

Unit 6 – Solve My Case

accurate
calculate

concentrate
concern

conclude
considerable

flexible
frequent

outstanding
request

6A Introduction

This song is a mystery that's pretty hard to solve. As you listen, pay close attention to everything you hear. Even a little bluebird could be a clue...

6B Song Lyrics

I once met a girl at the base of a mountain,
Out in a state park, in the morning about 10.
We started chatting; her name was Ayisha,
She told me that she was even faster than a cheetah.
I said, "That would be **outstanding** and excellent,
But there's no way." She said, "You want to make a bet?
I bet you 20 bucks that if I sprinted,
I could be at the top of the mountain in less than a minute."
I figured it was a couple of miles in all,
That's a **considerable** distance, rather large.
She could never do it in a minute, and I knew it.
I said, "I'll take your bet; I know you're going to lose it."
Ayisha gave me binoculars and a stopwatch,
She said, "Start the watch, and watch for me at the top."
And then she jogged off, not even that fast,
And disappeared among the trees along the path.

*You know she's so quick, yeah she's so quick,
Either that, or I just got tricked.
You know she's so quick, yeah she's so quick,
Either that, or I just got tricked!*

So, fifty seconds later, I used the binoculars
To see to the top of the mountain, "Oh, what!"
I couldn't believe what I was seeing,
I was so shocked; I almost stopped breathing!



'Cause at the top with a full 10 seconds to spare
 Was Ayisha smiling with her hands in the air!
 Then she came back down, hardly out of breath,
 I gave her 20 bucks; I had lost the bet.
 But I was **concerned**, worried, about this girl,
 Was she some kind of alien from another world?
 It wasn't losing the money that made me frown,
 It was this girl tricking me, and I didn't know how.
 I thought about **requesting** and asking for help,
 But I was pretty smart; I could solve the case myself.
 I thought about the whole thing, beginning to end,
 And tried to keep my mind **flexible**, able to bend.
 I mean able to change, it's true this was strange,
 But "Strange" is my middle name.
 I had to focus my mind on this one thing and **concentrate**,
 She couldn't have been running.
 Because I studied a map; if it was **accurate** and exact,
 Ayisha had run five miles on the path.
 Then I **calculated**; I did the math,
 She ran 300 miles an hour—that's crazy fast!

*You know she's so quick, yeah she's so quick,
 Either that, or I just got tricked.
 You know she's so quick, yeah she's so quick,
 Either that, or I just got tricked!*

I thought back about all the facts,
 But I couldn't figure out how she had run that fast.
 Then I saw a bluebird, which was kind of awesome,
 'Cause I don't see them **frequently** or very often.
 And then I walked back down the mountain,
 Sad that I couldn't figure it out when
 I saw the bluebird again, or maybe it was another,
 They looked the same, but it could have been his brother.
 And then I had it! I mean I knew exactly!
 I had figured it out, **concluded** what happened.
 One person could never be that fast,
 One person could never be that fast.
 I found out where Ayisha lived and drove over,
 Smiling to myself, I was happier than Grover.
 I knocked, said, "May I come in?"
 The door opened; it was Ayisha and her identical twin...

You know she's so quick, yeah she's so quick,

*Either that, or I just got tricked.
You know she's so quick, yeah she's so quick,
Either that, or I just got tricked!*

6C Words Defined

accurate

(adj) Without errors; completely correct. *Anthony's report said that some whales can speak English, which isn't **accurate**.*

calculate

(verb) To find the answer by using math. *Knowing that my uncle was born in 1972 made it easy for me to **calculate** his age.*

concentrate

(verb) To focus all of one's thoughts or efforts on. ***Concentrating** on keeping her eyes on the ball really helped Tristan play better baseball.*

concern

(verb) To trouble or worry. *My dog's constant sneezing **concerns** me.*

(adj) Troubled or interested. *My dad had a **concerned** look on his face when I told him I had fallen off my skateboard.*

