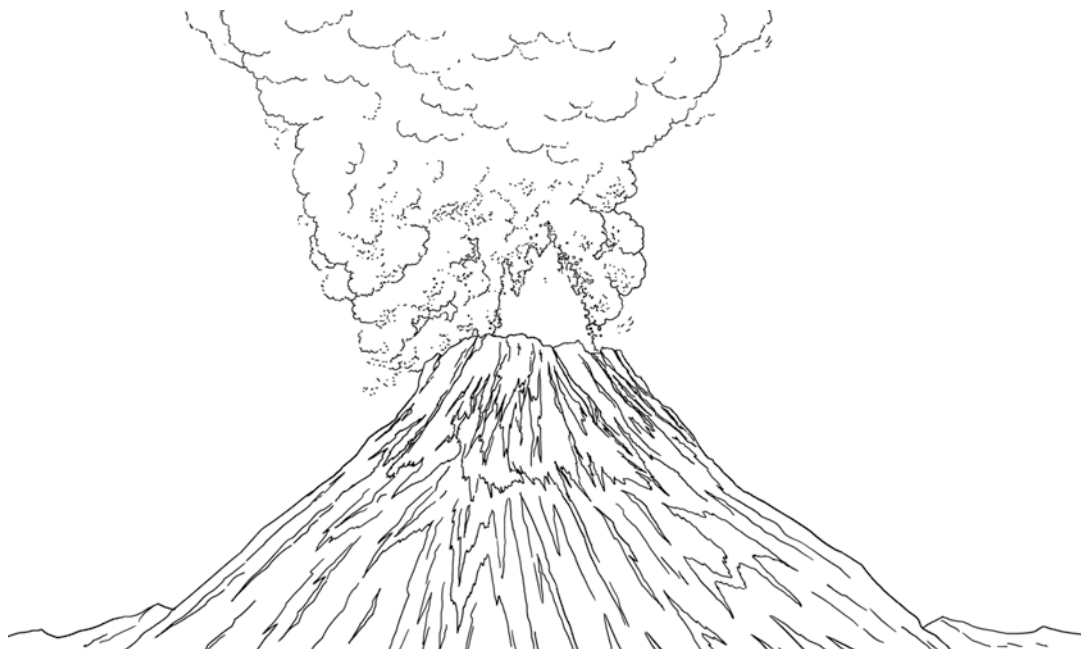


UNIT 1 Fire

This unit gives you practice in sequencing notes for particular purposes; difficult spellings; using irregular verb forms and past simple, present perfect and past perfect tenses; using complex connectives; using 'would' for repeated action in the past; metaphors and similes.

- 1** Read the notes below and on page 2, which give factual information about the eruption of a volcano in Chile in 2011.



- a** Put the facts in an appropriate order for a news report, published the day after the eruption, by numbering them.

Volcanic eruption in Chile

- Eruption in the Puyehue-Cordon Caulle volcanic chain approximately 800 km south of capital, Santiago
- Border crossing into Argentina closed
- Ash cover and weather conditions – difficult to see which of the chain's four volcanoes had erupted
- Constant seismic activity and smell of sulphur



- 10-kilometre-high gas column from explosion
- Government evacuating 3500 people from the area
- Huge flames and lightning flashes
- Wind blew ash to Argentina, making the sky dark and grey. Rivers swollen
- Airports in Argentina forced to close flights likely to remain suspended until middle of next week
- Authorities in southern Chile and Argentina monitoring direction of ash clouds
- A change of wind direction sent ash back to the Chilean side
- Public activities in Argentina cancelled
- Chilean health ministry has distributed face masks and eye drops to residents in the area
- Many residents left but some stayed with their homes and animals
- The mayor of Lago Ranco, a town about 70 km north of the volcano range, said that the situation was complex and unpredictable because of the way in which the wind was shifting direction
- There has not been a major eruption of the volcano chain since a huge earthquake in 1960
- Chile is one of the most volcanic countries on Earth. Along its length are around 3000 volcanoes – 80 of them active

b Transfer your notes into the lines on the next page:

- expanding them into sentences
- joining the information logically
- changing them into your own words where possible
- removing repetition
- using short, simple words and sentences.

