

Year 8 English Academic Year

Our English course covers the Cambridge Checkpoint English course and the National Curriculum Course for Year 8 in the United Kingdom. At the end of this course, students may be able to take the Year 8 Cambridge Progression test if there is a Cambridge Test Centre available.

The curriculum for this course is divided into Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening – all essential skills necessary to develop your understanding of language and literature.

The topic for this course is **Wider world**. The curriculum is focused on time and place, people and the things they do.

The course is divided into units focused equally on fiction and non-fiction. There are no clear dividing lines between fiction and non-fiction texts, language and literature, or between reading and writing skills. Skills learned in one unit are often used in other units. There is, however, progression in the order in which the units are introduced.

Each unit starts with an introduction which will prepare the students for what they will learn in the unit, and a starter activity to get them thinking and talking. They will then read several kinds of passages and be asked to practice various skills. At the end of each unit, students will do a piece of extended writing to practice what they have learned in the unit – these writing pieces will be formally marked. Students will also complete other writing exercises during the course and also practice reading.

The course includes many different types of literature, verse and prose, which will develop students' understanding of literature and language and vocabulary skills.

Unit Focus

Unit 1 Fire

This unit focuses on descriptive accounts. You will practise identifying and using precise and evocative vocabulary, images and selecting, paraphrasing and sequencing notes for informative purposes. You will also learn more about past participles, connectives, the role of the adverb, and the use of would for repeated action in the past.

Unit 2 Games and sports

This unit looks at informative and instructional writing, including the use of modal verbs and passives. The activities involve constructing and punctuating sentences; selecting, sequencing and editing information; giving a chronological account; writing a diary entry; and giving an informative talk.

Unit 3 Water

In this unit, you will read personal accounts of experiences, both natural and figurative, and you will write your own report. You will practise defining, organising, paraphrasing and explaining, as well as describing creatively. More grammar, punctuation and spelling points will be introduced.

Unit 4 The feast

Descriptive writing devices are the focus of this unit. You will also practice reading and writing blank verse and dramatic dialogue and think about how character and humour are created. The activities include looking at adjectival endings and time adverbs, and more vocabulary building.

Unit 5 Other lives

This unit focuses on biographical writing, on adopting a different viewpoint and register, and on precise description. There are opportunities to write a formal letter, a job advertisement and a CV, as well as descriptive pieces. You will also practice new ways of forming sentences.

Unit 6 The race

In this unit you will read for implicit meaning, and look at the importance of structure, style and viewpoint when describing an event. The writing activities include a diary entry, a news article, a narrative extension and a short story, and you will also do further vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spelling practice

Unit 7 Time and History

This unit focuses on giving accounts of historical events and processes. You will learn more about prefixes and word order, interpret a timetable and compare poems from different cultures, in addition to writing a news report and a staged description, and thinking about sonnet

Unit 8 exotic places

In this unit you will learn about creating exotic and powerful atmospheres and describing processes and objects in fiction and non-fiction. You will look at characterisation and setting devices in fictional prose, as well as further punctuation, vocabulary, sentence formation and grammar structure.

Unit 9 Travel and transport

This unit focuses on place description in travel writing, advertising and fiction, looking at how descriptive language is used differently according to purpose. You will have the opportunity to try out these different kinds of writing yourself.

Unit 10 Animal behaviour

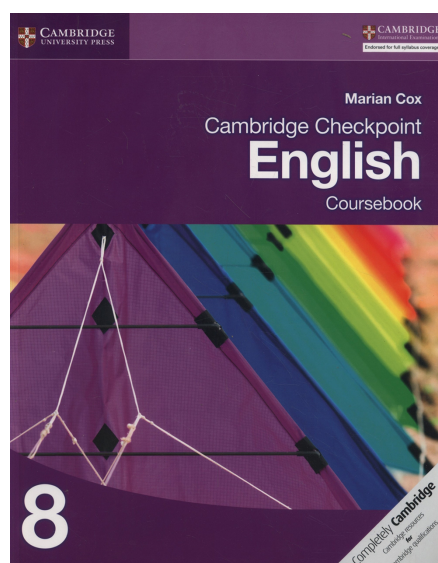
Vocabulary building and paraphrasing are the main focus of this unit. You will be given opportunities to write a descriptive poem and a news report, and to take part in a press conference and a debate.

Unit 11

In this unit you will learn more about effective description, and focus on vocabulary extension, revision of tense and use of the passive, time adverbs, and prepositions, and negative phrasing for emphasis. You will read a review, a plot synopsis and a poem, and write a formal letter and a description of a performance you have seen.


