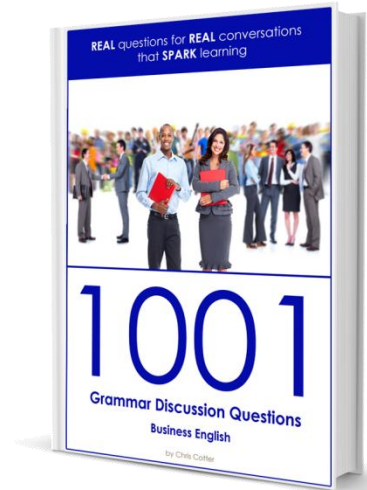
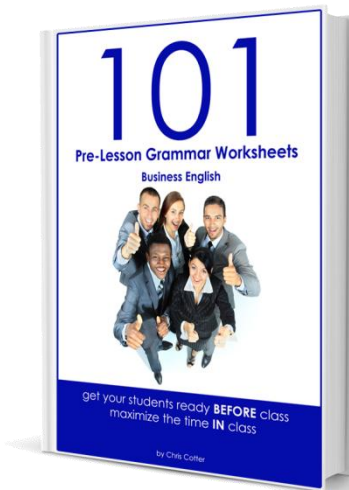
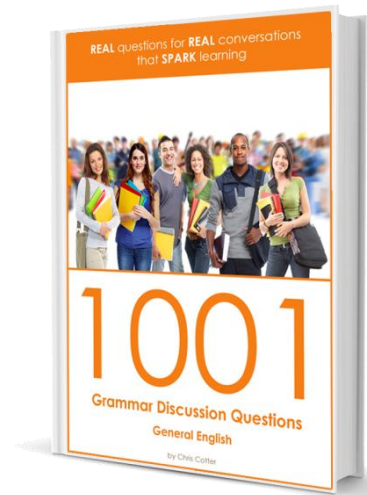
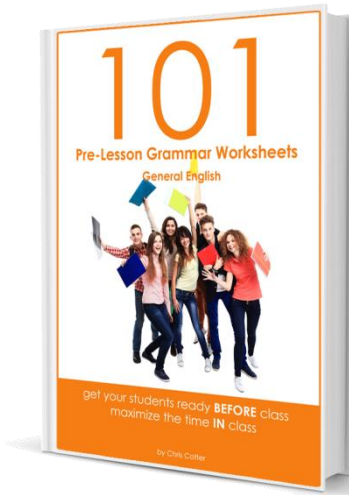
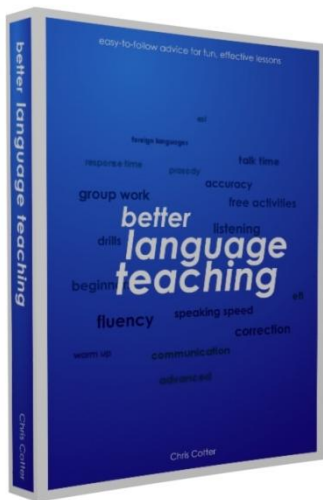


HEADS UP ENGLISH's store

find solutions.
reach goals.
engage your students.

awesome resources ready for immediate download!



Become a Better Language Teacher

..... Join the Newsletter for Ideas, Answers, and Help!

30 DAY 30 Day Money Back Guarantee

Secure Checkout



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 recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

Are We Living in a Computer?

Lower-Intermediate - Vocabulary

the Article (for students)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

crash	switched off	fund	reality	descendants
enormous	legitimate	entertainment	discover	billionaires

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 (a. _____).

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

Of course, not everyone agrees. And some tech (f. _____) have begun to (g. _____) research to discover the truth. They have also given money to scientists to (h. _____) 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 (i. _____) or it isn't (j. _____).

Are We Living in a Computer?

Lower-Intermediate - Vocabulary

STEP ONE

Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner words and ideas for "virtual reality" for two minutes. Next, talk about the words and ideas for five minutes.

STEP TWO

Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	legitimate	u.	huge
b.	descendant	v.	real
c.	enormous	w.	shut down
d.	fund	x.	give money
e.	discover	y.	future generations
f.	switch off	z.	find

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	switched off	enormous	fund
	legitimate	discover	descendants
a.	The () theory suggests an advanced civilization is responsible.		
b.	Maybe our future () want to understand 21st century humans.		
c.	There is () computing power in the future.		
d.	Tech billionaires have begun to () research to discover the truth.		
e.	They have given money to scientists to () a way to free humankind.		
f.	Let's hope that the program doesn't crash or it isn't ().		

Are We Living in a Computer?

Lower-Intermediate - Vocabulary

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases you circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your 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: Write down three vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

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

Score yourself:

7-10 times, or more: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

4-6 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for more practice.

3 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.