

## 1º Bimestre (Units 1 and 2) - A

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the text below and do exercises **1-3**.

### How to Avoid Distractions While Studying

#### Studying without noise

1. Find a place in your house that is the quietest or where you are comfortable.
2. Tell whoever lives with you that you are studying for a really big test and they need to keep the noise down.
3. Go into the room you're studying and take out all things that distract you.
4. Once you are relaxed, organize everything you need to study.
5. Don't eat anything that will upset your stomach while studying.
6. Eliminate all noises you think you might have missed.
7. Clear your head of anything that you will think about that hasn't got anything to do with studying.
8. Put everything on silent. That way you won't get a text and want to answer it.
9. Try saying the matter aloud. That way there is more probability that you will remember it.
10. Try to remember the matter you have learned without looking in the book.

Adapted from: <[www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Distractions-While-Studying](http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Distractions-While-Studying)>. Accessed in: May 2015.

**1** What is the main aim of the text "How to Avoid Distractions While Studying"?

.....  
.....

**2** Each item below refers to a tip from the text. Fill in the gaps with the corresponding tips (1-10).

- a. Turn off all electronic devices. Tip: .....
- b. Don't eat fast food before you study. Tip: .....
- c. Say out loud what you are studying. Tip: .....
- d. Find the right place in your house to study. Tip: .....

**3** What do the words in **bold** refer to?

- a. In "That way you won't get a text and want to answer it.", **it** refers to .....
- b. In "That way there is more probability that you will remember it.", **it** refers to .....

## 1º Bimestre (Units 1 and 2) – B

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the text below and do exercises **1-4**.

### What's the future of English?

#### A language's development reflects the power of those who speak it

So how exactly did that happen? How did English grow so quickly and seemingly so unexpectedly? According to Crystal, in spite of the widespread notion that this is due, at least in part, to the fact that it is an easy language to learn, 'without any grammar', as some people have said, there is something much deeper behind the exponential growth of English as a global language. Crystal suggests that a language's development is a direct reflection of the power of those who speak it. From the beginnings of the British Empire, to the industrial revolution in Britain, which brought significant technological and scientific developments and a number of influential inventions from English-speaking inventors, through to the continued economic power of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and cultural power of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, English has maintained its edge.

From: <[www.britishcouncil.org/blog/whats-future-english](http://www.britishcouncil.org/blog/whats-future-english)>. Accessed in: May 2015. (fragment)

**1** Based on the text, who is Crystal? Make inferences.

- A famous politician.
- A language specialist.

**2** According to Crystal, what can we say about the English language? Mark the correct statements below.

- a.  It is a global language.
- b.  It is an easy language to learn.
- c.  It has developed at a slow pace.
- d.  Its development reflects the power of the people who speak it.

**3** Based on the text, what brought significant technological and scientific developments and a number of influential inventions from English-speaking inventors?

.....  
.....

**4** In "So how exactly did that happen?", what does **that** refer to? Try to use your own words.

.....  
.....

## 2º Bimestre (Units 3 and 4) - A

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the texts below and do exercises 1 and 2.

### Reasons The Book Is (Almost Always) Better Than The Movie

Posted by Rich Santos × October 2, 2013

#### “That’s Not How I Pictured It!”

Once a filmmaker decides upon settings and characters, we’re limited to seeing those characters and settings through their eyes. However, 500 different readers of the same book may have 500 different ideas of a character’s appearance.

#### Limited Storytelling Time

Most movies do their thing in 1.5–3 hours. This condensing of books into movies leads to deleted parts from the book or abbreviation of developments within the book.

#### Script Writing May Not Do The Story Justice

While a movie is afforded the power of visual stimulation, it’s limited in terms of having to tell a story primarily through dialogue. Making that transition from words to visual representation plus dialogue is not as simple as it seems.

#### Books Allow The Reader to Put it Together

Without the power of visuals, books allow readers to put together the story and elements in their mind. Sometimes movies overdo the visuals.

#### Language Note

dialogue (BrE) = dialog (AmE)

Adapted from: <[www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/6-reasons-the-book-is-almost-always-better-than-the-movie](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/6-reasons-the-book-is-almost-always-better-than-the-movie)>. Accessed in: May 2015.

**1** Write **T** (True) or **F** (False). Then, correct the false statement(s).

a.  A movie has the power of visual stimulation.

