
UNIT 12

Structure

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12.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit we shall give you further practice in listening comprehension by presenting a recorded talk on 'Dreams' and setting questions on comprehension. We shall also ask you to study two dialogues in which a speaker tells another about the dreams he had recently.

In the section on pronunciation we shall talk about stress and rhythm in connected speech and provide further practice in vowel contrasts and reading words from a phonetic transcription.

After completing the unit you should be able to

- understand a talk on a subject of common interest,
- take part in a conversation in which you tell somebody about a past event, and
- use the correct patterns of stress and rhythm in sentences.

Cassette Recording

A cassette recording accompanies this unit and is available on payment.

12.1 LISTENING COMPREHENSION

As you know, the secrets of sleep were a mystery for centuries. It is only in recent times that scientists have found out some of these secrets through careful observation and experiment. One of the greatest mysteries of sleep has been dreams. What are dreams? Where do they come from? What are they made of? Here is a talk on some of the beliefs and superstitions about dreams. It has been recorded for you on the cassette that goes with the course. Listen to the talk carefully and then answer the questions in Exercise 1.

Exercise 1

Answer the following questions. You may listen to the recorded talk again and take down notes, if you like.

- 1 What is the difference between 'dreams' and 'reality'?

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2 Dreams were interpreted in three different ways in ancient times. List them.

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3 What is the evidence to show that dreams can help solve scientific problems?

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4 What is the evidence to show that dreams can help in literary efforts?

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5 What is Freud's view about dreams?

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6 Why is it difficult to study dreams scientifically?

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7 Why do dreams appear odd and strange?

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12.2 CONVERSATION

Taking about Past Events

In the following dialogue 'A' tells 'B' that he had a strange dream a few days ago and then tells him what the dream was about. Read the following dialogue and then listen to it on the cassette.

A : I had a fantastic dream the other day.

B : Did you? What was it about?

- A : Oh, a horrible creature was chasing me. I don't quite remember what it looked like, but it was frightening.
- B : What happened?
- A : I ran as fast as I could, but he followed me.
- B : Then what did you do?
- A : I hid inside a very tall building, but he found me.
- B : And then?
- A : Then I climbed to the very top of the building, all the way to the 5th floor.
- B : And after that?
- A : After that there was nowhere to hide. When he was about to grab me, I jumped. As I was about to hit the ground, I woke up with a start.

Exercise 5

Now read the dialogue aloud yourself.

Exercise 6

Write a dialogue of about 100 words in which you talk about the happiest dream you've ever had.

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12.3 PRONUNCIATION

12.3.1 Stress and Rhythm

In connected speech only those words that are important for meaning are stressed. Content words like nouns, adjectives, principal verbs and adverbs are generally stressed. Grammatical words or structure words like articles, personal and relative pronouns, auxiliary verbs, prepositions and conjunctions are generally not stressed.

Example

I had a fan'tastic 'dream the ,other ,day.
 (The less prominent stresses are marked at the bottom.)

Notice that when a word of more than one syllable is stressed in connected speech, the stress is placed on the syllable that normally takes it when the word is said in isolation. For example, in the above example, *fantastic* is stressed on the second syllable.

The stressed syllables in English occur at regular intervals of time, and if there are a number of unstressed syllables between them, they have to be said quickly.

e.g., 'This is the' house that 'Jack built.
 There are two unstressed syllables between *This* and *house*, one between *house* and *Jack*, and none between *Jack* and *built*. But the stressed syllables will still come at equal intervals of time.

Exercise 7

Listen to the following sentences on the cassette and say them with the correct stress pattern as marked.

- 1 'What was it a'bout?
- 2 I 'dreamt that I was a 'millio'naire.

3 'How did you 'get all the 'money?

4 When I was 'digging a 'pit in my 'garden, / 'suddenly I 'struck something 'hard.
(The sentence is to be divided into two groups as shown.)

'Was it a 'treasure 'chest?

12.3.2 Vowel Contrasts

Exercise 8

Listen to the following pairs of words on the cassette and then read them aloud yourself, making a clear distinction between the words in each pair. Add three more pairs to illustrate each contrast.

