

Second  
Edition

# English Express

Bellson Ip Janeta Ip Alvina Ip

Summer Vacation Exercise for Secondary Schools

S3 to S4

3



With  
Audio CD

Hong Kong Educational Publishing Co.

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常州大学图书馆  
藏书章

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# English Express 3 (Second Edition)

by **Bellson Ip, Janeta Ip, Alvina Ip**

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# Preface

The **Express Series** is a series of summer vacation exercises written for students from Primary 6 to Secondary 3. It consists of Chinese, English and Mathematics (with both Chinese and English versions for Mathematics). The series helps upgrade students' skills in these subjects and bridges the gap between two academic years.

The Second Edition provides students with **updated and authentic materials** which focus on current issues, such as Tsunami and PlayStation Portable (PSP), enabling students to learn English in their daily life. The **addition of two listening exercises** provides students with more training on listening skills. Furthermore, **varied themes on communication skills** enhance students' competence to communicate in English.

Each book contains five main sections. **Upgrade Your Reading Skills** enhances students' ability to understand written materials of various genres; **Grammar and Usage** strengthens students' grammar competence; **Upgrade Your Communication Skills** improves students' communication and speaking skills in authentic situations; **Upgrade Your Writing Skills** develops students' ability in writing texts of different formats; **Fun with Words** introduces interesting and useful vocabulary to students. Apart from these sections, **Top Tip** appears here and there to highlight essential learning points.

It is hoped that, after finishing the exercises, students are able to achieve qualitative improvement and are better prepared for the next school year.

Bellson Ip, Janeta Ip, Alvina Ip  
April 2006

## About the Authors

Bellson, Janeta and Alvina are experienced English teachers. They have been very dedicated to writing books for both primary and secondary students. Their publications include the summer workbook series *Brush Up Your English* (First, Second and Third Editions), *English Express* (First Edition) and *TSA English Mock Exam Papers Series*.

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# Unit 1

## Tsunami Kills Thousands



### Upgrade Your Reading Skills

Read the following article.

1 In South Asia on 26 December 2004, the major countries hit by tsunami are India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Maldives, Indonesia, Sumatra and Thailand. One of the most powerful earthquakes  
5 in the planet hit the Asian continent unexpectedly this Christmas. The quake struck at about 7 a.m. on Sunday (midnight GMT Saturday), according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Centre.

10 The tsunami also left thousands injured, thousands missing and hundreds of thousands homeless in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

It is the fourth-largest earthquake since such measurements began in 1899, according to the NEIC, tying with a 1952 quake in Kamchatka, Russia. More than 4,500 people have been reported dead in Sri Lanka. Most of them, authorities said, were in the eastern district of  
15 Batticaloa. Thousands were missing and more than a half million displaced.



Circle the best answer.

1. Which of the following countries was **not** hit by tsunami?  
A. India  
B. Thailand  
C. Korea  
D. Sumatra
2. The earthquake was reported by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. NEIC  
B. U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Centre  
C. GMT  
D. The United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
3. It is the fourth-largest earthquake since \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 1899  
B. 1952  
C. 2004  
D. ten years ago
4. Read lines 8–9: The tsunami also left thousands injured, thousands **missing**... What does '**missing**' mean?  
A. Dead  
B. Not able to remember anything  
C. Not able to speak  
D. Not found

# Grammar and Usage

## I. Past and Past Perfect Tenses

### Top Tip

We use the past perfect tense for an action which took place before another past action or before a definite past time (e.g., at one o'clock yesterday afternoon).

e. g. My mother **had prepared** the breakfast before I **got** up this morning.

A. Complete the following dialogue with the correct form of the given verbs.

Why didn't you interview Gigi yesterday?

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) up late yesterday morning. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to the bus stop, the bus \_\_\_\_\_ (leave).

Why didn't you take a taxi?

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (do). But I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for half an hour before the taxi \_\_\_\_\_ (come).

What happened then?

3. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive), Gigi's concert \_\_\_\_\_ (begin).

What happened finally?