.....

b.  A movie is limited because it tells a story primarily through dialog.

.....

c.  It’s not a difficult task to make the transition from a book to a movie.

.....

**2** Answer the following questions based on the text above.

a. What happens when books are condensed into movies?

.....

b. What do books allow the reader to do?

.....

## 2º Bimestre (Units 3 and 4) – B

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the text below and do exercises **1** and **2**.

### Cleaning Your Plate

When dining in China, never force yourself to clear your plate out of politeness – it would be very bad manners for your host not to keep refilling it. Instead, you should leave some food on your plate at each course as an acknowledgment of your host's generosity.

### NO Tipping!

In Japan and Korea, a tip is considered an insult, rather than a compliment, and for them, accepting tips is akin to begging. However, this tradition is beginning to change as more Westerners bring their customs with them to these countries.

### Exposing Your Palms

In Greece, any signal that involves showing your open palm is extremely offensive. Such gestures include waving, as well as making a “stop” sign. If you do wish to wave goodbye to someone in Greece, you need to do so with your palm facing in, like a beauty pageant contestant or a member of the royal family.

### Lose the Shoes

In many countries, particularly in Asia and South America, it is essential to remove your shoes when entering someone's home, while in most of Europe it is polite to ask your host whether they would prefer you to do so. The reason, as anyone who's ever owned white carpet will attest, is simple hygiene and cleanliness.

From: <<http://people.howstuffworks.com/13-examples-of-good-and-bad-manners-around-the-world.htm#page=11>>. Accessed in: May 2015. (fragment)

**1** Answer the questions below.

a. When dining in China, what should you do?

.....

b. In which countries is a tip considered an insult?

.....

c. Which signal is extremely offensive in Greece?

.....

d. In which countries is it essential to remove your shoes when entering someone's home?

.....

**2** In “this tradition is beginning to change”, which tradition is it?

.....

.....

## 3º Bimestre (Units 5 and 6) – A

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the texts below and do exercises **1-3**.

### Mahatma Gandhi

**b. Oct 2 1869 d. Jan 30 1948**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was the preeminent leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India. Employing nonviolent civil disobedience, Gandhi led India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. The honorific Mahatma – applied to him first in 1914 in South Africa, – is now used worldwide. He is also called Bapu in India.

From: <<http://worldhistoryproject.org/topics/mahatma-gandhi>>. Accessed in: May 2015.

### Malcolm X

**b. May 19 1925 d. Feb 21 1965**

Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little and also known as El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, was an African-American Muslim minister and a human rights activist. To his admirers he was a courageous advocate for the rights of blacks, a man who indicted white America in the harshest terms for its crimes against black Americans; detractors accused him of preaching racism and violence. He has been called one of the greatest and most influential African Americans in history.

From: <<http://worldhistoryproject.org/topics/malcolm-x>>. Accessed in: May 2015.

**1** Complete the sentences below with **Mahatma Gandhi** or **Malcolm X**.

- a. .... was born in 1925.
- b. .... died in 1948.
- c. .... is also known as Bapu.
- d. .... is also known as El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz.
- e. .... was an African-American minister and an activist.
- f. .... was the leader of the Indian independence movement.

**2** What are Mahatma Gandhi and Malcolm X famous for?

- Fighting for human rights.
- Leading violent movements.

**3** In “detractors accused him of preaching racism and violence”, the word **detractors** means

- ‘people who admire someone, especially a well-known person’.
- ‘people who try to make someone seem less good by criticizing him/her’.

### 3º Bimestre (Units 5 and 6) - B

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the text below and do exercises **1-4**.

Brazil has produced a number of well-known personalities that have made their mark on the modern world. These ones come from many different arenas, including sports, film, science, literature and politics. Just some of the best-known Brazilian personalities include:

#### **Fernando Meirelles**

Meirelles is a film director that has been nominated for an Academy Award, based on the Brazilian production of 2002, *City of God*. He was also nominated for a Golden Globe for *The Constant Gardener* in 2005. He was born in 1955 in São Paulo, Brazil. His film, *Blindness*, was the opener for the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, an esteemed privilege.

#### **Miguel Nicolelis**

While his name may not be known to the layman, Nicolelis is certainly one of the science world's most respected figures. In fact, this neuroscientist was named one of *Scientific American's* best scientists in 2004. He was born in São Paulo in 1961 and is best known for his use of monkeys in a project that ultimately enabled them to detect the motor intent of the monkey and control different movements of a robotic arm accordingly.

