

About the series...

The **INTERACTIVE SKILLS** series includes two books for four levels (B1-B2, C1-C2). It is suitable for both teenagers and adults who wish to improve their writing and speaking skills on their way to any formal exam. The series offers oral and written practice suitable for all major formal exams, in a highly communicative and motivating mode. It covers the work necessary for the preparation of the TIE logbook during the school year while practising Speaking and Writing skills.

Each unit offers thorough practice through Reading and real life situation Listening, supported with communicative tasks, model texts, paragraph and language analysis, topic-based vocabulary banks, practice in reproduction of texts, guided writing techniques, choice of topics, project fun work and editing skills for real development as well as support from an innovative teacher's book, full of ideas.



Akis Davanellos

INTERACTIVE SKILLS C1 - C2 | Speaking & Writing

INTERACTIVE SKILLS **C1 - C2**

Speaking & Writing

For teenagers & adults

ISBN: 978-618-80157-1-5

INTERACTIVE SKILLS C1-C2

(SPEAKING & WRITING)

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INTERACTIVE SKILLS C1-C2

(SPEAKING & WRITING)

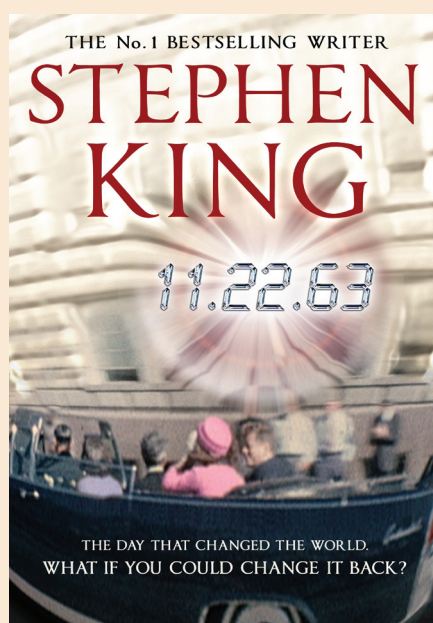
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UNIT 2

SPEAKING (Reading - Listening)

TASK 1: BOOK / READER The following text is about a famous book titled: "11|22|63". Read it and decide if the statements in the comprehension task which follows are True (T) or False (F). Work in pairs and highlight the answers in the text:

"11.22.63" BY STEPHEN KING



Stephen King surprised everybody with this book. King has always played with the antithesis between real life and the supernatural, but this book is, essentially, about travelling in the past. Here it is 2011 and then, suddenly, the reader is thrown into the world of America under Eisenhower's rule. The reader leaves the present and travels back to September 9th, 1958.

You can come and go, though. No matter how long you've stayed in the past, only two minutes would have passed, in the real world. And each time you go back to the past, time starts all over again. It's still 11:58, September 9, 1958.

There is a reason for this. Our protagonist, Al, is dying of lung cancer so he recruits Jake to go back and stop Lee Harvey Oswald from killing John Kennedy. He also wants him to save Martin Luther King, stop the race riots, stop the Vietnam War and, in general, cure the ills of the 60s. So Jake, a failure of a teacher with a lot of personal problems, has a clear mission. He has to correct the past, undo some of the wrongs and make the world a better place. Once

he finds himself back in 1958, Jake is immediately confronted with a mystery. Was it Oswald who did the shooting? Was it a conspiracy? Was there another shooter? Jake is a good person, he can't kill Oswald without knowing for sure he is the culprit.

Once in Dallas, Jake has a long time to get close to Oswald. To do so, he uses distance listening devices and trails Oswald, but then on the day, he just can't stop the events. And this is where the real questions of the book pop up. Would it make any difference? Could Kennedy put a stop to the war in Vietnam? We do not know. What if the US would go ahead and do it anyway? Is history inevitable? King suggests -in a passage in the book- that there is "an infernal machine that is ticking and turning its fabulous gears and we can do nothing to change its course".