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a coffee at a café nearby, but when I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) back, Gigi \_\_\_\_\_ (leave).

5. Listen! I \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to fire you before you \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to tell this story.



**B.** *Today is Valentine's Day. Jimmy has not bought anything for Sally. Complete the following conversation with the correct form of the given verbs.*

Jimmy: Sorry, Sally. I've got nothing for you as I've been very busy the whole day.

Sally: I know there is a florist's next to your office. Why didn't you buy me some flowers?

Jimmy: I tried to get you some but failed. All the flowers I 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) out before I 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (get) there.

Sally: Why didn't you buy me a necklace from the jewellery shop opposite your office?

Jimmy: When I 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) there, it 4. \_\_\_\_\_ (close).

Sally: Why didn't you send me a love message then?

Jimmy: I 5. \_\_\_\_\_ (send) messages to one hundred girls before I 6. \_\_\_\_\_ (come). That's why I've been so busy.

## **II. Cloze Passage**

*Fill in each blank with ONE word which best completes the meaning.*

### **Paul's Profile**

Paul worked 1. \_\_\_\_\_ a clerk in a firm. He worked twelve 2. \_\_\_\_\_ every day but he got only four thousand dollars every 3. \_\_\_\_\_. Apart 4. \_\_\_\_\_ doing paper work, he had to buy lunch and 5. \_\_\_\_\_ tea for his boss. When Paul 6. \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes, his boss swore 7. \_\_\_\_\_ him. One day, Paul forgot to put sugar in the tea for his boss, and his boss pointed his 8. \_\_\_\_\_ at Paul's nose calling him stupid. Paul was very angry. He immediately 9. \_\_\_\_\_ a letter of resignation, gave it to his boss and then 10. \_\_\_\_\_. He then became a hawker 11. \_\_\_\_\_ fishballs. Being his own boss, Paul was 12. \_\_\_\_\_ happier because he could be very kind to himself.





## Upgrade Your Communication Skills

**Do you know how to make arrangements  
on the telephone?**

*Complete the following telephone conversation with the correct phrases.*

How about sometime next week?

When would be a good time?

Would next Wednesday at 4 o'clock be okay?

Can I come tomorrow?

What about Friday?

A: Hello, General Office. Can I help you?

B: Hello, this is Sammy Wong of St. Simon's College. I'm doing an English project and would like to do an interview with Miss Chan, the English teacher. Can I make an appointment with her?

A: Sure. 1. \_\_\_\_\_

B: 2. \_\_\_\_\_

A: Tomorrow is not possible. 3. \_\_\_\_\_

B: Sorry. Friday is our Open Day. 4. \_\_\_\_\_

A: Next week? Let me see... 5. \_\_\_\_\_

B: It's just fine. Thank you very much.

### Top Tip

#### **Useful phrases for making arrangements:**

When would be a good time?

When would be convenient to you?

What about / How about... ?

Shall we say... ?

Could we meet... ?

Would... be good for you?



## Upgrade Your Writing Skills

### What a Movie!

You went to a 5:30 p.m. show last weekend. The pictures below show some of the things which happened while you were in the cinema. Write a letter of complaint to the editor of the newspaper describing what you saw and how you felt at the end of the evening. Sign your letter John Li. You may find the guiding questions and the words in the box useful to you.

