



ACTIVITY KIT AND LEARNING NOTES

THE CELEBRITY ISSUE

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ACTIVITY 1: Future Work Ahead
(Around the World)

DO:

Extra! Extra!

Do you have what it takes to be a good journalist?

Create a story about a real world event which showcases your personality! Start by drawing inspiration from stories in Around the World, or look up recent stories in the news (e.g. Billie Eilish winning at the Grammys or Bong Joon Ho sweeping the Academy Awards).

Journalistic Article Planning Sheet

1. You are a journalist working for a Singaporean newspaper. Your editor has asked you to write a news story about a celebrity for your readers.
2. You are going interview one celebrity for this article. Who do you want to feature? Partner a friend to role-play for your interview!
3. Prepare questions to ask them in order to create a newsworthy story. Give your friend 5-10 minutes to prepare for the interview by doing some research!
4. Interview your celebrity and fill the grid below with relevant information.

What publication are you writing for? Pick a genre:

- Gossip magazine:** Upbeat and entertaining tone. Includes debates, advice and interviews. Audience includes teenagers and young adults.
- Documentary feature:** Authoritative tone. Includes in-depth reports, interviews and a narrative style to link the facts. Audience includes students and educators.
- Journalistic article:** Investigative tone. Includes reports, interviews, investigations and reviews. Audience includes adults and professionals.
- Comedy article:** Humorous and satirical tone. Includes analysis and commentary to discuss, critique and entertain. Audience includes adults and general public.



Who?



What?



Where?



When?



Why?



How?



My thoughts:



Create a 1-page article with:

- A title
- A date
- An appropriate tone
- The facts
- The name of the journalist and newspaper
- A photo, illustration or visual aids



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ACTIVITY 2: Self-Concept Close-Up
(Thinking Skills & Games)

SPEAK/SHARE:

Real Talk: Attributes Bingo Sheet

Knowing yourself can sometimes be more important than knowing your enemy. Which of the following qualities do you have? Which qualities would you like to develop? How do the people around you see you?

Real Talk: Attributes Bingo Sheet

1. Show appreciation for your friends' positive qualities! Walk around the room and find people who match the qualities listed on this sheet. If you are shy, partner up with a friend and move in pairs.
2. Ask for 1) each person's autograph and 2) one example of how they show this quality.
3. Try to fill up the whole sheet in the shortest time possible! This sheet will serve as a reminder of the different attributes that your classmates embody.

Reliable <small>Name Example:</small>	Collaborative <small>Name Example:</small>	Sociable <small>Name Example:</small>	Motivated <small>Name Example:</small>
Diplomatic <small>Name Example:</small>	Tenacious <small>Name Example:</small>	Adaptable <small>Name Example:</small>	Proactive <small>Name Example:</small>
Confident <small>Name Example:</small>	Cool-headed <small>Name Example:</small>	Assured <small>Name Example:</small>	Persuasive <small>Name Example:</small>
Observant <small>Name Example:</small>	Determined <small>Name Example:</small>	Inventive <small>Name Example:</small>	Communicative <small>Name Example:</small>



BONUS: Give a friend an uplifting note!

- Every person can do with a pat on the back. Here's what to include:
- A positive quality you appreciate about them
 - An example of how they have shown this quality
 - Use an appropriate tone
 - Sign off with your name and date



PRACTICE: Try out the following question!

- Use as many vocabulary words about personality attributes as possible.
- Describe a person you admire. Explain what qualities you appreciate about this person and why.



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ACTIVITY 3: Real-World Connections
(Essay Writing)

WRITE:
Making It Count: How to Write Your First Cover Letter

Why write just for the classroom? Write a cover letter you can use for a real job or internship application.

Making It Count: How to Write Your First Cover Letter

Starting your first job search can be intimidating. There are many steps, such as looking for employers to target, buying formal clothes, as well as writing your resume and your cover letter. Let us practice writing about yourself in a complimentary way!

