

# 1 Of greens, grass and growing



## In this unit you are going to ...

- |          |   |                        |
|----------|---|------------------------|
| 3 d, 6 d | » describe what a front lawn symbolises, consider gardening as a school subject   | <i>Speaking</i>        |
| 3 b      | » read an article about the American front yard, about homesteading skills  | <i>Reading</i>         |
| 3 g, 4 f | » write an article on your view of homeowner associations, a blog comment on life without a fridge  | <i>Writing</i>         |
| 4 d      | » listen to a podcast on victory gardens, people explaining why they homestead  | <i>Listening</i>       |
| 2 b, 3 e | » complete a text about an exhibition<br>» practise structures: verb forms<br>» boost your vocabulary: gardening idioms, talking about garden rules, paying compliments | <i>Language in use</i> |

1

## Warm-up: digging it

1 a

### Pick two

**Speaking**

Imagine you've been given a piece of land of 80 m<sup>2</sup> for free and you can choose two things that will be installed for you there, before you start using / working on your allotment. Get into pairs and each pick your two, justifying your choices.

1

30 m<sup>2</sup> Victorian style green house



2

all 80 m<sup>2</sup> dug up, ready for planting



3

two composts – one with good compost soil, the other one started



4

an apple tree and a cherry tree



**pick two**

5

small gardening hut with wood-burning oven inside



6

a hedge around two sides made up of various berry bushes



7

shady tree with a bench underneath



8

enough baby plants for your first year of vegetables






## Gardening idioms

Work through this list of gardening idioms in A. First talk in class about their literal meaning. Then connect the idioms in A with their idiomatic meaning in B and check your answers with your teacher.

1 b

Vocabulary

VocabBooster

	A		B	
	to cherry-pick	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	to restore a relationship, to resolve a conflict
	sth doesn't grow on trees	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	to choose only the best people / things in an unfair manner
	to hit the hay	3		
	to nip sth in the bud	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	sth is difficult to get
	to not see the wood for the trees	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	is said to avoid bad luck (usually includes knocking)
			<input type="checkbox"/>	to go to bed
	to turn over a new leaf	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	to avoid getting to the point, to waste time
	touch wood	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	to make a fresh start
	the grass is always greener on the other side	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	other people's lives / living situations always seem better
	to mend fences	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	to stop sth at an early stage
	to beat around the bush	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	to do sth that will cause sth to happen in the future
	to sow the / a seed of	11	<input type="checkbox"/>	to be unable to see the whole situation because you're focused on the details

## You don't need to talk about a garden

Idioms are a great way to improve your style and can be used in texts about any topic. In this text about nurses replace the underlined parts with the gardening idioms from the VocabBooster in 1 b. You're supposed to use each idiom once.

1 c

Vocabulary

### Nurses are hard to find<sup>1</sup>

Go to a hospital and – thankfully<sup>2</sup> – find nurses to care for you. Still, that is. Because there's no avoiding the issue or putting it into nice words<sup>3</sup>: We are running out of nurses.

The reasons for this shortage are not surprising in the least. For decades nurses have been forced to cope with rising demands on documentation, irregular work hours and ever rising patient numbers while earning, well ...

Thus the motivation of many newly trained nurses is stopped at the very beginning<sup>4</sup>, resulting in some leaving their job for another or moving into GP surgeries. And this is not because other jobs always seem better<sup>5</sup> (though often more lucrative), it's simply so they get to see their family on a regular basis and will not feel half-dead before they go to sleep<sup>6</sup>.

Governing bodies ignored the issue for too long – decades ago, so the stories go, you could even choose only the best<sup>7</sup> nurses, so abundant were they. But promises unfulfilled have left deep wounds. Therefore, it's time to repair the relationship<sup>8</sup> and begin anew<sup>9</sup>. Time to give people something to ensure hope<sup>10</sup>, for all of us. Time to honestly consult with nursing staff.

However, this alone won't do. The truth is: our health system has hundreds of issues to deal with and they are all linked. But it seems that politicians can't see the bigger picture<sup>11</sup>. Or do they simply not want to see it?

## What was the task?

Read the text in 1 c again and try to figure out what the writing prompt for the text could have been. Consider text type and bullet points.

1 d

Follow-up

# Of greens, grass and growing

Unit  
1

2

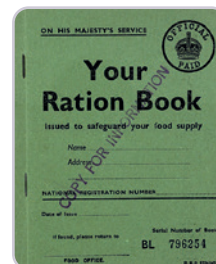
## Gardening – a thing of the past?

