

ENGLISH PLUS

WITH
ANSWER
KEY

PRACTICE WORKSHEETS



PLACES

MEXICO

Places | Mexico

Comprehension

1. *Place the headings where they belong in the text below.*

[1] _____

Mexico is the southern neighbor of the United States. Its full name in Spanish is Estados Unidos Mexicanos, which means the United Mexican States. Spanish is the language of Mexico because Spain ruled Mexico for 300 years.

[2] _____

[3] _____

United Mexican States

[4] _____

Mexico City

[5] _____

Spanish

[6] _____

127,000,000 people

[7] _____

10th

[8] _____

Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ecatepec de Morelos

[9] _____

758,000 square miles

1,960,000 square kilometers

[10] _____

14th

[11] _____

Pico de Orizaba - 18,406 feet/5,610 meters

[12] _____

Mexican peso

[13] _____

Most of Mexico's people have both Spanish and Native American **ancestry**. Although most Mexicans speak Spanish, some still speak the Native American languages of their ancestors.

Spanish **conquistadors**-explorers and conquerors-came to Mexico in the 1500s. The conquistadors

destroyed an empire built by Aztec Indians in Mexico. Spain ruled Mexico until 1821, when Mexico won its independence.

Under Spanish rule, Mexicans became Roman Catholics. They created a version of the Catholic religion that's their own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe. A three-day festival honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe starts on December 12 each year. During the festival, people dance in the streets wearing Aztec headdresses and costumes.

[14]

Mexico City is the capital and largest city in Mexico. More than 20 million people call this city home. That's nearly one-fifth of the entire country's population. Many Mexicans call their capital simply Mexico, because it **dominates** the country so completely.

Mexico City is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. In 2000, it was the second largest city in the world. Only Tokyo, the capital of Japan, had more people.

Mexico City is built on the site of the capital of the Aztec Empire. Many stones from the Aztec capital were used in its first buildings. Today, it's a modern city with many tall buildings and wide, tree-lined streets.

[15]

A large public square, or **plaza**, lies at the center of most towns and cities in Mexico. Mexicans like to relax in the plaza on their time off. There's usually a church on the plaza and a marketplace nearby. A large number of Mexicans are poor. Some families live without electricity or running water in their homes. Some communities have no sewers. Some children leave school early to earn money and help support their families.

Many Mexicans have moved to Mexico City or other cities in Mexico to find jobs. The cities also offer more schools and better health care than **rural** areas. But the cities have become extremely **crowded**.

[16]

Mexico offers dramatic **scenery**. North central Mexico looks like the set for a cowboy movie. The bone-dry desert is filled with sagebrush and crossed by deep canyons. Southern Mexico has **lush** tropical forests. Central Mexico is a high plateau with snowcapped mountains on either side. Active volcanoes such as Popocatepetl sometimes **belch** smoke into the sky.

Visitors **marvel** at Mexico's white, sandy beaches and clear, turquoise waters. Acapulco, Mazatlán, and Puerto Vallarta are famous vacation spots on Mexico's western coast. Well-known **resorts** also **flourish** on the Yucatán Peninsula in southeastern Mexico. Mexico is one of the world's top tourist spots.

[17]

Would you like to have chocolate sauce for dinner? How about chocolate sauce on turkey? A popular

sauce in Mexico contains chocolate, cinnamon, chili peppers, and other ingredients. It's called mole. Mexicans consider pavo en mole-turkey with mole sauce-their national dish.

[18]

Many tourists also come to Mexico to see the remains of ancient civilizations. Native Americans-including the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, Toltec, and Aztec-developed civilizations in Mexico long before Europeans arrived. They built great cities with huge stone pyramids and other religious structures. The Maya had an advanced culture. They were skillful in mathematics. They knew a great deal about the stars. They created a complex and **accurate** calendar. They wrote books in a system of writing that people can no longer read.

[19]

The Aztecs ruled the last great Native American empire. They built a grand city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs followed a religion based on human **sacrifice**. They had a belief that a pale god would come from the east and destroy them.

