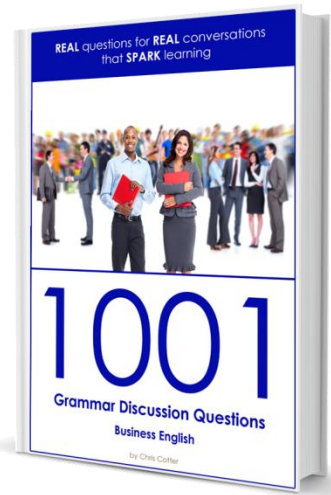
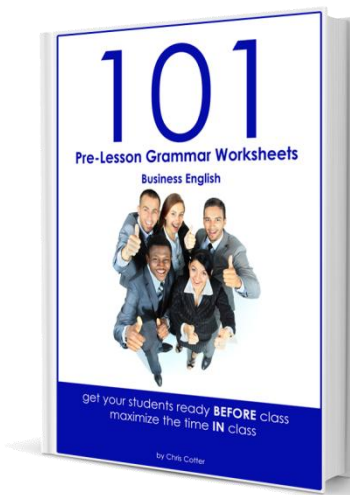
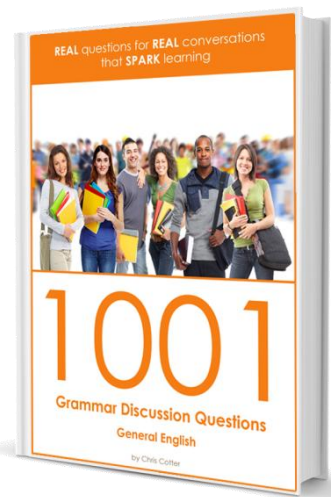
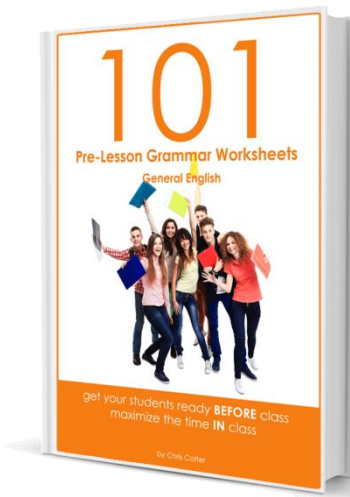
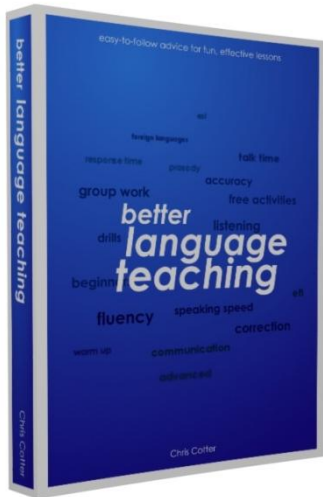


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

Are We Living in a Computer?

It may sound very strange, but important physicists and philosophers have suggested that our universe is a computer simulation. That means all people and things aren't real. We are computer code in a virtual reality.

The legitimate theory suggests that an advanced civilization is responsible for running computer simulations. For example, maybe our future descendants want to understand 21st century humans. However, instead of research, maybe these future people are running the computer simulation for entertainment, such as when we play video games. If there is enormous computing power in the future, as expected, then these sorts of simulations would be possible.

Of course, not everyone agrees. And some tech billionaires have begun to fund research to discover the truth. They have also given money to scientists to discover a way to free humankind from the simulation.

Whatever the truth, if we are a computer simulation on someone's computer in the future, let's hope that the program doesn't crash or it isn't switched off.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in **red typeface** are the answers.

the Article (for students)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

Are We Living in a Computer?

It may sound very strange, but important physicists and philosophers have suggested that our universe is a computer simulation. That means all people and things aren't real. We are computer code in a virtual reality.

The legitimate theory suggests that a) _____
_____. For example, maybe our future descendants want to understand 21st century humans. However, instead of research, maybe these future people are running the computer simulation for entertainment, such as when we play video games. If there is enormous computing power in the future, as expected, then these sorts of simulations would be possible.

Of course, not everyone agrees. b) _____
_____. They have also given money to scientists to discover a way to free humankind from the simulation.

Whatever the truth, c) _____,
let's hope that the program doesn't crash or it isn't switched off.

Sentence #1:

Sentence #2:

Sentence #3:

Are We Living in a Computer?

Lower-Intermediate - Listening

STEP ONE

Title: Today's article is: "Are We Living in a Computer?" What will you read about?

STEP TWO

Questions: Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	Physicists and philosophers are building a computer simulation of the universe.	T/F
b.	The computer simulation is for research and entertainment purposes.	T/F
c.	Computers will be very powerful in the future, so a simulation is possible.	T/F
d.	Some tech billionaires want to find a way out of the simulation.	T/F
e.	According to the article, the computer simulation will definitely crash.	T/F

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Listen to the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing sentences.

STEP FOUR

Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	According to the article, what have physicists and philosophers suggested?
b.	Who might be running the simulation?
c.	Why might someone be running the simulation?
d.	What are tech billionaires doing about the simulation?
e.	Does the tone of the article at the end serious or humorous? Why do you think so?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers and ask more questions with your partner.

a.	Do you think we live in a computer simulation? Please explain.
b.	If we really were in a simulation, would you want to know? Why/not?
c.	If we really were in a simulation, would you make any changes to your life?
d.	If we really were in a simulation, how would most people react? Why?