2 a

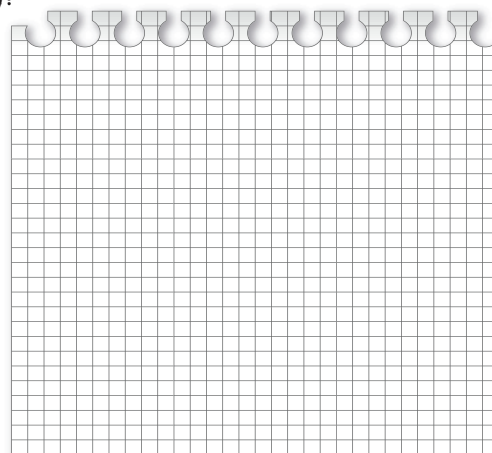
Lead-in

### Gardens as part of war

During World War I (WW I) and World War II (WW II) people were encouraged to “grow their own”. Before you learn more about this, answer this quiz to the best of your knowledge and guess if you have no idea. Then check your answers with your teacher.



1. How long was food rationed in the UK (WW II)?
2. In preparation of rationing, the University of Cambridge studied restricted diets. What was the first mandated vitamin / mineral to be added to food?
3. What effect did rationing have on the British population?
4. When was food rationed in the US?
5. Who was against Eleanor Roosevelt's victory garden in the White House during WW II?
6. Which events were forbidden during the time of rationing in the US?



2 b

Language in use

### An exhibition about “Dig for Victory”

Read the text about how a museum is reflecting on a WW II gardening campaign. Some words are missing. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (1–10). Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

BE



#### “Dig for Victory” at Trengwainton

Trengwainton Gardens are to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war-time “Dig for Victory” campaign by creating an (0) \_\_\_ “Dig for Victory” allotment on land near where the gardens are based.

An event to launch the project will take (1) \_\_\_ on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> of September. The National Trust are (2) \_\_\_ to meet anyone who has first-hand experience of the original campaign on the day. This will also (3) \_\_\_ with free entry to the garden for Heritage Open Day.

The “Dig for Victory” campaign was started in September 1940 when the government (4) \_\_\_ that much of the nation's food could be grown at home, (5) \_\_\_ freeing up Britain's beleaguered merchant

ships for the importation of much-needed war materials. Everyone at home in England was asked to grow as much food as possible for the nation.


The campaign was launched by one of the first gardening media celebrities, Mr Middleton, on his radio show. He encouraged people to take (6) \_\_\_ an allotment and grow vegetables, such as leeks and sprouts, instead of only growing short-lived summer crops. Potatoes were also encouraged because of their long-term storage (7) \_\_\_. The campaign resulted in a flood of information leaflets, newspaper columns and radio broadcasts aimed at people who had no (8) \_\_\_ experience of gardening. Before long practically every available inch of Britain was transformed into a productive allotment, bristling with seasonal varieties of fruit and vegetables, many of which have inexplicably become ignored by today's gardeners, despite their good flavour and in-built resilience to disease and pests.

beleaguered:  
mitgenommen,  
angeschlagen

Project manager Paul Bonnington says, “To replicate the original campaign as closely as possible our allotment will (9) \_\_\_ only original war-time species of fruit and vegetables – mostly regarded now as ‘heirloom’ varieties. We’ll also use only wartime ‘Dig for Victory’ advice leaflets and contemporary gardening books and methods for guidance. The project has great potential for education and will also demonstrate, in this time of rising prices and global warming, it’s still possible to feed ourselves without (10) \_\_\_ on food which has travelled thousands of miles.”

- |    |   |          |              |            |   |           |   |            |
|----|---|----------|--------------|------------|---|-----------|---|------------|
| 0  | A | origin   | <del>B</del> | authentic  | C | realistic | D | old        |
| 1  | A | aback    | B            | off        | C | after     | D | place      |
| 2  | A | looking  | B            | arranged   | C | keen      | D | able       |
| 3  | A | begin    | B            | get along  | C | agree     | D | coincide   |
| 4  | A | realised | B            | recognized | C | recounted | D | replicated |
| 5  | A | so       | B            | for        | C | yet       | D | thus       |
| 6  | A | over     | B            | up         | C | on        | D | off        |
| 7  | A | option   | B            | potential  | C | ability   | D | capacity   |
| 8  | A | prior    | B            | before     | C | precedent | D | earlier    |
| 9  | A | grow     | B            | be planted | C | contain   | D | take in    |
| 10 | A | relying  | B            | committing | C | reckoning | D | deciding   |

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B										

 **Test format**  
**Multiple choice**  
 » page XY

### Victory gardens – still a thing

Listen to this podcast presenter talk about her victory garden to get an overall idea of what a victory garden is (not). Do this with your books closed. Then try to collect as many details as you can in class. After this, listen to the recording again. Have a look at the following statements (1–7) and tick whether they are true (T) or false (F). Provide the correct answer for the wrong statements.

