**Unit 1 A CHANGING WORLD**

**1. Warm-up**

What do you know about the changes that occurred in Eastern Europe in 1989-1990?

**2. Health expressions - Match the words/phrases in the left and right columns to form collocations:**

1. fall a heart attack (= to be the victim of a heart attack)

2. remain in good health (= to continue to be well after an operation or illness)

3. come into a coma (= to enter a state of unconsciousness from which you cannot be woken)

4. take three years to live (= to say that someone will live for three more years)

5. suffer round (= to regain consciousness)

6. give someone precautions (= to do things to prevent something unpleasant or dangerous from happening)

**3. Find the information**

**Read the article below and find the following information:**

1. How long was Jan Grzebski in a coma? 2. When did he lose consciousness?

3. How many years did doctors give him to live?

4. When did Lech Walesa receive the Nobel Peace Prize?

5. When did Mr. Walesa return to work after his period of house arrest?

6. What percentage of the vote did Mr. Walesa achieve in Poland’s first post-communist election?

7. What percentage of the vote did Mr. Walesa achieve in Poland’s presidential election in 2000?

8. When did Katrin Sass fall into a coma in the film *Goodbye, Lenin!*?

**Coma victim wakes up to post-communist world**

Adapted from The Independent, 04 June 2007

1. A Polish railway worker has woken after 19 years of a coma to discover that his world has changed beyond recognition.

2. "When I went into a coma, there was only tea and vinegar in the shops," Jan Grzebski, now 65, told a Polish news channel. "Meat was rationed and there were huge petrol queues everywhere."

3. Mr Grzebski lost consciousness in 1988, after he was hit by a train. Doctors gave him only two or three years to live. But because of the tireless care of his wife Gertruda, who moved him every hour to prevent bedsores, he remained in good health. He was, however, completely removed from the dramatic changes across the world. After regaining consciousness, he told his family that he had vague memories of family gatherings and of his relatives talking to him, trying to provoke a response. There was plenty for them to tell him about, if they had wished to surprise him with amazing news.

5. When Mr Grzebski lost consciousness in 1988, another Polish working man, the electrician Lech Walesa, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, was back at work after years under house arrest. But the Communist authorities still had him under close surveillance. By 1990, Communism had collapsed and MrWalesa was elected President of Poland with 75 per cent of the vote. Walesa turned out to be a failure as president. And when he stood for office again in 2000, Mr Grzebski’s relatives would have pointed out, that only 1 per cent of the electorate voted for him. By that time, Poland had a market economy, communism had become a thing of the past, but the injured railwayman was still dead to the world.

6. Mr Grzebski’s remarkable story is a real life version of the film Good Bye, Lenin!, in which Katrin Sass, an East Berliner, suffers a heart attack and falls into a coma in 1989. She misses the fall of the Berlin Wall and the sudden and dramatic transformation of everyday life as the communist system collapses.

7. When she comes back to life, the doctor warns her son Alex that a shock might kill her, so he goes to drastic lengths to hide the revolution from her.

8. Gertruda Grzebska took no such precautions when her husband came round, and he saw the miracle of modern Poland. He noticed that people were complaining just as much as during the years of empty shops and martial law. "Now I see people on the streets with cellphones and there are so many goods in the shops it makes my head spin," he said.

9. "What amazes me is all these people who walk around with their mobile phones and yet they never stop moaning."

**Checking understanding**

**Choose the best answer according to the text:**

1. Mr Grzebski survived his coma because

a. his wife took good care of him b. he didn’t experience the political changes c. his family talked regularly to him

2. When Mr. Grzebski regained consciousness he told his family that

a. he was surprised by the amazing news b. he could remember his relatives talking to him

c. they had managed to provoke a response from him

3. LechWalesa received only 1% of the vote in the second elections because

a. he became unpopular b. he did not perform well as president c. Poland was a market economy

4. When Katrin Sass regained consciousness in the film Goodbye Lenin!

a. she saw the collapse of the communist system b. her son tried to hide her from the revolution

c. she nearly died from shock

5. Mr Grzebski was amazed because

a. people were complaining b. the shops were full c. people had mobile phones

**Find a word or phrase in the text which means...**

1. ‘so much that it cannot be recognized anymore’

2. distributed in limited individual portions because there is not enough to meet demand

3. painful areas of the skin from lying in bed too long

4. ’were watching him very carefully in order to catch him committing a crime’

5. competed in an election for an official position of responsibility

6. all the citizens of a country who are allowed to vote in an election

7. something which does not happen or exist anymore

8. does extreme things in order to achieve something

9. complaining, usually about something that does not seem important to other people

**Phrases in the text**

**Match the words in the left and right columns to create phrases from the text:**

1. dramatic arrest (= forced by the authorities to stay in your house as if it was a jail)

2. vague changes (= very sudden or noticeable changes)

3. amazing story (= a story that is very surprising and unusual)

4. house law (= when a city or country is controlled by the army)

5. a market memories (= unclear memories of something that happened in the past)

6. martial economy (= an economy which is not planned or controlled by a central authority)

7. a remarkable news (= very surprising news)

**Complete the following mini-biographies of two important scientific inventors by putting the verbs**

**in brackets into their correct form:**

**Nicola Tesla** (1856-1943) *(describe)* as the most important scientist and inventor of the modern age. Among other things, he *(develop)* alternating current electric power (AC systems), which we *(use)* today to power many modern appliances such as televisions, computers, lights and heaters. Tesla *(be born)* in Croatia and *(move)* to the United States in 1884. By the time he *(become)* a US citizen at the age of 35, he *(make)* several important scientific achievements. However, late in his life people *(regard)* him as a mad scientist due to his eccentric personality and bizarre scientific claims. Tesla *(die)* poor in the New Yorker Hotel, where he *(live)* for the last ten years of his life. Since his death, people *(use/also)* his achievements and theories to support ‘unscientific’ claims such as UFO theories.

**Tim Berners-Lee** (born in 1955) *(be)* the English computer scientist credited with inventing theWorldWideWeb. He *(start)* experimenting with computer systems while he *(study)* at Oxford University, when he *(build)* a computer using an old television. Berners-Lee *(graduate)* in physics in 1976 and *(go on)* to work as computer programmer.

In 1980, when he *(work)* as an independent contractor for CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, he *(propose)* a project to facilitate sharing and updating information among researchers. 10 years later, he *(design)* and *(build)* the first Web browser and server. By 1991 the World Wide Web *(be born)* , and the first website *(go)* online that year. It *(provide)* an explanation on what the World Wide Web

*(be)* . He made his idea available freely, with no patent or royalties due. Since then, the Internet *(transform)* the way people *(live)* and *(work)* .

**Talking point**

Have there been any major changes or events in your country’s recent history?

How was life different before and after these changes or events?