- a) /i:/ /ɪ/
 seek sick
 sleep slip
 reach rich
 leave live
 deed did
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- b) /e/ /æ/
 pen pan
 bet bat
 men man
 lend land
 letter latter
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- c) /e/ /eɪ/ (or Indian /e:/)
 sent saint
 tell tale
 get gate
 bell bale
 chest chaste
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- d) /ɒ/ /əʊ/ (or Indian /o:/)
 odd ode
 not note
 got goat
 cost coast
 cot coat
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Exercise 9

Say the following words correctly as shown. You can also listen to them on the cassette.

comprehension / ,kɒmpri 'henʃən /

secrets / 'si:kri:ts /

mystery / 'mɪstəri /

centuries	/ 'sentʃərɪz /
recent	/ 'ri:sənt /
times	/ taɪmz /
scientists	/ 'saɪəntɪsts /
careful	/ ,keəfəl /
observaton	/ ,ɒbzə'veɪʃən /
experiment(n)	/ ɪk'sperɪmənt /

12.4 LET US SUM UP

In this unit we have

- given you practice in listening to a talk on 'dreams' and understanding it,
- presented a specimen dialogue in which one person tells another about a dream he had, and
- introduced you to the feature of stress and rhythm in English sentences.

12.5 KEY WORDS

'adjective (in grammar): a word that names a quality, or that defines or limits a noun

'adverb (in grammar): a word that answers question with *how*, *when*, *where*, and modifies verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs

'astronaut: a person who travels in a spacecraft

auxiliary 'verb: a helping verb, e.g., *is* in *He is coming*.

con'junction (in grammar): a word that joins other words, clauses, etc. e.g., *and*, *but*, *or*.

'fairy: a small imaginary being with supernatural powers

ghost / ɡəʊst /: the spirit of a dead person appearing to somebody still living

'monster: abnormally mis-shapen animal; a person or thing of extraordinary size

noun (in grammar): a word (not a pronoun) which can function as the subject or object of a verb, or the object of a preposition

'personal'pronouns: pronouns for the three persons: *I*, *we*; *you*; *he*, *she*, *it*, *they*

pho'netic tran'scription: a system of writing providing a symbol for each sound

,prepo'sition: a word or group of words (eg., *in*, *from*, *to*, *out of*, *on behalf of*) often placed before a noun or pronoun to indicate place, direction, source, etc

'pronoun: a word used in place of a noun or noun phrase e.g., *he*, *it*, *hers*, *we*, *them*

'relative'pronoun: e.g., *who* in *The man who came to dinner*

'rhythm (in English): a regular succession of strong stresses

'spirit: the soul thought of as separate from the body

stress: extra force used in speaking, on a particular word or syllable, e.g., in the word *extra*, the stress is on the first syllable.

,super'stition: unreasoning belief in magic, etc.; irrational fear of what is unknown or mysterious

'vowel'contrast: difference in vowel sounds that brings about a difference in meaning

12.6 ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

Exercise 1

- 1 Events which happen to us when we are awake are called 'reality': those which happen to us when we are asleep are called dreams.
- 2 In ancient times people believed that
 - i) dreams were messages from gods,
 - ii) they had prophetic meaning, and
 - iii) they had a value in healing.

- 3 Otto Loewi, a German physiologist, said one of his dreams gave him the idea of an experiment with a frog's nerve. This helped him win the Nobel Prize.
- 4 The English poet Coleridge said he had written his poem 'Kubla Khan' as a result of creative thinking during a dream.
- 5 Freud said the repressed wishes and desires of one's waking experience were reflected in one's dreams.
- 6 This is because
 - i) dreams can be observed only by the person who dreams them,
 - ii) the objects that appear during dreams cannot be observed again, and
 - iii) often the dreamer cannot clearly recall his dreams.
- 7 This is due to a lack of proper sequencing of time and place in dreams.

Exercise 3 : Specimen Answer

A : I had a funny dream last week.

A : a) I dreamt that I met a fairy in my garden.

A : The fairy led me to a distant place.

A : Well, as I was about to enter a palace, I woke up.

Exercise 8 Specimen Answer

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|----|--------|---|-------|
| a) | seat | / | sit |
| | beat | / | bit |
| | feel | / | fill |
| b) | pet | / | pat |
| | met | / | mat |
| | guess | / | gas |
| c) | met | / | mate |
| | sell | / | sale |
| | shed | / | shade |
| d) | cod | / | code |
| | rot | / | wrote |
| | tossed | / | toast |