**2 c**  
**Listening**

 **Track 1**

	Statement	T	F	Correct statement
1	The victory garden project was just about having enough food for everyone.			
2	A true victory gardener tries to produce a lot while spending very little.			
3	You need half a ton of fruit and half a ton of vegetables per person per year.			
4	During a crisis you should consider more than just a breakdown of food supplies.			
5	When there are restrictions, your best chance is to use raised beds.			
6	You should plant as soon as you pick.			
7	Freezers are the best option to keep food.			

# Of greens, grass and growing

## 3 The American front yard

Times and gardens have changed a lot since the 1940s. Most Americans these days have a landscape garden in mind – a lawn, to be more specific, – rather than veggie patches.



### 3 a The first step onto the front lawn

**Vocabulary**

Before you read the text about why so many American single-family homes have a large front lawn, work on these words / phrases. Try to come up with as many explanations as possible, then check your answers in class.

**VocabBooster**

word / phrase	explanation
to congregate somewhere	
conspicuously	
a rigid requirement	
the root of sth	
suburb / suburban	
obsession	
to join forces	
a crop	
spacious	

### 3 b Thoughts about the front lawn

**Reading**

Read this article about why America has so many front lawns. Answer the questions (1–6) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

AE

## A case against the American front lawn

municipality:  
town with  
its own local  
government

July 4<sup>th</sup> is a time when American families across the country congregate in their backyards for fireworks and burgers. Conspicuously absent from the party is the front yard. Unless you're on the local parade route, no one really hangs out in the front yard. And it's not for lack of space. The American suburban landscape is dominated by homes set far back off the sidewalk, separated by a front yard almost exclusively of grass, an ecologically monoculture free from flowerbeds or shrubs. And in most areas, people don't seem to actually hang out or play on their front lawns; often, the only human activity you see is the homeowner or landscaper engaged in noisy and tedious lawn maintenance and mowing. So why do Americans have such big front lawns? In most municipalities, builders are actually required to follow rigid "setback" requirements, meaning that residents are stuck with a big front lawn whether they want it or not. But America's love affair with the front lawn has deeper cultural roots that reflect a tension in the national psyche between the desire to stand out and the weakness for cultural conformity. It all began as a reaction to America's English roots. In 19<sup>th</sup> century England, lawns were exclusive to huge wealthy estates. Suburban planners responded by creating the front lawn as the stage upon which Americans could present the ultimate symbol of democratic and economic success: the home. Everyone could have a mini-estate of sorts, set off grandly from the

road. Yet, lawns also became a symbol of community and equality; with each yard carved out in a cookie cutter fashion to create a better communal picture of the street.

This obsession with a neatly trimmed front lawn really took off in the post-war 1950s, when the American suburban dream of homeownership joined forces with new power mowers as well as pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.



This was when the front lawn became less about national pride in economic success and more about a kind of suburban conformity. Abraham Levitt wrote that “A fine carpet of green grass stamps the inhabitants as good neighbors, as desirable citizens.” Communities began demanding that every home kept uniformly trimmed lawns; failure to do so was seen as subversive and anti-community.

For members of the “anti-lawn” movement (yes, there is one), the American front lawn is not only boring and uninspired but an environmental hazard, as lawns receive on average more pesticides and herbicides per acre than any other crop. And a *New Yorker* article points out that these lawn chemicals, of course, end up in our streams and lakes, creating “dead zones”. And then there is the issue of water usage. The EPA estimates nearly a third of all residential water use in the country goes toward landscaping our lawns.

Anti-lawn crusaders campaign to abolish “set-back” laws. They urge residents to plant trees, flowers and vegetables or simply ground cover on their grassy lawns.

Ironically, perhaps we should look back to the Old World for some inspiration. In most European towns and suburbs, homes are set much closer to the road, with a much smaller front garden dominated by fences, hedges and functional patios. In European yards, a grassy lawn is not the focus but only a backdrop for flowerbeds and trees. The spacious private yard lies in the back, where families play, eat and socialize.

55

fertilizer:  
Dünger

60

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency (US)

65

crusader: campaigner; literally Kreuzfahrer

70

75

0	What might people use the front yard for? (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	watch July 4 <sup>th</sup> parade
1	What does happen in every front yard?	
2	Why do people build large front yards?	
3	What do the large front lawns remind of?	
4	What did the front lawn come to symbolise post WW II?	
5	How are lawns endangering bodies of water? (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	
6	What is better about the smaller European front yards? (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	



**Test format**  
**Note form**  
» page XY

### Quick reaction

Get into pairs and without any planning, express your feeling and thoughts on the quote taken from the text above and speculate who this man was. Then look him up online.

