

UNIT 1

Our land is your land!

Introduction to the unit:

The theme of this unit is immigration. The main reading texts are about immigrants arriving at Ellis Island in the United States in the early twentieth century, and the main listening text is an interview with two Asian brothers who emigrated to Britain, and became successful businessmen.

Language aims:

- Avoiding repetition
- Describing nationalities
- British and American English

Note:

- **to emigrate** means to leave your country of birth, and
 - **to immigrate** means to arrive and live in a new country
- so an emigrant leaves, and an immigrant arrives.**

STARTER/1,2,3 (SB p7)

Answers:

1. **Al Capone:** born in Italy, died in the United States (there is some disputes to where he was born in Brooklyn in the US, as he claimed)
2. **Mother Teresa:** born in Macedonia, died in India
3. **Van Gogh:** born in the Netherlands, died in France
4. **Karl Marx:** born in Germany, died in England
5. **Martina Navratilova:** born in the Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia at the time), lives in the United States
6. **Bob Marley:** born in Jamaica, died in the United State
7. **Nicole Kidman:** in Hawaii but grew up in Australia, lives in the United States
8. **Prince Philip:** born in Greece, lives in England

BACKGROUND NOTE

Al Capone (1899-1947)

Al Capone was born in 1899 in Italy, though there is some dispute as to whether he was born in Brooklyn, New York. His family were economic migrants to the US. He became notorious as a gangster in Chicago in the 1920s and 1930s.

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

Agnes Goxha Bojaxhin was born in Skopje, Macedonia. She joined the sisters of Loreto, an Irish community of nuns, who sent her to a mission in Calcutta in 1928. She spent the rest of her life helping poor in India. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

The artist Vincent Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands, and his early work represented Dutch peasant life in dark, sombre colours. In 1886, he went to live in Paris, to join his brother, Theo, then to Arles in France, where he wanted to form an artist's colony. He shot himself in 1890.

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Marx was an economist and social philosopher who was born in Germany in 1818. He published the Communist Manifesto with his friend Friedrich Engels in 1848. In 1850, he was expelled from Germany. He spent the rest of his life in London, where he wrote *Das Kapital*. He was buried in Highgate cemetery in London.

Martina Navratilova (1945-)

One of the most successful tennis player ever, Navratilova was born in communist Czechoslovakia. In 1975, she defected to the United States and became a US citizen. She won 13 Grand Slam titles in her career, including seven Wimbledon singles titles.

Bob Marley (1947-1981)

Robert Nesta Marley was born in Jamaica, and grew up in the capital, Kingston. He became the most famous reggae musician of his time. He moved to the US initially to join his mother, and later to escape political violence in Jamaica. He died of cancer in Miami, Florida in 1981.

Nicole Kidman (1967-)

Nicole Kidman was actually born in Hawaii, but she was brought up in Sydney, Australia. Following the success of the film *Dead Calm* in 1989, she moved to the United States to further her film career. She is now a major Hollywood film star.

Prince Philip (1921-)

Consort to the Queen of England, Prince Philip was born in Corfu, Greece. The Prince and his family were evacuated from Greece by a British warship following a change of government. He went to school in Britain, and married the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947.

READING AND SPEAKING/1,2 (SB p8)

Answers 1:

- **The Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island:** the symbol of the American dream of freedom and opportunity.

- **Ellis Island:** the small island on the left between the Statue of Liberty and the mainland. This used to be the main administrative centre where would-be immigrants to the US were assessed.
- **The New York skyline:** in the background. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center are noticeable by their absence. They once stood right in the middle of the Manhattan skyscrapers.

Answers 2:

1. 12; 2. 40%; 3. 5,000
2. Almost all answers are possible, but countries from which many immigrants came include Ireland, Italy, Russia, Germany, Eastern Europe. Many were Jewish.
3. It symbolizes freedom and opportunity. It was the place through which most immigrants entered the United States. On leaving this place and being accepted as immigrants, people must have felt free and full of hope.