Cover Letter Template

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

10 steps to your first cover letter:

1. Write your address in full. Remember to leave a line between dates, addresses, and paragraphs.
2. Write the date in full (date, month, year).
3. Write the full name of the hiring manager or employer's details. Include the designation, and company's full address.
4. Salutation: Dear Mr./ Ms./ Mdm. + Surname, If you are not sure who you are addressing, 'To whom it may concern' is also okay!
5. Keep the subject of your letter brief and to the point.
6. Introduction
State who you are and the job you are applying for. State dates that are necessary for the reader to know about, for instance, when you are available to start, and the duration of your availability.
7. Body Paragraphs
In one or two paragraphs, 1) let your reader know why you want to work for them, and 2) tell the reader how you will contribute. Highlight your relevant skills and attributes!
8. Address each point fully using the PEEL structure. Include examples wherever possible to illustrate your point. Do not worry if you have no experience! Use examples from school or co-curricular activities.
9. Conclusion
Thank the reader and summarise your request.
10. Sign off in an appropriate way—use 'Yours sincerely' if you have addressed the letter to a specific person, and 'Yours faithfully' if you do not have a specific addressee.

PRO TIP: Check everything to ensure all spelling and grammar is correct, and then you are all set!

Feeling lost? Flip the page for some inspiration!



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Sample Internship Application Cover Letter

Present Perfect's The Work Issue

5 Seekers Road
Singapore 555222

5 October 2020

Mr George Tan
Human Resource Manager
The Smart Local
219 Kallang Bahru
#04-00
Singapore 339348

Dear Mr Tan,

Application for an internship

I am Amelia Wong, a graduating student from Seaview Secondary School. I am writing to apply for an internship at The Smart Local based on the advertisement in The Internship Forum. The period I am available to work is from 1 November to 31 December 2020.

The first reason I have for applying to The Smart Local (TSL) for an internship as a Lifestyle Writer is my respect for the organisation and its extensive reach in Singapore. As a leading lifestyle publisher, I believe TSL has much to offer me in my future career in the media industry. Besides the opportunity to learn how the media can impact consumers, I am inspired by the engaging and relevant content that TSL offers on a daily basis.

The second reason this internship appeals to me is the opportunity to foray into the world of work. I believe TSL is a terrific training ground for me to discover first-hand what a full-time job is like and manage responsibilities in a mature manner. As a Lifestyle Writer, I know I can pro-actively contribute to enhance the content that TSL provides, for example, in the area of teenage trends.

I believe I have much to offer the organisation as I am a diligent and committed individual who is able to work well in a team as well as independently. I am a fast learner who is media and tech-savvy. Besides managing several social media accounts, I am keenly interested in analysing trends and data from consumers in order to create engaging and relevant content that appeals to them. Having an adventurous nature, I am willing to explore new trends in Singapore and reinvent old ones. I am confident that I am suited for this role as I have won awards for my creative essay-writing in inter-school competitions.

I would like to suggest a possible visit to TSL in order for me to understand the organisation and how it works. Knowing the company culture is important for any future intern and I would be willing to shadow an experienced employee if it is possible.

I sincerely thank you for your time and attention, and look forward to receiving a positive response to my application.

Yours faithfully,

Amelia Wong

Amelia Wong



PRACTICE: Try out a real-world connection!

Look through the job listings on this website: <https://www.internsg.com/>.

Can you find a job you would be interested to apply for after your graduation?

Write a cover letter for this job, and start thinking about what skills and attributes you have to contribute, and what skills and experiences you would like to learn more about.



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LEARNING NOTES

Section 1: Language Skills

- **Dialogue Exercise Answers**

Here are suggested answers to our language skills exercise on dialogue:

Example 1: From the roof, she had a clear view of the star-studded sky and the twinkling city lights below. Jasmine breathed, "This is like a whole new world!"

What is the tone created by Jasmine's words? What effect does it have on the rest of the scene?

Jasmine's words show her feelings of awe and wonder. The tone of her words draws readers in to feel the same sense of wonder about the night-time city under the stars.

Example 2: "What have you got there?" demanded Mary-Jane.
Peter slipped the necklace into his pocket hurriedly. "Nothing," he said.

What is the contrast created by what Peter says and what he is doing? What does this tell you about the situation?

Peter tells Mary-Jane that he has "nothing" while he puts the necklace he has out of sight. He has not answered Mary-Jane honestly. This tells readers that Peter does not want Mary-Jane to know what he is up to, but that Mary-Jane is curious to find out.

Example 3: "Maybe," Anderson said thoughtfully, "you could try looking for clues."
"Yes, thank you for your input," said Sherlock, before shutting the door in Anderson's face.

What is the contradiction between what Sherlock says and what he means? What effect does the ironic dialogue have on the scene?

Sherlock thanks Anderson for his suggestion sarcastically, meaning that Anderson's suggestion is actually unhelpful. When juxtaposed with Sherlock's action of shutting Anderson out of the room, the ironic dialogue creates a sense of comedy and ridicules Anderson.



