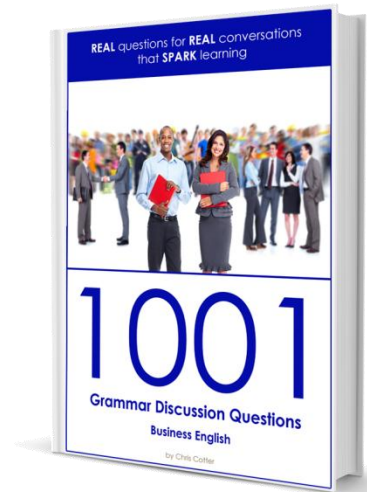
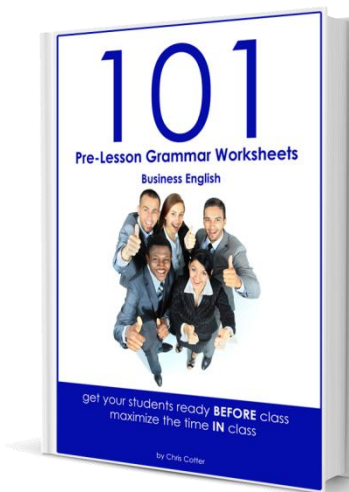
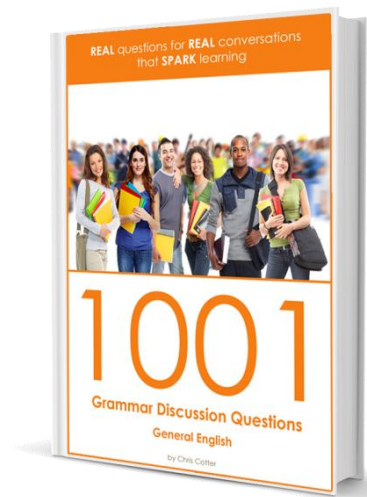
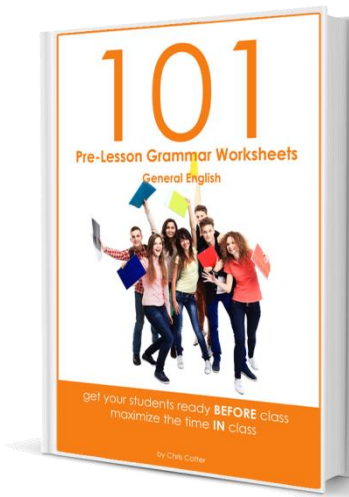
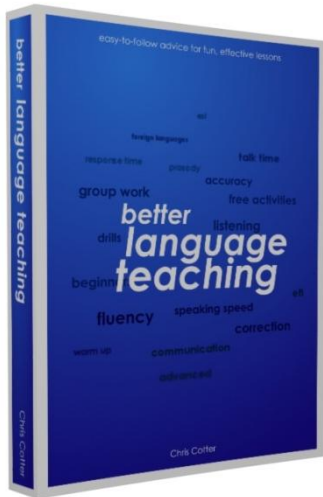


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INSTRUCTIONS

- Step 1:** You will listen to an article about the United Nations. The article is about five long. Listen only, and don't worry about understanding everything.
- Step 2:** Read and understand the questions, then listen again. As you are listening, try to answer the questions in your head. Don't write the answers yet. Next, listen again and write the answers this time. Compare your answers with a partner.
- Step 3:** Read the article. Check in your dictionary any unknown words. Now listen again. Can you understand more?
- Step 4:** Listen! Listen! Listen! Listen to the article on the train or in your free time. Each time you listen, you will slowly improve!

QUESTIONS

Answer the questions to check your comprehension. If you don't know an answer, don't worry. Skip it, then try to answer it when after you listen again.

- 1: When was the United Nations established?

- 2: What did the UN want to do?

- 3: Who is the main spokesperson for the UN?

- 4: What does the main spokesperson do?

- 5: What are some of the successes of the United Nations listed in the article?

- 6: What happened in Somalia?

- 7: According to some critics, why is the UN inefficient?