From: <[www.brazil.org.za/famous-brazilians.html](http://www.brazil.org.za/famous-brazilians.html)>. Accessed in: May 2015. (fragment)

**1** Complete the sentences below with **Fernando Meirelles** or **Miguel Nicolelis**.

- a. .... was born in 1961.
- b. .... was born in 1955.
- c. .... is a neuroscientist.
- d. .... is a film director.
- e. .... is best known for his project in reading monkey thought.
- f. .... is best known for the direction of the movie *City of God*.

**2** Where were Fernando Meirelles and Miguel Nicolelis born?

.....

**3** Which movie directed by Fernando Meirelles was the opener for the 2008 Cannes Film Festival?

- The Constant Gardener.  Blindness.  
 City of God.

**4** What title/status was Miguel Nicolelis given in 2004?

.....

## 4º Bimestre (Units 7 and 8) - A

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the texts below and do exercises 1-3.

### COURAGE

#### Life Choices

Submitted by Nathalie

“When facing a decision; which of the two will bring you more peace; make a choice and the rest will fall into place.”

Sometimes we are torn in two different directions. There are times when we are swarmed by our own thoughts or get confused by the ideas of others. There are so many variables as to why we find ourselves in the middle of a dilemma in front of a question mark and feeling indecisive. It is important that you follow your inner voice because at the end of the day, who has to live with their decision. You do. Everyone else may have all these great solutions for you or advice but in the end, they will go on with their lives. You are the one that will have to live with your choice. Make sure your choice reflects what is in your heart. (...)

It is only in those times that we go against what we truly value; intuitively feel, compromise our beliefs or follow blindly without question that we find ourselves conflicted. Be fearless; be bold, trust that you will make the right choice, act with courage and conviction. Speak your truth, be kind when doing so and you will find harmony and inner peace.

Nathalie

From: <[www.values.com/your-inspirational-stories/2652-life-choices](http://www.values.com/your-inspirational-stories/2652-life-choices)>. Accessed in: May 2015. (fragment)

1 According to Nathalie, what things are important? Mark the correct items below.

- a.  To follow you inner voice.
- b.  To compromise your beliefs.
- c.  To follow people's great solutions.
- d.  To act with courage and conviction.
- e.  To listen to your heart when making choices.

2 When do we find ourselves conflicted? Use a fragment from the text to answer this question.

.....

.....

.....

3 In “Sometimes we are torn in two different directions.”, the expression **to be torn** means

- 'to be able to decide or choose between two things or feelings'.
- 'to be unable to decide or choose between two things or feelings'.

## 4º Bimestre (Units 7 and 8) - B

School: ..... Student(s): .....

Read the text below and do exercises **1-3**.

### Find What's Right for You

Unlike school, with volunteering you get to pick what really interests you and who (or what) is most deserving of your time. Need some ideas to get you started? Here are just a few:

**Help kids learn and grow.** Become a Big Brother or Big Sister, camp counselor, or volunteer for an after-school sports program. Special Olympics games and events are great ways to get to know special-needs kids. (...)

**Volunteer for a political campaign.** If you're interested in politics, it's a great way to find out how things work on the inside. Even if you can't vote, you can still work to get your candidate elected. (...)

**Help the environment.** Join a conservation group and help out with river preservation. Take part in a local park cleanup day. You don't have to be an outdoorsy type — if you can't picture yourself hauling trees up a hill, you could help out in a park office or education center. (...)

If you have more than one thing you love, find a way to combine the two. For example, if you love kids and are great at arts and crafts, visit your local children's hospital and offer to lead art activities for young patients.

From: <[http://kidshealth.org/teen/school\\_jobs/jobs/volunteering.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/jobs/volunteering.html)>. Accessed in: May 2015. (fragment)

- 1** According to the text, what is the difference between volunteering and school? Use a fragment from the text to answer this question.

.....  
.....

- 2** Answer the questions below.

a. What can you do as a volunteer if you want to help kids learn and grow?

.....  
.....

b. What can you do if you are good at arts and love kids?

.....  
.....

- 3** In "if you can't picture yourself hauling trees up a hill", **picture** means

- 'to show something in a photograph'.  
 'to create an image of something in your mind'.