movie-goers

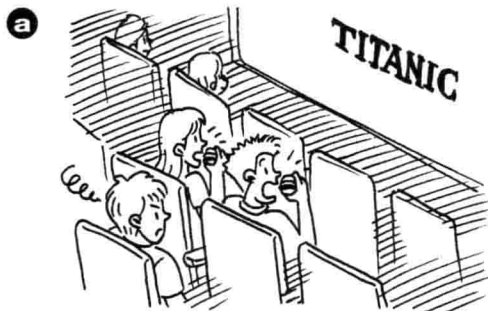
inconsiderate

comment on

lean against

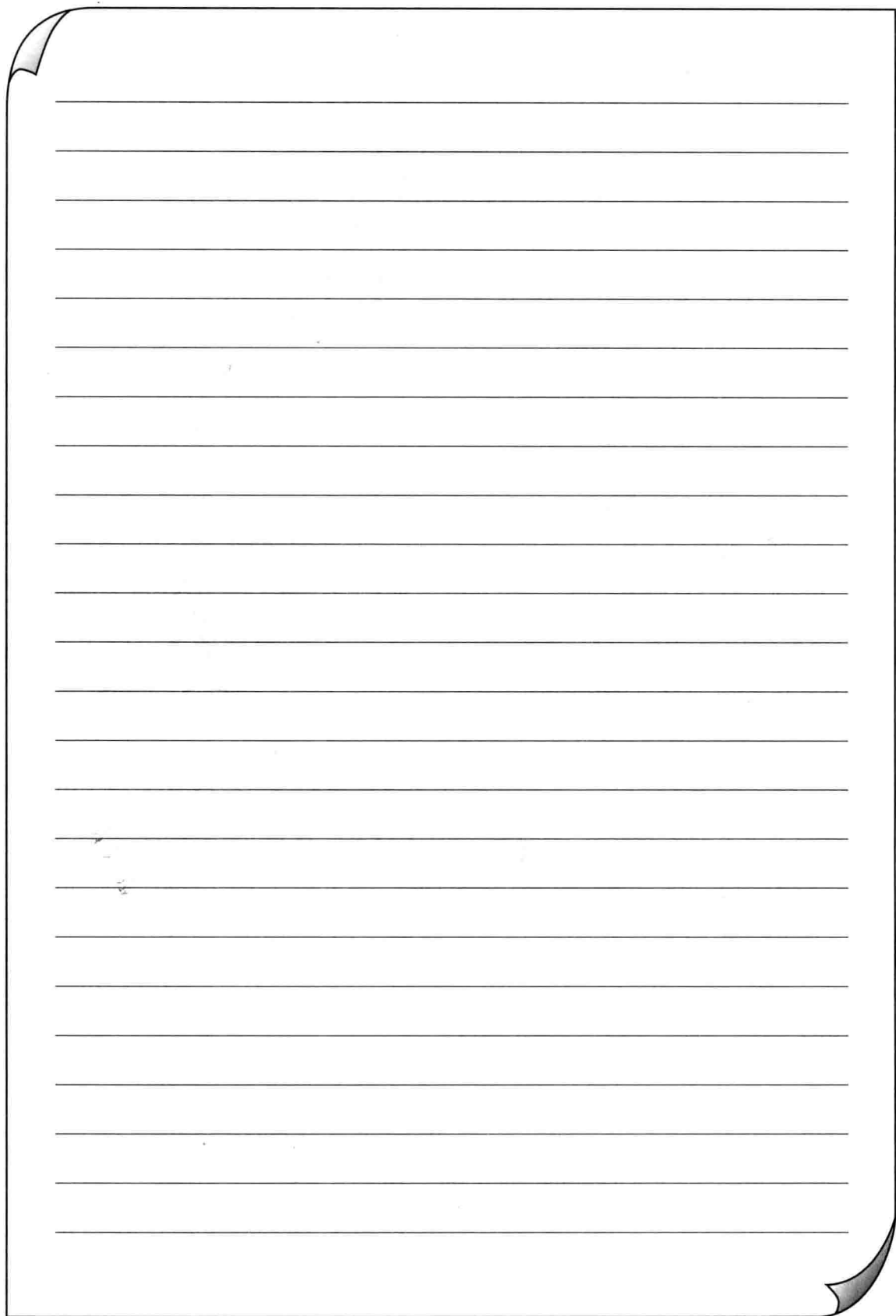
block one's view

follow suit



### Guiding Questions

1. Did you know what the movie was about when you walked out of the cinema after the show?
2. Are you complaining about the quality of the movie? What are you complaining about?
3. What did the couple sitting in front of you do when the movie started?
4. Could you concentrate on the movie after they had finished 'dinner'?
5. What did they do when a kissing scene came on the screen?
6. Which kiss was longer and more passionate, the one in the movie or the couple's?
7. Should movie-goers behave themselves in the cinema? Why?
8. What is the right place for having dinner? What is the right place for having a long and passionate kiss?
9. What kind of place is the cinema?





