

The House

Level: 3^o E.S.O.

Grammar: *Present Continuous / Contrast with the Present Simple / Prepositions of place / There is-are.*

Functions: *Talking about activities taking place at the moment / Describing a picture / Talking about place.*

Vocabulary: *Parts of the house / Furniture / Members of the family.*

Phonetics: *Pronunciation of **-ing** endings.*

This unit is based on a family, the MacFears, and their house. They are a freakish group and the different readings and dialogues describe their jobs, abilities, and the things they are doing at the moment, thus introducing the main grammar and function contents of the unit.

The unit places an emphasis on functions such as talking about people, and preferences.

The vocabulary is centred on parts of the house and members of the family, as well as prepositions.

Some of the exercises might be used separately, although the exercises are connected through the characters and related to each other, so this unit should be used in a linear way if possible.

This unit is divided into five parts, each centred on a part of the house and starting with a reading or a dialogue whose aim is to introduce the characters or serve as a warming-up for a set of exercises on grammar, spelling or functions. The last one consists of a dialogue which includes a listening exercise.

You can move into any part of the unit easily by using the menu, which is accessible from any activity.

There are several screens with the essential grammar content which is accessible through a grammar menu which appears by clicking the "Help" button in all the exercises.

We strongly recommend you to remind your students to read the task button and the section "Icons" in the introductory screen before they start any exercises, since the use of all the buttons in the unit is explained there and students usually forget about this part before approaching the exercises.

This is the structure of the unit:

INTRODUCTORY SCREEN

Through this screen you can access the menu, the credits screen, this document and the explanation of the use of the icons. Notice that you can listen to some nice organ music which can help create the adequate atmosphere.

INTRODUCTION – THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

- 1. Reading:** This first text introduces the house and its inhabitants. You can click the Audio button to listen to the text in a particular page, or click the "Read all the text" button to listen to all five pages in order.
- 2. Reading Comprehension:** This is a simple True/False exercise designed to check the comprehension of the introductory text. When students click an answer, a cat will make a sound as feedback.

PART I – GROUND FLOOR

- 1. Reading:** This four page text is centered on the ground floor and the activities of some members of the family in different rooms of the house.
- 2. Spelling rules:** In first place students must revise the spelling rules for the gerund and remember these rules. When they are ready they must click the "Start" sign and write the gerund form of four groups of verbs. When they click the "Check" answer, they will see the correct answers and a square with the corresponding rule will appear as feedback.
- 3. Present Continuous:** In this exercise students have to fill in the gaps with correct Present Continuous forms of the verb. The infinitives that they must use are given at the bottom of the page.
- 4. Sentence order:** Here the students must tidy up the words in the ghosts to make correct sentences in the Present Continuous. They must drag the ghosts to the correct box underneath. There are six sentences in three pages with affirmative and negative statements and questions.

PART II – FIRST FLOOR

- 1. Reading:** This part of the unit is dedicated to describing the first floor of the house concentrating the description on the living room, where George MacFear is reading a newspaper.
- 2. Present Simple or Continuous?:** This is a gap filling exercise. There are two short paragraphs with gaps and students must write in the correct present tense of the verbs in brackets.
- 3. Describing actions:** This is a writing exercise. Students have to describe the scene by writing short sentences in the squares numbered one to six. If they place the mouse on the circles around the numbers, the subject and verb of each sentence will appear.

When they finish they must compare their sentences with the correct ones which will be shown when they click the "Check" button.

4. Memory - Prepositions: In this exercise there are twenty squares with pairs of prepositions and their corresponding pictures. Students can only see two at the same time, and they will have to remember where each word or picture is located in order to match them and make them disappear.

5. Complete the picture: This is a listening exercise. In this room, there are some items which are not in their place, they are on the right of the picture. When you click on each item, you will hear a sentence telling you where it is placed. Students must drag them onto their correct position. They must click the "check" button to see if their answers are correct.