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Section 1: Language Skills

- Personification Exercise Answers

Here are suggested answers to our language skills exercise on personification*(personified parts are underlined):

1. The stars were shining brightly in the night sky.

The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky.

2. Time goes by quickly.

Time races by us.

3. The words took a long time to be spoken by him.

The words hesitated to leave his mouth.

4. An opportunity was presented to him. Would he accept it?

Opportunity was knocking on his door. Would he open it?

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Section 1: Language Skills

- SVA Exercise Answers

Here are suggested answers to our grammar exercise on subject-verb agreement:

Today, learning to deal with the challenges of the race is just one part of the job for modern drivers, who also **needs** to deal with the publicity that comes with **them**. Since Formula One's transition into a blockbuster business **on** the 1990s, a sizable chunk of a driver's time is taken **on** with the fanfare of meeting fans, sponsors and the media. "Formula One is a very unique sport. For example, journalists **had** access to the drivers for four minutes before the drivers have to get in the car and **aces**. No other sport has that kind of intensity," said Michael Italiano, a performance coach for top racers at Renault. All that leads to the need for drivers to **development** two characters, one that concentrates on the demands of the business, and another that **focus** on the sport. "You have to be quite durable as an athlete," Italiano added.

1. **need**

2. **it**

3. **in**

4. **up**

5. **have**

6. **ace**

7. ✓

8. ✓

9. **develop**

10. **focuses**

Nature of errors:

1. need: SVA with 'drivers'
2. it: pronoun referring to 'job'
3. in: preposition of time referring to 1990s
4. up: phrasal verb 'taken up', meaning to use up or occupy
5. have: tenses and SVA with 'journalists'
6. ace: SVA with 'they'
7. No error
8. No error
9. develop: word form, infinite verb form with 'to'
10. focuses: SVA with 'one [character]... another'



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Section 1: Language Skills

- SVA Grammar Exercise for N Level Format

Here is an alternative grammar exercise for the N Level format:

Try This!

Carefully read the text below. There is one grammatical error in each line. Circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided. The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

<p>Today, learning to deal with the challenges of the race is just one part of the job for modern drivers, who also needs to deal with the publicity that comes with them. Since Formula One's transition into a blockbuster business on the 1990s, a sizable chunk of a driver's time is taken on with the fanfare of meeting fans, sponsors and the media. "Formula One is a very unique sport. For example, journalists had access to the drivers for four minutes before the drivers have to get in the car and races. No other sport have that kind of intensity," said Michael Italiano, a performance coaching for top racers at Renault. All that leads to the need for drivers to development two characters, one that concentrates on the demands of the business, and another that focus on the sport. "You have to be quite durable as an athlete," Italiano added.</p>	<p>1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____</p>
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Adapted from:

Jozuka, E. et al. (2019, September 25). Singapore Grand Prix: Humidity meets hedonism during Asia's most punishing race. CNN. Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/20/sport/singapore-formula-one-grand-prix-hnk-spt-intl/index.html>

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Section 1: Language Skills

- **Answers to the Grammar Exercise for the N Level Format**

Here are the answers to the grammar exercise for the N Level format:

<p>Today, learning to deal with the challenges of the race is just one part of the job for modern drivers, who also <u>needs</u> to deal with the publicity that comes with <u>them</u>. Since Formula One's transition into a blockbuster business <u>on</u> the 1990s, a sizable chunk of a driver's time is taken <u>on</u> with the fanfare of meeting fans, sponsors and the media. "Formula One is a very unique sport. For example, journalists <u>had</u> access to the drivers for four minutes before the drivers have to get in the car and <u>race</u>. No other sport <u>have</u> that kind of intensity," said Michael Italiano, a performance <u>coaching</u> for top racers at Renault. All that leads to the need for drivers to <u>development</u> two characters, one that concentrates on the demands of the business, and another that <u>focus</u> on the sport. "You have to be quite durable as an athlete," Italiano added.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>need</u> 2. <u>it</u> 3. <u>in</u> 4. <u>up</u> 5. <u>have</u> 6. <u>race</u> 7. <u>has</u> 8. <u>coach</u> 9. <u>develop</u> 10. <u>focuses</u>
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Nature of errors:

1. need: SVA with 'drivers'
2. it: pronoun referring to 'job'
3. in: preposition of time referring to 1990s
4. up: phrasal verb 'taken up', meaning to use up or occupy
5. have: tenses and SVA with 'journalists'
6. race: SVA with 'they'
7. SVA: 'No' = singular subject
8. coach: word form, noun
9. develop: word form, infinite verb form with 'to'
10. focuses: SVA with 'one [character]... another'

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Section 2: Comprehension Exercises

- Visual Compre Answers

Here are suggested answers to our visual comprehension exercise:

1. The headline reads "Get Active. Live Happily. Join ActiveSG."

i) How does the headline persuade readers to read the rest of the advertisement?

