

Tuesday, 9:00pm

Hi Mom, Hi Dad!

Been here two days but seems like FOREVER - it's kind of boring and I'm feeling very homesick - more homesick than last year 'cause at Pine Trees we had more exciting stuff to do. Here we have an activity called 'extreme sun tanning', where you sit outside for two hours and do nothing. We also have an activity called 'sitting around playing cards'. Last year we did stuff like archery and mountain biking. I'm still hanging in there, though. Got to go to sleep now. We're making chocolate chip pancakes for breakfast tomorrow.

Love you lots,

Max xxxxxx

P.S. Could you send me more money? Oh, and my cell phone. ALL the other kids have their cell phones!



# WRITING HOME

## Tense revision and informal language

- 1 Read the letter. Who is writing? Who to? Where is he? What is he complaining about? How old do you think the writer is?
- 2 Complete the questions. Then ask and answer them with a partner.

1 'How long \_\_\_\_\_ Max \_\_\_\_\_ at summer camp?'

'Just \_\_\_\_\_.'

2 '\_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ a good time?'

'No, not really. He \_\_\_\_\_ very homesick.'

3 'Is this his first time at summer camp?'

'No, it \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ once before. Last year he \_\_\_\_\_ to Pine Trees.'

4 '\_\_\_\_\_ he like it at Pine Trees?'

'Oh, yes, he \_\_\_\_\_, very much.'

5 'Why was that?'

'Because \_\_\_\_\_.'

6 'What \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow?'

'He \_\_\_\_\_ pancakes.'

7 'Why \_\_\_\_\_ his cell phone?'

'Because \_\_\_\_\_.'

- 3 **TTT** Listen and check your answers.

# *The* BLIND ASSASSIN

## CHAPTER I

### *The bridge*

Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge. The bridge was being repaired: she went right through the Danger sign. The car fell a hundred feet into the ravine, smashing through the treetops feathery with new leaves, then burst into flames and rolled down into the shallow creek at the bottom. Chunks of the bridge fell on top of it. Nothing much was left of her but charred smithereens.



I was informed of the accident by a policeman: the car was mine, and they'd traced the licence. His tone was respectful: no doubt he recognized Richard's name. He said the tires may have caught on a streetcar track or the brakes may have failed, but he also felt bound to inform me that two witnesses – a retired lawyer and a bank teller, dependable people – had claimed to have seen the whole thing. They'd said Laura had turned the car sharply and deliberately, and had plunged off the bridge with no more fuss than stepping off a curb. They'd noticed her hands on the wheel because of the white gloves she'd been wearing.

It wasn't the brakes, I thought. She had her reasons. Not that they were ever the same as anybody else's reasons. She was completely ruthless in that way.

'I suppose you want someone to identify her,' I said. 'I'll come down as soon as I can.' I could hear the calmness of my own voice, as if from a distance. In reality I could barely get the words out; my mouth was numb, my entire face was rigid with pain. I felt as if I'd been to the dentist. I was furious with Laura for what she'd done, but also with the policeman for implying that she'd done it. A hot wind was blowing around my head, the strands of my hair lifting and swirling in it, like ink spilled in water.

'I'm afraid there will be an inquest, Mrs. Griffen,' he said.

'Naturally,' I said. 'But it was an accident. My sister was never a good driver.'

I could picture the smooth oval of Laura's face, her neatly pinned chignon, the dress she would have been wearing: a blue or steel grey or hospital-corridor green. Penitential colours – less like something she'd chosen to put on than like something she'd been locked up in. Her solemn half-smile; the amazed lift of her eyebrows, as if she were admiring the view.

The white gloves: a Pontius Pilate gesture. She was washing her hands of me. Of all of us.

# The Pelleting Process

For many years, pelleting was considered an art, a process involving imprecise measurement, uncertain results, and that undefinable quality of feel. This so-called "art" of pelleting came about in an environment lacking the understanding of the effects occurring when the differing characteristics of feed ingredients are subjected to the pelleting processes of heat, moisture, and pressure. No excuse, however, exists today for the uninformed pellet mill operator.

The science of grain processing has now reached a point that, by knowing the characteristics of the feed (moisture, content, fiber, etc.) and using machinery with accurate measurements, the guesswork has been removed from pelleting. As a result, much more is required of the pellet mill operator in the way of knowledge and ability. The skill of the pellet mill operator, through his ability or mistakes, influences plant profitability.

