

Reading Builder



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Andrea Janzen • John Thomas

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Andrea Janzen · John Thomas

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CONTENTS

Unit 1	Greetings from Germany!	5
Unit 2	Message in a Bottle	11
Unit 3	Pocahontas	17
Unit 4	Dogs of the World	23
Unit 5	The Dead Sea Scrolls	29
Unit 6	Fun on the Mountain!	35
Unit 7	Understanding the Heart	41
Unit 8	The Championship	47
Unit 9	What's a Riddle?	53
Unit 10	White Mountain Ski Shop	59
Unit 11	The Power of Wind	65
Unit 12	A Letter from Mexico!	71
Unit 13	A Penny Saved	77
Unit 14	Weather Watch!	83
Unit 15	Your Powerful Lungs	89
Unit 16	Weird Weather!	95
Unit 17	My Favorite Things!	101
Unit 18	Preparing for a Hurricane	107
Unit 19	The Amazing Cockroach	113
Unit 20	An Interview with a Brave Boy	119

Greetings from Germany!

UNIT

1



Pre-reading

1. What is she doing?
2. Who do you think she is writing to?
3. Have you ever had a pen pal?

Vocabulary Preview

Match the word or phrase with its meaning.

1. ____ John's address is 43 Main Street.
2. ____ Where's the shopping list?
3. ____ Sarah spends a lot of time online.
4. ____ We struggled to finish our homework on time.
5. ____ I'm tired. Let's relax.
6. ____ Snowboarding is a challenging sport, but I really enjoy it.



a.

- b. where he lives;
house number
- c. not easy to do
- d. take a break
- e. worked hard
- f. on the Internet



Greetings from Germany!

Track 01



Dear Maria,

Hello! My name is Greta Bauer and I live near Bonn, Germany. My English teacher gave me your name and address. She found it on a pen pal list online. My birthday is July 7th. I have an older sister, Sara, and a younger brother, Karl. My father works for a computer business in Bonn, and my mother is a research scientist.

My family is crazy about pets! We have four cats and three dogs. One dog is a huge Saint Bernard, like the one in the *Beethoven* movies. He is strong and stubborn, so it's challenging to take him for a walk. I struggle to keep up with him! Do you have any pets?

We are all very active, too. I like to inline skate, my sister loves soccer, my brother enjoys baseball, and my parents play tennis and golf. In the winter, we all go skiing. What's the weather like in Mexico? Do you even get winter? I think the weather there must be very different from the weather here.

You must think that my family doesn't like to relax, but sometimes we take it easy, too. Last week, we all just stayed at home. What does your family do together? Do you live near a beach where you are in Mexico? I would love to see the ocean someday. Please reply soon and tell me all about yourself and your family!

Sincerely,
Greta Bauer

(239 words)

Word Practice

Choose the correct word or phrase.

- I don't want to go out. Let's just _____ at home.
a. enjoy b. live c. like d. relax
- "What are you doing _____?" "I'm sending an email."
a. online b. at a beach c. active d. together
- He's so _____ about things. It makes me angry!
a. strong b. stubborn c. huge d. older
- Al loves to do _____ math problems.
a. challenging b. research c. crazy d. active



Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is this story about?
 - a. Writing to a new friend
 - b. Finding a teacher
 - c. Replying to a letter
 - d. Planning a trip
2. What does this letter show about Greta?
 - a. She likes to visit her English teacher.
 - b. Her birthday is at the end of the year.
 - c. She often goes to the beach.
 - d. She likes sports and animals.
3. What does “**we**” refer to in line 17 of the reading?
 - a. Greta and Maria
 - b. Maria and her family
 - c. Greta and her family
 - d. Greta and her dog
4. What is NOT true about Greta?
 - a. She likes cold weather sports.
 - b. She likes staying at home.
 - c. She lives far from Maria.
 - d. She is the youngest in her family.



Focus On Pronouns

Look at the reading again. Choose the correct word or phrase.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Greta struggles to take <u>him</u> for a walk. | a. Greta's brother | b. Greta's dog |
| 2. Do <u>you</u> get winter? | a. Maria | b. Mexico |
| 3. What's the weather like <u>there</u> ? | a. Germany | b. Mexico |
| 4. <u>She</u> gave me your address. | a. Maria's teacher | b. Greta's teacher |

Words and Phrases

- keep up with

My dad has long legs, so it's hard to **keep up with** him.

- take it easy

Holly, **take it easy** on the difficult parts of the hike.

- take (someone) for a (walk / drive / meal)

Dad is going to **take me for a drive!**

Fill in the blank with the correct word or phrase. Change the form of the words if necessary.

1. Mom and Dad work hard all week, so they _____ on weekends.
2. Let's _____ Suzy _____ nice meal.
3. John is lazy. Sometimes it is difficult for him to _____ his teammates.

Summary

Fill in the blank with the correct word or phrase.



challenging relax active crazy about address

Greta lives in Germany, near Bonn. She got her pen pal's 1 _____ from her teacher. Greta is 2 _____ animals. However, taking care of her family's many pets is 3 _____. Her family loves being 4 _____, although sometimes they 5 _____, too.

Listening Carol's Family

Listen to the dialog and take notes.

Track 02

Where does Carol live?

Who is in her family?

What things does her family do?

What does Carol like to do?

Listen again and check your notes.

Track 03

Use your notes to fill in the blanks.

Story Summary

Carol lives in _____. Her mom is a _____ and her father is a _____. She has two _____ sisters, Kristen and Kathy. Carol's family really loves _____ and _____. They do these things together at least _____ a _____. Carol also has a hobby. She likes to _____.

My Story Notes

What are you and your family like?
Write some notes.

Where do you live?

Who is in your family?

What things does your family do?

What things do you like to do?

Using your notes, write your story in complete sentences.

Writing

Speaking

Look at the dialog. Fill in the blank with the correct choice.

- a. So, what do you like to do?
- b. What's your family like?
- c. likes to watch movies together
- d. my mother is a nurse



- A** So, where do you and your family live, Peter?
- B** We live in Riverside. That's in the northern part of the city.
- A** 1 _____
- B** Well, my father works for a computer business and 2 _____
_____. I also have a younger brother
named Bill.
- A** I didn't know that. 3 _____
- B** I really like to watch movies. In fact, my whole family
4 _____.
- A** That's nice!

Now practice with a partner. Make your own answers.

Vocabulary Review

Choose the correct word or phrase.

1. Can you _____ with her? She's very fast!
a. struggle b. keep up c. crazy about d. relax
2. "What's your _____?" "It's 1935 Broadway Street."
a. list b. package c. online d. address
3. Marcia's brother works for a computer _____.
a. game b. climate c. business d. literature
4. The desert _____ is hot and dry.
a. research b. package c. climate d. business

Message in a Bottle

UNIT

2



Pre-reading

1. What do you see in the bottle?
2. Who do you think wrote it?
3. Where do you think the bottle came from?

Vocabulary Preview

Match the word or phrase with its meaning.

1. ____ Sharon was not home, so Tom left a message.
2. ____ I tried various kinds of pizza, but I like cheese pizza best.
3. ____ After the storm, there was seaweed all over the beach.
4. ____ Scientists do experiments.
5. ____ Some rivers have fast currents.
6. ____ There are many beaches on the coast.



a.

- b. land next to the sea or ocean
- c. many separate or different
- d. flowing water
- e. scientific tests
- f. note or spoken information