

# Daily Language Practice • Week 1

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## *Day 1*

1. Poes short story The Cask of Amontillado deals with murder as revenge.
  2. Montresor wants revenge for an insult Fortunato cast on him the nature of the insult is not clear in the story.
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## *Day 2*

1. at the beginning of the story Montresor and Fortunato meet at a carnival.
  2. fortunato who fancies himself a wine expert is easy prey for Montresor.
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## *Day 3*

1. Montresor uses the Amontillado as bait to get Fortunato to his wine cellar
  2. Montresor suggests having luchresi check the authenticity of the wine. Fortunato is even more eager to advise his friend.
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## *Day 4*

1. As they go further into the catacombs, Montresor gives Fortunato many chances to turn back but he declines them all.
  2. 50 years later Montresor is still haunted by his crime.
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## *Day 5*

1. The setting of the catacombs contribute to the horror in the story.
  2. The gloomy underground setting contrasts sharp with the joyous carnival setting.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 2

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### *Day 1*

1. If you like horror stories you'll enjoy reading Edgar Allan Poe's work.
  2. Poe is known for his short stories, poetry, and works of literary criticism.
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### *Day 2*

1. Everyone has their favorite Poe story or poem.
  2. With his short story The Murders in the Rue Morgue, Poe introduced a new type of fiction: the detective story.
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### *Day 3*

1. Poe was born on January 19, 1809.
  2. He lost both parents before he was three; he was raised by John Allan of Richmond, Virginia.
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### *Day 4*

1. Poe achieved success as an editor and writer. He wasn't able to earn enough money to support his family.
  2. His life was filled with misfortune, and he suffered from poor health, and these may have contributed to the haunting quality of his work.
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### *Day 5*

1. You can visit one of Poe's residences at 532 North 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA.
  2. The site is the country's memorial to a man who many people consider a literary genius.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 3

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### *Day 1*

1. Do you know how to play the centuries old game of chess
  2. The game plays a prominent role in one section of Amy Tan's book the Joy Luck Club.
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### *Day 2*

1. Most games involve both luck and skill, chess relies almost entirely on skill.
  2. It is beleived that chess originated in India in the 6th century.
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### *Day 3*

1. In the game of chess two players move objects called "men" on a board that is divided into sixty four squares.
  2. Each player uses a set of 16 men.
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### *Day 4*

1. In chess each of the players have eight identical men called "pawns" in their set.
  2. The other eight men, called "pieces," are: a king, a queen, two rooks, two bishops, and two knights.
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### *Day 5*

1. Chess is played around the world and tournaments are held every to years too determine the world champion.
  2. I enjoy playing chess. My brother prefers playing checkers.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 4

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### *Day 1*

1. The detective story “The Red-headed League” is narrated by Dr Watson.
  2. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created a truly unforgettable pair Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.
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### *Day 2*

1. Of all the men waiting in line at the Red-headed League’s office, Jabez Wilson’s hair was redder.
  2. Because his pawnbroking business was slow Wilson was quick to accept the job with the Red-headed League.
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### *Day 3*

1. Vincent Spaulding the pawnbroker’s assistant certainly appeared to be a dedicated employee.
  2. Holmes hardly spent no time with Spaulding. He deduced that Spaulding had spent time on his knees digging.
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### *Day 4*

1. What an amazing detective Holmes is.
  2. I had no doubt but that he would be solving the mystery.
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### *Day 5*

1. Because of his uncanny ability to solve crimes through clever observation of minute details Sherlock Holmes is probably the world’s best known detective.
  2. Thanks to the media Sherlock Holmes has become the symbol of a literary genre known as the mystery or detective story.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 5

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### *Day 1*

1. Edgar Allan Poe is credited with being commonly the father of modern mystery and detective fiction.
  2. The private detective in Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," c Auguste Dupin, became the model for many fictional detectives.
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### *Day 2*

1. Most detective stories follow a similar pattern, the author presents a crime, the detective, clues, and suspects.
  2. The climax occurs when the detective reveals the criminal, and tells how the mystery was solved.
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### *Day 3*

1. Us mystery fans cannot get enough of detective stories.
  2. To fully enjoy a detective story readers need to use their brains.
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### *Day 4*

1. Dad and me enjoy reading Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine.
  2. Agatha Christie my favorite mystery writer created Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple.
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### *Day 5*

1. Each year an organization called the mystery writers of america present awards to deserving writers.
  2. "The Edgar" for Edgar Allan Poe is the detective novelist's Oscar.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 6

