**9b Page 108 READING TEXT**

Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

The history of writing

Nowadays, 85% of the world’s population communicate by writing, but 5,000 years ago people only communicated by speaking. When words were written on a piece of stone for the ﬁrst time, the world changed forever.

*Mesopotamian cuneiform*

(3200 BC to AD 75)

Cuneiform was used by speakers of ﬁfteen diﬀerent languages for three thousand years. The symbols were made with clay.

*Egyptian hieroglyphs*

(3200 BC to AD 394)

The Egyptians made these signs on the walls of pyramids which you can still see today. They represented objects, ideas, emotions and sounds. Around 2500 BC, ‘papyrus’ was made from a plant and it was written on by the Egyptians. Later, the Romans also used papyrus.

*Indus Valley*

(2800 to 1900 BC)

Stone objects were found in the Indus Valley. They were possibly used for people’s identity or symbols of a tribe.

*Chinese logograms*

(1200 BC to present)

The earliest Chinese writing was done on bone.

*Levantine alphabets*

(1050 BC to present)

One of the ﬁrst alphabets was created by the Phoenicians which became modern Arabic. The Greek alphabet also came from this early form of writing and, eventually, it became the modern Latin alphabet.

*Mayan hieroglyphs*

(AD 250 to 900)

Like the Egyptians, pictures were used by the Maya to represent dates and times.

*The printing press*

(1450s)

By the end of the ﬁfteenth century, books in Europe were published with a new invention – Gutenberg’s printing press. As a result, more and more people started to learn how to read and write.

*The typewriter*

(1874)

The typewriter’s keyboard is still used on computer keyboards today.

*eBooks*

(2010)

For the ﬁrst time, more eBooks were sold by the online bookseller Amazon than traditional paperback books.

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