It has three sentences all starting with an **action/imperative verb**: "Get", "Live", "Join", persuading readers to read and act. [1]

OR

It uses **three short and impactful sentences** that create a repeated rhythm/rhyming of "Happily" and "ActiveSG". [1]

(Language for impact question)

ii) Explain how the image at the top effectively illustrates the headline.

The image above shows a **family/adults** and **children** being **active** and having fun / playing in the pool and looking **happy**, like the **words in the headline**. [1]

(Inference – Students must link the picture to headline words)

2. Who is the target audience for this advertisement?

The target audience is individuals, families and communities. (1)

(Answer can be lifted from text)

3. How does the Masala Bhangra Workout attract both old and young?

It blends traditional Indian Bhangra dance moves with upbeat popular Bhangra/Bollywood music. (1)

4. Write down **one** phrase that persuades the reader to explore a variety of sports that can meet their needs.

The phrase is "venture into a diverse line-up of sporting activities that can suit everyone". (1)



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Section 2: Comprehension Exercises

- Narrative Compre Answers

Here are suggested answers to our narrative comprehension exercise:

1. i) From Paragraph 1, in what **three** actions is sport like a person?

It taunts, challenges and harasses (2) (1 mark for 2 answers, 0 for 1)

ii) What did sport make Theresa do in Paragraph 1?

It made her weep/cry. (1)

2. Write down the **two** things that Theresa is compared to in the following paragraphs:

Para 1: machinery/a machine (1)

Para 3: a tuned instrument/instrument (1)

3. Write down a **six**-word phrase in Paragraph 2 with the same meaning as "crushed her hopes".

"kicked her dream into the gutter" (1)

4. Write down **one** word in Paragraph 3 that shows Theresa's fierce determination.

"furiously" (1)

5. In Paragraph 4, the writer describes Theresa's struggles with pressure. Explain how the language used emphasises this. Support your ideas with **three** details from the paragraph.

The first detail "If some athletes wore pressure like a medal, she saw it as a noose" suggests that Theresa suffered/choked under pressure. (1) The second, "her confidence started to wane" shows Theresa's self-esteem declining under pressure. (1) The third, "Pressure became like brake fluid in the veins, heavy and hindering" shows that Theresa saw pressure like an immense burden/obstacle, which weighed her down. (1)

6. According to the writer in Paragraph 5, what made Theresa beautiful? **Answer in your own words.**

Theresa's **resolute/never-say-die/wilful** spirit (1) that was **natural to her** (1).



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7. i) "In Beijing, she was too nervous to eat; in Rio, she was hungry." (lines 36-37) What **two** things are contrasted here?

i) The phrase "too nervous to eat" is contrasted with the word "hungry". (1)

ii) Explain how the writer creates this contrast.

ii) The writer uses the **metaphor/image/idea of appetite/hunger for food (1)** to describe her **lack of motivation/confidence to win/compete in Beijing** and her **determination to do so in Rio (1)**.

Note: students must show their knowledge of the metaphor of an appetite to describe her motivation.

8. "This is your time." (lines 39-40) What is the tone of voice in this sentence?

The tone is encouraging/reassuring/inspiring. (1)

9. The structure of the text reflects the stages of Theresa's journey in competitive swimming. Complete the flow chart by choosing the most suitable expression from the box that summarises the main focus in each part of the text. There are some extra expressions in the box that you do not need to use.

i) Finding hope in the cruelty of sport (1);

ii) A never-say-die attitude (1);

iii) A fierce ambition (1);

iv) A breakthrough (1)



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Section 3: Brainstorming exercises

- Oral communication responses

Here are suggested answers to our Talk oral communication exercise:

Q2: Are you interested in music? Why or why not?

Point What is your main idea?	K-Pop, which refers to Korean popular music, is definitely one of my interests, and I enjoy listening to it because of how I can learn about new cultures and languages through music.
Elaboration Why do you feel this way?	Recently, K-Pop has become especially popular in Singapore amongst young people. Most of the music is in Korean, and listening to music helps us to learn about the language and culture of people in South Korea.
Examples Can you show why?	For example, my friends and I enjoy listening to music from trending bands such as TWICE, as well as more established artistes such as Big Bang. When talking about their music, we discuss Korean words and phrases we have picked up, and we enjoy adding Korean words into our conversations.
Link And, this shows that...	In a nutshell, music is one of my passions and I have discovered my interest in other cultures and languages through it.