Pellet mill operators have a vitally important role in the manufacture of animal feed. They should recognize this responsibility and the great contribution they make to an efficient feed plant.

## INTRODUCTION TO PELLETING

### The Purpose of Pelleting

Pelleted feeds have been defined as "agglomerated feeds formed by extruding individual ingredients or mixtures by compacting and forcing through die openings by any mechanical process". Basically, the purpose of pelleting is to take a finely divided, sometimes dusty, unpalatable and difficult-to-handle feed material and, by using heat, moisture and pressure, form it into larger particles. These larger particles are easier to handle, more palatable and usually result in improved feeding results when compared to the unpelleted feed.

Pellets are generally formed with diameters from 10/64" to 48/64" and will be somewhat longer than the diameter. A small part of the production of large pellets, 32/64" and above in diameter, is produced in other than cylindrical shapes; they may be triangular, square or oval and, in some cases, may exceed the maximum dimension indicated above. The largest diameter usually found is rarely greater than 1-1/4" to 1-3/8". In most cases where particle sizes smaller than 10/64" are desired, it has been found to be more satisfactory from the standpoint of economics to produce a 10/64" or 12/64" pellet and reduce it into the desired particle size by means of crumbling.

Almost all livestock feeders agree that animals make better gains on pelleted feed than a meal ration. The most logical reasons are that (a) the heat generated in conditioning and pelleting make the feedstuffs more digestible by breaking down the starches, (b) the pellet simply puts the feed in a concentrated form, and (c) pelleting minimizes waste during the eating process. When pelleted feed is fed, each animal receives a well-balanced diet by preventing the animal from picking and choosing between ingredients. Tests have shown that most animals, if given the choice between the same feed in pellet or mash form will prefer the pellets.

By combining moisture, heat and pressure on feed ingredients, a degree of gelatinization is produced which allows animals and poultry to better utilize the nutrients in these ingredients.



# 1

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## Starting with Sheep

“SHEEP ARE THE DUMBEST ANIMALS on God’s green earth,” our neighbor avowed, with a vigorous shake of his head when he saw the newest additions to our farmstead. His belief is not uncommon. In fact, sheep are love–hate animals: People either really love them or really hate them. And the people who really hate them love nothing more than to malign them.

But sheep don’t deserve the bad rap they’ve received. They fill a niche that needs filling: they provide economically efficient food and fiber, they eat many kinds of weeds that other livestock species won’t touch, they’re relatively inexpensive to begin raising, and they reproduce quickly so that a minimal capital outlay can yield a respectable flock in short order.

On top of all that, sheep are simply nice, gentle animals. Watching a group of young lambs charging wildly around the pasture or playing king of the hill on any mound of dirt, downed tree, or other object that happens to occupy space in their world has to be one of life’s greatest joys.