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### *Day 1*

1. The setting of "The Invalid's Story" is a rail-road train.
  2. The story was when railroad travel was popular.
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### *Day 2*

1. In "The Invalid's Story" the narrator tells us that he looks 60 years old. He's only 41.
  2. I wonder what had happened to age him so much.
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### *Day 3*

1. It was a stormy night. The narrator found out that his old friend had died.
  2. The narrator was a good friend. He immediately set out to take Hackett's remains home.
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### *Day 4*

1. The narrator's coffin-box and a similar-looking box containing guns was accidentally switched.
  2. The odor was thought to be caused by a dead body it was really the smell of Limburger cheese.
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### *Day 5*

1. In the story the efforts to avoid the odor made by Thompson and the narrator is truly hilarious.
  2. Twain's use of dialect for Thompson's speech is so authentic that it made me feel like I was actually listening to Thompson.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 7

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### *Day 1*

1. In the story "Autumn Gardening," the reader gains insight into the feelings of a Japanese American survivor of the US bombing of Hiroshima.
  2. Such a survivor is called a hibakusha.
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### *Day 2*

1. On August 6 1945 a U.S. plane dropped the first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
  2. It is estimated that more than 70,000 people were killed, many more died later from the effects of radiation.
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### *Day 3*

1. Years of living with memories of the Hiroshima bombing made Mariko a nervous withdrawn person.
  2. The reader's sympathize with Mariko because you know that she lived through a terrible disaster.
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### *Day 4*

1. The readers learn about Mariko's past. Through her reactions to a letter she received from her girlhood friend Mitsuye.
  2. In the letter, Mitsuye shares her plans to speak about the Hiroshima bombing on an interesting television show.
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### *Day 5*

1. Mitsuye asks Mariko to join her on the tv show.
  2. Believing her life had been spared for a reason Mariko decides to help Mitsuye warn people about the horror of nuclear warfare.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 8

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### *Day 1*

1. The west indies are a chain of islands that separates the Caribbean sea from the rest of the Atlantic ocean.
  2. The west indies are made up of three main island groups: the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles (which include Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, and Haiti), and the Lesser Antilles which include Barbados.
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### *Day 2*

1. Most West Indies islands were formed by volcanic eruptions, several volcanoes are still active.
  2. Because of their warm climate, beautiful beaches and tropical scenery, many tourists are attracted to the islands.
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### *Day 3*

1. In most rural villages of the West Indies people earn a living by farming.
  2. Some farmers own or rent plots of land. Others work on large sugar, or coffee plantations.
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### *Day 4*

1. Some West Indians have Asian ancestors, however most are descendents of black Africans or of Europeans.
  2. The main languages are spanish, dutch, french, and english.
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### *Day 5*

1. Although most people are christians small groups of hindus, jews, and muslims live in the West Indies.
  2. On some islands traditional African religions are practiced.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 9

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### *Day 1*

1. The pueblo Indians of New Mexico and Arizona belong to many different communities, each of which speak one of four languages.
  2. Many of them live in adobe structures that resemble the apartment like homes of their ancestors.
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### *Day 2*

1. Today, Pueblo Indians not only engage in twentieth-century ways of life but follow the traditions of their culture.
  2. Beside baking bread in outdoor ovens called hornos, many Pueblo Indians still using hand-carved kachina dolls to serve as messengers to the gods.
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### *Day 3*

1. The sun, earth, moon, stars, wind, water, and each living thing is sacred to the Pueblo Indians.
  2. They're spiritual life is based on a yearly cycle, that is tied to the agricultural growing seasons.
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### *Day 4*

1. Different clans, or groups, are responsible for different dances and ceremonies. They are beleived to maintain the balance of nature.
  2. Traditionally corn is the foundation of Pueblo Indian life.
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### *Day 5*

1. There are hardly no ceremonies that does not use corn or cornmeal in some way.
  2. The rituals and beliefs of the Pueblo Indians are not written down, they are orally handed down from one generation to the next.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 10

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### *Day 1*

1. The short story *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* tells what happens to the lives of an ordinary couple when a old man with wings suddenly appears at there house.
  2. The story illustrates how people use magic to explain what they dont understand.
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### *Day 2*

1. When the story begins, Pelayo and his wife Elisenda are nursing their sick child, and trying to clean their crab infested house.
  2. When an old man with wings mysteriously appears in their courtyard, the neighbor's have different ideas about whom he is.
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### *Day 3*