“A fine carpet of green grass stamps the inhabitants as good neighbors, as desirable citizens.” – Abraham Levitt, 1880–1962, founder of Levitt&Sons

3 c

Follow-up



# Of greens, grass and growing

Unit  
1

3 d  
Speaking

Test format  
Individual long  
turn  
» page XY

## Front lawns aren't the only symbol of wealth



Give a five-minute talk on symbols of wealth in which you

- » explain which of the pictures above symbolises wealth the most to you,
- » speculate what motivates front-of-house displays (of wealth),
- » construct a particularly annoying front-of-house display of wealth.

3 e  
Language in use

## What are you allowed to do on your property?

What your property looks like, however, may not always be up to you. Many residential areas in the US are governed by homeowner associations (HOAs).

Read the text about what HOAs are. Some words are missing. Use the words in brackets to form the missing word for each gap (1–9). Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.



AE

### Homeowner Associations

An HOA, or homeowners' association, is a self-governing organization in "common-interest" communities where homeowners pay fees to maintain the units or neighborhood. HOAs are (0) \_\_\_ **(type)** run by resident homeowners, unpaid volunteers who are elected to a board of directors that (1) \_\_\_ **(see)** the HOA's management.

Properties within an HOA are governed by a (2) \_\_\_ **(collect)** set of rules and bylaws that are (3) \_\_\_ **(force)** by the association. Each property owner is required to pay HOA fees that cover use and maintenance of (4) \_\_\_ **(community)** areas. These areas can include swimming pools, parks, parking lots and roads, as well as communal lawn maintenance and landscaping.

#### Pros

- » Your neighborhood will be neat and well-maintained, with minimal effort on your end.
- » Your property value will (5) \_\_\_ **(like)** benefit from more (6) \_\_\_ **(stable)** due to rules governing the maintenance and appearance of homes.
- » An HOA board will hear and mediate disputes between neighbors for property-related issues that violate the rules (barking dogs, trashed yards, fence disputes ...).

#### Cons

- » You might be limited to certain design schemes or paint colors, or even the number of and type of pets you are (7) \_\_\_ **(permit)** to have.
- » HOA fees can stretch your monthly housing budget, (8) \_\_\_ **(special)** if home prices are already steep in your area.
- » Some HOAs can be (9) \_\_\_ **(aggression)** about sending violation notices for the slightest infractions.

Write your answers here:

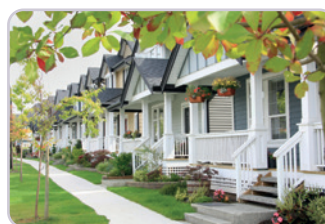
0	typically	5	
1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	



Test format  
Word formation  
» page XY

### Crazy rules?

Get into pairs of three and discuss these HOA rules from different neighbourhoods. Try to rank them from most to least acceptable for your group. Can you think of modifications that would make them okay for you? Then compare your results in class.



3 f

Speaking

- (A) The fee for an overnight guest is \$ 10, if they use parking that's an additional \$ 5.
- (B) No bikes on the balconies. Don't have a garage to keep it? Put it in your flat.
- (C) The pet restriction is: maximum of 15 pounds per home. (That's 6.8 kilograms.)
- (D) Trash is picked up on Thursdays, but you mustn't put your rubbish out on Wednesday night – midnight is the earliest you're allowed to.
- (E) You are not allowed to cut your tree under any circumstances unless you have acquired a permit beforehand.
- (F) Pets? Hamsters and the like are too exotic, you can have one dog, but as many cats as you like.
- (G) It is forbidden to share towels at the pool. Any person who is seen without a towel of their own is fined \$ 25.
- (H) Garage doors may only be open for a maximum of five minutes.

### HOA rules in Austria?

You recently came across a reel on Instagram showing the rants and criticism HOAs receive daily. It linked you to a local American newspaper doing a series on HOAs. They have called for articles with an international perspective to contribute to their series.

**Home|own|er As|so|cia|tion:** the means whereby people who own homes are able to transfer their rights to the neighborhood control freaks.

3 g

Writing



Writing reference  
Article  
» page XY

You have decided to send in an article. In your **article** you should:

- » outline which HOA rules would be okay for you
- » illustrate what picture HOAs and their rules paint of US society
- » consider how Austrians would react to such rules

Give your article **a title**. Write around **400 words**.



# Of greens, grass and growing

4

## Homesteading

While the majority keeps a green front lawn, more and more Americans are choosing “the simple life” by moving into the countryside and distancing themselves from the cities.

4 a

### The Homestead Act

Reading

Read this text about the original Homestead Act. Then get into groups of three and pick two of the questions below. First guess the answers and give reasons, taking notes as you do so. Then find the actual answers online. Compare your guesses and the actual answers in class.



AE

## The Homestead Act – creating prosperity in America

In 1852 a political group called the Free Soil Party, demanded free homesteads for the people, so they could make a living for their families. But it was not until May 20, 1862, that the free Homestead Act was

finally passed and signed by then President Abraham Lincoln.