Unit 12 A load of nonsense

This unit focuses on nonsense verse and prose, coined words, pronunciation and spelling anomalies. Ways of expressing the future are discussed. You will practice describing pictures and processes, using dialogue and reported speech, and giving a presentation.



Term 1

Lesson 1	Unit 1 Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letters • Magazine articles
Lesson 2	Unit 1 Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informative texts
Lesson 3	Unit 1 Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proverb • myth
Lesson 4	Unit 2 Games and sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informative texts • instructions
Lesson 5	Unit 2 Games and sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • news report • diary • match report
Lesson 6	Unit 3 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proverbs • descriptive poems • haiku
Lesson 7	Unit 3 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short story extract • informative texts
Lesson 8	Unit 3 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reference book entries • magazine feature • brochure
Lesson 9	Unit 4 The feast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verse extract • folk tale • drama extract
Lesson 10	Unit 4 The feast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel guide • blog
Lesson 11	Unit 5 Other lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • autobiography
Lesson 12	Unit 5 Other lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biography
Lesson 13	Unit 5 Other lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informative text
Lesson 14	Unit 6 The race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factual description • news report
Lesson 15	Unit 6 The race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • news article • non-fiction account
Lesson 16	Unit 6 The race Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fable • short story


 Cambridge Checkpoint English 8

2 a Can you think of any proverbs about water? Share them with the class.

b With a partner, work out what you think each saying means.

- i The rain drenches everyone. (African)
- ii It never rains but it pours. (English)
- iii Heavy rain doesn't last long. (Italian)
- iv Into each life some rain must fall. (American)
- v Roof can fool sun, but roof can't fool rain. (Caribbean)
- vi To the ant, a few drops of rain are a flood. (Japanese)
- vii The rain wets the leopard but it doesn't wash out its spots. (African)
- viii Don't empty the water jar until the rain falls. (Filipino)

c Feed back to the class some of your explanations and compare them with those of other pairs.


 Text 3A

The sea

The sea is a hungry dog,
Giant and grey
He rolls on the beach all day
With his clashing teeth and shaggy jaws
Hour upon hour he gnaws
The rumbling, tumbling stones,
And 'Bones, bones, bones, bones'
The giant sea-dog moans,
Licking his greasy paws.

And when the night wind roars
And the moon rocks in the stormy cloud,
He bounds to his feet and sniffs and sniffs,
Shaking his wet sides over the cliffs,
And howls and howls long and loud.

But on quiet days in May or June,
When even the grasses on the dune
Play no more their reedy tune,
With his head between his paws
He lies on the sandy shores,
So quiet, so quiet, he scarcely snores.



James Reeves

Term 2

Lesson 1	Unit 7 Time and history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • account • magazine article
Lesson 2	Unit 7 Time and history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poem • sonnet
Lesson 3	Unit 7 Time and history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timetable • drama extract
Lesson 4	Unit 8 Exotic places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • descriptive text • novel extracts
Lesson 5	Unit 8 Exotic places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • account • short story extract
Lesson 6	Unit 9 Travel and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel writing • advertisement
Lesson 7	Unit 9 Travel and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaflet • reviews
Lesson 8	Unit 9 Travel and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • magazine article • novel extract
Lesson 9	Unit 10 Animal behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informative text • news report
Lesson 10	Unit 10 Animal behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • descriptive poems
Lesson 11	Unit 11 Music and dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviews • informative texts
Lesson 12	Unit 11 Music and dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • account • play synopsis
Lesson 13	Unit 11 Music and dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poems
Lesson 14	Unit 12 A load of nonsense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verse extract
Lesson 15	Unit 12 A load of nonsense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nonsense poem • rap poem
Lesson 16	Unit 12 A load of nonsense Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • novel extract • short story extract

Text 8A

- i The first stars tremble as if **shimmering** in green water. It will be a long time yet before they harden into diamonds. And still longer before I can **witness** the silent games of the shooting stars. Deep in the heart of some nights, I have seen so many racing sparks that it seemed as if a great wind were blowing among the stars.
- ii Gathered for the night on our village square, that patch of sand lit by the flickering light from our crates, we waited. We were waiting for the dawn that would save us. And something **indefinable** gave that night the flavour of Christmas. We shared memories, we bantered and we sang. We tasted the gentle excitement of a well planned celebration. And yet we were **infinitely destitute**. Wind, sand and stars. **Austere** even for a **Trappist**. But on that poorly lit patch, six or seven men who possessed nothing in the world but their memories were sharing invisible riches.