(noun) Worry; nervousness. *Because of **concern** over student safety, our field trip was cancelled.*

conclude

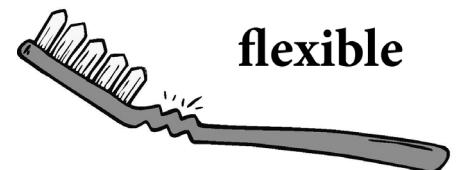
(verb) 1. To bring or come to an end. *Larry **concluded** his speech with a shout-out to his dad.* 2. To figure out using careful thought. *If it took four hours to drive to New York, I **concluded** it would take six hours to drive to Philadelphia.*

considerable

(adj) Large in size or amount. *Our chess team was able to raise a **considerable** amount of money by cleaning people's yards.*

flexible

(adj) Able to bend or change easily. *My new toothbrush had a **flexible** head to make brushing easier.*



frequent

(adj) Happening often or over and over. *It's a **frequent** event in my town: a fox kills someone's cat.*

outstanding

(adj) Standing apart from others due to excellence. *Clara did an outstanding job on her math test and earned an A+.*

request

(verb) To ask for. *My best friend and I requested to be in the same class next year.*

(noun) The act of asking. *The radio station received lots of requests for Michael Jackson songs in the days after his death.*

outstanding



6D Synonyms

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. able to bend easily | accurate | considerable | flexible |
| 2. completely correct | outstanding | frequent | accurate |
| 3. to use math to find an answer | request | calculate | conclude |
| 4. to ask for | concentrate | request | calculate |
| 5. to be a trouble to | concern | conclude | request |

6E Fill in the Blank

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

1. It took Mala a(n) _____ amount of time to sew a map of the United States.

- considerable accurate frequent**

2. It was hard for me to _____ on the math problem with my brother screaming in my face.

- conclude concentrate request**

3. That was the most _____ movie I've ever seen! I couldn't wait to see what happened next!

- considerable outstanding flexible**

4. The hiker looked at the sun and _____ that it was around 12 o'clock.

- concentrated requested concluded**

5. Aunt Jean is a(n) _____ visitor to our house. She's over here at least twice a week.

considerable

frequent

accurate

6F Connections

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

1. I was worried that I wouldn't do well on my spelling test.

2. After looking at the facts, the detective decided the butler was the killer.

3. The teacher told Hugo his answer was exactly right.

4. The radio station plays this song all the time.

5. I had to pay close attention when I was reading the story because it had a lot of difficult words.

6G Applying Meanings

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

1. What could you **calculate**?

- (A) a ham sandwich
- (B) the color of a rose
- (C) a buried treasure
- (D) the answer to a math problem

2. Which is a **request**?

- (A) "I'm sorry I hurt you."
- (B) "May I please have some more?"
- (C) "Why is the sky blue?"
- (D) "It's nice to see you."

3. Which of the following is the most **flexible**?
- (A) a rubber band
 (B) a CD
 (C) a brick wall
 (D) a knife
4. If you thought a game was **outstanding**, you would probably
- (A) not understand it
 (B) have no interest in playing it again
 (C) enjoy playing it
 (D) think it was too easy
5. Someone with a **considerable** amount of money would probably be
- (A) sad
 (B) friendly
 (C) homeless
 (D) rich

6H Reading

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

Deep Blue and the Search for Artificial Intelligence

Computers can do many things that people cannot. Most of these involve math. They can **calculate** huge numbers quickly. Most high-level math would be impossible without computers. They are not so good at other things. Computers can make **accurate** choices when they have a lot of information. But they are not very good at guessing. Computers also do not have emotions. A computer cannot tell you how it is feeling.

For years, scientists have been working to give computers “artificial intelligence.” A computer with artificial intelligence would think the way people think. One of the first tests of artificial intelligence involved chess. Chess is a **considerably** difficult game for computers to play. Chess involves taking chances. A great chess player must be **flexible**, and be able to think far ahead. Computers are not very good at any of these things.

In 1996, a computer called Deep Blue played chess against Gary Kasparov. Many people think Kasparov is the most **outstanding** chess player in history. No one thought Deep Blue could beat Kasparov. But in the first game, Deep Blue did just that.