Any homesteader could have 160 acres of undeveloped land by living on it for five years and paying 18 dollars in fees. They were also required to build a home, make improvements and farm the land. However, usually the land that was available was in too poor shape to farm on, especially in the middle of the plains where droughts were common occurrences. Because of hardships like these, not many families actually stayed for the entire five years.



By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, over 570 million acres remained open to settlement, but very little of this was usable for agriculture. As the Frontier moved west onto the arid Great Plains, the size

of a homestead was increased to 640 acres. In Wyoming, Montana and Colorado homesteading cut into the access of the large ranches to the public domain where thousands of cattle grazed upon the open range, a practice called free grazing. At times tensions escalated into violence, conflicts called range wars.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 ended homesteading. The only exception to this new policy was Alaska, for which the law allowed homesteading until 1986.

1. What can you find out about the first claimed homestead?
2. How do the 18 dollars then compare to today?
3. How could you shorten the required five years?
4. Who exactly could claim a homestead?
5. How large are 640 / 160 acres?
6. How much of a war was the Johnson County War in Wyoming?
7. Who took unrightful advantage of the Homestead Act?
8. Who was the last person to receive a homestead?
9. How much land (in km<sup>2</sup> and percentage) was claimed in total?

4 b

### A modern homestead

Vocabulary

Today increasing numbers of people are dreaming of “the simple life”, even though it is still far from simple to run a homestead. Therefore the term homesteading has taken on a new meaning. Complete this definition by putting the words into the correct blanks.

sustainable • dependency • off-grid • remote • preservation • home remedies • raising • renewable • professional

VocabBooster

Homesteading is a lifestyle of self-sufficiency. It is characterised by growing and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> your own food, home \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> of food, and essentially doing as much as you can on your own, rather than calling for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> help. Homesteaders reduce their \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> upon the commercial food supply chain to a varying degree. While some use their urban back yard to practice green \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> living the best they can, others choose to live \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>. Therefore modern homesteaders often use \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> energy options including solar and wind power. For many the goal is a country homestead where they leave everything far behind and move to a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> piece of land, build their homes by themselves, collect their own water and aim to not use grocery stores any more. Additionally, many tend to turn to herbs and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> when they get sick.

Are you sure about that ...?

Imagine your friend decided to start a homestead right after leaving school, but wasn't prepared to listen to your concerns. So you write them a letter (they are preparing for off-grid life and have given up on all electronic forms of communication) expressing your concerns, giving examples of tough situations and emphasising the need to prepare for their plan properly. Write around 350 words.





4 c  
Writing

Why do people today choose to homestead?

You are going to listen to four people speaking about what they enjoy about living on a homestead. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, match the speakers (1–4) with their statements (A–J). There are two extra statements that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Why do you homestead?

	Speaker 1	0	F	1	
	Speaker 2	2		3	
	Speaker 3	4		5	
	Speaker 4	6		7	

4 d  
Listening

Track 2

Test format  
Multiple matching  
» page XY

- A Parenting is more carefree on a homestead.
- B When you have problems, neighbours are there to help.
- C Homesteading has improved what we put into your mouths.
- D Personal growth is one of the benefits of homesteading.
- E Making your own food is the best thing ever.
- ~~F~~ It's an improvement on our previous life.
- G Everyday problems no longer worry us.
- H Food gets a new meaning when you make it yourself.
- I It's possible to grow all your food and eat a varied diet.
- J Not everything works the first time round.

# Of greens, grass and growing

Unit  
1

4 e

Structures

## Life without a fridge

Living self-sufficiently can mean many things. Complete this blog post about choosing to live without a fridge by putting the verbs in brackets into their correct form. Feel free to add modal verbs (*would, have to ...*) to make it sound right to you.

### AE We now live without any refrigeration

About a year ago, we cranked our courage up and took a big step in the direction of self-sufficiency: we \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> (begin, live) without any refrigeration. And we found that the changeover to a fridgeless existence was not as hard as we \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> (imagine). An initial big aid was the fact that we're almost entirely food self-sufficient. Virtually everything we eat \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> (provide) fresh on a day-to-day basis. For example, our milk \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> (consume) within hours of the time it comes from the cow, and what's left over is made into butter and cheese.

Of course, for most folks the list of refrigerables goes beyond milk. Here's how we deal with other common edibles:

Fresh fruits and vegetables \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> (tend, keep) very well without refrigeration. In fact, some fruits require none at all! Grapes \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> (store) for quite some time if their stems are placed in wet sand.

\_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> (store) leftovers without a refrigerator \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> (prove, not) to be a problem at all. We \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> (leave, simply) them on a corner of our wood-burning cookstove – where they stayed toasty-warm and reasonably well-preserved – until a subsequent meal.