A. Comprehension task

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. This book represents Stephen King's usual style. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The trip to the past lasts the same as it does in the present. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Al's mission is to re-plan history. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Jake tried to sort out Kennedy's death. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Jake managed to change Kennedy's death. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. King believes that people can change the course of history. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Write down a question on the text above to ask one of your classmates

TASK 2: SPEAKING - PAIR WORK This is a dialogue based on the text of the previous page. Read it and find the incorrect information. Role-play the parts giving the correct answers. Ask your partner your own questions about the text:

A. What book did you read and why?

B. I chose to read "11|22|63", a science fiction book by Martin King, mostly because I am a great fan of his work. Needless to say, I enjoyed the book thoroughly.

A. What is the book about?

B. It is about travelling back in time. It begins during ancient time America but actually takes place between 1956 and 1963 in Dallas. The main character, Jake, has undertaken a mission to prevent the assassination of President Kennedy, so he follows Lee Harvey Oswald. Despite the sophisticated equipment he uses, he succeeds in his mission and history follows its known course.

A. What did you like about the book?

B. Apart from it being boring, I consider it one of the best time travel stories I've read. It's a rather pessimistic book but it is also an enchanting one. Of course, a King book is not a King book without some horror lurking in the shadows. The horror in this one is that there is a universal machine – King says – that is indifferent to human lives and it is inescapable. It's called time.

A. Would you recommend the book to your friends?

B. Yes, absolutely, though not everyone likes this kind of books. Still King is a master story-teller and the story is, in itself, very indifferent. Of course, you need to know a bit of history. If you don't, the plot might be quite difficult to follow.

A. Would your book make an interesting movie?

B. Yes, I think it would. People enjoy romantic movies and this book is full of twists. This means that it would make a film that would keep you enthralled and biting your nails to see if the main character will save Kennedy's life in the end.

UNIT 2

WRITING (Reading - Listening)

TASK 1: VOCABULARY BANK Revise or learn the words provided.

Work in pairs to create sentences using some of the words you did not know:

Places

bustling
dark and dingy
draughty
gloomy
godforsaken
musty
picturesque
plush
remote
seedy
sleepy
spacious
stuffy
touristy
unspoiled

Buildings

bare
cramped
shabby
squalid
spacious
luxurious
elegant
grand
ostentatious
charming
warm and cosy
sophisticated
light and airy
functional
forlorn
derelict
dilapidated

Atmosphere

chaotic
a hive of activity
solemn
peaceful
forbidding
spooky
eerie
sinister
formal
dignified
tense
impersonal

Reasons for visiting a place

renowned
to have a reputation for...
a sight not to be missed
to be a must for (art) lovers

Things for tourists to do

to stroll along the beach
to soak up the sun
to go sightseeing
to wonder through the streets
to sit and watch the world go by
to sample the local cuisine
to dance the night away

Advertising a place

to take an unforgettable trip to...
to whet your appetite for...
to conjure up pictures of...
if you like... then... is just your cup of tea
memories of your holiday will linger long
after it is over

USEFUL
WORDS

TASK 2: MODEL TEXT

Study the text analysis questions first and then the text. Work in pairs and be ready to justify your answers by referring to the text:

"Describe the house or flat that would best suit your personality"

It is not always the size or location of someone's home that tells you about their personality as this usually depends on money and convenience. Rather it is their choice of decoration and furniture which gives the best insight into their character.

I, myself, would probably choose a simple house somewhere far away from the hustle and bustle of city life. A red-tiled roof, white-washed walls and a rose garden would be a must for my dream house as only in such surroundings would I feel at home. From small leaded windows I would look out at the sea in the distance and find peace and quiet.

Conventional as I am, I would retain the original characteristics of the building, oak beams, wood paneling and stone floors. But I would add a four poster bed that would have pride of place in my bedroom. Another indispensable feature would be an original fireplace. I am a real home lover you see and the warmth and glow from the fire would be all that is needed to make me feel at home.

Naturally, no home would be complete for me without my collection of silver-framed family photos which I can pick up and look at when I am feeling homesick. As my cooking leaves a lot to be desired and I have no great flair for housework, I would maintain the traditional feel of the house in the kitchen area while installing every modern labour-saving device on the market.

Unfortunately though, my dreams of owning such a house are all pie in the sky. But I suppose that whether I make my dream come true or not, I will still manage to make the place I am staying at, as they say, "feel like home".

TEXT ANALYSIS

Circle the correct answer from the options provided:

When describing a person...

1. In the 1st paragraph...

- a. an introduction to the subject is vital.
- b. the name and the location of the place is provided.