1. The child's health improves soon after the old man arrived.
  2. Hopefully to satisfy their curiosity or cure their illnesses many people come to see the winged man.
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### *Day 4*

1. Pelayo and Elisenda decide to charge admission to their court-yard. Make alot of money.
  2. People treat the old man very bad.
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### *Day 5*

1. Despite their childs improved health and their new riches, the couple continue to treat the winged man poorly.
  2. Elisenda is relieved when he flies away. Who was he and where did he go to. The author never tells us.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 11

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### *Day 1*

1. "The Gift Of The Magi" is typical of most O. Henry stories which are known for their surprise endings.
  2. It is the story of Jim and Della a husband and wife who are having financial problems.
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### *Day 2*

1. Della doesn't have no money to buy Jim a christmas gift.
  2. How she wants to buy something nice for him.
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### *Day 3*

1. Upon seeing her reflection in the mirror Della decides to cut and sell her beautiful hair. (Both Jim and Della are particularly proud of Della's long hair)
  2. With the money she receives, Della bought a gold chain for Jim's treasured watch.
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### *Day 4*

1. In the meantime, Jim sells his gold watch. He does this so that he can buy a Christmas gift for Della.
  2. The gift that Jim decides to buy are a set of combs for Della's long beautiful hair.
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### *Day 5*

1. Whom do you think made the greatest sacrifice, Jim or Della?
  2. The narrator concludes the story by saying "Of all who give gifts these two were the wisest."
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 12

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### *Day 1*

1. In various cultures, gift giving customs are different than one another.
  2. People may exchange gifts on birthdays, anniversaries, and special holidays.
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### *Day 2*

1. The Chinese New Year begins sometime between mid January and mid February.
  2. As part of the celebration, parents give their children gifts of money wrapped in red paper.
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### *Day 3*

1. The New Year's Day Festival, is one of the more popular celebrations in Japan.
  2. People dress in fancy kimonos. They visit friends and relatives. They exchange gifts.
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### *Day 4*

1. African Americans that celebrate Kwanzaa light candles for seven days. Each day is dedicated to one of seven principals.
  2. Family members discuss the principal for the day and exchange gifts some of which may be home-made.
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### *Day 5*

1. A Mexican Christmas tradition involves a piñata a paper or clay figure filled with candy and small gifts.
  2. The piñata hangs from the ceiling. Blindfolded children take turns hitting it with a stick.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 13

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### *Day 1*

1. A bird of warm climates the scarlet ibis is native to: South America, Central America, and the West Indies.
  2. Its latin, or scientific, name is *Eudocimus rubra*.
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### *Day 2*

1. The scarlet ibis is a handsome bird with a body about two feet (60 cm.) long and stiltlike legs.
  2. Rarely a scarlet ibis will stray to the United States, but most are found further south.
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### *Day 3*

1. Scarlet ibises live in large flocks, and nest in colonies.
  2. They probe the water with their long down-curved bills until they come in contact with something edible. They then gobble it up.
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### *Day 4*

1. All adult ibises share a peculiar characteristic a featherless head.
  2. Although some members of the ibis family only have a naked patch on the face or crown, the whole front of the scarlet ibis' head is bald.
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### *Day 5*

1. The ibis has been widely hunted both for its scarlet feathers also for its meat.
  2. This has threatened the birds survival, therefore they are now protected in many areas.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 14

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### *Day 1*

1. Guy de Maupassant, author of “The Necklace” and many other stories was born in France in 1850.
  2. As a young man, he was a clerk for the French government. A job that he disliked intensely.
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### *Day 2*

1. Having been a civil servant himself Maupassant understood the lives and weaknesses of France’s government workers.
  2. He used this to write tart ironic stories like “The Necklace.”
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### *Day 3*

1. In “The Necklace,” the main character Mme Loisel is married to a clerk working in a small government office.
  2. Unable to appreciate all she has, a good husband, friends, beauty, health, she dwells on how unfair life is to her.
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### *Day 4*

1. Mathilde Loisel asks a friend to loan her a beautiful necklace, invited to a fancy ball.
  2. Mathilde loses the necklace. The Loisels must borrow a huge sum of money to buy a replacement.
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### *Day 5*

1. After ten years hard work, the Loisels’ debt is finally paid.
  2. Only then does Mathilde learn that the “diamond” necklace, that she lost, was just an inexpensive reproduction.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 15

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### *Day 1*

1. James Thurber, the author of “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” saw life as naturally humorous and ironic.
  2. Thurber wrote many funny and thought provoking stories and essays, and drew hundreds of amusing cartoons.
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### *Day 2*

