
UNIT 17

Structure

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17.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit we shall give you practice in listening comprehension by presenting a recorded talk on Albert Einstein's life and setting questions on comprehension. We shall also ask you to study a dialogue between a teacher and a student who has just passed the higher secondary examination.

In the section on pronunciation we shall give you practice in some English consonant sounds and inflectional suffixes.

After completing the unit you should be able to

- understand a talk on a subject of common interest,
- discuss your future career with your parents/teachers/friends, and
- pronounce the consonant sounds correctly and use the correct sounds in inflectional suffixes.

CASSETTE RECORDING

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

17.1 LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Exercise 1

A short biography of Albert Einstein, the eminent scientist, has been recorded for you on the cassette. Listen to it carefully and prepare a list of 13 important events in his life and the year in which each of them took place. Arrange the events in the order in which they occurred. You may listen to the recording again, if you like.

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/ ð / also has the musical note called **voice**. Listen to the two sounds on the cassette along with the following words in which they occur. Then say the words with the correct sounds.

/ θ / 'theory, thank, think, through
'birthday, 'faithful, 'healthy
both, teeth, earth, cloth.

/ ð / them, they, this, that, there,
'whether, wi'thout, 'mother
with, bathe, breathe.

Exercise 6

/ dʒ / as in *judge*

/ z / as in *zoo*

Listen to the following pairs of words on the cassette and then say each pair, making a clear distinction between / dʒ / and / z /. Notice that / z / is produced by adding voice to / s / and making a continuous sound.

/ dʒ /	/ z /
jest	zest
'jealous	'zealous
'region	'reason
range	rains
wage	ways
'marriage	'marries
change	chains

Exercise 7

The plural and possessive forms of nouns and the simple present third person singular forms of verbs are made by adding -s or -es to the word, but this suffix is pronounced / s /, / z /, or / ɪz / in different words.

In words ending in the consonants / p, t, k, f, θ / it is pronounced / s / as in *e'vents/ɪ'vents/*

In words ending in vowel sounds or the consonants / b, d, ɡ, v, ð, m, n, ŋ, l / it is pronounced / z /, as in *theories/θɪə'ri:z/*.

In words ending in the consonants / tʃ, dʒ, s, z, ʃ, ʒ / it is pronounced / ɪz /, as in *'colleges/'kɒlɪdʒɪz/*.

Now listen to the following words recorded for you on the cassette and then say them with the correct grammatical suffix:

1 Suffix pronounced / s /

e'vents
sights
'students
cas'settes
'concepts
takes
likes
sup'ports
for'gets
sets

2 Suffix pronounced / z /

years
'theories
wars

'memories
'dialogues
'listens
pre'pares
oc'curs
'trembles
be'comes

3 Suffix pronounced /ɪz/

ad'vances
'preferences
'sciences
'pieces
ar'ranges
'passes
'partises
'recognizes
'causes

Exercise 8

Read the following dialogue with the correct patterns of stress and rhythm. You can also listen to it on the cassette.

A: He'llo, A'shok! / How'are you? /

B: I'm 'fine, 'sir. / 'Thank you. /

A: I'm 'glad you've'done so 'well in the 'Higher 'Secondary ex'ami'nation. / 'What are your 'plans 'now? /

B: I 'think, 'sir, / I'll 'join a 'good 'college. /

A: 'Yes, / but 'what course do you pro'pose to 'take? /

B: I'll 'have to 'choose between 'science and 'arts courses.

17.4 LET US SUM UP

In this unit we have given you

- practice in listening to a recorded talk on Albert Einstein's life and understanding it,
- a specimen dialogue between a teacher and a student who has just passed the higher secondary examination, and
- practice in the consonant sounds / f, v, θ, ð, dʒ, z / and the pronunciation of some inflectional suffixes.

17.5 KEY WORDS

in'flexion: a change in the form of a word according to its grammatical use, e.g., *boy, boys, boy's, boys'*

'rhythm: occurrence (of stressed syllables in English) at regular periods of time

stress: the degree of force put on a part of a word making it stronger than other parts, e.g., in *degree* the main stress is on *-gree*

'suffix: letters or sounds added at the end of a word to change its meaning or its use, e.g., *-er* in *teacher*, *-en* in *given*

voice: the sound produced when the speaker's breath acts on his vocal cords as it passes through them

17.6 ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

Exercise 1

Albert Einstein

14 March 1879: Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany.

1880: His family moved to Munich.

1900: He graduated from the renowned Polytechnic Academy in Zurich and became a Swiss citizen.

1905: He got his Ph.D. for his thesis on his special theory of relativity.

1909–1912: He was Professor of Physics at Prague University.

1912: He returned to work at the Polytechnic at Zurich.

1914: He and his family moved to Berlin, where he worked as a member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences.

1915: In the midst of World War I, he completed his masterpiece, the general theory of relativity.

1919: He became world famous when his new theory of gravitational bending of light rays was confirmed by British scientists.

1921: He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics.

1931: He went to Oxford as a visiting professor.

1933: He renounced his German citizenship and left the country.

1955: He died in his sleep at Princeton Hospital.

Exercise 2

1 False

2 True

3 True

4 False

5 True

6 False