

Touchstone Level 4 Contents and learning outcomes

	Learning outcomes	Language		
		Grammar	Vocabulary	Pronunciation
Unit 1 Interesting lives pages 1–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions to get to know someone Tell interesting stories about my life Highlight key moments in a story Highlight important information in a story Understand a conversation about an accident Understand a podcast about an athlete’s life story Read about a person who overcame an obstacle Write an anecdote about facing a challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple and continuous verbs (review) Verb complements: verb + <i>-ing</i> or <i>to</i> + verb Extra practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbs followed by verb + <i>-ing</i> or <i>to</i> + verb 	Speaking naturally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reductions of auxiliary verbs and the pronoun <i>you</i> in questions Sounds right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word stress
Unit 2 Personal tastes pages 11–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about my tastes in clothes and fashion Compare how people look different over time Describe patterns, materials, and styles of clothing Show I understand by summarizing what people say Use <i>Now</i> to introduce follow-up questions Understand people discussing food, music, and movies Understand people discussing trends Read an article about how to develop a personal style Write interview questions and answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparisons with (<i>not</i>) <i>as . . . as</i> Negative questions Extra practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colors, patterns, materials, and styles of clothing 	Speaking naturally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking words with the same consonant sound Sounds right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the sounds the same or different?
Unit 3 World cultures pages 21–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about my country’s cultural traditions Talk about manners, customs, and appropriate behavior in my country Use expressions like <i>to be honest</i> to sound more direct Use <i>of course</i> to show I understand or agree Understand a conversation about living away from home Understand people explaining proverbs Read an article about proverbs Write an article about a favorite proverb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The simple present passive Verb + <i>-ing</i> and <i>to</i> + verb Position of <i>not</i> Extra practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural items, icons, and events Manners, customs, and culturally appropriate behavior 	Speaking naturally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silent syllables in which unstressed vowels are not pronounced Sounds right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matching vowel sounds
Checkpoint Units 1–3 pages 31–32				
Unit 4 Socializing pages 33–42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about going out and socializing Talk about things I am <i>supposed to</i> do, things I think will happen, or plans that changed Check my understanding with “statement questions” Use <i>so</i> in different ways Understand people discussing their evening plans Understand someone talk about his social style Read an article about introverts and extroverts Write an article about my social style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>be supposed to</i>; <i>was / were going to</i> Inseparable phrasal verbs Extra practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions with <i>get</i> 	Speaking naturally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intonation of sentences when you are sure vs. when you are checking Sounds right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronunciation of <i>get</i> before vowels and consonants
Unit 5 Law and order pages 43–52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about what the legal age should be Discuss rules, regulations, crime, and punishment Use expressions to organize what I say Show someone has a valid argument Understand a conversation about a crime Understand a class debate about changing the law Read an article about privacy issues with smartphones Write a comment responding to a web article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The passive of modal verbs <i>get</i> passive vs. <i>be</i> passive <i>catch</i> + person + verb + <i>-ing</i> Extra practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules and regulations Crimes and offenses, the people who commit them, and punishments 	Speaking naturally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saying conversational expressions Sounds right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which sound in each group is different?
Unit 6 Strange events pages 53–62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about coincidences and superstitions Order events in the past and say why things happened Show things I have in common Repeat ideas in other words to be clear Use <i>just</i> to make what I say softer or stronger Understand someone talking about a coincidence Understand conversations about superstitions Read an article about identical twins Write about a family story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The past perfect Responses with <i>so</i> and <i>neither</i> Extra practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strange events Superstitions from around the world 	Speaking naturally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressing new information Sounds right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vowels with consonant sounds /y/ and /w/
Checkpoint Units 4–6 pages 63–64				