1. “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” is one of Thurber’s most finest short stories.
  2. In it, Thurber created a character who’s name has become part of our language, Walter Mitty appears in most American dictionaries.
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### *Day 3*

1. Mitty is so caught up in his daydreams that he can’t hardly manage real life, but you feel sympathy for him.
  2. Who wouldn’t retreat into daydreams to escape Mrs. Mitty’s nagging.
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### *Day 4*

1. The genius of Thurber’s story is that readers can reconize themselves in the daydreaming Mitty.
  2. Everyone has a little of Walter Mitty in them.
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### *Day 5*

1. A critic once said that Thurber’s work is, “a form of humor which is also a way of saying something serious.
  2. Perhaps in “The Secret Life” Thurber is saying that we all need our dreams, just like Walter Mitty does.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 16

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### *Day 1*

1. Helen Keller was born on June 27 1880 near Tuscumbia Alabama.
  2. A severe illness left her blind deaf and unable to speak. She was nineteen months old.
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### *Day 2*

1. Neither her parents nor her nurse were able to communicate with Helen Keller until she was seven.
  2. Then Anne Sullivan became her teacher and quickly learned her that everything has had a name. Anne Sullivan had once been blind herself.
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### *Day 3*

1. Keller quickly learned to understand words spelled into her hand to read Braille and typing.
  2. She studied lip-reading by touching a speaker's lips and throat as someone spelled the words into her hand, she later learned to speak the same way.
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### *Day 4*

1. Keller graduated from radcliffe college in 1904 with honors and begun a successful career as a writer and lecturer.
  2. She lectured in a voice that was clear but sounded somewhat strangely.
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### *Day 5*

1. A tireless fundraiser for the American foundation for the blind, Keller also wrote more than a dozen books and many articles for womens magazines.
  2. The Presidential Medal of Freedom was received by her in 1963. In recognition of her remarkable life.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 17

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### *Day 1*

1. Shakespeares play Romeo and Juliet has a good beginning.
  2. There's many reasons for the enmity between the Montague's and Capulet's.
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### *Day 2*

1. It seems like Romeo senses his fate in the dreams he has.
  2. Romeo sneaks into the Capulets party. Him and Juliet see each other and fall in love.
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### *Day 3*

1. Everyone knows Juliet's famous line "O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefor art thou Romeo?"
  2. The famous balcony scene contains many images of light, they seem to symbolize love and hope.
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### *Day 4*

1. The tragedy begins to develop when Tybalt kills Mercutio. Then Romeo kills Tybalt as a result Romeo is banished from verona.
  2. I felt badly when Romeo thought Juliet was dead.
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### *Day 5*

1. Shakespeare's "star-crossed lovers" Romeo and Juliet meet a tragic fate.
  2. In my opinion, I don't think Fate controls our lifes.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 18

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### *Day 1*

1. William Shakespeare, the most famous poet and playwright in the English language, was born in 1564.
  2. No one knows a lot about his childhood but he probably received his education in his local public grammar school.
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### *Day 2*

1. Around 1586, leaving a wife and three children behind Shakespeare moved to London. He joined a theater company as an actor.
  2. There's few clues to Shakespeare's life in London, however he apparently started writing plays immediately after arriving there.
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### *Day 3*

1. In Shakespeare's time play writing did not pay good, he probably always worked as an actor.
  2. By 1594, he was able to buy the largest house in the town of Stratford, which shows how successful he was.
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### *Day 4*

1. In just over twenty years, Shakespeare wrote thirty six plays, comedies, tragedies, and histories beside more than one hundred fifty sonnets.
  2. Four hundred years after he began writing, neither the public nor actors has ever tired of his plays.
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### *Day 5*

1. Scholars have sometimes asked "how with so little formal education Shakespeare could produce so many rich and varied works."
  2. The answer to that question may never be known by us, but the most simplest answer is "genius."
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 19

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### *Day 1*

1. In "Of Dry Goods and Black Bow Ties," Yoshiko Uchida writes about Mr. Shimada, he lost all his money when his banks failed.
  2. "He operated his banks on faith and trust Uchida says and gave no thought to . . . maintaining a reserve."
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### *Day 2*

1. Today the law requires banks to keep a reserve. Which is a certain percentage of depositors money in cash.
  2. With a reserve, a bank will usually have enough cash if depositors want to suddenly withdraw money.
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### *Day 3*

1. Many people only think of a bank as a place to keep their money safe. Banking is a business, though.
  2. A bank makes money in the following ways, by charging interest on loans, by earning interest on investments, and by charging fees.
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### *Day 4*