The Word Up Project: Level Orange

Kasparov went on to beat Deep Blue in later games. One year later, however, Deep Blue returned. This time, it won more games than Kasparov. Many people think this was the beginning of artificial intelligence. Today, computers regularly beat the best chess players. There are even whole tournaments in which computers play other computers!

1. What are computers best at?

2. Why can't a computer tell you how it is feeling?

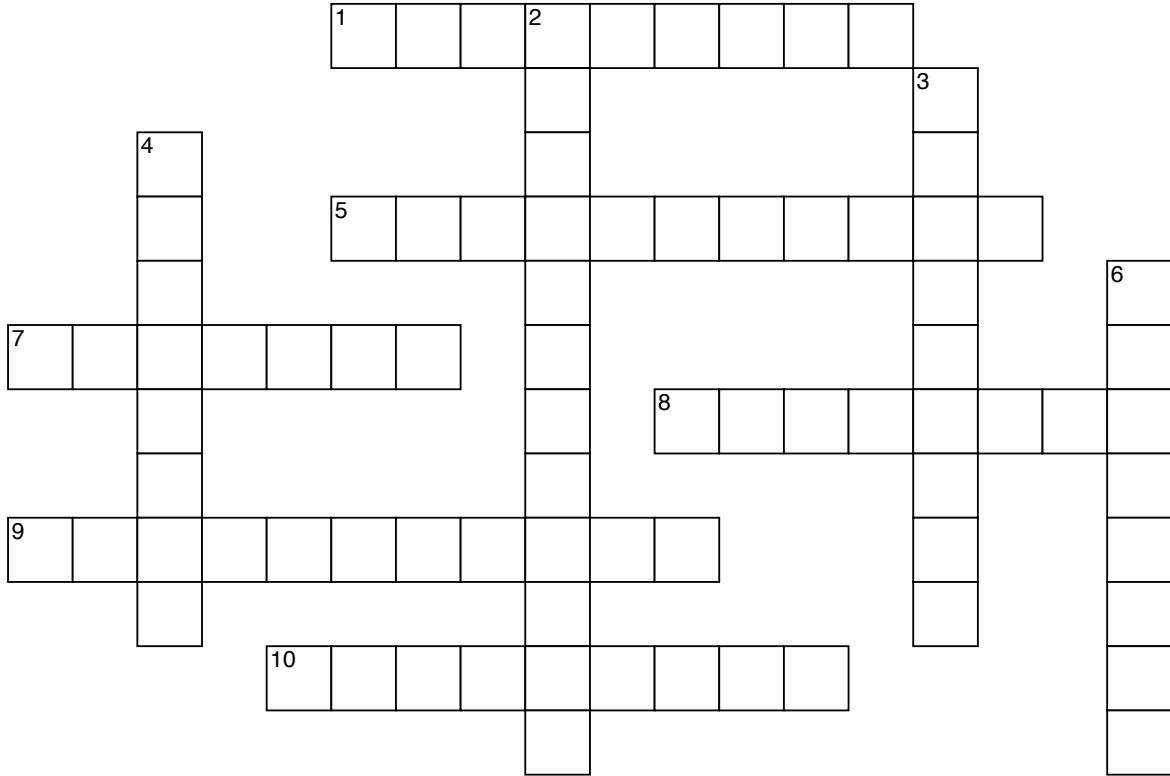
3. What is artificial intelligence?

4. Give three reasons why chess is hard for computers to play.

5. What year did Deep Blue first beat Gary Kasparov?

Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.



ACROSS

- 1 I need to know how much money I have left before I can _____ how much I spent today.
- 5 Gabby did an _____ job at the concert. I've never heard anyone sing so well!
- 7 Caleb called the radio station to _____ a song.
- 8 My guess was _____: Just as I thought, it was exactly two o'clock.
- 9 To focus all one's thoughts or efforts on.
- 10 The movie _____ with the bad guy going to jail.

DOWN

- 2 Large in size or amount.
- 3 The principal called a snow day because he was _____ that the bus drivers would get in an accident.
- 4 Happening often.
- 6 A piece of paper is more _____ than a piece of wood.