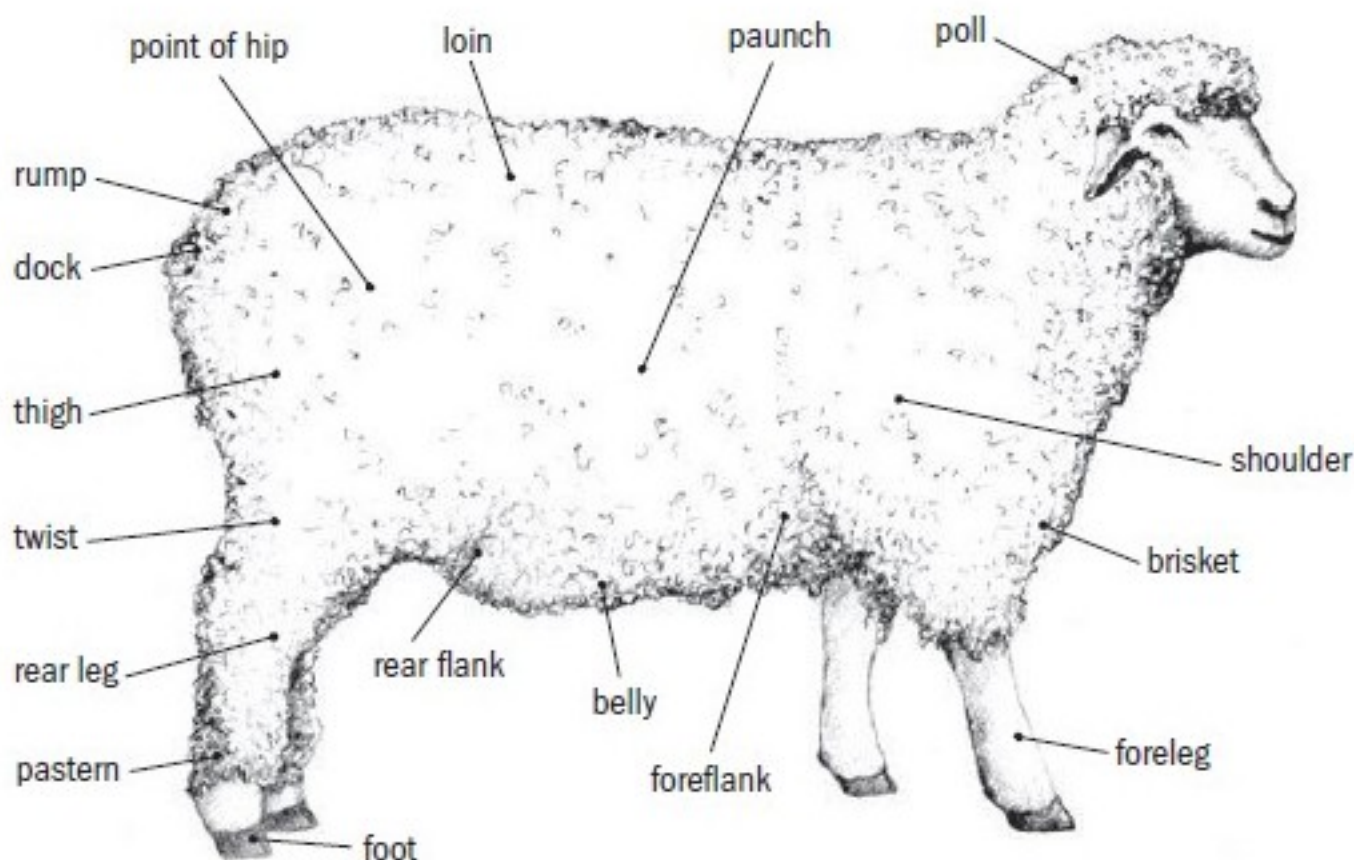
Admittedly, there are some difficulties to raising sheep: They think fences are puzzles that you’ve placed there for them to figure a way out of. Their flocking nature can sometimes make handling a challenge. Although they’re less susceptible to many diseases than other critters, they’re more troubled by parasites. They’re also vulnerable to predators. But with the help of this book, even a novice can learn to manage the negative aspects of raising sheep while enjoying the benefits.

## Some Background on Sheep

Scientists consider sheep to be members of the family Bovidae, which includes mammals that have hollow horns and four stomachs (ruminants). All sheep are in the genus *Ovis*, and domestic sheep are classified as *Ovis aries*.

The human need for animals isn't new: food, fiber, traction (the ability to do work, such as pulling, pushing, and carrying), and companionship led humans to domesticate animals more than 15,000 years ago. Dogs were the first animals to be domesticated, but humans bonded with sheep and goats early on as they settled into agriculturally based communities. Both sheep and goats were domesticated about 10,000 years ago, according to the latest theories.

Biologists believe that modern sheep are descended primarily from the wild Mouflon sheep of western Asia, although other wild sheep (for instance, the Urial of central Asia) may have been mixed in since domestication took place. Some breeds, such as the Soay of Europe, still retain many of the characteristics of their wild ancestors, but most modern breeds have changed substantially. Traits of wild sheep include naturally short, fat tails; coarse, hairy outer coats; short, woolly undercoats; and great curling horns on the rams. Wild sheep are endangered or threatened throughout the world.



Anatomy of a sheep

## READING AND SPEAKING

Two famous brands



# STARBUCKS COFFEE

**ANYONE FOR COFFEE?** What about a Skinny Latte, or perhaps an Almond Truffle Mocha, or even a Raspberry Mocha Chip Frappuccino? These are just a few of the many speciality coffees on offer at Starbucks, the world's leading coffee roaster and retailer.

Starbucks serves over 25 million customers a week in 7,500 stores around the world. And this figure is increasing rapidly, with three or four new stores being opened every single day! So how did a company currently worth \$5 billion get started?