1. Many banks failed in 1929. After that, Congress passed laws to make banks safer.
  2. The banking act of 1933 established the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or f.d.i.c., to insure all deposits.
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### *Day 5*

1. Banks are for keeping money and investing money safely, and in addition to that banks also loan money to individuals and businesses.
  2. A bank can help you achieve your financial goals.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 20

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### *Day 1*

1. The reverend Martin Luther King, jr., author of the speech “I have a dream,” was one of the great figures of America’s civil rights movement.
  2. King was a founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He won the 1964 nobel peace prize.
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### *Day 2*

1. King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln memorial in Washington, D.C.
  2. The occassion was the August, 1963, March on Washington.
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### *Day 3*

1. In his speech, King compares the restrictions of segregation to the chains of slavery. But expresses hope for the future.
  2. “1963 is not an end,” he says, “But a beginning.”
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### *Day 4*

1. King was speaking not just to the people which stood before him, he was speaking to all of America, too.
  2. Hearing King’s speech brung many people over to the side of civil rights.
- 

### *Day 5*

1. King was a baptist minister and in his speech it shows his skill at writing sermons and how he used sermon structure and also biblical themes.
  2. His brilliantly-crafted speech builds to a powerful conclusion with the ringing words free at last!
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 21

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### *Day 1*

1. Scientists are still trying to unravel the mysteries of dreams.
  2. They do not yet know exactly why people dream. Scientists know that dreaming is an essential part of the rest and repair that sleep brings.
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### *Day 2*

1. Everyone dreams, however not everyone remembers their dreams.
  2. In general, childrens' dreams are much longer than adults', and most people do dream in color.
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### *Day 3*

1. In one experiment on dreams researchers kept research subjects from dreaming by waking them whenever they started to dream.
  2. They discovered that without dreams they became confused and were unable to function normal.
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### *Day 4*

1. Some scientists, they believe that dreams are memories of the day that appears in jumbled form as the brain renews itself in sleep.
  2. These here scientists feel that dreams haven't no particular meaning.
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### *Day 5*

1. Some scientists feel that dreams have meaning, even though that meaning is still not knowed.
  2. They believe that understanding the content of dreams can help people understand themselves more better.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 22

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### *Day 1*

1. In her essay titled Georgia O’Keeffe, Joan Didion writes about a woman who art critics call one of America’s most original artists.
  2. O’Keeffe lived to be ninety-nine years old, she painted most of her life, born in 1887.
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### *Day 2*

1. Didion tells readers that “O’Keeffe was always determined to be an artist.”
  2. To O’Keeffe, how and where she had lived at was less important than the paintings she did.
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### *Day 3*

1. Convinced she knew better than them, O’Keeffe ignored critics who said the colors and shapes in her paintings should be more softer.
  2. Her art reflects the strong unsoftened lines and the hot bright colors of the southwest.
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### *Day 4*

1. O’Keeffe painted flowers that seem like they are about to bloom off the canvas.
  2. They are larger and formed more perfect than actual flowers yet they look real alive.
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### *Day 5*

1. To create one’s own world in any of the arts, O’Keeffe once said, Takes courage.
  2. According to Joan Didion, O’Keeffe both was gifted and enormously courageous.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 23

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### *Day 1*

1. Southwestern scenery is so different than the green most Americans expect that the desert landscape seems barren to them.
  2. But actually the deserts of the American Southwest are teeming with life.
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### *Day 2*

1. Like they might in any other natural environment, visitors can observe desert wildlife.
  2. Snakes, scorpions, and lizards lay in shadows waiting for something tasty to come along, ground squirrels pop up and then disappear with a squeal.
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### *Day 3*

1. Cacti, their stems and leaves especially adapted to desert conditions, come in all shapes and sizes.
  2. Names like the following suggest their variety, beavertail, fishhook, calico, darning needle, barrel, teddy bear.
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### *Day 4*

1. As the desert cools off at night many creatures come out, and the darkness is filled with the noises made by them.
  2. Coyotes, traveling in packs, yip and howl, javelinas, small wild pigs, snuffle and dig, a bobcat wails, mice and rats squeak and squeal.
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### *Day 5*

1. The desert night rings with the calls of birds, nighthawks, killdeer, mockingbirds, and owls.
  2. They move through the sky catching night flying insects until the night over they seek shelter for another day.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 24

