EASY ACCESS ENGLISH

Letter from America



Activity One : With your partner ask and answer the questions below :

1. Do you like receiving letters or parcels in the post from friends and family?
2. How often do you receive them?
   Very frequently, Quite often, Rarely, From Time to Time, Occasionally, Never.

3. Do you send letters in the post to friends and family?
4. How often do you send them?
   Very frequently, Quite often, Rarely, From Time to Time, Occasionally, Never.

5. Do you correspond with friends and family in other ways ?
6. By e mail?
7. By text message?

8. Do you send post cards when you are on holiday?
9. Do you receive many post cards?
   A lot, not many, hardly any, none.

10. Do you collect stamps or know anyone who collect stamps ?
11. Have you ever sent or received a love letter?

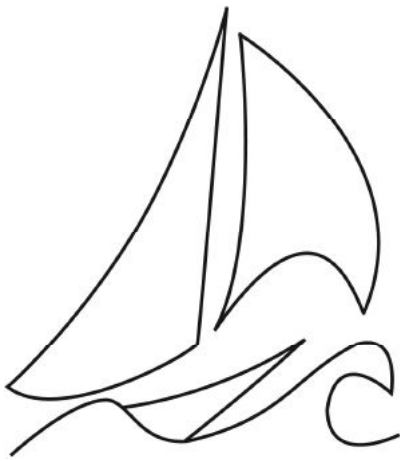
Activity Two

Put the expressions in the correct order by labelling them BEGINNING, MIDDLE or END.

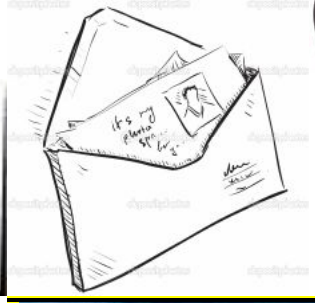
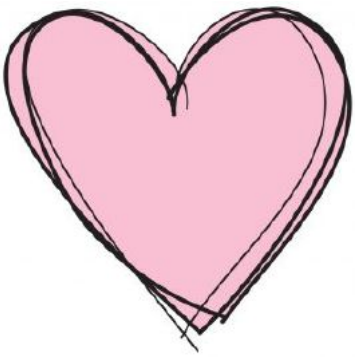
Yours faithfully	
With kind regards	
I'm sending this letter from	
I'm just dropping you a quick line to say	
Dear John	
Yours sincerely	
I'm writing to you because	
Dear Sir	
I'm sending this letter from	
Thanks again	
I look forward to hearing from you	
I'm writing to you because	
Lots of love	
Kindest regards	
Sending you lot's of love	
I thought I'd drop you a line to say how much we enjoyed seeing you	
Just a quick note to say thank you for	



Activity Three – **'Letter From America' by 'The Proclaimers'**. Listen to the song and assemble the images in the order in which you hear those words in the song.
Then answer the questions.








Questions –

1. Who is the song about?
2. What do you think the singer wants?
3. Where has his friend or family member travelled to?
4. What transport did he use?
5. Which places will he see no more?
6. What did he leave behind?

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Activity Four – Problem pages.

Read the letters and answers from some problem pages. Pay attention to your pronunciation and intonation and try to sound upset, or angry at the right times. You need to decide which answer is for which letter and read out the correct answer after each letter is read out.

Dear Marge,
All the other children laugh at me at school and say my clothes are completely unfashionable. I feel really stupid. I ask my parents to buy me better clothes but they say they don't have enough money. What can I do?

Dear Marge,
I have been married for nearly a year and my husband doesn't seem interested in me anymore. I think he may be more interested in his work partner, a woman half his age. I am pregnant now and feel fat and ugly. Is there any hope for our marriage?

Dear Marge,
I saw one of my work colleagues taking some paper from the office photocopier and put it in her bag. Do you think I should report her for theft to the boss or not? My parents always taught me to tell the truth and that any stealing is wrong. What do you think?

Dear Marge,
I am 16 years old and I want to leave school this year. My parents say it is too early for me and that I should be trying to get into university. I think I am old enough to make my own decisions now. I want to work with my friend Susan in McDonalds. Then, I can start earning money to buy things.

Which reply is for which letter?

Dear Jane,

I think your self-confidence is probably a little low at the moment considering your condition. Have a chat with your husband and see if you can resolve the problem of the "other woman" who, I imagine, doesn't exist anyway. I think your husband could just be a little nervous about the new arrival!

Dear Mary,
Your parents are right. You would be better to stay and complete as much of your education as possible. Real opportunities and independence won't come from earning $150 a week but from the qualifications and experience gained by staying with your school friends.

Dear Jim,
You should worry about doing well at school and not about what others say about you. That will show real maturity and, after a while, your not reacting will convince those who complain about what you wear that there is no fun to be had.

Dear Mike,
Your family was correct to teach you about right and wrong but we are only talking about some paper here! Theft is theft and I think you should at least say something to the person before going to your boss. Maybe it was an innocent mistake! If you go to your boss in those circumstances, you will be the most unpopular person in the office and then you will have another problem altogether!

- Which question was the most difficult to answer?
- Do you agree with all of Marge's responses?
- Would you like to do her job?

Activity Five – Agony Aunt.
With your partner write answer a letter and give the person who wrote the letter some advice using the following modal verbs :

Should, Could, Would, Might

You could think about...
You really should...
I would advise you to...
You might want to...
If you ... he might ....



Activity Six – Love letters - First let's get in the mood with some classic Elvis! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnf9BhCSC6I (sing along with the lyrics!)

With a new partner. Write a love letter for one of these people (or another famous couple of your choice) and an answer and then read them out to the class in a very melodramatic way each being one of the couple.

1. From Vanessa Paradis to Johnny Depp
2. From Hollande to Valery Rotweller
3. From Romeo to Juliette
4. From Paris Hilton to her dog
5. From Taylor Swift to Harry Styles

Activity Seven – Letter from America by Alistair Cooke

Letter from America was a famous radio programme broadcast by the BBC.

Listen to the letter and answer the questions. Remember – you are not supposed to understand everything. You should only listen for answers to the questions. You don't have to answer them all.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00yqkgk
Louis Armstrong



1. What did he order?
2. What did he do when he received it?
3. What was it called?
4. What musical instrument was playing on it?
5. How did his mother react to the music?
6. What does he say about Jazz?
7. How did older people feel about Jazz in the 1950's?
8. What did Magistrates in England blame on Jazz?
9. What did he do with the record?
10. What did the New York Times say about that Trumpet player when he died?
11. How old was Louis Armstrong when he died?
12. Who went to his funeral?

You can stop listening after the mention of the funeral.

You may want to listen to the rest in your own time.

You can find more of these programmes on this page and they are very clear and interesting to listen to. Alistair Cooke's weekly talks on American life, history and politics. Over 900 programmes, as broadcast from 1946 – 2004.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00f6hbp