

Appendix 1

The Reading Texts

Appendix 1.1: The reading text

A Holiday Horror Story

After Christmas two years ago Jack and Liza decided to go away for New Year. They didn't want to stay in hotel with crowds of people and they were delighted when they saw an advertisement in *The Sunday Times* for a holiday flat in a village near Oxford. It was no ordinary flat. It was on the top floor of an old Elizabethan mansion. They booked it, and on New Year's Eve they set off in the car. It was raining and freezing cold, they were happy and excited.

They had been driving for three hours when they saw the house in the distance. It looked magnificent with tall chimneys and a long, wide drive. They drove up to the house, went up the steps to the huge front door and knocked. Nothing happened. They knocked again. The door opened and a small, wild-looking old lady stood there.

When they got outside again the rain had turned to snow. They ran to the car, laughing. They felt that they had been released from a prison and now they wanted to be with lots of people. They drove to the next village and as midnight was striking they found a hotel with a room for the night. 'Happy New Year!' cried Jack, as he kissed the surprised receptionist on both cheeks. 'You have no idea how beautiful your hotel is!'

Source : *New Headway: Intermediate Student's Book (the 3rd ed.)*. Oxford University Press.

Appendix 1.2: The reading text

Was Uncle Sam a real person?

Yes, he was! This symbol of the United States with a long white beard, wearing striped trousers and top hat, was a meat packer from New York state.

Uncle Sam was Samuel Wilson, born in Arlington, Massachusetts in 1766. At the age of eight, he was a drummer boy in the American Revolution. Later in life he moved to New York and opened a meat packing company. He was a good and caring employer and became affectionately known as Uncle Sam.

Sam Wilson sold meat to the army, and he wrote the letters US on the crates. This meant 'United States', but this abbreviation was not yet common. One day a company worker was asked what the letters US stood for. He wasn't sure, and wrongly said that perhaps the letters stood for his employer, Uncle Sam. Nevertheless, the mistake continued. Soon soldiers started referring to all military goods as coming from Uncle Sam. They even saw themselves as Uncle Sam's men.

Source : *New Headway: Intermediate Student's Book (the 3rd ed.)*. Oxford University Press.

Appendix 1.3: The reading text

Global Pizza by Connie Odone

A Brief History of Pizza

It's kind of silly to talk about the moment when pizza was 'invented'. It gradually evolved over the years, but one thing's for certain- it's been around for a very long time. The idea of using pieces of flat, round bread as plates came from the Greeks. They called them 'plakuntos' and ate them with various simple toppings such as oil, garlic, onions, and herbs. The Romans enjoyed eating something similar and called it 'picea'.

By about 1000 AD in the city of Naples, 'picea' had become 'pizza' and people were experimenting with more toppings: cheese, ham, anchovies, and finally the tomato, brought to Italy from Mexico and Peru in the sixteenth century. Naples became the pizza capital of the world.

In 1889, King Umberto I and Queen Margherita heard about pizza and asked to try it. They invited pizza maker, Raffaele Esposito, to make it for them. He decided to make the pizza like the Italian flag, so he used red tomatoes, white mozzarella cheese, and green basil leaves. The Queen loved it and the new pizza was named 'Pizza Margherita' in her honour.

Pizza Migrated to America with the Italians at the end of the nineteenth century. The first pizzeria in the United States was opened in 1905 at 53 ½ Spring Street, New York City, by Gennaro Lombardi. But the popularity of Pizza really exploded when American soldiers returned from Italy after World War II and raved about 'that great Italian dish'. Americans are now the greatest producers and consumers of pizza in the world.

Source : *New Headway: Intermediate Student's Book (the 3rd ed.)*. Oxford University Press.

Appendix 1.4: The reading text

Mount Fuji

There is a very famous mountain in Japan. It's called Mount Fuji (or Fuji-san). People can see it from many parts of the country. It's more than 12,000 feet high, higher than any other mountain in Japan. It's wonderful to look at. Many people take photos of it. Artists often draw or paint pictures of it. They love the mountain's beautiful and unusual shape. It's symmetrical.

Mount Fuji is actually a volcano. People often forget that fact. The last eruption was a long time ago, in 1708. Now it's dormant (sleeping). People can safely climb to the top of it. More than 200,000 people climb Fuji each year. Most of them are Japanese. However, a large number-about 30% of them-come from foreign countries.

July and August are the best months to climb Mount Fuji. At other times during the year, it can be dangerous. There's too much snow and bad weather. Even in the summer, the climb isn't easy. The air is thin on the mountain, so it's hard to breathe. The sun is strong, and the days can be very hot. Then at night, it's cold.

Many climbers start up the mountain late in the day. They carry flashlights, and they climb for hours in the dark. They want to arrive at the top before sunrise. Then they can watch the sun come up. It's getting to be a Japanese tradition.

Many Japanese people want to climb Mount Fuji once in their lives. Most of them want to climb it only once. There is a saying in Japan: "A person who never climbs Mount Fuji is a fool, and a person who climbs twice is twice the fool."

Source: Linda Butler. (2003). *Password 1: A reading and Vocabulary Text*.
New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

Appendix 2: The pilot test for selecting the reading text

Subject 1 for the pilot testing interviewed on 3 November 2007

Age : 18 Female Faculty of Education
Grade : D for English I

When studied in the high school, Sample1 mentioned that she did not pay too much attention for study English so she did not have enough basic knowledge of English language.

Regarding to the reading story, she stated that if she understand the topic/title, she would read it because it is what she likes.

For her, Was Uncle Sam a real person? was the most difficult text because she never read it while the Pizza story was easy because she used to study it in class.

However, Mount Fuji was her favorite because she used to hear the word 'Fuji' which was regarded to the Japanese restaurant, namely "Fuji", in Thailand.

Subject 2 for the pilot testing interviewed on 3 November 2007

Age : 19 Female Faculty of Education
Grade : D+ for English I

Sample2 herself indicated that she used the learning technique when reading by : 1) underline the unknown word in order to guess meaning from the context 2) always need the pen to underline and jot down the meaning of the known word. This is true when the researcher interviewed the subject. She requested the pen from the researcher for underline and jot down the word.

Sample2 preferred to translate from English to her own language (Thai) to make comprehension. Thus, many times she read out read both English and Thai.

To her, Sample2 ranked the difficulties of the reading tasks as follows from the most difficult to the easiest one: 1) Pizza story, 2) Holiday horror, 3) Uncle Sam, and 4) Mount Fuji. She further explained that Mount Fuji is well known so it will make people interest in reading it.

Appendix 3: Description of the Subjects

No.	Sex	Age	Grade for English I
1	F	19	B
2	F	19	C
3	F	19	D+
4	F	19	A
5	F	18	C
6	F	18	B
7	F	19	C
8	F	19	D+
9	F	18	D
10	F	19	D
11	F	19	D+
12	M	18	B+
13	M	19	C+
14	M	19	B+
15	M	19	D
16	M	19	D
17	F	19	D+
18	F	19	D
19	F	19	D
20	F	19	D+
21	F	20	D
22	F	19	C
23	F	19	D+
24	F	18	D
25	F	19	B
26	F	19	D+
27	F	19	D+
28	F	19	E
29	F	19	D+
30	F	19	C+