In 1520, someone did come from the east, but he was not a god. He was Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés. Cortés and his small army destroyed the Aztec Empire and started a Spanish empire in Mexico.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. CHOCOLATE FOR DINNER | B. Rank among countries in population |
| C. MEXICO | D. THE MEXICAN LANDSCAPE |
| E. Population | F. FACTS ABOUT MEXICO |
| G. Highest point | H. ANCIENT MEXICO |
| I. Currency | J. Rank among countries in area |
| K. Capital | L. Official language |
| M. LIFE IN MEXICO | N. Area |
| O. Official name | P. MEXICO CITY |
| Q. MEXICO'S PEOPLE | R. END OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE |
| S. Major cities | |

Key Vocabulary Practice

2. **Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.**

ACROSS

1. an adventurer or conqueror, esp. one of the Spanish conquerors of the New World in the 16th century
4. If you _____ someone or something, you love them or admire them very much.
6. You can describe something or someone as a _____ to indicate that you think that they are wonderful.
8. An _____ statement or account gives a true or fair judgment of something.
10. If a plant or animal _____es, it grows well or is healthy because the conditions are right for it.
11. lineage or descent, esp when ancient, noble, or distinguished
13. If one country or person _____s another, they have power over them.
14. A _____ is a group of stores or buildings that are joined together or share common areas.
15. If a place is _____, a lot of people live there.

DOWN

2. If you achieve something without _____ to a particular course of action, you succeed without carrying out that action. To have _____ to a particular course of action means to have to do that action in order to achieve something.
3. In a theatre, the _____ consists of the structures and painted backgrounds that show where the action in the play takes place.
5. If you _____ something that is valuable or important, you give it up, usually to obtain something else for yourself or for other people.
7. If a machine or chimney _____es something such as smoke or fire or if smoke or fire _____es from it, large amounts of smoke or fire come from it.
9. If you describe a place or thing as _____, you mean that it is very luxurious.
12. _____ means having features which are typical of areas that are far away from large towns or cities.

For each question below a number of similar words appear, but only one is spelled correctly and matches the clue that is provided. Write the letter of the correctly spelled word in the space by the question number.

3. ___ a. KONQUISTADOR b. CONQUISTADOR c. CONQUISTADER
d. CONQUISRADOR
The _____s were the sixteenth-century Spanish conquerors of Central and South America.
4. ___ a. SCENEDY b. SCENERYE c. SCENERY d. SENERY
The _____ in a country area is the land, water, or plants that you can see around you.
5. ___ a. ACURATE b. ACCURATEE c. ACCURAT d. ACCURATE
_____ information, measurements, and statistics are correct to a very detailed level. An _____ instrument is able to give you information of this kind.
6. ___ a. MAZVEL b. MARVEL c. MYRVEL d. MARVELL
If you _____ at something, you express your great surprise, wonder, or admiration.
7. ___ a. ANCISTRY b. ENCESTRY c. ANCESTRI d. ANCESTRY
Your _____ is the fact that you are descended from certain people.
8. ___ a. RESORTE b. RASORT c. RESERT d. RESORT
A _____ is a place where a lot of people spend their holidays.
9. ___ a. DOMINATEE b. DOMINAT c. DOMINEAT d. DOMINATE
To _____ a situation means to be the most powerful or important person or thing in it.
10. ___ a. FLOWRISH b. FLOURISH c. FXOURISH d. FLOURICH
If something _____es, it is successful, active, or common, and developing quickly and strongly.
11. ___ a. CROWDD b. CRODED c. CROWWDED d. CROWDED
If a place is _____, it is full of people.
12. ___ a. BEBCH b. BELKH c. BYLCH d. BELCH
If someone _____es, they make a sudden noise in their throat because air has risen up from their stomach.
13. ___ a. SACRIFICE b. SACRIFIKE c. SACRIFIC d. SACRIFICEE
To _____ an animal or person means to kill them in a special religious ceremony as an offering to a god.
14. ___ a. RURLE b. RURAL c. RURALE d. RURYL
_____ places are far away from large towns or cities.
15. ___ a. WORCHIP b. WORSHP c. WORSHIP d. WERSHIP
If you _____ a god, you show your respect to the god, for example by saying prayers.
16. ___ a. PLAZU b. PLAZA c. PLAZAE d. PLLAZA
A _____ is an open square in a city.

17. ___ a. LUSSH b. LUSHE c. LUCH d. LUSH
_____ fields or gardens have a lot of very healthy grass or plants.

