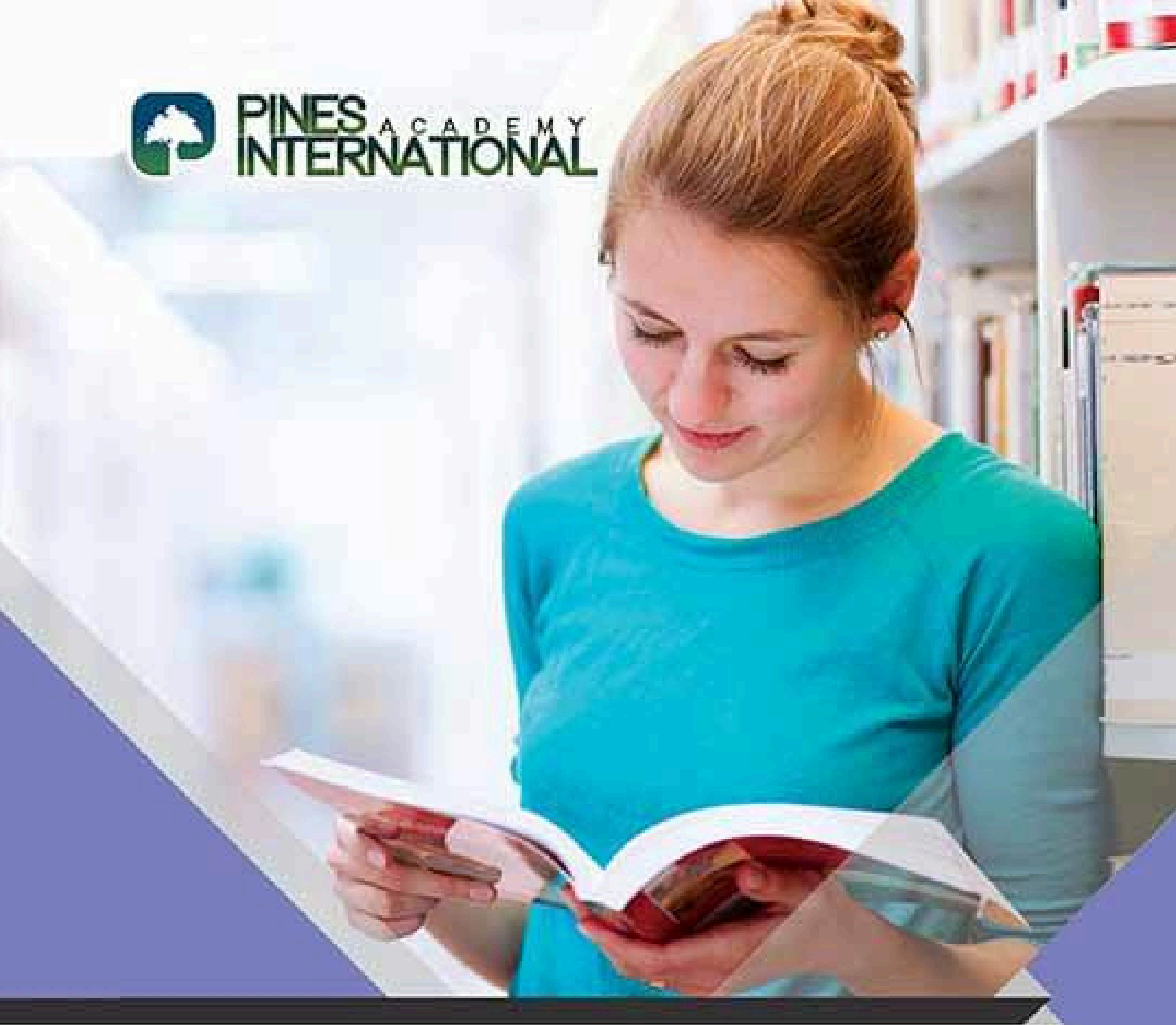




**PINES** ACADEMY  
**INTERNATIONAL**



# Intermediate Reading 2



English as a  
Foreign  
Language



## Introduction

**R**eading is a key part of learning English. *Intermediate Reading 2* is intended for students in Level 5. This book provides students of English as a foreign or second language with a highly motivated and carefully selected series of articles on a variety of topics to interest people from all walks of life.

