

Books and reading

Lesson 1

1 Ask and answer



- 1 When and where do you read?
- 2 What kind of things do you enjoy reading?

2 Read the conversation. Where do you think Tarek and Omar are?

GRAMMAR BOX

2

3

Tarek: I have some time before my next lesson. Let's choose a book to read.

Omar: There are lots of historical stories here, but there are few detective stories.

Tarek: That's because detective stories are more popular, aren't they? People like trying to solve the problems before the detective. People have less interest in historical stories.

Omar: Detective stories are too long. I have little time to read this year because I have more schoolwork. So I want a book with fewer pages than a detective story.

Tarek: This book has the fewest number of pages and will take you the least amount of time to read.

Omar: Tarek, that book is about traveling, isn't it?

Tarek: True! This book is good. Its title is *Ten Facts about the World*.

Omar: I read a **review** of that book. It said it was very good. I'll read that!



3 Answer the questions

- 1 What does Tarek want to do before his next lesson?
- 2 Why does Tarek say that detective stories are more popular than historical stories?
- 3 Why doesn't Omar have very much time to read this year?
- 4 What kind of book does Tarek first recommend to Omar?
- 5 How does Omar know that *Ten Facts about the World* is a good book?

Lesson 2

1 Complete the sentences with these words from the article

~~few~~ fewer fewest less little least

- 1 There are lots of historical stories in this library, but there are few detective stories.
- 2 People have _____ interest in historical stories.
- 3 I have _____ time to read this year because I have more schoolwork.
- 4 I want a book with _____ pages than a detective story.
- 5 This book has the _____ number of pages and will take you the _____ amount of time to read.



GRAMMAR BOX

Using comparatives and superlatives for comparison:
few / fewer / the fewest; little / less / the least

- We use these words for comparison. We use *few / fewer / the fewest* with countable nouns:
Few students read magazines.
- We use *little / less / the least* with uncountable nouns:
There is little water in the lake because it was very dry this year.
- The comparative forms are *fewer* and *less*:
I've got fewer books than you. You've got less meat than I have.
- The superlative forms are *the fewest* and *the least*:
Class 4 has the fewest students. That bottle has the least water.

2 Complete these sentences with the correct form of *few* or *little*

- 1 There are fewer than 20 people on the bus today.
- 2 The _____ number of tourists visits the museum early in the morning.
- 3 Students often have _____ sleep during school time than during the holidays.
- 4 The Antarctic is the place in the world that has the _____ rain.
- 5 _____ people think that English is not a useful language.

3 Ask and answer

- 1 What is the least time you have spent waiting for a bus?
- 2 Which has fewer legs, a horse or a spider?
- 3 Which day of the week do you think has the fewest number of cars on the road? Why?
- 4 On Mondays, do you spend less time at home or at school?
- 5 When is the driest time of the year in Egypt?



- 1 Read the end of a story below. What kind of story do you think it is?

The trees are the first living things that Hassan has seen in five days. The wind is blowing and the leaves on the trees are **trembling**, like him. He is tired and **weak**.

A few hours before he arrived here, Hassan thought he was going to die. There was no food in the desert and he knew that the little water he had would not last another day.

Now he knows that he will find water, because if there are trees, there must be water somewhere. But he still does not know where he is. How far is it to the nearest road, where he might find help?

The sun is going down quickly and he knows it will be cold for the next eight hours. How can he stay warm for another night in the desert?

Suddenly, he sees something. Someone is carrying a light towards him. He realises that it is a man. Finally, help has arrived. He is safe.



- 2 Read the story again and answer the questions

- 1 If someone is **trembling**, he is *shaking very hard* / *standing quietly*.
- 2 If a person feels **weak**, he is *not strong* / *excited*.
- 3 Why do you think that Hassan felt tired and *weak*?
- 4 Why did Hassan think that he was going to die?
- 5 How does he know that he will find water?
- 6 How does he know that he is safe?

- 3 Listen to Salma and Nadia talking about the story and check your answers to exercises 1 and 2.

- 4 Work in pairs

- 1 Read the end of the story again.
- 2 Talk about how the story makes you feel using expressions from the Functions box.

How do you feel when you read this story?

I feel quite happy.



FUNCTIONS BOX

Expressing feelings

- I feel / felt (frightened / quite happy).
- Did the story make you feel (frightened / happy)?
- How did you feel when (Hassan finally saw the trees)?
- It made me feel (excited).
- How do you feel about (the story) now?
- I don't feel (sad).

Internet search →

Find out about your favourite Egyptian writer.

son 4

ask and answer

What kind of novels do you like to read? Why?

- Adventure stories
- Detective stories
- Mysteries
- Historical stories
- Other

What do you think is important in a novel?



- 1 Write a short summary of your favourite book. Use about 150 words.
- 2 Write down the important points in the story and a little about the characters. Ask the questions: Who, What, How?
- 3 Remember that a summary is short. Do not include a lot of description. For example, we do not need to know that the most important character was tall unless it is important for the story. You might not need the names of all the characters.
- 4 Do not copy sentences from the book. Use your own words.
- 5 Do not give your opinion



"Black Beauty" by Anna Sewall

"Black Beauty" is a story about a black horse in nineteenth-century England. The horse tells the story of his life which begins at a farm. Black Beauty's mother teaches him to be a good horse. Farmer Grey is very kind and Black Beauty is happy. When Black Beauty is four, Farmer Grey sells him to Squire Gordon. Black Beauty makes friends with other horses and the squire looks after them very well.

Unfortunately, the squire moves abroad and Black Beauty is sold to different people. Some people are very unkind. One of his homes is very bad. Black Beauty has many adventures before he finally finds a good home again.

Black Beauty

by Anna Sewall



2

Review

Now you can ...

- talk about books and reading

1 Match the words and their definitions

1 review

2 summary

3 novel

4 title

a the name given to a book, play, etc

b a long story that is written

c writing which gives your opinion about a book or film

d writing that gives the main information about something

- use *few / fewer / the fewest; little / less / the least*

2 Choose the correct words

- 1 The old library has fewer / less books than the modern library.
- 2 We all do *fewer / less* work when we feel tired.
- 3 This bottle has *the fewest / the least* orange juice in it.
- 4 Do you know the animal with *the fewest / the least* teeth?

- express feelings

3 Complete the dialogue

about do you feel don't feel How
makes me feel ~~make-you-feel~~ nervous feel sad

Hala: Does this novel 1 *make you feel* frightened?

Soha: No, it makes me 2 _____

Hala: 3 _____ does the end of this story make you feel?

Soha: It 4 _____ happy.

Hala: How 5 _____ when you do an exam?

Soha: I feel 6 _____

Hala: How do you feel 7 _____ speaking English now?

Soha: I 8 _____ shy. I enjoy it!



Word building skills

The root of these words is *care*. We can add different endings to change the meaning of the root word. The ending will often help you decide what kind of word it is.

care (v) *carer* (n) *careful* (adj) *carefully* (adv)

What endings can you add to *help*?