PART III - BASEMENT

1. Dialogue: This is a dialogue between Henry Willow and his grandson in the basement, where Henry has his laboratory.

2. Phonetics: This exercise is made up of two different parts. In the first part, students can listen to some minimal pairs to distinguish the sounds of <n> and <ng>. The second part is a test: they must click on the bats to listen to a word, and then click on the word they have just heard. A friendly or unfriendly ghost will be the feedback.

3. Record sentences: In this exercise the students must repeat and record some sentences in the Present Continuous tense trying to imitate the pronunciation. They can click on the sentences to listen to the original voice, and then record them with their own voices. After that they can hear their recording with the "Play" button. Before doing this exercise it is convenient to try the record button first: the recording starts when you click the button and it will go on until you click it again; the words "start" and "stop" appear beside the button to help you; even if you go on to the next page, the recording will not stop if you have not clicked the button for a second time.

PART IV – GARDEN & CEMETERY

1. Listening – Fill in the gaps: Here George and Emma MacFear are having a walk at midnight. Students must listen to their conversation and fill in the gaps. They should check their answers after each page of the exercise.

2. Hangman - Vocabulary: This is the classic hangman exercise. Students are given six definitions and they have to write the correct words by clicking on the letters that they think are part of the word. All the words have appeared in the texts of the unit. If they click on a letter which is not in the word, the man will start changing. After six mistakes, the man will turn into a wolf under the full moon, and the word will be shown.

3. Writing: This is the final exercise. Here students must write a composition describing

the picture as fully as possible. They must use the structures and vocabulary they have learned through the unit (Present Continuous, Prepositions, There is/are). The exercise is designed to write the composition on the screen and then send it to the teacher's address by e-mail. But, of course, it may be done in a more traditional way, using a piece of paper and handing it to the teacher.

ENDING

The MacFears say goodbye.

There are also five grammar screens:

- 1. The Present Continuous**
- 2. Present Simple and Present Continuous.**
- 3. Spelling Rules of the Gerund**
- 4. Prepositions of Place**
- 5. There is / are**

The House - Answer key

INTRODUCTION – THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

2. Reading Comprehension:

False / True / False

False / True / False

PART I – GROUND FLOOR

2. Spelling rules:

1. saying / reading / skiing / going / frying
2. loving / making / leaving / writing / losing
3. cutting / swimming / preferring / fanning / dropping
4. lying / tying / dying

3. Present Continuous:

1. am reading 2. aren't playing 3. is cleaning 4. is not cooking 5. is / looking

4. Sentence order:

1. The children are playing at the moment.
2. What is Emma MacFear doing?
3. Theodore isn't watering the plants in the garden.
4. There are some books in the library.
5. Henry is making experiments in the basement.
6. Is George playing the organ?

PART II – FIRST FLOOR

2. Present Simple or Continuous?:

plays / isn't playing / is reading / likes / is writing / paints / is preparing / doesn't know

3. Describing actions:

1. Edwina's ghost is getting into the room.
2. Mr MacFear is sleeping.
3. The vulture is eating a bone.
4. Mrs MacFear is reading a book.
5. The monster is writing a letter.
6. The skeleton is coming out of the wardrobe.

PART III - BASEMENT

2. Phonetics:

sun / wrong / bang / thin

PART IV – GARDEN & CEMETERY

1. Listening – Fill in the gaps:

Page 2: night / wonderful / street / good / talk / is

Page 3: doing / kind / time / heads / dress / black

Page 4: children / ghost / house / always / got

2. Hangman - Vocabulary:

1. ghost 2. murder 3. basement 4. portrait 5. haunted 6. cemetery

The House - Audio scripts

INTRODUCTION – THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

1. Reading:

Can you see the house on the hill? It is the MacFear house. It is a large house. It has a basement, two floors and a big garden with the family cemetery in it. The MacFears live here. It is a very..... interesting family. Let me introduce them to you:

George MacFear is the owner of the house, he is a musician; he plays the organ and composes funerary music. Perhaps you don't know any of his works, because you are alive, but they are top hits among the dead.