READING (SB p9)

It chanced to be = it happened by chance

Proved inadequate = turned out to be / was found to be not good enough

It was choked with = it was full of

The long procession files = the long queue of people moves slowly

BACKGROUND NOTE

H G Wells (1866-1946)

Herbert George Wells was an English author, famous for writing science fiction fantasies such as *The Time Machine*, *The Invisible Man*, and *The Shape of Things to Come*.

Answers 3:

1. **A filter** is something which a substance has to pass through, for example a coffee filter or an air filter. It holds back solid material or impurities, allowing what the user wants to come through. In the same way, metaphorically, Ellis Island “filters” people, preventing people they don’t want from entering the country.
2. **Key phrases and images** include: *choked with, All day long, the long procession files, stretch over three miles, a cordon of close-marching people round London, populate a new Boston*. He also uses repetition to **illustrate the numbers – listing countries, grouping men, women, children, dirt ... bags then bundles, trunks ... boxes, repeating words such as long, procession, step, past**.
3. They had to stand in long queues all day long. The place was very crowded. They had to carry all their belongings with them. The people were dirty – there were probably no washing facilities. They were checked by many examiners, as well as clerks and medical officers.

4. Sample answers: a highly-populated United States, the “melting pot”, a country made up of people with diverse cultural backgrounds.

Answers 4:

The Russian girl (text A)

1. William Williams Papers, an Ellis Island commissioner. A commissioner was someone who interviewed and selected new arrivals.
2. The Russian girl has arrived to marry her childhood sweetheart, who already lives in the US. However, he doesn't want to marry her now. She cannot enter the country unless he marries her or she has a job. If she returns to Russia, her family will laugh at her.
3. The commissioners are trying to decide what to do with the girl. They treat her in a detached way, describing her as ‘an interesting and puzzling case’, but they are keen to help her.
4. She is from a farming family in moderate circumstances (a euphemism for quite poor). She is clean, intelligent-looking, and strong so she was probably brought up well with enough to eat. She has come to America to get married, and going home would bring shame on her, so the morality of the family is that of a simple peasant family of the period.
5. No, but it seems that the commissioner is trying his best to bring about a happy ending.

The German boy (text B)

1. Arnold Weiss, a German Jewish boy of 13 who was an immigrant at Ellis Island.
2. His mother must take a test of reading, and she is illiterate.
3. The commissioners are carrying out the reading test. They treat the immigrants in an officious way.
4. They are German and Jewish. It seems that the boy has come to America with much of his family – two uncles and an aunt are mentioned. One uncle is a pharmacist. His father is not mentioned, so maybe the boy has lost his father. His mother is illiterate. They speak Yiddish.
5. Not sure – but probably.

The Polish baby (text C)

1. Henry Curran, an Ellis Island commissioner. A commissioner was someone who interviewed and selected new arrivals.

2. A Polish woman, returning to America by ship, has given birth to a baby. The woman has permission to enter the country, but the baby doesn't.
3. The commissioners are trying to find a way to admit the baby. They treat the mother with great kindness and have a lot of sympathy for her.
4. The Polish couple were admitted to the United States a year earlier. He works as a coal miner in Pennsylvania. She has had to return to Poland to visit her ill father.
5. Yes. The commissioner rules that the baby is an American citizen.

Answers 6:

The Russian girl (text A)

1. clasps and unclasps
2. tears are welling in her eyes
3. her pride was ... wounded
4. everything is at a standstill
5. the tears brimming over

The German boy (text B)

1. called me aside
2. faced
3. certain
4. memorized
5. served the purpose

The Polish baby (text C)

1. trembling
2. that was a blow
3. I had another shot
4. Hails from
5. I was stumped

Answers 6 (What do you think?):

Sample answers:

1. It is probably true. However, many other countries have a very diverse variety of immigrants. Brazil for example, has immigrants from Portugal, Spain, and other European countries, as well as from Africa; and Australia has immigrants from the UK and Ireland, as well as more recently from China, Vietnam, Greece, Italy, and former Yugoslavia.
2. **a refugee** = a person forced to leave their country, often because of political or religious persecution

an illegal immigrant = a person who has come to live in a foreign country without permission

an immigrant = a person who has come to live permanently in a foreign country

an asylum seeker = a person who applies to live in a foreign country because they are trying to escape political or religious persecution

SAMPLE REASONS FOR EMIGRATING:

Unemployment; natural disasters (e.g. famine, drought); political instability; lack of economic opportunities; moving to a warmer climate; marrying someone from another country

LANGUAGE FOCUS (SB p12)

Avoiding repetition

1.