- 8: According to the article, what happened in 1988?

- 9: Who won the Nobel Prize in 2001? Why?

- 10: How many nations belong to the United Nations?

the ARTICLE

The United Nations was established in 1945. The idea behind the UN came from an earlier organization called the League of Nations, which was founded after World War I. The Allies from the Second World War (at the time, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Republic of China, and the USSR) wanted to prevent future wars if possible, as the war had been so devastating. They wanted the UN to intervene in conflicts between nations, and bring about peaceful solutions. They also wanted it to improve human rights, social progress, economic development, international security, and international law.

Although there are major offices in several European countries, the headquarters of the UN are in New York City. In addition to representatives from member nations, there are numerous departments, employees, and support staff working towards the UN's declared goals of peace and human development. The Secretary General serves as the main spokesperson of the organization. Because of his position, he often brings problems to the world's attention. He also can influence other countries' policies on global issues. To finance the organization, governments who belong to the UN pay voluntary fees. The amount is determined by each country's wealth.

Over the years, the United Nations has had both successes and failures. Since the end of the Cold War, there has been a 40% drop in violent conflict, and an 80% drop in genocide. However, the UN couldn't prevent the Rwandan genocide in 1994. And in Somalia, warlords often stole massive food shipments meant for starving people. Critics list these as only two of the many examples of the organization's failures. Other critics point to the United States, Britain, and France who have too much control over UN. Others also believe that the organization is horribly bureaucratic, which leads to inefficiency.

Regardless of the criticisms, the United Nations has worked hard to uphold its founding principles. People all over the world are familiar with white Humvees that the UN officials and armed forces use. The white vehicles with "UN" written in large letters travel to hotspots around the world. In 1988, the Peace-Keeping Forces received a Nobel Peace Prize. And in 2001, both the United Nations as a whole and Secretary General Kofi Annan as an individual won the Nobel Peace Prize "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world."

Regardless of successes, failures, and criticisms, there are now more than 190 members in the UN. In other words, there is one representative for almost every nation on Earth. Additionally, all members have agreed to accomplish the following by 2015:

- 1: End extreme poverty end hunger.
- 2: Offer elementary education for everyone.
- 3: Develop more equality between men and women.
- 4: Lower childhood death rates.
- 5: Improve the health of mothers.
- 6: Fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases.
- 7: Protect the environment.
- 8: Develop a global partnership.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (optional)

1: Which paragraph was the easiest to listen to? Which paragraph was the most difficult? Look at the vocabulary and sentence structure, then think why one paragraph was easy and another difficult.

2: Listen for these words, understand the context, then try to repeat the information from the sentence:

- idea behind (paragraph 1)
- spokesperson (paragraph 2)
- critics (paragraph 3)
- hotspots (paragraph 4)
- in other words (paragraph 5)

3: Listen and write the sentences:

They also wanted it to improve human rights, social... (paragraph 1)

To finance the organization, governments who... (paragraph 2)

Regardless of the criticisms, the United Nations has... (paragraph 4)

ANSWERS

QUESTIONS

- 1: The United Nations was established in 1945.
- 2: The UN wanted to intervene in conflicts between nations, and bring about peaceful solutions. They also wanted it to improve human rights, social progress, economic development, international security, and international law.
- 3: The Secretary General serves as the main spokesperson of the organization.
- 4: He often brings problems to the world's attention, and influence other countries' policies on global issues.
- 5: Since the end of the Cold War, there has been a 40% drop in violent conflict, and an 80% drop in genocide.
- 6: In Somalia, warlords often stole massive food shipments meant for starving people.
- 7: Others also say that the organization is horribly bureaucratic.
- 8: In 1988, the Peace-Keeping Forces received a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 9: Both the United Nations as a whole and Secretary General Kofi Annan won the Nobel Peace Prize "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world."
- 10: There are now more than 190 members in the UN.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES - Listen and write the sentences.

- ...progress, economic development, international security, and international law.
- ...belong to the UN pay voluntary fees.
- ...worked hard to uphold its founding principles.