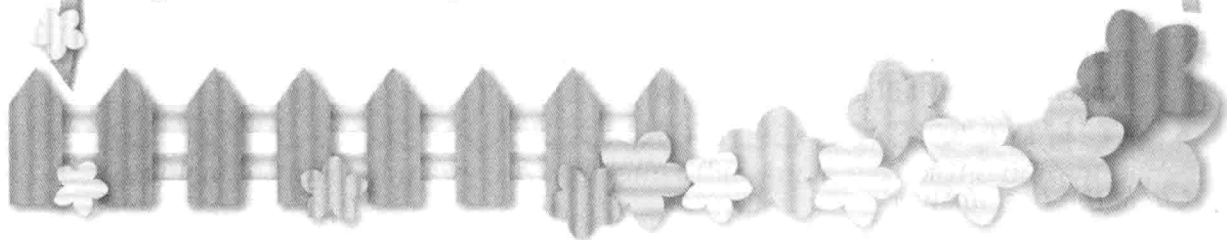
# Fun with Words

Look at the picture and choose the correct answer.



Red-letter day: a specially \_\_\_\_\_ (happy / cold / bad) day  
that will be remembered

e.g. It was a red-letter day for us when Paul married Janet.



# Unit 2

## Donation to UNICEF



### Upgrade Your Reading Skills

Read the following letter.

1 Dear friends,

Can you imagine life without safe water? Every morning, 14-year-old Augustina Ramos in Honduras gets up early to 5 transport water for her family. It takes her an hour from home to the nearest river, just to fetch a bucket of dirty water. Augustina's family know that the water they drink every day can bring them diseases. But what can 10 they do? It is the only water available for miles around.

There are 5000 children dying from unsafe water every day. Millions of children in the developing world are drinking 15 contaminated water, not knowing that it may carry diseases such as cholera or typhoid that may kill them. You can help

end this tragedy by offering a water purification tablet that costs only HK\$0.1 each. I believe safe water can really change their lives.

Please make a donation to UNICEF today. Your gift to us will help UNICEF bring clean water to children.

Yours sincerely,

*Brian Adams*

Brian Adams  
Chairman  
Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF

Circle the best answer.

1. Who is the receiver of this letter?

- A. Brian Adams
- B. Brian Adams' friends
- C. Anyone
- D. Augustina's friends

2. Why does Augustina need to get up early every morning to transport water for her family?

- A. There is not enough water.
- B. The water is dirty.

C. It is a long way from her home to the river.

D. Her parents know that the water is dirty.

3. Read lines 6–7: ... just to **fetch** a bucket of dirty water. What does '**fetch**' mean?

- A. Drink
- B. Get
- C. Push
- D. Clean



4. Read paragraph 2 lines 17–18: You can help end **this tragedy**... What does '**this tragedy**' refer to?
  - A. Millions of children are drinking contaminated water.
  - B. People do not know that unsafe water may carry diseases.
  - C. Children are dying from dirty water.
  - D. There is not enough water for all the children in the developing world.
5. How can we help the children?
  - A. Bring some clean water to them.
  - B. Buy a purification tablet and send it to UNICEP.
  - C. Send a gift to each child.
  - D. Donate some money to UNICEP.

## Grammar and Usage

### 1. Simple Past and Present Perfect Tenses

#### Top Tip

1. We use the simple past tense to talk about how / when / where an action was done in the past.  
**e.g.** John **bought** a car last week.
2. We use the present perfect tense to talk about the present result of a past action. The chief interest is not in the past, but in the present.  
**e.g.** John **has bought** a car (so now he needn't use public transport).

