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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Track 19

My name is Marcus. I'm a new driver, and I'm a terrible driver. I finally got my driving permit three months ago. It took me three tries to pass the written test. I can back up, but I can't parallel park. I can only drive with a licensed driver in my car, so my mom or dad has to be in the car with me. I'm a terrible parker, so I sometimes drive around the block a few times to find an easy space to park in. I can drive on the highway, but I feel nervous. I can't drive late at night because I'm only 17. I can't drive with the radio on because I can't concentrate. Maybe I need to take the bus.

Track 20

1. I'd better stay home. I don't feel well.
2. You'd better put the baby in the car seat.
3 She'd better call the police and report the accident.
4. We'd better take the party inside. It's beginning to rain.
5. He'd better not drive tonight. He's very tired.
6. You'd better not get a dog. Your landlord won't allow it.
7. She'd better slow down. The roads are icy.
8. I'd better not buy that. I can't afford it.

Track 21

I'm so excited! Tomorrow, my mother's taking me to the Department of Motor Vehicles to get my learner's permit. I passed the first-time driver's D.A.T.A. course in high school, so that's done. I have to complete an application with my parent's permission because I'm only 16. I have to show proof of my age and my address, too. I grew up in Honduras, but I was born here in the US, so I can show my birth certificate. People can also use a permanent resident card or citizenship papers. Finally, I also have to show my Social Security card.

I'm ready to take the written test. I have to get 80 percent correct to pass the test. There are 50 questions and signs on the test. I speak English well, but my reading is still a little weak. I don't have to take the test in English because the DMV gives the test in 3 languages, including mine, Spanish. I also have to take a vision test to check my eyesight. Then, they're going to take my picture.

After I pay $48, I can get my learner's permit. My permit is good for two years, but I have to practice for 50 hours. I was hoping that my sister could teach me to drive, but in my state, I have to have an adult 21 years or older in the car with me. That's the law for people under 18. My sister's only 19, so my mother's going to ride with me. I need to practice as much as I can before the road test, including 10 hours of practice at night.

After I complete my 50 hours, my mother will drive me to the road test if I feel I'm ready. I must have a licensed driver 21 years or older in the car with me at the test. We need to show the auto insurance card and the car's registration. Of course, I also have to show my learner's permit. Then, I can take the road test. If I pass, I'll have my driver's license. Wish me luck!

Track 22

The Written Driving Test

1. A driver approaching a flashing red traffic signal must...
   a. drive carefully without stopping.
   b. stop and then pass through.
   c. stop and get out of the car.
   d. slow down at the intersection.
2. You must stop your vehicle...
   a. at an intersection with a stop sign.
   b. where there is a red light.
   c. when a traffic officer orders you to stop.
   d. All of the above.
3. You must turn on your headlights...
   a. when you turn on your wipers.
   b. in the evening.
   c. one half hour before sunset.
   d. All of the above.
4. If you are driving behind a school bus and it shows a flashing red light, you must...
   a. slow down.
   b. slow down and pass on the left.
   c. stop at least 25 feet away.
   d. All of the above.
5. You are driving on a highway with a 65-mile-per-hour speed limit. You may legally drive...
   a. 70 miles per hour or faster.
   b. no faster than 65 miles per hour.
   c. between 65 and 70.
   d. as fast as you'd like.
6. You have a green light, but the traffic is blocking the intersection. You must...
   a. pass the traffic on the left.
   b. honk your horn.
   c. wait until the traffic clears. Then, go.
   d. pass the traffic on the right.
7. You must obey the instructions of school crossing guards...
   a. at all times.
   b. when school is closed.
   c. in the morning.
   d. when it is raining.
8. If you pass your exit on a highway, you should. . .
   a. go to the next exit.
   b. stop immediately.
   c. make a U-turn.
   d. back up slowly to the exit that you want.
9. What does this sign mean?
   a. Three-way intersection
   b. Stop
   c. Railroad crossing ahead
   d. No turns
10. What does this sign mean?
   a. One-way street ahead
   b. Pass other cars on the right.
   c. Left turn only
   d. The road ahead is curvy.