To avoid waste, we put up our condiments in small jars so that we \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> (consume) the whole contents of an opened container within a day or so.

We \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> (learn) the hard way that many edibles \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> (keep, not) as long without refrigeration as with it. Interestingly enough, though, we \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> (lose, not) as much food to spoilage now as we did when we had our fridges. That's because everything we consume is fresh and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> (sit) out in the open, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15</sup> (tempt) us either to A) eat it immediately or B) cut it up to dry on our drying racks.

To sum up then, our first days without refrigeration \_\_\_\_\_<sup>16</sup> (call, only) "calamitous". But now we can honestly say that if we had our refrigerators back, we \_\_\_\_\_<sup>17</sup> (know, not) what to put in them! We might enjoy the ice occasionally, but that \_\_\_\_\_<sup>18</sup> (make, hardly) the expense worthwhile.

4 f

Writing

### Would you live without a fridge?

The magazine *Ways of Living* is going to publish an issue on the necessity of electricity. It is asking for essays to show different aspects and points of view. A variety of the essays will be published in the issue. The topic is:



#### Is having a kitchen without electricity a good idea?

You have decided to send in an essay. In your essay you should discuss the effects of using no electricity in your kitchen on

- » food safety
- » personal comfort and habits
- » being part of mainstream society

Give your essay a **title**. Write around **400 words**.

Best Shots AHS. Student's book 8  
© Verlag Hölder-Pichler-Tempsky

Writing reference  
Essay  
» page XY

## Not every homesteader lives without a fridge

A homesteader's life may be different from what you are used to, but not all of them live without a fridge. Read about some of the aspects that are often part of living on a rural homestead. For each paragraph try to put the sentences into the most logical order.

4 g

Reading

### Making cheese

\_\_\_ Go for something like ricotta, cream cheese, crème fraîche and cottage cheese. \_\_\_ Learn from my mistakes and don't start with blue cheese. \_\_\_ This will ease your way into feta and the hard cheeses. \_\_\_ Rather start with some simple DIY cheeses.

AE

### DIY skincare products

\_\_\_ That deodorant recipe didn't work? \_\_\_ Not an issue for the budget, since you made it and the ingredients only cost a few pennies. \_\_\_ When you make DIY skincare products, *you* control the ingredients. \_\_\_ But what is even better: you can tweak the recipes to suit your needs. \_\_\_ No problem, melt it down and start over and add different oils to it.



### Beekeeping

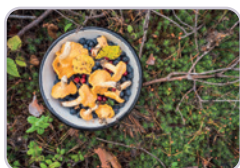
\_\_\_ It can be used for anything from sweetening food and making money by selling the honey to using it as an antibacterial salve in a pinch. \_\_\_ Some bees also produce honey, which is a great multipurpose item for the homestead. \_\_\_ Beeswax is another versatile bee product, useful for skin care products, candles, and many other things. \_\_\_ Bees are essential for the pollination of most crops.

### Butchering chicken

\_\_\_ Whether it's homegrown meat chickens, or that noisy rooster, a good homesteading skill to have is to know how to butcher your own chicken. \_\_\_ This was also a money-saving skill for us to learn as we raise our own meat chickens and butchering them ourselves meant we saved \$3 per bird. \_\_\_ We had to learn how to butcher a chicken for ourselves, and that was a scary thing the first time. \_\_\_ But we pulled up our big kid pants and got to work.

### Foraging

\_\_\_ When you forage, you head out into the wild to look for berries and mushrooms you can eat. \_\_\_ In addition to gardening, foraging is another way you'll be able to get the food you need when you homestead. \_\_\_ You can also forage for plants to help make herbal remedies. \_\_\_ Since there are poisonous berries, mushrooms, and plants out there, knowing how to identify the right ones is incredibly important!



### Who should attend which workshop?

For this fieldtrip to a homestead, you get to pick the workshops for one another. Put all names of students into a hat and let everyone draw a name. Prepare to give a three-minute presentation on your decision in which you

- » recall situations that played a part in your choice, backing up your choice with plenty of reasons,
- » elaborate why the other options are unsuitable,
- » illustrate how this skill will be useful in their future life even if they don't become homesteaders.



4 h

Follow-up

## Of greens, grass and growing

5

### Gardens to kill

Gardens have a different meaning to everyone. Some like carefully cultivated beauty, others focus on having things they can eat. Yet in literature there's another group of people: those who find their murder weapons around the garden – poisons. Agatha Christie in particular is well-known for using poisons in her murder mysteries.



Dame Agatha Christie  
(1890–1978)

5 a

### Agatha Christie's poisons

Listening

Listen to the beginning of a podcast about the famous British author. While listening write down all poisons mentioned on the labels of the pharmacy bottles below.