The twenty (20) articles in this book are modern in content and style. The topics are all of general interest and range from articles about famous people, world wonders, as well as fascinating details from the worlds of science, technology, and so on. The vocabulary used in this book is highly contemporary and not found in more traditional reader series.

The goal of *Intermediate Reading 2* is to help second language learners learn the proper method of reading passages aloud with the use of the American accent and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols as a pronunciation guide. In order to facilitate the understanding of each passage, the difficult terms are defined at the end of each unit. Furthermore, reading comprehension exercises are provided so as to check one's reading comprehension ability. Reading Comprehension is a very powerful motivation because it enables students to create mental frameworks for holding ideas and help them become competent and enthusiastic readers.

*Intermediate Reading 2* is designed so that students in Level 5 can apply the strategies and skills introduced in this book to the reading materials they need to learn in the succeeding levels. Teaching reading not only gives students access to knowledge from print, but also makes them better able to use the language.



## 1: The Amazon Rainforest



The Amazon rainforest in South America is an amazing place. Filled with beautiful tropical flowers, towering trees, colorful parrots, and poisonous fish, it has some of the greatest levels of biodiversity of any



region in the world. This means there are more different kinds of animal and plant species in this forest than in most other places. There are also many different kinds of human cultures that exist in this rainforest, from indigenous tribes to modern farmers.

The Amazon region, which stretches across the countries of Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana, contains over



half of the planet's remaining rainforests. Rainforests are well-known for being great habitats for animals and plants, as they get a lot of water, which all species need to survive. Today, the Amazon rainforest is home to 40,000 plant species, 2.5 million insect species, 378 reptile species, and 427 mammal species, including humans.



This remarkable rainforest region is also home to 400 different indigenous Amazonian tribes, many with their own unique languages and names, such as the Yanomami tribe and the Nukak tribe. Some tribes live in villages along the rivers in the Amazon rainforest, growing vegetables and fruits like corn, beans, and bananas. Others are "nomadic," which means they move from place to place. These tribes get food by hunting and fishing, using poison darts, bows and arrows, spears, or sometimes shotguns to catch their dinner. Some tribes have had ongoing contact with the outside world and access to Western doctors and healthcare; others have never been contacted by outsiders at all, since the center of the Amazon rainforest can only be reached by traveling along piranha-infested rivers.

1. Why is the Amazon Forest considered as an amazing place?
2. Where is the forest located? Mention more information said about the forest.
3. What are said about the different indigenous tribes in the Amazon Rainforest?
4. In your opinion, why is the rainforest important to the world?



## 2: The History of



Simple block-shaped toys have been around for hundreds of years, but it took a 20th-century **Danish genius** named Ole Kirk Christiansen to **invent** the **interlocking** pieces we know today as LEGO bricks. It all started in 1932 in the village of Billund, long before LEGO had achieved world **domination** as a brand.



A master **joiner** and **carpenter**, Christiansen opened a **humble** woodworking shop with his son Godtfred, just 12 years old at the time. They **manufactured** stepladders, ironing boards and later expanded to make wooden toys, and in 1934 **dubbed** their business LEGO, a contraction of the Danish "leg godt" meaning "play well".

And play well they did. In fact, the group became the first Danish company to own a plastic injection-molding machine. When the Christiansens **came across prototypes** of a British toy called "Kiddicraft Self-Locking Building Bricks" in 1947, they **adopted** the idea and started manufacturing their own version two years later. The bricks had **pegs** on top and **hollow** bottoms, allowing children to lock the bricks together and create **elaborate** structures never possible with the simple wooden blocks **of yesteryear**.

In 1958, the LEGO brick finally **came into its own**.

And while founder Ole Kirk Christiansen never lived to see his company's **heyday**, his son Godtfred Christiansen **pioneered** and **patented** the now-standard LEGO **stud-and-tube configuration**.

After a **devastating** warehouse fire in 1960, the company decided to **ditch** production of wooden toys altogether and focus instead on plastics.



LEGO hasn't changed the design of their brick since then, which means today's sets are **compatible** with sets **from 1958 onward**.

1. Provide information on how Lego originated.
2. What are the parts of a Lego brick?
3. What do you think are the positive effects of playing Lego to children?