Interaction	Skills				Self study
Conversation strategies	Listening	Reading	Writing	Free talk	Vocabulary notebook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the present tense to highlight key moments in a story Use <i>this</i> and <i>these</i> to highlight important people, things, and events in a story 	<p>A lucky escape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen for details in a story, and retell it with a partner <p>Facing a challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a true story and answer questions 	<p>Blind Chef Christine Ha Crowned “MasterChef”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A news story about a woman who lost her vision and how she won a prize as a TV chef 	<p>Facing a challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a story about a time in your life when you faced a challenge Format for writing an anecdote or a story 	<p>An interview with . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pair work: Complete interesting questions to ask a classmate; then interview each other and note your partner’s answers 	<p>Mottoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write down the verb forms that can follow new verbs, and use them in sentences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show understanding by summarizing things people say Use <i>now</i> to introduce a follow-up question on a different aspect of a topic 	<p>Broad tastes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen for details and answer questions; then listen and choose the best responses <p>Keeping up with trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to four people talk about trends, identify the topics they discuss, and answer questions 	<p>How to develop your personal style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An article about developing a personal style 	<p>Style interview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write questions to interview a partner on his or her personal style; write answers to your partner’s questions Punctuation review: comma, dash, and exclamation mark 	<p>What’s popular?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group work: Discuss questions about current popular tastes and how tastes have changed 	<p>Blue suede shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find and label pictures that illustrate new words
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use expressions like <i>in fact</i> to sound more direct when you speak Use <i>of course</i> to give information that is not surprising, or to show you understand or agree 	<p>Away from home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a woman talk about being away from home, and choose true statements <p>Favorite proverbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to people talk about proverbs; number and match them with English equivalents 	<p>Proverbs: The wisdom that binds us together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An article about the study of proverbs 	<p>Explain a proverb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an article about your favorite proverb and how it relates to your life Useful expressions for writing about proverbs or sayings 	<p>Traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pair work: Ask <i>yes-no</i> questions to guess traditional cultural items 	<p>Travel etiquette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find examples of new words and expressions you have learned in magazines, in newspapers, and on the Internet
Checkpoint Units 1–3 pages 31–32					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check your understanding by using statement questions Use <i>so</i> to start or close a topic, to check your understanding, to pause, or to let someone draw a conclusion 	<p>Going out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a couple discussing their evening plans <p>Extrovert or introvert?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take a quiz; then listen to a woman describe her social style, and answer the quiz as she would 	<p>Examining the “Extrovert Ideal”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A magazine article about a book on introverts living in an extroverted society 	<p>Extrovert or introvert?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an article about your own social style as an extrovert, an introvert, or a little of both Uses of <i>as</i> 	<p>Pass on the message</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class activity: Play a game where you pass a message to a classmate through another classmate, and then tell the class about the message you received 	<p>Get this!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions with <i>get</i> in context
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize your views with expressions like <i>First (of all)</i> Use <i>That’s a good point</i> to show someone has a valid argument 	<p>We got robbed!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a conversation; answer questions and check true sentences <p>Different points of view</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a debate, answer questions, and respond to different views 	<p>Is your smartphone too smart for your own good?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An article about online invasions of privacy 	<p>Posting a comment on a web article</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a comment responding to the online article about privacy issues Use <i>because</i>, <i>since</i>, and <i>as</i> to give reasons 	<p>Do you agree?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pair work: Discuss controversial topics 	<p>It’s a crime!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write down new words in word charts that group related ideas together by topic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat your ideas in another way to make your meaning clear Use <i>just</i> to make your meaning stronger or softer 	<p>It’s a small world!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to a story, and answer questions <p>Lucky or not?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to people talk about superstitions; decide if things are lucky or unlucky; write down the superstitions 	<p>Separated at birth, then happily reunited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An article about the true story of twins who found each other after growing up in different adoptive families 	<p>Amazing family stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a true story from your own family history Prepositional time clauses 	<p>What do you believe in?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group work: Discuss unusual beliefs and strange events in your life 	<p>Keep your fingers crossed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use word webs to group new sayings or superstitions by topic
Checkpoint Units 4–6 pages 63–64					

	Learning outcomes	Language		
		Grammar	Vocabulary	Pronunciation
Unit 7 Problem solving pages 65–74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about things you have other people do for you • Talk about things that need to be fixed • Use short sentences in informal conversations • Use expressions like <i>Uh-oh</i> when something goes wrong • Understand a conversation about planning an event • Understand people talk about things they need to fix • Read an article about problem-solving skills • Write a proposal presenting a solution to a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causative <i>get</i> and <i>have</i> • <i>need</i> + passive infinitive and <i>need</i> + verb + <i>-ing</i> <p>Extra practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Errands • Household problems 	<p>Speaking naturally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short question and statement intonation <p>Sounds right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categorizing vowel sounds
Unit 8 Behavior pages 75–84	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk hypothetically about reactions and behavior • Describe emotions and personal qualities • Speculate about the past • Share experiences • Use <i>like</i> in informal conversations • Understand people sharing experiences • Understand a conversation about rude behavior • Read an article on making apologies • Write a note of apology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past modals <i>would have</i>, <i>should have</i>, <i>could have</i> • Past modals for speculation <p>Extra practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotions and personal qualities • Expressions describing behavior 	<p>Speaking naturally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of <i>have</i> in past modals <p>Sounds right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the sounds the same or different?
Unit 9 Material world pages 85–94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about possessions and materialism • Discuss money management • Report things that people said and asked • Report the content of conversations • Quote other people or sources of information • Understand an interview about possessions • Understand people say what they couldn't live without • Read a blog about decluttering • Write a survey article about possessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported speech • Reported questions <p>Extra practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions to describe ownership and possession • Money 	<p>Speaking naturally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intonation of finished and unfinished ideas <p>Sounds right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent letters
Checkpoint Units 7–9 pages 95–96				
Unit 10 Fame pages 97–106	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk hypothetically about the past using <i>if</i> clauses • Talk about celebrities and being famous • Use tag questions to give views or check information • Use tag questions to soften advice • Answer difficult questions • Understand someone giving advice • Read an article about child stars • Write a profile of a successful person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use <i>if</i> clauses with the past perfect form of the verb to talk hypothetically about the past • Tag questions <p>Extra practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions to describe becoming famous, being famous, and losing fame 	<p>Speaking naturally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intonation of tag questions <p>Sounds right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak syllables
Unit 11 Trends pages 107–116	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about social changes • Talk about environmental problems • Link ideas with expressions like <i>although</i>, <i>because of</i>, <i>in order to</i>, and <i>instead</i> • Refer back to points made earlier in the conversation • Use formal vague expressions • Understand a discussion about workplace trends • Read an article about success via the Internet • Write a post for a website about technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passive of present continuous and present perfect • Linking ideas <p>Extra practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions to describe change • Environmental problems 	<p>Speaking naturally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing auxiliary verbs <p>Sounds right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which sound in each group is different?
Unit 12 Careers pages 117–126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about career planning and job prospects • Highlight important information • Talk about my future career plans • Use expressions to introduce what I say • Say <i>I don't know if . . .</i> to involve others • Understand a conversation with a personal trainer • Understand a discussion about a job advertisement • Read an article about preparing for a job interview • Write a job application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What</i> clauses and long noun phrases as subjects • The future continuous and future perfect <p>Extra practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions to describe a job search • Areas of work, professions, and jobs 	<p>Speaking naturally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stressing / and you <p>Sounds right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categorizing vowel sounds
Checkpoint Units 10–12 pages 127–128				

