numbers, sometimes answers to specific questions.

True or False: read the statements before you listen for the answers. You need to listen very carefully. Some of these questions are tricky.

Listening for Details: this is the last exercise in this section. It is similar to *What's it About*, but in this exercise there is no list of words to choose from, so it is more challenging. Listen carefully to the speaker and remember to be careful of your spelling.

After You Watch

Reading for details: try to answer the comprehension questions based on the video news segment. You can use the **Summary Reading** to help you.

Further Discussion: these assignments are related to the topics in each unit, but now the focus is on Japan. Use these questions to try to give your own opinion about the social issues and situations in your own country. Then you can compare your ideas to what you have just learned from the video. What are some of the similarities and differences?

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Unit 1

Miracle Mop

—An Inventor's Success Story—

Before You Watch

Comprehension Warmup

Look at the following photos. Circle the answer that best describes each.

1. These women are probably
   A. having a chat for fun.
   B. trying to find something important.
   C. discussing personal matters.
   D. discussing business matters.

2. The woman is
   A. explaining a new product.
   B. meeting with her staff.
   C. drinking something.
   D. doing a quality check.

3. This scene seems to be from
   A. a TV commercial.
   B. a shopping channel.
   C. a talk show.
   D. a news show.

4. This Web site gives information about
   A. diets.
   B. furniture.
   C. home improvement.
   D. travel.

Communication Warmup

What was the greatest invention of the 20th century? Complete the chart below by asking three of your classmates.

Classmate's Name	Invention	Reason
1.		
2.		
3.		

Key Vocabulary

Match each definition with the appropriate word listed below.

General Vocabulary

a. aptitude b. homemaker c. offspring d. sole
e. unprecedented

_____ 1. the only one, not shared with anyone
_____ 2. never having happened before
_____ 3. natural ability or skill, especially in learning
_____ 4. a woman who works at home, cleaning, cooking, etc.
_____ 5. someone's child or children

Verbs

a. struggle b. retail c. launch d. expand
e. mop

_____ 6. to increase the amount or range of an activity
_____ 7. to start something
_____ 8. to wash a floor
_____ 9. to try extremely hard to achieve something
_____ 10. to sell goods

While You Watch VIDEO

With the Sound Off

Watch the entire segment and guess what it is about.

A. workers in a factory
B. how to clean a room
C. how to use a TV shopping channel
D. a woman who became a success

What's It About

First, read the introduction to the news segment below and try to guess the missing words. Then, listen to the news segment and fill in the blanks with words from the list.

aptitude	attitude	dream	example
exception	homemaker	invention	talent

Dan Rather: From Benjamin Franklin to Thomas Edison, the Wright brothers, and Henry Ford, Americans' ( ) for ( ) has always meshed well with their ( ) for business. It still does. And here is an ( ). Those very same qualities gave a New York ( ) the power to realize her own American ( ).

Getting Specific Information

Watch the segment again. Write down the information you hear about Joy Mangano.

Name	*Joy Mangano*
Age	
Where does she live?	
Number of children	
What does she do?	
What did she invent?	
What is her job title?	

TRUE or FALSE

Read the statements. Then watch the video segment and decide whether each statement is true (T) or false (F).

( ) 1. The Miracle Mop was invented by Joy Mangano.

( ) 2. Joy Mangano got the idea from a toaster.

( ) 3. It is a self-cleaning mop.

( ) 4. The idea came from her desire for a better mop.

( ) 5. Everyone was interested in it from the beginning.

( ) 6. It attracted attention when Joy Mangano visited a factory.

Listening for Details

Fill in the blanks with the numbers you hear.

Dan Rather: With the unprecedented success of the "Miracle Mop," Mangano had to expand from her bedroom-run operation to a company employing ( ) people.

Joy Mangano: Oh my goodness. What better dream for an inventor!

DR: Less than ( ) years after she started, Mangano has a ( ) other best-selling inventions and has mopped up ($) in sales. She is now a regular on the Home Shopping Channel.

JM: (..."This is why we call it the Rings'N Things.") I never thought that this would be what it is. (..."You open it up."...)

DR: Mangano is proof that for some the American dream may lie just beyond the imagination.

Computer Operator: You just click right into the hyperlink.

JM: And when I look at myself and where I was with ( ) little children—struggling—and where I've been able to get to today, I am thankful every minute for that ability... . Only in America.

DR: And like mother, the offspring—( ) of the Mangano children—now plan to pursue their own American dreams in business.

After You Watch

Reading for Details

Answer the questions. Consult the summary reading below to confirm your answers.

1. How did Joy Mangano make her product popular?
2. What are two factors of Joy Mangano's success?

Summary Reading

Joy Mangano is a self-made success story. A homemaker and single mother of three, she is an example of someone who has achieved the "American dream." Joy Mangano invented a product that has led her to become the president of a multimillion-dollar company. Her inspirations are born of necessity. Initially, people were not interested in her invention; however, she was able to sell thousands of her product after appearing on a TV retailing channel. Her success is due to the meshing of an aptitude for invention and a talent for business.

Further Discussion

1. In the United States, many people hope someday to achieve the "American dream." How do people in your culture define success? What are some examples of people who have achieved success in your country? Discuss their characteristics in terms of what makes them successful.
2. Joy Mangano initially met up with people who were not interested in her ideas. However, she kept going despite a lack of support. Have you or someone you know ever been in a similar situation? Discuss your experiences with others in the class and come up with ideas for overcoming doubts.