His wife, Emma MacFear, painter and engraver, and his two children, Archibald and Georgina, live in the house too.

Henry Willow, Emma's father, lives with them, but he never leaves the basement, where he works on his experiments.

There is also a servant, Theodore, he is nearly a member of the family, he has worked in the house for so long..... about 140 years, in fact.

PART I – GROUND FLOOR

1. Reading:

On the ground floor of the house there is a big hall. Georgina is playing with her doll there. She is a very imaginative girl, she is always playing with dolls.

Theodore, the servant, is in the kitchen. He is cleaning boots. Theodore's rooms are on this floor too.

So is the dining room, Emma MacFear's favourite room. She is there now, arranging some flowers.

The stairs leading to the second floor are decorated with portraits of the family's ancestors. One of them is Matthew MacFear, 15th count of Wilford. Some say he murdered his wife, Edwina. Her ghost has lived in this house since then. She is looking at her husband's portrait now.

PART II – FIRST FLOOR

1. Reading:

On the first floor there is a bathroom, the children's bedrooms and the master bedroom. There is also a play room. As well as these, there is a guest room, but the MacFears don't have many visitors.

This is the sitting room. In the middle of the room there are two armchairs on a big carpet. In front of them there is a fireplace and a bookshelf next to it. On the wall there are two old paintings. There are no lamps in this room, the MacFears prefer candles.

This is George MacFear's favourite room. He normally plays the organ every day at this time, but today he is not playing, he is reading a newspaper. He is reading the death announcements. He enjoys it a lot.

5. Complete the picture:

The bat is in the cage.

The lamp is next to the book.

The spider is between the book and the pen.

The painting is on the wall, on the left.

The mouse is under the table.

PART III - BASEMENT

1. Dialogue:

Henry Willow lives in the basement. It is his bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and laboratory. Henry Willow, Emma's father, likes his basement very much. So does his grandson, Archibald. He wants to be a scientist like his grandfather. Henry doesn't normally watch television or listen to the news, but today he is listening to the radio.

(knock, knock)

Henry: Come in! Oh!, Archie, hello, my boy, come in! But close the door, quickly, the light is so unpleasant!

Archie: Hi, grandad. What are you doing?

Henry: I'm listening to the radio. There is a fantastic programme on ghosts. They are saying funny things.

Archie: What are they saying?

Henry: They are interviewing an anonymous caller. He says his house is haunted because there is one ghost in it.

Archie: Imagine that! Only ONE ghost! How boring!

Henry: OOPS! My experiment! I almost forgot. It is getting burnt!

Archie: What are you doing?

Henry: I'm putting some more acid into the mixture.

Archie: Is it good for the experiment?

Henry: No, but it improves the taste.

PART IV – GARDEN & CEMETERY

1. Listening – Fill in the gaps:

It's midnight. There is a storm in the distance. There is thunder and lightning, and it is really cold. On such lovely nights, the MacFears go out to have a walk under the full moon.

George: What a lovely night, my dear!.

Emma: Yes, it's wonderful; there is not a living soul in the street.

George: Yes, that's dead good.

Emma: Sweetheart ... I want to talk to you. I'm worried.

George: What is worrying you?

Emma: It's Georgina. She is doing strange things.

George: What kind of things?

Emma: She is changing. She is smiling all the time... and she doesn't cut her doll's heads any more, she plays with them. Right now she is making a dress for one of them. And it isn't even black!

George: There, there... don't worry too much, you know children change a lot and sometimes they do silly things.... she will be all right.

Emma: (sigh) I hope so. Oh! look, Edwina's ghost is haunting the neighbour's house again.

George: Bad news, they are always complaining about that.

Emma: Yes, they haven't got a sense of humour.