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### *Day 1*

1. Nearly everyone uses slang, and most knows how to recognize it, but what is it, exactly.
  2. Slang according to one professor of language is “one of those things that everybody can recognize and nobody can define.”
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### *Day 2*

1. Slang is highly informal speech that includes words used in new ways, shortened words, and they might be entirely new words.
  2. The reason why they use slang is because it fills a need for new ways to express ideas.
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### *Day 3*

1. Slang often develops so the members of one group can speak among themselves without being understood by outsiders.
  2. Vivid words that have come to the language as slang include: fretful, dwindle, glib, and mob.
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### *Day 4*

1. You may wonder what happens to old slang?
  2. Well it dies out quickly, or either it becomes standard usage!
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### *Day 5*

1. We would no longer use the 1920's slang phrase the cat's pajamas to refer to someone who we think highly of.
  2. Soon today's slang will sound just as peculiarly to another generation's ears.
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# Daily Language Practice • Week 25

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## *Day 1*

1. The word theater comes from the Greek word theatron, which means “a place for seeing.
  2. In this sense, the word still refers to a building in which plays are performed. They are seen by an audience.
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## *Day 2*

1. All theaters have an auditorium, (where the audience sits) a stage, and a work area.
  2. Today, we use three basic kinds of stages: the proscenium stage, the open or platform stage, and the theater in the round or arena stage.
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## *Day 3*

1. The proscenium stage designed only to be viewed from the front has a curtain that conceals or reveals the stage.
  2. The stage in most high school auditoriums are a proscenium stage.
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## *Day 4*

1. In an open stage theater, you sit around 3 sides of a raised platform that extends into the auditorium.
  2. London’s Globe Theater home of Shakespeare’s theatrical company was an open stage theater.
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## *Day 5*

1. In theater-in-the-round, performers act in an open space at floor level in the auditorium while the audience sits on all four sides.
  2. Most theater-in-the-rounds seat fewer people than other theaters so the audience can see and here well.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 26

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### *Day 1*

1. "Casey at the Bat," by Ernest Lawrence Thayer is a humorous look at America's favorite passtime.
  2. The poem first appeared more than one hundred years ago. Readers still recite it often. Actors still perform it regularly.
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### *Day 2*

1. In mock seriousness, Thayer describes a baseball game like great heroes were engaged in a mighty struggle.
  2. Actually a baseball game in Mudville doesn't hardly qualify as heroic.
- 

### *Day 3*

1. "Casey at the Bat" is written in a tone that is a highly formal one, for example it contains solemn phrases like "hope that springs eternal" and "pallor wreathed the features."
  2. But when Thayer talks about the crowd, he goes easily into its slangy, informal way of speaking.
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### *Day 4*

1. Casey as Thayer depicts him is confident, probably too confident.
  2. He leaves two good pitches go by and then goes down swinging.
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### *Day 5*

1. Thayer he makes a strong humorous contrast between the description of the noble Casey's "haughty grandeur" and Casey's own words: "That ain't my style."
  2. Somehow, Casey striking out seems more fitting than his smacking one out of the ballpark.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 27

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### *Day 1*

1. Alfred Tennyson wrote “The Charge of the Light Brigade” shortly after the event, whereas the Crimean War was still raging.
  2. The poet was careful to stick close to the facts. He wanted his poem to be accurate.
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### *Day 2*

1. The Light Brigade’s charge took place in Balaklava, which is on the Black Sea, which is in what is now Ukraine.
  2. A unit of soldiers on horseback only armed with sabers were ordered to attack a well-positioned and heavily fortified enemy stronghold.
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### *Day 3*

1. Tennyson believed that whoever ordered the charge must of known that he was sending troops almost to certain death.
  2. The order to charge was certainly given, but to this day no one knows who by.
- 

### *Day 4*

1. The soldiers knew the order was a mistake. They apparently obeyed it anyway. They didn’t question the order.
  2. Most of the unit was dead or wounded. The survivors flinged themselves through the Russian line and carried the day.
- 

### *Day 5*

1. A strong, steady rhythm was used by Tennyson to make you think of the sound of soldiers marching in military precision to a drumbeat.
  2. “The Charge of the Light Brigade” Tennyson’s memorial to the selfless courage of the soldiers in the Balaklava battle.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 28

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### *Day 1*

1. Robert Frost is the author of “The Runaway.” He is best known for his poems about rural New England.
  2. He had to wait to be recognized as a poet, in the meantime he had farmed the rocky New Hampshire soil, so he knew country life firsthand.
- 

