

SAMPLE

CHAPTER 1

A: America (United States of America) Pavilion



Miki & Ichiro stand in front of the U.S.A. Pavilion, their eyes wide with excitement. Towering digital screens like open arms show breathtaking images of “America,” each frame showing the beauty and scale of the United States.

*(Note: The official pavilion name is the **United States of America Pavilion**. For this book, I use **America** to fit the alphabet theme, and **USA**, since both are commonly used in Japan and elsewhere in everyday speech when referring to the United States.)*

SAMPLE

Conversation 1: A Diverse Land

Miki: Wow, America is huge! Just look at all the amazing places to explore!

USA Pavilion Staff: Hello from the USA Pavilion! You're absolutely right! The U.S. has 50 states—and each one feels different.

Miki: In Japan, we have prefectures. Forty-seven, right, Ichiro?

Ichiro: Yes. So...states are like our prefectures?

USA Pavilion Staff: That's a good comparison. Look up at the jumbo screens —there's snowy Alaska, sunny California, busy New York, peaceful Wyoming, and beautiful Hawaii.

Miki: Which state do you want to visit first, Ichiro?

Ichiro: Wyoming... because it sounds quiet.

Miki: I want Hawaii! I can almost feel the warm air.

Ichiro: And there are so many different people...and so many things to do, too.

USA Pavilion Staff: Oh yes—America is made up of people from all over the world. It's very diverse.

Miki: Yes, our English teacher always talks about that! It sounds really interesting!

Ichiro: Japan is becoming a little more diverse, too. We have so many more international students and workers now.

USA Pavilion Staff: That's wonderful! Now, are you both ready for an adventure?

Miki: Yes!

Ichiro: Yes, we are!

USA Pavilion Staff: Great! Let's go inside and get started. Spark will guide you.

Miki: Who's Spark?

USA Pavilion Staff: Our pavilion mascot! He represents the spark of creativity and innovation. He will be guiding you on your journey.

SAMPLE

Conversation 2: Creating Together

USA Pavilion Staff: This is our innovation room, where we showcase new ideas that make life better.

Miki: In-no-va-tion...what does it mean?

USA Pavilion Staff: Innovation means finding new and better ways to do things.

Ichiro: We're going to learn about new ideas.

USA Pavilion Staff: Exactly. Take a look at this video—it shows some of the advances U.S. organizations are making in AI technology, healthcare, and safe food production.

Miki: Advances?

USA Pavilion Staff: Advances are big improvements—steps forward.

Miki: That means innovation can be anything...as long as it helps?

USA Pavilion Staff: Yes, big or small.

Ichiro: The innovations—are they only for America?

USA Pavilion Staff: No, countries share their innovations - to help people everywhere. Spark asks us to “imagine what we can create together.”

Miki: I like that idea—countries working together.

USA Pavilion Staff: So much is possible when people work together.

Ichiro: I can't wait to discover what's possible!

USA Pavilion Staff: Explore and find out—together.



SAMPLE

Conversation 3: Travel to the Stars

USA Pavilion Staff: This is the rocket room! Soon, we're going into space!

Ichiro: What? How? It looks like a real rocket.

USA Pavilion Staff: look—there's the countdown clock. We're about to take off.

Miki: Wait, what? Take off where?

Ichiro: Miki, I think we're going on a rocket ride!

Miki: But... but we're standing still!

USA Pavilion Staff: 7... 6... 5...

Miki: It's getting so loud! I can feel it in my chest.

USA Pavilion Staff: Yes, that's the rumbling. It can get noisy. Don't worry—you're safe. Just look up...4... 3... 2...

Ichiro: It's OK, Miki. It's only lights and sounds and smoke. But wow, it's so exciting!

Miki: Smoke?

USA Pavilion Staff: It's fake smoke, for effect...and 1... *LIFTOFF!*

Miki: It feels like the room is moving! Are we moving?

USA Pavilion Staff: It feels like it, but we're not. That's the illusion—the special effect.

Ichiro: I really feel like we're flying through space.

USA Pavilion Staff: See—there's Spark again, guiding us!

Miki: I see him! look—stars...and planets...the moon!

Ichiro: This is awesome! Look, it's the space station.

Miki: They're talking to us. Hi!



SAMPLE

Conversation 4: Back on Earth

USA Pavilion Staff: Did you enjoy that?

Miki: Yes! I was a little scared at first, but it was ... amazing.

Ichiro: It was incredible! That was the best! I want to go to space someday.

USA Pavilion Staff: Really? Do you want to be an astronaut?

Ichiro: Yes...maybe. I think I want to be an as-tro-naut.

Miki: That sounds like a big adventure, Ichiro.

USA Pavilion Staff: And today, your adventure started right here.

LEARNING PASSPORT

Miki and Ichiro write the letter “A” in their booklets. They note that new ideas can spark change when people and countries work together. After their thrilling rocket ride, they are ready for the next stop on their Osaka Expo English learning adventure.

Vocabulary and Definitions

Word	Definition
Advances (n)	Big improvements or steps forward in a particular field, like medicine or technology.
Adventure (n)	An exciting experience or journey often involving something new or unknown.
America	The United States of America.
Astronaut (n)	A person who travels into space.
Countdown (n)	Counting backward to zero before something important happens, like a rocket launch. <i>Example:</i> “5... 4... 3... 2... 1... liftoff!”
Creativity (n)	The ability to make or think of new and original ideas. Artists, inventors, and problem-solvers all use creativity.
Diverse/Diversity (adj/n)	Having many different types of people, things, or ideas. A diverse country has people from many cultures and backgrounds living together.
Effect (n)	A change or result that happens because of something. Also: a special visual or sound trick used in movies or shows to create an experience. <i>Example:</i> “smoke effect,” “special effects.”

SAMPLE

Word	Definition
Explore (v)	To travel, look around, or learn about something new to understand it better.
Guide (v/n)	To show someone the way or help them through an experience. A guide is a person (or character) who leads you and explains things along the way.
Illusion (n)	Something that looks or feels real but is not. A magic trick or special effect can create an illusion. Example: “The room felt like it was moving, but that was just an illusion.”
Innovation (n)	A new idea, method, or invention that makes something better or solves a problem. Creating a better way to do something is innovation.
Loud	Having a strong or high-volume sound.
Noisy	Many sounds happening at the same time.
Prefectures (n)	Administrative regions or divisions within a country. Japan has 47 prefectures, similar to how the USA has 50 states.
Rumbling (n/v)	A deep, continuous sound like thunder or a big engine. During a rocket launch, you can feel the rumbling vibration in your body.
Showcase (v)	To display or present something so others can see it and appreciate it. Museums and exhibitions showcase art, technology, or achievements.
Space Station (n)	A large building that floats in space where astronauts live and work.
Spark (n)	A tiny flash of light or fire; also used metaphorically to mean the beginning of an idea or inspiration. Example: “the spark of creativity.”

Key Phrases	
Are you ready for...	To ask if someone is prepared or feels prepared for something that will happen soon.
It looks like...	Used when you judge something by what you see.
It sounds like ...	Used when you judge something by what you hear.
It feels like...	Used to describe a sensation or impression, even if we’re not 100% sure it’s true.
Made up of...	Composed of; consisting of. Example: “America is made up of people from all over the world.”