... tidied up.

... win the match.

... got / bought me a present.

2.

... read.

... take a test for reading?

3.

Sample answers:

Huge: enormous, gigantic, vast

Rich: wealthy, affluent, prosperous, well-off

Kill: murder, assassinate, slaughter, massacre

Injure: hurt, harm, maim, wound

Argument: row, quarrel, squabble; debate, discussion

Answers 1:

2. have / did

3. will

4. hadn't

5. haven't, will / 'm going to

6. does

7. wasn't

8. hadn't, would have

9. would

10. am / have

11. should / must / ought to

12. hadn't

13. wouldn't

14. might

15. would

Things in common box

Which expressions agree with a positive statement?

Which expressions agree with a negative statement?

Things different box

We express a difference by using the auxiliary verb in the negative when it disagrees with an affirmative statement, and in the affirmative when it disagrees with a negative statement.

Reduced infinitives

Answers 4:

1. B: Thanks very much. I'd love to.
2. B: Oh, I'm really sorry. I forgot to.
3. B: But you agreed to!
4. B: He certainly was. He didn't expect to.
5. B: It was an accident. I really didn't mean to.
6. B: Don't worry. I intend to!

Synonyms in context

Answers 5:

1. faith / confidence / belief
2. talented / accomplished / proficient / capable / highly competent
3. convincing / compelling / forceful
4. mislead / delude / trick / deceive / fool
5. strategy / game plan
6. thorough / exhaustive / rigorous
7. irritates / frustrates / exasperates / bugs (informal)
8. essential / vital / crucial
9. risks
10. terrified / petrified / pan-stricken (*frightened / afraid)

Sample answers 6:

Friend

An *acquaintance* is someone you know but not very well.

A *colleague* is someone you work with, and a *classmate* is someone you know at school.

An *ally* is a friend of your country in war. Someone who is on your side in a personal battle is also an *ally*.

A *companion* is someone who provides you with a company, for example on a journey.

LISTENING AND SPEAKING (SB p14)

Two brothers from Kenya

Answers 1:

Vijay and Bhikhu Patel.

They are successful businesspeople and won the Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2001. Their story of success is inspiring.

Answers 2, 3:

1. Quaint and very safe, with an excellent climate. However, their father died when they were young, so it was difficult for their mother to bring up their family.
2. No. Vijay came a year later and a quarter after Bhikhu.
3. To study and work hard. They felt it was a land of opportunity.
4. The first step was to study for A-levels, and then at university while working part-time. Bhikhu studied architecture at Bristol University. Vijay studied pharmacy at Leicester.
5. Yes, Bhikhu qualified as an architect.
6. Yes.
7. Yes. He was a timber merchant.

Answers 4:

- 1., 2., 5., 6. True
3. False. He already had three or four shops when Bhikhu joined him.
4. False. It doesn't cause problems.
7. False. She worked twelve hours a day, seven days a week for umpteen years.
8. False. Only Bhikhu has experienced racial discrimination. In the sixties he found it difficult to get work as an architect because of his colour, and when he was a newsagent his shops were attacked.

Answers 5:

1. ... *provide employment* ...
2. ... *helicopter or yacht* ...
3. ... *luxuries in life, ... indulge ... extraordinary* ...
4. ... *philanthropic ... waste money* ...
5. ... *dream ... exactly* ...

What do you think?

Sample answers 6:

- **Factors that have led to the brothers' success include:**
 - strong family ties
 - university education
 - father died when they were young so they felt they should provide for the family
 - family tradition of business
 - different complementary personalities.
- They are good role models because they encourage people to follow their dreams and work hard.
- Asians make up about 4% of the British population. Of these, about one million are of Indian origin, half a million are Pakistani, and 200,000 Bangladeshi. The major reason why there is a large Asian minority in Britain is that the Indian subcontinent was, until 1946, part of the British Empire, so there are strong historical and cultural links between Britain and the subcontinent. In the 1950s and 1960s, people from the subcontinent were encouraged to come and live in Britain because of the labour shortage in the UK.