2. In the 2nd paragraph...

- a. the most striking features of the area are described.
- b. the location and the exterior details are provided.

3. In the 3rd and 4th paragraph...

- a. an opinion about the place is given.
- b. the interior of the place is described.

4. In such a composition...

- a. an opinion is given as the description goes on.
- b. an opinion is given right at the beginning.

5. The use of...

- a. adjectives is necessary.
- b. comparisons is necessary.

6. To make the description more vivid...

- a. never make use of the senses.
- b. make use of the senses (hear, smell, taste, touch...).

7. The use of a quotation is...

- a. impressive but unacceptable.
- b. impressive and acceptable.

8. In the last paragraph...

- a. express a wish.
- b. express an opinion.

UNIT 2

WRITING (Reading - Listening)

TASK 3: PRACTICE

Read the following composition and choose the correct answers:

"Describe a famous place in your country"

A **1. stip / steep**, rocky mountainside **2. overlooks / oversees** a valley below. The valley gradually opens **3. up / out** and this is where the Ancient Greeks decided to build their oracle of Delphi.

There were numerous oracles **4. of / in** the Ancient World, but Delphi was the **5. most / more** significant one. Today it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Greece. In ancient times people would flock **6. in / to** the site to seek advice **7. on / of** when it might be an auspicious time for important events.

A paved road leads to the area where the temple of Apollo is. On either side of the road there are "treasure houses" which used to contain the offerings of the city states. Just **8. above / over** the area of the temple the trees close in as you make your way up the mountain to find the huge ancient stadium – just one of the surprises of this magnificent place.

Below, near the **9. main / mein** road, you can see the ancient swimming pool. Nearby are the famous springs which had great significance in ancient times. Even today the sight and sound of crystal **10. clear / clean**, water cascading down a rock face, is simply and intensely satisfying.

Delphi is a place that allows you to take a trip back in time. You have the feeling that you will meet the priests hidden **11. among / between** the marble columns. The natural beauty of the place, coupled with the temples and the museum with its exquisite treasures, will captivate you. Memories of your visit will linger long after you leave.



TASK 4: WRITING TIPS

Choose the correct word to fill in the sentences:

1. The vase slipped from his hands and on hitting the floor it into a thousand pieces.
a) split b) crumbled c) cracked d) shattered

2. The kitchen has flooded. One of the water pipes must have
a) ripped b) burst c) torn d) parted

3. The doors were hanging off their hinges and the paint was off the walls.
a) splitting b) scraping c) peeling d) snapping

4. She's even broken the door! Look, the handle has off.
a) come b) gone c) done d) been

5. It's time we bought some new furniture. Look at these chairs. They are to pieces.
a) battered b) crumbling c) falling d) going

TASK 5: WRITING Your teacher has asked you to write an article with the title: "Describe a famous landmark in your area". Use the HELP BOX to organise your work before you write.



Discuss before you write:

Who is writing this text? Why?

Who is going to read it?

What information do you need for the reader?

What kind of text are you writing?

What kind of vocabulary is used?

What language is used? Formal or informal?

What is included in each paragraph?

What are the special characteristics of this text?

Refer to TEXT ANALYSIS before and while writing.
Use it as a check list.

FURTHER PRACTICE A teenage magazine is organising a competition for young writers. Write an article for the magazine. Select from the choices below:

TOPIC 1: "A group of teenagers are visiting your hometown.
Write an e-mail describing what the town has to offer"

TOPIC 2: "Describe your ideal house"

TOPIC 3: "My favourite holiday resort"

TOPIC 4: "My least favourite vacation destination"

FUN WORK

Read a book you really like or use a book you have already read. Write a summary of the book focusing on the plot and the characters. Also, focus on the description of any building mentioned in the book

UNIT 9

SPEAKING (Reading - Listening)

TASK 1: BOOK / READER Read this investigation done by a student and decide if the statements in the comprehension task which follows are True (T) or False (F). Work in pairs and highlight the correct answers in the text:

"SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN"



It is a 2012 film based on the German fairy tale of Snow White, written by the Grimm brothers. It was directed by Rupert Sanders, starring Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron, Chris Hemsworth, Sam Claflin and Bob Hoskins.