Track 3



5 b

### Which poison was it?

Speaking

Read the passage below taken from *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie. Find out which poison was used to kill Mrs Inglethorp by researching the substances mentioned in 5 a.

A little context: Captain Arthur Hastings is describing what happened while he was visiting his friend John Cavendish who is married to Mary Cavendish. John and Lawrence are brothers, their father is Alfred and Mrs Inglethorp is their stepmother. Cynthia is the daughter of a deceased friend of the family and works as a nurse.

We [Captain Hastings and John Cavendish] strained and heaved together. The framework of the door was solid, and for a long time it resisted our efforts, but at last we felt it give beneath our weight, and finally, with a resounding crash, it was burst open.

We stumbled in together, Lawrence still holding his candle. Mrs Inglethorp was lying on the bed, her whole form agitated by violent convulsions, in one of which she must have overturned the table beside her. As we entered, however, her limbs relaxed, and she fell back upon the pillows. John strode across the room, and lit the gas. Turning to Annie, one of the housemaids, he sent her downstairs to the dining-room for

brandy. The violence of Mrs Inglethorp's attack seemed to be passing. She was able to speak in short gasps, "Better now – very sudden – stupid of me – to lock myself in."

A shadow fell on the bed and, looking up, I saw Mary Cavendish standing near the door with her arm around Cynthia. She seemed to be supporting the girl, who looked utterly dazed and unlike herself.

A strangled cry from the bed startled me. A fresh access of pain seized the unfortunate old lady. The convulsions were of a violence terrible to behold. Everything was confusion. We thronged round her, powerless to help or alleviate. A final convulsion lifted her from the bed,

to light the gas:  
to light the gas  
lamp, to make  
light

until she appeared to rest upon her head and her heels, with her body arched in an extraordinary manner. In vain Mary and John tried to administer more brandy. The moments flew.

35 Again the body arched itself in that peculiar fashion.

At that moment, Dr Bauerstein pushed his way authoritatively into the room. For one instant he stopped dead, staring at the figure on the bed, and, at the same instant, Mrs Inglethorp

40 cried out in a strangled voice, her eyes fixed on the doctor: "Alfred-Alfred- -" Then she fell back motionless on the pillows.

With a stride, the doctor reached the bed, and

seizing her arms worked them energetically, 45 applying what I knew to be artificial respiration. He issued a few short sharp orders to the servants. An imperious wave of his hand drove us all to the door. We watched him, fascinated, though I think we all knew in our hearts 50 that it was too late, and that nothing could be done now. I could see by the expression on his face that he himself had little hope.

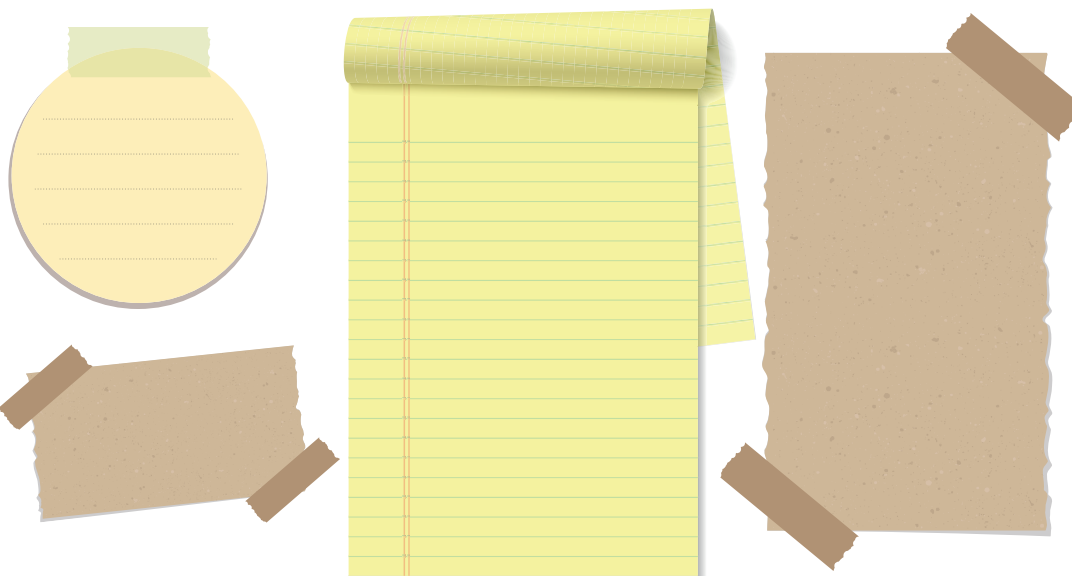
Finally he abandoned his task, shaking his head gravely.



Moving the arms in a particular way is an old form of resuscitation. Mouth-to-mouth only gained recognition in the 1950s.