**A.** Complete the following exercise with either the simple past or the present perfect tense of the given verbs.

1. Yesterday \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a bad day for me. I \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) my sister's schoolbag to school instead of mine. I was punished by my teacher because I could not hand in my homework.
2. My father \_\_\_\_\_ (give) up smoking and he is now in good health.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (join) the AAK tour to Thailand last Christmas but it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a terrible experience for me.
4. Miss Chan is an experienced English teacher. We all like her very much. However, she \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a new job and is leaving us.
5. Bill is short of money; he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) out of work for months.

**B.** Complete the following dialogues with either the simple past or the present perfect tense of the given verbs.

1. James: Can I use your printer?

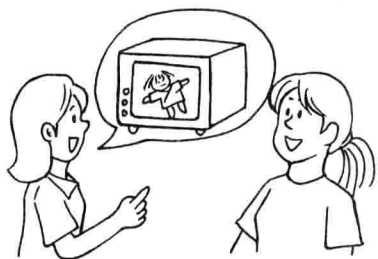
Ben: Sorry, it's not working.

James: Why didn't you call the customer service hotline for repair?

Ben: I \_\_\_\_\_ (try) several times yesterday but the line \_\_\_\_\_ (be) busy.



2.



Betty: I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) my little Dardie.

Jenny: Where did you find it?

Betty: I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) it in the oven.

Jenny: You're kidding, Betty!

Betty: I'm not. I know it's my sister who \_\_\_\_\_ (do) it.

3. Candy: Shall we go out for a movie tonight?

Tom: Sorry, I can't go with you. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / tidy) my room yet. I need to do it before my mom comes home.

Candy: Why didn't you do it this afternoon?

Tom: I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) hiking with my friends this afternoon.



4.



Johnny: Does Sam know about the study trip to Beijing?

Tom: I \_\_\_\_\_ (mention) it to him before.

Johnny: When \_\_\_\_\_ (you / tell) him?

Tom: I \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) him a week ago.

5. Sammy: Is Cindy still in Hong Kong?

Philip: No. She \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) already.  
She \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) here for a week only.

Sammy: I see. When \_\_\_\_\_ (she / leave)?

Philip: She \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) last Sunday.



6.



Andy: How's your brother? I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / see) him for a long time.

Tommy: He's fine. He \_\_\_\_\_ (emigrate) to Vancouver.

## II. Cloze Passage

Fill in each blank with ONE of the following options which best completes the meaning.

Terrence Lee 1. \_\_\_\_\_ from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) 2. \_\_\_\_\_ distinction in 1993. He is 3. \_\_\_\_\_ for his lighting designs for 4. \_\_\_\_\_. His outstanding 5. \_\_\_\_\_ for Hong Kong Ballet 6. \_\_\_\_\_ The Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella. He is 7. \_\_\_\_\_ a senior 8. \_\_\_\_\_ of the HKAPA.

1. A. promoted  
B. studied  
C. graduated  
D. completed

4. A. drama  
B. dance  
C. concerts  
D. Chinese Opera

7. A. currently  
B. at presently  
C. continuously  
D. definitely

2. A. with  
B. for  
C. on  
D. at

5. A. job  
B. work  
C. works  
D. duty

8. A. actor  
B. programmer  
C. dancer  
D. lecturer

3. A. reputation  
B. known  
C. outstanding  
D. renowned

6. A. is  
B. are  
C. can be  
D. are to be



# Upgrade Your Communication Skills

Do you know how to give advice?

## Top Tip

### Useful phrases for giving advice:

You should...

I think you should...

I don't think you should...

You ought to...

Why don't you... ?

The only thing to do is...

The best thing to do is...

It might be a good idea to...

Choose a piece of advice for each of the following problems. Begin your sentences with the given phrases in brackets.

to borrow some from your friend

try to mend it yourself

to finish your homework quickly and go to bed early

get help from your classmates

call the engineer

ask your partner to complete it for you

1. Oh, no! My computer has crashed again! (I think you should... )

---

2. My fax machine is not working. (I don't think you should... )

---

3. I always sleep late at night and fall asleep in class. (The only thing to do is... )

---

4. I need to leave early today but I still haven't finished the report. (Why don't you... )

---

5. I have problems with the Mathematics homework. (It might be a good idea to... )

---