The plot of the original fairy tale was significantly altered into a much darker film version. Snow White is the Princess of Tabor, daughter of King Magnus and Queen Eleanor. King Magnus's wife dies and then he meets the beautiful Ravenna, who is a powerful sorceress. She kills the King on their wedding night and with her black knights she becomes the ruler of the kingdom. Only Duke Hammond and his son William manage to get away. Snow White is left behind and we see her locked away in the castle dungeons.



Years later, when the Princess comes of age, the evil queen, tipped by her magic mirror, plans to kill her in order to become immortal. Snow White manages to escape and make her way to the Dark Forest where Ravenna has no power. Eric, the Huntsman, and a band of men are sent to find her and bring her back to the castle. Among them is William, her cousin and childhood friend who joins the band as a bowman. The Huntsman leads the

band to Snow White but he decides not to hand her over to Ravenna. Instead, he helps her to escape and takes her to a fishing village where she is left in the care of women who have also escaped the queen's wrath.

Ravenna, disguised as William, tempts Snow White into biting a poisonous apple which makes her appear to be dead. Eric, William and a band of Dwarves take her to the castle where she wakes up when the Huntsman kisses her. She eventually leads an army against Ravenna, kills her and becomes the Queen of the land.

The film was shot in England, on the Marloes Sands beach and made use of research on fairy tales and medieval battles conducted by academic consultants from the universities of Chichester and Oxford. The English band "Florence and the Machine" conducted the song "Breath of Life" exclusively for the film.

A. Comprehension task

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The original fairy tale plot compared to the film plot was slightly changed. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Snow White lost her mother before her father married another woman. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Ravenna planned to kill Snow White for money. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The huntsman did not help Snow White. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Big men carried Snow White to the Castle. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Academic research was used in the film making. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Write down a question on the text above to ask one of your classmates

SPEAKING

(Reading - Listening)

UNIT 9

TASK 2: SPEAKING - PAIR WORK

In pairs discuss the text on page 60 using the questions and notes below. Before you start, underline the information required for the answers:

A. What investigation did you carry out? Why?

B. (Mention the title and explain why you did this investigation)

A. Can you briefly describe your investigation?

B. (Refer to the most important information included in the investigation and the sources followed)

A. Did you find your investigation interesting?

B. (Say what exactly you found interesting)

A. There are some photographs included in your investigation. Can you describe them?

B. (Describe the photos in detail)

A. Ask your partner a question about his / her investigation.

B. (Answer your partner's question)

TASK 3: SUMMARY WRITING / SPEAKING

Work in pairs or groups, underline the most important information in the text on page 60 and write a summary. Present it to the class.

UNIT 9

WRITING (Reading - Listening)

TASK 1: VOCABULARY BANK Revise or learn the words provided.

Work in pairs to make sentences using some of the words you did not know:

Review Types

TV / Films

an epic
non-fiction
a comedy
a thriller
a remake of
a sequel

Story

script
plot
to be based on
to be set in
to deal with
to tell the story of

Praise

outstanding
brilliant
superb
inspired
spectacular
original
haunting
gripping
compelling
moving
poignant
stirring
witty
fast-moving
action-packed

Types of books

fiction
non-fiction
a romance
a murder mystery
a thriller
a historical novel

People

scriptwriter
director
producer
cameraman
stuntman
the cast
the protagonist
the extras
author
publisher
editor

Criticism

poor
to fail to live up to sb's expectations
boring
to leave sb cold
unamusing
humourless
slow-moving

USEFUL
WORDS

TASK 2: MODEL TEXT

Study the text analysis questions first and then the text. Work in pairs and be ready to justify your answers by referring to the text:

"A local magazine invited readers to submit reviews of their favourite books. Write your review"

I recently came across "Septon's Secret", a rich and startling collection of twelve short stories written by Shelly Roger.

The twelve stories draw the reader into the numerous worlds enveloping Septon, the books' main character. Septon is surrounded by eccentric and generally unpleasant miscreants, including his neurotic wife and his malicious and thoroughly unscrupulous business partner. Every story brings us closer to the revelation of the secret referred to in the book's title.