- Many British Asians are now third, fourth, or fifth generation of British, and young Asians born and brought up in the UK often speak with the same accent or dialect as white British citizens. A reason why the brothers have retained accent may be that they have strong family ties, and lived until their teenage years within a British Asian community abroad, where exposure to non-Asian British accents was less common.

VOCABULARY AND SPEAKING (SB p15)

Describing nationalities

1. Eric – Canadian: big, frozen, ice, up north, eskimos, red-coated policeman – but this is just a stereotype. Bilingual, 40% French-speaking, dispersed population with 90% living within 90 kilometers of the US border. US domination of culture – TV, sport. Inferiority complex relative to US. Europeans think they are Americans.

2. Mary – Scottish: stereotype is miserable, mean, dour, unhappy with lot, proud, nationalistic, esp. in sport, anti-English. In truth, people have a generous spirit, but they can be pessimistic.

3. Julia – Spanish: stereotype is loud (which she thinks is because they all talk at the same time), disorganized (also well-deserved according to her), and lazy (which she doesn't think is true, as Spanish people now follow European timetables). Also sociable and outgoing (which she says is because they rarely do things on their own, and there are so many places to go out to, until late).

4. Zoltan – Hungarian: stereotype is that food is spicy, and that Hungary is all horses and plains. In truth, they use paprika but the food is not that hot, and one in five people live in Budapest, and of the rest, most live in towns.

5. Rosemary – American: seen by the British as loud and arrogant, but she thinks this is because the Americans rebelled against the British in the past. She says that while some Americans are narrow and arrogant, there are many who are aware of what goes on in the world.

6. Tristan – English: stereotype is cold, uptight, hypocritical and two-faced; nowadays also seen as yobbish, heavy drinkers, potentially violent.

WHAT IS YOUR NATIONALITY STEREOTYPE?

Are you like that?

- envious (of), jealous
- malicious, spiteful
- greedy (for)
- corrupted
- materialistic
- double-faced
- hard working
- merry people
- hospitable

THE LAST WORD (SB p16)

British and American English

Answers 1, T1.7:

The first conversation is British English. The differences are:

British:	American:
flat	apartment
block of flats	apartment building
the centre of town	downtown
Have you got	Do you have
a garden	a yard
No, we haven't	No, we don't
a car park	a parking lot
at the back	in the back

Answers 2, T1.8, T1.9:

- A: Have you got the time?
B: Yeah, it's five to four.
A: Did you say five past?
B: No, five to four.
- A: What are you going to do at the weekend?
B: The usual. Play football with my kids, and do a bit of gardening.
- A: Did you enjoy the match?
B: Yeah, it was great, but we had to queue for half an hour to get tickets.
- A: Did you have a good holiday?
B: Yeah, really good.
A: How long were you away?
B: Five days altogether. From Monday to Friday.
- A: Can you post this letter and parcel for me?
B: Of course.
A: And can you call at the off-licence and buy a six-pack of Stella and some crisps?
B: Is that all?
- A: Did you watch *The Birds* on telly last night?
B: I did, even though I've seen it twice before.
A: My third time: Isn't it just a terrific film?
B: It certainly is. One of my favourites.
- A: Have they brought the bill yet?
B: Yeah, they just have. But I can't read a thing. The lighting is so bad in here.
- A: Do we need to stop for petrol?
B: Yes, why not. I need to go to the loo anyway.

Answers 4:

American English	British English
Cellphone	Mobile phone
Garbage	Rubbish
Bathrobe	Dressing gown
Cookie	Biscuit
Drugstore	Chemist's
Closet	Cupboard
Truck	Lorry
Sidewalk	Pavement
Fall	Autumn
Elevator	Lift
Windshield	Windscreen
Pants	Trousers

Other words and expressions:

American English	British English
Stove	Cooker
Eggplant	Aubergine
Candy	Sweets
Hood	Bonnet (on car)
Trunk	Boot (on car)
Vacation	Holiday
Subway	Underground
Movie theater	Cinema
...	