Franklin was also an inventor. He was always asking questions to try to improve everyday life. As postmaster, he invented the odometer. The odometer measured distance, and Franklin used it to set up mail routes in the city. Franklin wore glasses and became tired of taking his glasses off to see far away, so he invented bifocals. Franklin also experimented with electricity and realized that lightning is a form of electricity. He invented the lightning rod to protect homes from lightning.

As the years passed, Franklin became a leader in the city and in the country. He signed the Declaration of Independence, which stated that the 13 colonies were a free and independent nation. He served as a minister to France during the war with England. When he returned, he signed the Constitution, which established a new government.

Benjamin Franklin died on April 17, 1790 and was buried in Philadelphia.

Track 11

Plimoth Plantation

On November 11th, 1620, a small ship of people arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts and started the second colony in America. These settlers were looking for a better life and religious freedom. Today, Plymouth is a popular destination for people who want to know more about the history of the United States.

One of the most popular attractions in Plymouth is Plimoth Plantation. Plimoth Plantation was the dream of Henry Hornblower II. When he was a boy, Hornblower used to read stories about the Pilgrims who lived in Plymouth. When he was older, he worked with archaeologists in the historic town. The archaeologists found many artifacts from the original colony. At the same time, historians were learning about the lives of the early colonists by reading their journals. In 1945, Henry Hornblower's father gave $20,000 to the Pilgrim Society to begin the reconstruction of Plimoth Plantation. The Society made reproductions of the clothes, tools, furniture, and houses of the 1620s. The museum opened in 1947 with just two reproductions of colonial homes.

Today, Plimoth Plantation looks like the original settlement of 1627. It is a living museum of reconstructed homes, shops, and gardens. Visitors can walk through the colonial town where each house looks exactly like a house of the 1620s. The museum staff are the "colonists." They wear the same kinds of clothes as the Plymouth colonists used to wear. The women cook on open fireplaces and make colonial recipes. The men grow the same vegetables and raise the same animals as people used to do in colonial times. Everyone uses the same kinds of tools as the colonists used. The "colonists" talk to visitors using the same English language and accent of the original colonists. A trip to Plimoth Plantation is a trip back in history.

UNIT 3

Track 12

1. I'm going to have to file for unemployment.
2. We're going to save money for a house.
3. My company will give me two months of maternity leave.
4. I'll email my family every day.
5. I'm going to register for courses.
6. I'll ask someone if I can't find my classroom.
7. The children are going to live with you on weekends.
8. I'm going to vote in the next election.
9. I'm going to start working in two weeks.

Track 13

Ellie: Congratulations, Julie! We're high school graduates!

Julie: Finally! I'm so excited. How do you feel, Ellie?

Ellie: I feel great! So, what are you going to do? Are you going away to college?

Julie: No, I'm not. I'm going to live at home and go to community college.

Ellie: So am I. Your mother's a teacher. Are you going to study education, too?

Julie: Me? No. I'm going to study engineering and architecture. What about you?

Ellie: I'm not sure. I'm going to talk to a counselor on Monday. Are you going to study full time?

Julie: No, I'm going to keep my job at the department store. I'm going to take classes at night.

Ellie: Too bad. We're not going to have the same schedule. I'm going to take classes during the day and work in my father's restaurant at night.

Julie: Okay. Well, good luck! Maybe I'll see you on the weekend.

Ellie: Okay! See you around.

Track 14

1. The students are writing essays.
2. I'm doing laundry tonight.
3. She's taking her daughter to the doctor on Tuesday.
4. I'm listening to the radio.
5. I'm taking two classes next semester.
6. They're watching TV.
7. He's not going to class next week.
8. We're not taking a vacation this year.
9. I'm texting a friend.

Track 15

1. I'll do it.
2. I'll get it.
3. I'll call you.
4. I'll help him.

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5. I'll be there.
6. They'll paint it.
7. She'll do it.
8. He'll answer it.
9. We'll help you.