Starbucks Coffee, Tea and Spice, as it was originally known, roasted its first coffee beans in 1971. This tiny coffee house in Seattle, named after a character in the novel *Moby Dick*, was the vision of three men – Baldwin, Siegel, and Bowker – who cared passionately about fine coffee and tea. Their determination to provide the best quality coffee helped their business to succeed, and a decade later, their fourth store in Seattle opened.

Meanwhile, in New York, Howard Schultz, a businessman specializing in kitchen equipment, noticed that a small company in Seattle was ordering a large number of a special type of coffeemaker. Out of curiosity, he made the cross-country trip to Seattle to find out more. Immediately he saw the Starbucks store, he knew that he wanted to be part of it. The three founder members weren't initially very keen, but a persistent Schultz was eventually hired to be head of Starbucks marketing in 1982. He modelled the Starbucks stores on Italian espresso bars, and made them comfortable places to relax. Within the next ten years, Schultz had already opened 150 new stores and had bought the company! There are now stores all over Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Today Starbucks is one of the world's most recognized brands.

### "3 or 4 new stores open every day."

But global success comes at a price. Although Starbucks has a company policy of fair trade and employee welfare, it has been the recent target of anti-globalization protests. Many people feel that big corporations, even responsible ones, are never a good thing, as small, independent companies can't compete and go out of business. However, Starbucks' continued success in the face of opposition shows that its blend of commercialism and comfy sofas is still proving an irresistible recipe for world domination.

**1** What do you know about these brands? What is their reputation? Are they popular among your friends and family? Who are their rivals?

**2** Work in two groups.

**Group A** Read about Starbucks on this page.

**Group B** Read about Apple Macintosh on p59.

Read your article and answer the questions.

- 1 When and where did the company begin?
- 2 Who founded it?
- 3 Where did the name of the company come from?
- 4 Why did the product become a success?
- 5 Has the company's progress always been easy?
- 6 What makes the brand special?
- 7 What features of the product or company do people see as negative?
- 8 What are some examples of the company's products?

**3** Find a partner from the other group. Compare and swap information.

**4** Here are eight answers. Decide which four are about your article. Then write the questions.

- In Silicon Valley.
- Three or four.
- \$5 billion.
- In 1997. (*When ... launched?*)
- Ten years. (*How long ... take ... ?*)
- Because he argued with his partner. (*Why ... resign?*)
- Because they can't compete. (*Why ... out of business?*)
- By selling some of their possessions. (*How ... ?*)



## THOMAS CREED IN KOREA



'I'm part of the group now. The only difference is I have brown hair and blue eyes,' says Thomas Creed, an eleven-year-old originally from Boston, Massachusetts.

**Thomas says:** These days I'm really into soccer. Soccer is a really big deal here ever since they hosted the 2002 World Cup. But Dad doesn't get it. I wasn't a soccer fan either when I first came to Seoul six years ago. Like my dad, I was a big basketball fan – still am – watching all the games Dad taped, cheering for the Celtics. But now, me and my friends play soccer all the time. It's hard not to get addicted! My best friend Dong-won and I cut out photos of David Beckham and trade them like baseball cards.

### Why he moved

My dad's an officer in the US Army, but he wasn't always such a big shot. He had 'tours of duty', which means he's had to move around whether he liked it or not. He's lived in places like Germany, Vietnam, and Saudi Arabia. My mom and I always stayed back in Boston. She's a scientist. But then my dad and my big brother Patrick both got transferred to Korea – Patrick's ten years older than me, and he's in the Army, too. So our whole family moved over. Seoul's cool. There are millions of places called 'PC rooms' where you can play tons of Internet games. The city's a lot bigger than Boston, too, and way more crowded and busy. I didn't like that at first. I couldn't understand what anyone was saying, and people here don't always smile at strangers like they do back in the US. I felt lonely, like I was in the middle of nowhere.



### Life in Korea

Life's different here. Most homes don't have radiators – the heat comes up through the floor instead. It's done like this because most Koreans eat cross-legged on floor mats. It's easier than using chairs but it gives my father leg cramps. It's also normal to roll out mattresses and sleep on the floor. That's how I sleep over at Dong-won's house. Dong-won's great and helped me a lot when I first started elementary school here. I was five and didn't know anything or anybody and was pretty scared. I even made my dad wait for me in the next room. Now I can speak Korean fluently, but learning Chinese characters stinks. I always do badly on those tests. I can eat spicy foods like kimchee, and I've read a lot of Korean books and stories, which I like.