Interaction	Skills				Self study
Conversation strategies	Listening	Reading	Writing	Free talk	Vocabulary notebook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak informally in “shorter sentences” • Use expressions like <i>Uh-oh!</i> and <i>Oops!</i> when something goes wrong 	<p>Wedding on a budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to people plan a wedding; check what they agree on and what they’ll do themselves <p>Fix it!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match conversations with pictures; then check which problems were solved 	<p>Developing your problem-solving skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An article about an interesting problem-solving technique 	<p>A good solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a proposal presenting a solution to a problem at work • Format for presenting a problem and its solution 	<p>Who gets help with something?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class activity: Ask and answer questions to find out who gets help 	<p>Damaged goods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out if new words have different forms that can express the same idea, and use them in sentences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use expressions such as <i>That reminds me (of)</i> . . . to share experiences • Use <i>like</i> informally in conversation 	<p>Similar experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to two people share experiences, and number the incidents in order; then answer questions <p>Good and bad apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to conversations; match the people to the apologies; then decide if they were effective 	<p>Apologies: The key to maintaining friendship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An article about the importance of apologizing and suggesting ways to do so 	<p>A note of apology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an email apologizing for something • Expressions for writing a note of apology 	<p>How did you react?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work: Tell a story about an incident, and listen and respond to classmates’ stories 	<p>People watching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new vocabulary by making a connection with something or someone you know, and write true sentences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report the content of conversations you have had • Quote other people or other sources of information 	<p>Who’s materialistic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to someone answer questions, and take notes; then report his answers <p>I couldn’t live without . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to four people talk about things they couldn’t live without, and complete a chart; then listen and write responses to opinions 	<p>This Stuff’s Gotta Go!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A blog post about a woman who declutters her home 	<p>I couldn’t live without . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an article about your classmates and things they feel they couldn’t live without • Use of reporting verbs for direct speech and reported speech 	<p>Material things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair work: Ask and answer questions about material things 	<p>Get rich!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you learn a new word, notice its collocations – the words that are used with it
Checkpoint Units 7–9 pages 95–96					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use tag questions to soften advice and give encouragement • Answer difficult questions with expressions like <i>It’s hard to say</i> 	<p>Great advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to a conversation and answer questions <p>Success is . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to four conversations about success, and complete a chart 	<p>Three Child Stars Who Beat the Odds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A magazine article about actors who have managed to avoid “Child Star Syndrome” 	<p>A success story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a paragraph about someone you know who has achieved success, and explain why that person became successful • Topic and supporting sentences in a paragraph 	<p>Quotations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work: Define success 	<p>Do your best!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new idioms by writing example sentences that explain or clarify meaning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer back to points made earlier in a conversation • Use more formal vague expressions like <i>and so forth</i> and <i>etc.</i> 	<p>Trends in the workplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to conversations about trends, and identify advantages and disadvantages <p>Trends in technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to four people talk about trends, and write notes on their views 	<p>The Internet – The new pathway to success?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An article about the recent trend of using the Internet to become successful 	<p>Trends in technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a comment on a web article about trends in technology • Expressions for describing trends 	<p>What’s trending?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work: Discuss trends 	<p>Try to explain it!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write definitions in your own words to help you learn the meaning of new words and expressions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce what you say with expressions like <i>The best part was (that)</i> . . . • Use <i>I don’t know if . . .</i> to introduce a statement and involve the other person in the topic 	<p>An interesting job</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to a personal trainer talk about her job; write notes <p>A fabulous opportunity!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a job ad, and listen to check and answer questions 	<p>Ace that interview!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An article about how to answer the most common questions in job interviews 	<p>A fabulous opportunity!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a letter of application in response to an ad • Format for writing a letter of application 	<p>The best person for the job</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work: Interview the members of your group for a job 	<p>From accountant to zoologist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you learn a new word, learn other words with the same root as well as common collocations to expand your vocabulary quickly
Checkpoint Units 10–12 pages 127–128					