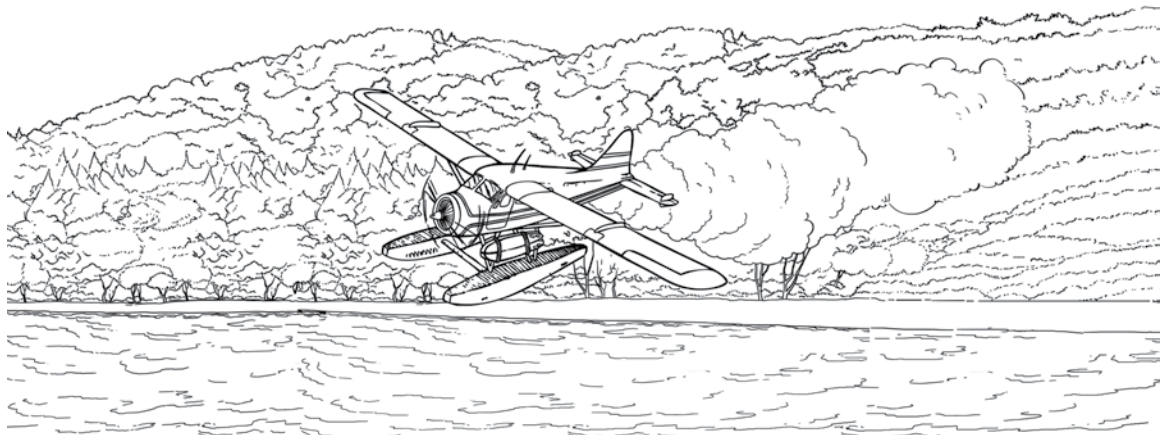
Leave the first line blank so that you can write your headline when you have finished your report.



2 Look at the information below.

forest fire outside Capetown – started by piece of glass left by family having a picnic – ground very dry – no fatalities – strong wind – temperatures high for several days – holiday homes nearby – people had enough time to escape – occurred last month – fire brigade not able to contain the fire – seaplanes dropped water from the sea – large area of forest destroyed – took two days to extinguish flames

- a Decide on the most logical order for the information to be used in a witness account, and put numbers above each note to show the sequence.
- b Now turn the numbered notes into a paragraph of continuous writing, using participle phrases and a range of connectives to form complex sentences.



.....

.....

.....

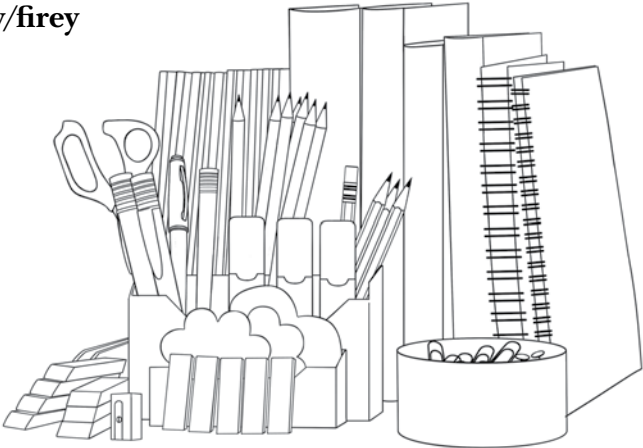
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.....

.....