Track 23

1. accelerator
2. brake
3. bumper

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4. clutch
5. hood
6. horn
7. signal
8. steering wheel
9. gear shift
10. tires
11. trunk
12. windshield
13. windshield wipers

UNIT 5

Track 24

Carla

How do I spend my free time? I like to go dancing. My friends and I go dancing almost every weekend. Every Friday and Saturday night, we go dancing at clubs in our area. We get together with other friends, and we make new friends. We like all kinds of music, but we usually go to the clubs that play Latin music. A couple of times a month, I take a dance class. Dancing is a really good way to keep in shape. I don't need to work out at a gym. Dancing keeps me fit.

Roberta

I spend my free time taking care of my tropical fish. I have a large aquarium in my living room, and I take good care of my fish. I have many books on this topic. I also have a few friends who like keeping fish, too. We get together once a month at a coffee shop nearby and talk about what's new with our fish and what new fish we've bought. I also spend a lot of time on social media following other people who keep fish, and people follow my posts, too. Watching my fish is very relaxing after a hard day at work.

Yelena

After I retired, I was bored, and I needed something to do. One day, I saw two men playing chess in the lounge in my building. It brought back memories for me. My father taught me how to play chess, and I even joined the chess team in high school. When I was in college, I didn't have time for chess, and then I began to work, and I stopped playing chess. Now, I'm playing again. Chess is a game for people who like to think. I'm getting older, and I want to keep my mind sharp. I play every evening. Tomorrow, I'm going to start teaching my grandson how to play.

Track 25

1. They like to fish, don't they?
2. Fishing isn't expensive, is it?
3. They'll cook their fish, won't they?
4. They don't fish every day, do they?
5. They're fishing in a lake, aren't they?
6. It isn't a hot day, is it?
7. Fishing isn't tiring, is it?
8. They hope to catch a lot, don't they?

Track 26

The Yang family is now in Vancouver, Canada, staying with Victor, William's younger brother. Victor and his family moved to Vancouver three years ago. Victor decided to move to Vancouver after he visited the city on a business trip. He liked the clean streets, the natural setting, and the economic opportunities. At first, his wife, Lin, didn't want to move there, but after a couple of months, she met a few other immigrants from Hong Kong. They introduced her to more people in the neighborhood. Now, Lin likes Vancouver very much, and she has a job. She works three mornings a week at her daughter's elementary school. There are many other children there who speak Cantonese or Mandarin, so the school needs experienced teachers like Lin who can speak both languages.

Right now, Victor and Lin are taking William and his family around Vancouver. Yesterday, they walked across the Capilano Suspension Bridge and took a lot of photos. This morning, they visited Granville Island. They walked around the Public Market and enjoyed looking at the local and imported fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Then, they decided to relax and have some breakfast and coffee at the Public Market food court.

It's 12 o'clock now, and they're on their way to Gastown, the oldest part of Vancouver. They're going to take a trolley tour to learn more about this historic neighborhood. Later, they're going to stop at Queen Elizabeth Park and visit the Rose Garden. They're also going to visit the Vancouver Aquarium. After that, they're going to have dinner in Chinatown with some friends. William and his family are having a wonderful time. They can't wait until Victor and his family come to San Francisco next year.

Track 27

Community Gardening

In January, seed catalogs begin to arrive at homes across the United States. Hardware stores start selling seeds and plants. Gardening is a very popular hobby in this country. For some people, it is not just a relaxing activity, but also an economic bonus.

In many cities throughout the United States, there are community garden programs. According to the American Community Gardening Association, a community garden is "any piece of land gardened by a group of people." Residents who do not have yards where they can start gardens can grow vegetables and flowers in parks, on vacant city lots, or in other empty spaces in their neighborhoods. However, residents might need permission to start a garden on city property. Among the benefits of community gardening are the beautification of neighborhoods, the social interaction between neighbors in the gardens, and the ability of families to save money on produce.

The gardens are usually organized by community members, and they help other residents select tools, seeds, plants, and other materials. Sometimes there is a children's program, which uses the gardens to teach elementary school students about science and math. Youth can also participate by helping with the gardening or giving tours to people who visit the gardens. Gardening can teach residents about healthy food, too. As you can see, a community garden does more than just grow fruits, flowers, and vegetables.

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