The plot lines and the principal characters are brought crashing together in the appropriately titled "Shock", the book's twelfth and final story. All is revealed in a cleverly worked climax that is as disturbing as it is unexpected. Shelly Rogers is a master of her craft. Her characters are vividly drawn and wholly convincing, her writing is evocative without being overbearing and her plot building is compelling.

The book met with great critical acclaim and remained on the top of the bestsellers' lists for two months. It is a work of extraordinary power by an exceptionally gifted writer. I whole-heartedly suggest it to other book readers.

TEXT ANALYSIS

Circle the correct answer from the options provided.

When writing a book / film review...

1. In the 1st paragraph...

- a. we usually describe the main characters and the main idea of the plot.
- b. we usually mention the type of story, the writer, the time and what it is about.

2. In the 2nd paragraph...

- a. we usually give a brief plot.
- b. we usually give a very detailed plot.

3. In the 3rd paragraph...

- a. make comments on the plot, characters, incidents.
- b. mention what you liked or not in this story.

4. In the 3rd paragraph...

- a. mention what you liked or not in this story.
- b. make comments on the plot's twists.

5. In the 4th paragraph...

- a. mention how the story ends and what you think comes after.
- b. give a clear opinion about it.

6. In the 4th paragraph...

- a. mention why / who you would suggest it to.
- b. provide an opinion about the characters.

7. In this type of text we usually use...

- a. present tenses.
- b. future tenses.

8. The use of adjectives is...

- a. suggested.
- b. not suggested.

UNIT 9

WRITING (Reading - Listening)

TASK 3: PRACTICE

Read the following composition and choose the correct answers:

"Your tutor has asked you to write a film review for your campus magazine saying why you have enjoyed it"

I **1. had / have** recently watched "The Shawshank Redemption", starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, an engrossing piece of film making by Frank Darabont. The plot of the film is based on Stephen King's novel **2. with / at** the same title.

The story unfolds **3. at / over** a long period, following the imprisonment of a naive young banker, Andy (Robbins) **4. which / who** was convicted of the murder of his wife. Throughout the film Andy claims that he is innocent and, as a result, he is derided by both his fellow inmates and guards alike. **5. We follow / We are following** his struggle to survive the harsh realities of prison life and rewarded with his ultimate triumph over the system **6. who / that** condemned him.

Although the film was not well received, the performances are superb. Robbins is excellent as the clever and utterly **7. infamous / decent** Andy who eventually survives his ordeal. The film is a combination of prison drama and character study. Roger Deakin's perfect cinematography and the evocative score **8. of / by** Thomas Newman make it dark and ominous. It will certainly keep you **9. at / on** the edge of your seat for over two hours.

On the whole, the film has an intelligent script and excellent, **10. highly / seriously** emotional performances. It is a film that asks its audience to feel, think and relate. It is a rare accomplishment.

TASK 4: WRITING TIPS

Choose the correct answer. Then, use some of

the words provided to make your own examples:

For an entertaining evening I highly **1. recommend / suggest** the film **2. product / version** of the first J.K. Rowling book. It is the **3. plot / story** of an otherwise **4. ordinary / extra-ordinary** boy who **5. contains / possesses** magical powers. He **6. leads / lives** a hard life at home since he is brought up by the unpleasant Dursleys. Everything **7. alters / changes**, however, when he is taken to Hogwarts. There, under the **8. tutelage / lesson** of Professor Dumbledore, young Harry sets out to **9. explore / investigate** the world of wizardry.

TASK 5: WRITING A school magazine in its READER'S CORNER has asked students to contribute articles with the title: "Write a review of a book you read and enjoyed". Use the HELP BOX to organise your work before you write.



Discuss before you write:

Who is writing this text? Why?

Who is going to read it?

What information do you need for the reader?

What kind of text are you writing?

What kind of vocabulary is used?

What language is used? Formal or informal?

What is included in each paragraph?

What are the special characteristics of this text?

Refer to TEXT ANALYSIS before and while writing.
Use it as a check list.

FURTHER PRACTICE

Select from the choices below. Present your work in class:

TOPIC 1: "Which film would you suggest to your younger brother / cousin / friend and why?"

TOPIC 2: "Propose a book to your classmates explaining why it is interesting"

TOPIC 3: "Write a review of the worst film / play you have ever watched"

FUN WORK

Design and present an investigation on
a book, film or cartoon you like