### The Tuesday Night Club

In this collection of short stories, a group of six friends including Miss Marple meets every Tuesday evening and each week one of the members has to tell a real mystery that the remainder of the group needs to solve. Listen to the mystery that is told on the first night by Sir Henry Clithering, an ex-Commissioner of Scotland Yard. Take notes about suspects, their motives, opportunities and any other clues that seem important to you.



#### 5 c Listening

#### Track 4

If you happen to know the solutions – yay for reading the book! – please do not give spoilers, but stay involved in the discussion.

banting: old-fashioned word for dieting

a bowl of cornflour: a thin kind of pudding, made from milk, cornflour and sugar

Take a few minutes on your own to decide who you think the murderer is. You also need to come up with a possible motive and have a theory on how the victim was poisoned.

### Your own Tuesday Night Club

Now get into groups of six and discuss your thoughts. Give plenty of reasons for your theory and find holes in the others' stories.

### What Miss Marple figured out

Listen to the end of the short story *The Tuesday Night Club* to find out what really happened. Did anyone in class guess the solution?

#### 5 d Speaking

#### 5 e Listening

#### Track 5

# Of greens, grass and growing

## 6 Is a garden a thing for everyone?

### 6 a Complimenting

#### Vocabulary

With people going garden-crazy, ever so often a friend will post a picture of their proudest gardening moment on social media and while some clearly have a green thumb and are great garden designers, others, well, are just not. In any case, you may feel obliged to say something nice. Come up with compliments using the phrases in the VocabBooster for each picture. Try to compliment different aspects of what is shown with each phrase.



#### VocabBooster

Can't wait to ...  
Such ...  
What a / an ...  
I can't believe that is ...  
You can be proud of ...

I have to admit ...  
This is such a ...  
I must say ...  
I admire your ability to ...  
I just love what you have done to ...

### 6 b Gardening is great for you

#### Reading

It's no surprise that gardening is good for you. But just how good is it? Read this information given on a medical website. For the last two headings guess what reason / backup is given for the claim.

**Seven surprising health benefits of gardening**

**1. Gardening can build self-esteem.**  
Maybe you don't think you were born with a green thumb, but after tilling, planting, nurturing and harvesting plants, you might see a slightly different person in the mirror: a person who can grow things and is a little more in tune with the earth. It always feels good to accomplish new tasks, and if you can grow a garden, what can't you do?

**2. Gardening reduces stress.**  
Gardening can help reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. "Gardening gives you a chance to focus on something and outs your mind to work with a goal and a task in mind," Dr Hutchins says, "which is helpful especially now with so much illness and death and talk of death, just to see things growing and things thriving."

**3. Gardening can make you happy.**  
Getting dirt under your nails while digging in the ground can make you pretty happy. In fact, inhaling *Mycobacterium vaccae*, a healthy bacterium that lives in soil, can increase levels of serotonin and reduce anxiety.

#### 4. Gardening is good for the whole family.

Gardening can be a solo activity or an opportunity for bonding with your family and friends. The happiness and stress relief that gardening provides is a great thing to share with loved ones. Also, gardening has special benefits for kids. Early exposure to dirt has been linked to numerous health benefits, from reducing allergies to autoimmune diseases.

#### 5. Gardening can give you a boost of vitamin D.

A healthy dose of vitamin D increases your calcium levels, which benefits your bones and immune system. In a study exposure to sunlight helped older adults achieve adequate amounts of vitamin D. Just don't forget your sunscreen.

#### 6. Growing your own food can help you eat healthier.

#### 7. Gardening is good for your heart.

### Gardening is horrible for you

No matter how good it is for you, some people just hate gardening. Get into groups of three and undermine every single benefit mentioned in 6 b. Think of reasons why gardening is bad for you, your health, your family ... Then share your criticism in class.

### Compulsory gardening

Recently there's been a discussion about introducing gardening as a subject in Austrian schools. A radio show that is all about showing different points of view has invited you and your partner to join them for the programme.

You and your partner have eight to ten minutes to discuss the pros and cons of teaching gardening in schools, considering the following aspects:

- » mandatory or voluntary subject
- » duration of teaching
- » impacts of the subject on students' mental / physical health
- » organisational aspects such as time and location
- » growing fruit and vegetables versus landscape gardening



Decide how you would like gardening to be taught at Austrian schools.

### Gardening campaign posters

The WW I and WW II campaigns, like "Dig for Victory" and victory gardens, wanted to get as many people as possible growing their own food. With the challenges of climate change, there is again a move towards "growing your own". Get into pairs and study these posters. If your government used such advertisements today, how would people of different ages and of different cultural backgrounds react? Which would be the most appealing one? How would they have to be altered?



6 c

Speaking

6 d

Speaking



Test format  
Paired activity  
» page XY

6 e

Follow-up