Q3: Music events should be free for everyone. What are your views on this?

Music events SHOULD be free for everyone	Music events SHOULD NOT be free for everyone
<p>[P] As an audience member, I feel that music events should be free for everyone because more people can enjoy the music.</p> <p>[E] Music concert tickets can be very expensive, depending on the popularity of the artiste and the cost of organising the event, and the high ticket costs mean that many people who cannot afford it will be excluded, even if they truly appreciate the music.</p> <p>[E] For instance, the music concert tickets for a BTS performance in 2018 in Singapore were priced at \$88, and the most expensive tickets at \$348. Fans were queuing for days ahead of sales at the National Stadium, some of them for over a week, and some ticket scalpers who were trying to make a profit go went on</p>	<p>[P] I think no one would like to be in the position of a music performer if all music events were free, because it will be difficult for artistes to make a living.</p> <p>[E] Music artistes are professionals who perform music for a living, and making music events free may mean that their income will be affected.</p> <p>[E] For example, while Taylor Swift's 2015 world tour was the highest grossing and most attended tour to date, with over 2 million fans and US\$250 million in revenue, this sum also went towards the expenses of organising such a music event, including taxes, manager fees, staff salaries, label fees, lighting and sound venue equipment, and other expenses.</p> <p>[L] Music artistes depend on event ticket sales as a</p>



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to sell these tickets unofficially for more than \$1000 each, prices that are beyond the reach of many ordinary people.

[L] Making music events free for everyone means that music can become more inclusive and enjoyed by all, no matter what background each person comes from.

way to earn their living, and making music events free for everyone means that the music we love may soon die out.

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Section 3: Brainstorming exercises

- Thinking Skills responses

Here are suggested answers to our Thinking Skills exercise:

Were your responses to Paul's Wheel of Reasoning similar to those below?

1) What is the issue?	Is cheating always unethical? Can cheating ever be justified?
2) Whose point of view is presented?	The writer presents the view of common people and those who watch these sports, the points of view of cheating players', and also implies the writer's own view through words that share tone and attitude.
3) What is the purpose of the text?	It is a discursive text and the purpose of this text is to present varying points of view on the reasons why footballers to allow the readers to make an informed decision on whether cheating is actually as bad as everyone makes it out to be. My coach, who gave me this text, may be interested in knowing whether I will be pressured into cheating.
4) What assumptions are there?	1: The stakes involved are always the reason for cheating 2: Cheating also earns players respect from teammates but infamy from sports fans if caught
5) What evidence is there?	The writer provides an example of Neymar Jr. at the match pitting Brazil against Costa Rica at the 2018 World Cup to explore cheating in football.
6) What concepts are there?	Honesty and integrity, Fame versus infamy
7) What inferences are there?	I can infer from the writer's tone and attitude that he is more laid back about cheating because the writer does not provide a definitive stand throughout the article. I can also infer that for most professional footballers and teams, fame is preferred rather than honesty.
8) What are the implications or consequences?	It will compel football fans to think twice before accusing footballers of dishonesty. It might also cause readers to ponder over which is more important: honesty or gratification.



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ABOUT US

Our Present Perfect Story

OUR PRESENT PERFECT STORY

Present Perfect is at once a type of verb tense in the English Language and our vision for what readers of our magazine will gain from their reading experience. As a verb tense, the present perfect refers to an action that has occurred in the past and that has relevance to the present. This is a metaphor for our project. Alongside our sister magazines *Broader Perspectives* and *REPRESENT*, the *Present Perfect* team works to equip our readers with relevant skills and knowledge, and to empower our student readers to find relevance and joy in learning about the English Language. In addition, we work to help readers develop a sound understanding of the past and present contexts shaping our world. Lastly, we work to inspire our readers to find ways for meaningful personal and social engagement in the present to order to help realise the perfect version of *their* future society.

In the grand scheme of things, the measurable impact of a magazine is small. Still, we believe that the possibilities we can help to create will be greater than the sum of its parts. Thank you for coming along with us on this change-making journey as an educator, a student and a reader.

"Infinite past makes present tense."

– Eleanor Wong, *The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star On JBJ*