### *Day 2*

1. Robert Frost’s poetry is simple and strong. It is like the New England landscape.
  2. In a minimum of well chosen words, “The Runaway” describes: the frightened colt, the falling snow, and the pair of observers.
- 

### *Day 3*

1. Whom else but Robert Frost could have composed “The Runaway?”
  2. Dialogue gives the poem a conversational tone, and makes it seem personal and informal.
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### *Day 4*

1. The rhyme pattern of “The Runaway” is irregular, but Frost controls it very tight.
  2. Every line rhymes with another line. The dialogue in the poem sounds naturally.
- 

### *Day 5*

1. Frost was a master at getting the natural moment on paper.
  2. Images like miniature thunder and curtain of falling flakes show the poet’s familiarity with rural life and also that he was comfortable with the natural world.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 29

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### *Day 1*

1. T. S. Thomas Stearns Eliot, who wrote “Macavity: The Mystery Cat,” is known for difficult modern poetry which he criticizes modern society in.
  2. “Macavity: The Mystery Cat,” as well as the other poems in Eliot’s Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats, are different than his other poetry.
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### *Day 2*

1. Eliot’s poems about cats are more full of humor, wit, and playful rhymes.
  2. His charming cats with whimsical names inspired the musical *Cats*. The cats’ names are Growltiger, Mungojerrie, Rumpleteaser, and Jennyanydots.
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### *Day 3*

1. In the battle among the tough, streetwise cats and the pampered Pekinese dogs guess which side wins.
  2. T. S. Eliot really knew cats good.
- 

### *Day 4*

1. All cat owners know how hard to catch a cat in the act can be.
  2. Like Macavity, a mischievous cat that had its paw in the goldfish bowl will be innocently washing that paw when you look.
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### *Day 5*

1. There’s something frankly absurd about anyone blaming a cat like Macavity for all the crime in London.
  2. Yet them cats do have a way of disappearing don’t they?
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 30

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### *Day 1*

1. Domestic cats are the most popular pet in the United States since the mid-1980's.
  2. If you are a cat owner your cat is one of about 67 million cats kept as pets in the U.S.
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### *Day 2*

1. Recently scientists have shown increased interest in cats; this interest comes from their changing relationship with humans.
  2. A number of research findings about the domestic cat spotlights its unusual physical characteristics.
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### *Day 3*

1. Have you ever seen a cat's eyes glow when light strikes them at night?
  2. Cats have a special layer of cells at the back of their eyes that reflects light.
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### *Day 4*

1. Cats have a highly-developed sense of smell. Cats have a keen sense of hearing.
  2. A cat's whiskers are attached to nerves in the skin, and the whiskers brush against objects, and then the nerves transmit signals to the brain.
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### *Day 5*

1. Spongy pads on the bottom of each paw enable a cat to walk almost silent.
  2. A cat's long thin muscles enable it to run well.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 31

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### *Day 1*

1. Emily Dickinson a highly prolific writer was born in Amherst Massachusetts, where she lived most of her life.
  2. She wrote more than 1,700 poems. Less than a dozen of them were published during her lifetime.
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### *Day 2*

1. Not much is known about Dickinson, since she chose to live as a recluse. Seldom leaving her parents home.
  2. Her permanent seclusion from society fascinates many readers.
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### *Day 3*

1. Adverse to popularity and hypocrisy Dickinson pursued her craft in isolation.
  2. In her poetry Dickinson captured the beauty of nature, and examined the puzzling dilemmas of existence.
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### *Day 4*

1. Dickinson's many themes include: nature, love, death, and eternity.
  2. The imperfect rhymes and most unique language of her poems have had a important influence on poets in the 20th century.
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### *Day 5*

1. It is a fact that Emily Dickinson is considered one of the more gifted poets in American literature.
  2. No high school literature course wouldn't be complete without a study of her poetry.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 32

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### *Day 1*

1. Sara Teasdale, a lyric poet who won a Pulitzer Prize, wrote the poem "There Will Come Soft Rains".
  2. A number of Teasdale's poems deal with love, death, and nature.
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### *Day 2*

1. In "There Will Come Soft Rains," Teasdale explores the relationship between nature and death.
  2. The poet comes to the conclusion that nature is totally oblivious to human suffering and death.
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### *Day 3*

1. If there was a war and everyone on Earth died, nature would not be affected.
  2. All the signs of spring would reappear like there had not been a war.
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### *Day 4*

1. Teasdale wrote "There Will Come Soft Rains" more than 60 years ago.
  2. I wonder how the poem would be different if she had written it today, in our age of nuclear weaponry?
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### *Day 5*