Track 16

Laura: Thanks for arranging the baby shower, Melissa. I had a great time.

Melissa: So did I! It was a lot of fun. So, are you still looking for a house?

Laura: No, we looked at a few houses, but some of them were too expensive, and others needed a lot of work.

Melissa: So, what are you going to do? You need a bigger place.

Laura: I know, but I think we have a solution. We really like our building and our neighborhood, so we're going to look at a few bigger apartments in our building. Besides, it's close to work.

Melissa: Speaking of work, what about your job? Are you still working?

Laura: This is my last week.

Melissa: Then what are you going to do?

Laura: Well, I have two months' maternity leave, but first, Brady and I have to finish shopping for the baby.

Melissa: Where are you going to put everything? Your apartment is small.

Laura: We're going to look at apartments tonight. We might get lucky and find one we like. If we do, we're going to move as soon as possible.

Melissa: You're an only child, Laura. Do you even know how to change diapers?

Laura: I used to babysit when I was a teenager, so yes, I know how to change diapers. And Brady and I are taking a parenting class. We're learning a lot.

Melissa: Good! You know, you're going to have to make some big changes. No more late nights out on the town.

Laura: You're right. We used to go out three or four times a week, but we'll be spending a lot of time at home. Besides, I'm too tired to go out, and the baby's not even here yet.

Melissa: What about the cats? Are you going to give them away?

Laura: No! Are you crazy? But we're not going to leave them alone with the baby. That's another reason why we need more space.

Melissa: Is your mother going to help?

Laura: Yes. She's going to be a big help. Brady can only take two weeks off.

Melissa: Are you going to go back to work full time?

Laura: Mmhmm, but I'm going to work a three-day schedule. My mother will take care of the baby while I'm at work.

Melissa: That's great! You're lucky. Call me if you need help.

Laura: Thanks! I will.

Track 17

Empty Nesters

Parents whose children have recently left home are called *empty nesters*. Their little birds, or children, have flown away to start independent lives. This is a big adjustment, or change, for the parents. They often feel lonely or depressed after their children become more independent. This condition is called *empty nest syndrome*.

Sights and sounds can trigger the condition. A parent may suddenly start to feel sad. One mother said, "I drove past my son's soccer field the other day and suddenly started crying." One father reported that he had to pull over to the side of the road after he heard his daughter's favorite song on the radio. "I never thought I would miss her so much," he said.

Children do not have to move out of the house for parents to experience empty nest syndrome. When children enter high school, they may start going out on weekends and playing sports. Some parents only see their children at breakfast or on their way out of the house. They find it difficult to cope with, or handle, their children's independence, and they miss how close they used to be.

When parents do not recover from their sad feelings after a few months, they may want to seek professional help. In addition, they may look for assistance online, such as support groups, to help them through this difficult transition.

Fortunately, empty nest syndrome passes with time. Most parents actually find that an empty nest allows them more time to do the things they love, like travel. In fact, the majority of empty nesters say that they travel more frequently. Also, they don't need to plan trips around school vacation weeks, when prices are higher. In addition to travel, empty nesters can enjoy new hobbies or volunteer work. Cellphones and social media help parents to keep in touch with their children. So empty nesters can stay connected while having exciting new experiences and taking time for themselves.

UNIT 4

Track 18

Uh, let's see. What do I have to do today? Do I need stamps? Hmm… I don't think so. I bought a few yesterday. Here they are! Okay, so I have to return the shoes I bought online. I can mail the package at the post office near the laundromat. I have to do some laundry, or I won't have any clean clothes to wear. While my clothes are in the wash, I can go to the supermarket. I have to get some eggs, milk, and something for dinner. Oh, did I deposit my check? Yes, I did. Here's the deposit slip from last Saturday. And I have to call to confirm my dentist appointment. I don't remember if my appointment is at nine o'clock or ten o'clock. All right. I'm ready to go, but I have to remember to put gas in the car. The tank's almost empty.

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