### What he misses

What I miss most are American comics. I know it's stupid 'cause there are lots of comics here, but they're different. They don't have superheroes like Spiderman, who always has something cool to say, even when the bad guy is beating him up. Also, I wish basketball was more popular. I love soccer but no one understands how awesome a 'slam dunk' can be.

But I like living here. The people are really nice, and maybe I'll be a translator one day ... or even better, a great soccer player like David Beckham. <sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> \* incredible

\* when a basketball player jumps up above the basket and pushes the ball down into it

# THE WORLD'S TOP CONSPIRACY THEORIES

## CONSPIRACY THEORY 1

## THE DEATH OF DIANA

The first Diana conspiracy site appeared on the Internet in Australia only hours after her death on August 31st, 1997. Since then an estimated 36,000 Diana conspiracy websites have been set up - breathtaking by anyone's standards. Hypotheses range from pure James Bond ('it was all an MI6 plot to protect the monarchy') to farce ('it was a fendish murder plot thought up by the world's florists to sell lots of flowers'). And most popular of all, Diana, Princess of Wales, isn't dead after all - that terrible car crash in Paris was an elaborate hoax to enable the Princess and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, to fake their own deaths so that they could live in blissful isolation for the rest of their lives. Subscribers to this theory say that Diana was fed up with the intrusions into her private life and used the wealth and resources of the Fayed family to fake her death, and now she and Dodi are living on a small tropical

**'We never actually saw her body, did we?'**

island, communicating with her sons by satellite video conferencing. Think about it, they say, we never actually saw her body, did we?

You don't buy into any of these theories? Don't worry. There are plenty more to choose from. For example, Paul Burrell, Diana's former butler, claims that the Princess predicted her own death in a car crash. Apparently, she was so frightened that ten months before her death she wrote to Burrell saying that a plot was being hatched by a member of the royal family and that her car's brakes would be tampered with and she would suffer serious head injuries. And all of this so that the Prince of Wales could marry again.

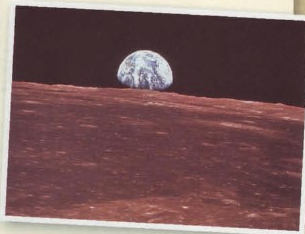
These theories multiply because it is so hard for us to believe that a princess, with all her wealth and bodyguards, could be killed by something as arbitrary and mundane as a traffic accident. Psychologically, we need conspiracy theories to make the tragedies of life more bearable. And the Internet helps feed the global paranoia.



# CONSPIRACY THEORY 2

## THE APOLLO MOON LANDING

For over 30 years rumours have been circulating that the Apollo Moon landings were faked. They say astronaut Neil Armstrong made no 'giant leap for mankind', they assert that the 1969 Moon mission was a hoax to prove America won the space race, that the astronauts were 'astro-nots! The high point in the Great Moon Landing Conspiracy came on 15 February 2001, the date that the Fox television network broadcast a programme entitled *Did We Land on the Moon?* This alleged that the whole Moon landing had been staged inside a film studio on a US military base somewhere in the Mojave desert.



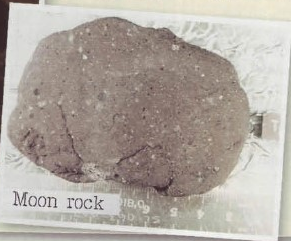
The programme claimed:

- 1 The US flag planted on the Moon's surface is seen fluttering, and there is no breeze of any kind on the Moon.
- 2 The photographs taken by the astronauts do not include any of the Moon's night sky, where there would have been a stunning array of stars on view.
- 3 The shadows in the pictures are clearly coming from more than one angle – an impossibility on the Moon, where the only light source is the Sun, but more than plausible inside a film studio.
- 4 One of the famed Moon rocks brought back by the Apollo astronauts is marked with a telltale letter 'C', suggesting the markings not of some alien life force but of a film prop.

Was the whole moon landing staged inside a film studio?

After the programme the Internet went crazy with theories and counter-theories. However, scientists have unanimously agreed that the conspiracy theorists don't have even the beginnings of a case. Too many things about the Apollo missions were impossible to fake, from the radio signals picked up at listening stations around the world, to the Moon rocks, which have been subjected to repeated geological analysis and clearly date back several millennia.

Finally there are the UFO 'nuts'. They actually do believe that astronauts went to the Moon, and found not only a load of rocks, but also widespread evidence of an ancient alien civilization – a discovery so terrifying that NASA has been desperately seeking to conceal it from the public ever since.



Moon rock