1. Some scientists believe that a major nuclear war could cause bad changes in the Earth's atmosphere and climate.
  2. If they are right, nature as well as human beings would be seriously affected.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 33

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### *Day 1*

1. An epic is a long, narrative poem that tells about the deed's of a hero in war or travel.
  2. Epics are always almost based in part on historical fact. They blend legend with truth.
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### *Day 2*

1. Often the stories are based on myths in which human heroes interact with gods.
  2. The earliest epics were sung by professional bards poets who accompanied themselves on stringed instruments.
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### *Day 3*

1. Greek and roman literary critics prescribed rules for composing epics.
  2. One critic stated that the story must begin after much of the action all ready took place.
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### *Day 4*

1. In western literature, epic poetry began with the Iliad and the Odyssey.
  2. During the middle ages, writer's abandoned the rules of Greek and Roman epics.
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### *Day 5*

1. In 1667 the English poet John Milton followed the early Greek and Roman models when he wrote the epic poem "Paradise Lost."
  2. Epic poetry has declined since the 1700's as realistic fiction especially novels gains in popularity.
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 34

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### *Day 1*

1. More than 2500 years old, the Odyssey is one of the most early epic poems ever composed in the Western world.
  2. It may be the most influential work in ancient Greek literature. It may be the most popular work in ancient Greek literature.
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### *Day 2*

1. Literary elements such as romance, adventure, character development, and a strong plot is all evident in the Odyssey.
  2. It is believed that Homer composed the Odyssey aurally. Homer may have been a professional bard.
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### *Day 3*

1. There is not much known about Homer, but many scholars believe he lived in the BC 700's.
  2. According to tradition, Homer was blind, however there is no evidence to support this.
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### *Day 4*

1. In the opening of the Odyssey Homer invokes the Muse of epic poetry. He asks her help in telling the tale of Odysseus.
  2. All epics begun with such an invocation. This was based on an ancient belief that the ability to create poetry could only be realized with supernatural help.
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### *Day 5*

1. The Odyssey recounts the adventures of Odysseus. He is returning home after the trojan war.
  2. The epic poem combines realistic accounts of life in ancient Greece elements of historic events and tales about imaginary lands.
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# Daily Language Practice • Week 35

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## *Day 1*

1. To many people, Great Expectations is Dickens's most best novel.
  2. Set in England during the 19th century the events of the story alternates between a small town in the marsh country and the city of London.
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## *Day 2*

1. Much of Dickens's success in Great Expectations is due to his great skill at characterization and structuring of plot.
  2. In the character of Pip Dickens embodies a universal theme, namely, the ambivalence of good and evil.
- 

## *Day 3*

1. The novel's plot focuses on Pip's internal conflict. His aspiration for money and success and his quest for love and devotion.
  2. Great Expectations was written more then one hundred years ago, however many contemporary novels focus on similar themes.
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## *Day 4*

1. The basic theme of Great Expectations is that true goodness comes from neither social station or wealth; it comes from inner worth.
  2. The supreme irony of the story is that Pip's great expectations and his love both stem from the same source the escaped convict Magwitch.
- 

## *Day 5*

1. It appears that Dickens wrote two endings to Great Expectations: in the original ending Pip and Estella part as friends, in the revised ending they stay together.
  2. Eric which ending do you like best?
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## Daily Language Practice • Week 36

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### *Day 1*

1. Charles Dickens one of the more popular writers of all time was born in England in 1812.
  2. Dickens created some of the most famous characters in English literature, among them is Pip, the main character in *Great Expectations*.
- 

### *Day 2*

1. Dickens's family was well to do. His father was unable to manage his financial affairs and in 1824 was placed in a debtor's prison in London.
  2. Many events and people in Dickens's novels are based on events and people in his own life, Newgate Prison may represent the prison in which his father spent time.
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### *Day 3*

1. When his father was in prison young Charles was sent to work in a factory.
  2. I can't help but think this bad experience laid roots for Dickens's strong sympathies for the poor and helpless.
- 

### *Day 4*

1. Dickens later worked as a law clerk, and then as a newspaper reporter in the 1820's.
  2. The newspaper work helped sharpen Dickens ear for conversation. This contributed to his creation of realistic dialogue for his characters.
- 

### *Day 5*

1. Dickens has a gift for creating dramatic scenes in his novels. This gift can be traced to his love for the theater.
  2. Traveling in England and America Dickens had delighted audiences with dramatic readings from his novels.
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