3 The words in bold in the sentences below are often confused or misspelt.

- a Circle the correct word in each pair. Learn the differences between them by looking up their meaning in a dictionary if you don't already know it.
- i Their attention was caught by the **fiery**/**firey** glow from the top of the mountain.
 - ii The shop at the corner of the street sells newspapers and **stationary**/**stationery**.
 - iii We recognised the actor who **starred**/**stared** in the soap opera we watched every evening.
 - iv If you **proceed**/**precede** to the information desk you will be told how to find the main exhibition hall.
 - v If you want to **lay**/**lie** down, you can use the spare bedroom. Your luggage is **laying**/**lying** in the hall. You can **lay**/**lie** your coat on the sofa for now and hang it up later.
 - vi He **wandered**/**wondered** through the woods, **wandering**/**wondering** where exactly he was.
 - vii The **affect**/**effect** of the words was powerful, and the audience was so **affected**/**effected** that many people burst into tears.
 - viii A **complimentary**/**complementary** ticket was sent to each member of the club.
 - ix The **principal**/**principle** reason for doing it was that it was a matter of **principal**/**principle**.
 - x When they saw the man with the **scared**/**scarred** face they felt very **scared**/**scarred**.
- b Think of mnemonics (ways of remembering them) so that you know the right spellings in future, e.g. *cars* are station**ary** (both contain *ar*) but *paper* is station**ery** (both contain *er*).



4 Replace each of the verb plus adverb phrases below with a single verb which would mean the same thing. You may need a thesaurus to help you. There may be more than one possible answer. Then write a sentence containing the verb you have selected.

- a run fast
-
- b look closely
-



- c** complain lengthily
-
- d** tear violently
-
- e** think deeply
-
- f** want desperately
-
- g** walk unsteadily
-

5 Fill in the blank spaces in the table of irregular verb forms below.

Present	Past	Past participle
drive	drove	
sink		sunk
cut	cut	
lose		lost
take		taken
ride	rode	
think	thought	
sell		sold
know	knew	
lay		laid

6 Put the verbs into the correct tense in the sentences below: past simple, present perfect or past perfect. There is more than one possibility in some cases.

- a They (rise) at dawn and since then they
..... (have) nothing to eat.
- b When I first (see) the cloud appear in
the sky, I (shake) in fear. Since then,
I (feel) increasingly alarmed.
- c The plates still (lie) on the table, but someone
..... (break) one of them.
- d They finally (find) the treasure which they
..... (seek) for ten years.
- e Since leaving school, my elder brother (not be able) to
find a suitable job, but during the summer holidays he
(work) for a week as a waiter.

7 Give the present and past participles of the following verbs (e.g. give → giving → given).

- a do f feel
- b go g fall
- c hear h run
- d say i pay
- e leave j lie



8 Fill the gaps in these sentences with an appropriate connective. Do not use any connective more than once.

..... I realised that the fire alarm was for real, I set off towards the fire exit. Previously, the alarm had sounded, we had not been worried we knew it was just a drill. I was leaving the building, I could hear shouting. There was no sign of the sales staff, worked on the top floor. I realised that the lift was not working, and that the stairs to the upper floors were cut off by the fire, the people there would be in danger, someone rescued them. I am not normally a quick-thinking person, I ran over to the firefighters, they had arrived on the scene, to tell them that I thought there were people trapped inside the building. I pointed to the top floor, now had flames leaping out of it.

9 Some of the verbs in the sentences below could be changed to the ‘would’ plus verb form to show a repeated action in the past. Put a tick or a cross next to each verb to signify whether the ‘would’ form is appropriate.

- a Each year, in the autumn, they *collect* [] enough firewood to last through the winter.
- b Last January I *go* [] skiing and came back with my leg in plaster.
- c She *watch* [] the quiz programme on Monday evening and *shout* [] out the answers.
- d Every time the postman *try* [] to deliver a parcel, the dog *throw* [] itself at the door in a frenzy.
- e As I hadn’t received any information about the job, I *decide* [] not to attend the interview, which *take* [] place the following day.

10 Overused metaphors or similes become clichés and spoil descriptive writing. Paraphrase the following using specific and interesting words (e.g. *He looked as if his life was an uphill struggle* could become *He looked careworn and despondent*) or your own original comparisons (e.g. *He looked as though tomorrow was his enemy*).

- a Her teeth were as white as pearls.
.....
- b They looked as though butter wouldn't melt in their mouths.
.....
- c The old man with twinkling blue eyes had been around for donkey's years.
.....
- d The horse ran like the wind.
.....
- e The visitors were hogging all the limelight.
.....
- f My teacher talked until he was blue in the face.
.....
- g The kittens in the basket looked as pretty as a picture.
.....