Choose the best option the completes the sentences below:

18. ___ If you have a change of _____, you go somewhere different after being in a particular place for a long time.
a. sacrifice b. crowded c. scenery d. resort e. marvel
19. ___ origin, house, family, line
a. lush b. flourish c. ancestry d. worship e. dominate
20. ___ _____s are things that people have done, or that have happened, which are very unexpected or surprising.
a. marvel b. rural c. conquistador d. accurate e. ancestry
21. ___ to show profound religious devotion and respect to; adore or venerate (God or any person or thing considered divine)
a. belch b. conquistador c. worship d. crowded e. plaza
22. ___ If a building, mountain, or other object _____s an area, it is so large or impressive that you cannot avoid seeing it.
a. accurate b. scenery c. dominate d. rural e. resort
23. ___ n open space or square, esp. in Spain or a Spanish-speaking country
a. flourish b. worship c. ancestry d. plaza e. belch
24. ___ If your timetable, your life, or your mind is _____, it is full of events, activities, or thoughts.
a. marvel b. lush c. crowded d. dominate e. plaza
25. ___ any of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico, Peru, or other parts of America in the 16th cent.
a. belch b. conquistador c. marvel d. crowded e. sacrifice
26. ___ If you _____ to a course of action that you do not really approve of, you adopt it because you cannot see any other way of achieving what you want.
a. sacrifice b. flourish c. scenery d. resort e. rural
27. ___ of, relating to, or characteristic of the country or country life
a. dominate b. worship c. resort d. rural e. lush
28. ___ If you _____ an object, you wave it about in a way that makes people notice it.
a. accurate b. ancestry c. plaza d. flourish e. conquistador
29. ___ You can use _____ to describe the results of someone's actions when they do or copy something correctly or exactly.
a. scenery b. accurate c. belch d. conquistador e. marvel
30. ___ to expel or be expelled forcefully from inside
a. plaza b. belch c. lush d. resort e. flourish
31. ___ characterized by a rich growth of vegetation
a. worship b. sacrifice c. lush d. accurate e. crowded

32. ___ Self-_____ is the giving up of what you want so that other people can have what they need or want.
a. ancestry b. sacrifice c. lush d. rural e. dominate
33. Beginning with the circled letter, use the clues to find and mark the trail of letters of all the connected words through the maze to the last letter. The path can wander up, down, left, right, and diagonally.

B	N	F	V	J	J	M	R	H	J	V	N	A	R	V	E	L	B	E	L
W	I	F	R	H	J	Q	Q	V	X	U	B	M	Q	K	R	O	W	H	C
O	I	T	B	Z	N	E	V	P	K	C	C	K	A	Z	S	H	O	C	C
Z	O	K	X	W	I	G	J	O	R	Q	E	C	S	A	L	I	P	A	U
U	B	X	I	E	T	E	F	Z	V	E	N	E	R	X	P	E	T	A	R
G	K	H	I	A	T	V	O	E	Y	C	Q	G	Y	F	U	R	M	W	F
H	D	F	U	B	K	F	M	H	N	K	Q	Y	X	L	O	I	S	H	R
K	T	L	V	Q	E	N	O	A	G	P	S	D	M	V	Z	G	B	R	E
U	R	A	X	Y	X	V	Q	K	W	V	E	V	A	M	I	E	Q	O	S
R	G	O	J	V	P	I	I	Y	R	T	S	Q	H	O	R	C	T	R	X
H	S	P	B	Y	X	J	M	S	B	C	E	L	T	W	S	Z	Z	P	D
L	U	K	U	I	I	T	C	A	Z	N	T	H	O	D	M	F	H	Q	K
R	M	J	O	I	P	Y	R	A	I	A	O	D	D	E	Y	X	V	I	Z
O	B	P	L	Q	Q	N	I	F	I	E	M	I	G	Y	F	K	V	Z	A
D	A	T	S	I	U	O	C	E	C	T	A	N	X	I	D	I	N	L	S

- You can describe something or someone as a _____ to indicate that you think that they are wonderful.
- to expel or be expelled forcefully from inside
- to show profound religious devotion and respect to; adore or venerate (God or any person or thing considered divine)
- _____ information, measurements, and statistics are correct to a very detailed level. An _____ instrument is able to give you information of this kind.
- A _____ is an open square in a city.
- If you have a change of _____, you go somewhere different after being in a particular place for a long time.
- If something _____es, it is successful, active, or common, and developing quickly and strongly.
- If you _____ to a course of action that you do not really approve of, you adopt it because you cannot see any other way of achieving what you want.

- 9. If a place is _____, a lot of people live there.
- 10. If a building, mountain, or other object _____s an area, it is so large or impressive that you cannot avoid seeing it.
- 11. origin, house, family, line
- 12. Self- _____ is the giving up of what you want so that other people can have what they need or want.
- 13. any of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico, Peru, or other parts of America in the 16th cent.
- 14. characterized by a rich growth of vegetation
- 15. _____ places are far away from large towns or cities.

34. **Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.**

P	L	H	R	R	F	B	P	Z	K	O	H	O	P	X	P	P	W	Y	A
Y	R	S	E	P	E	N	N	X	V	X	U	Q	W	W	I	J	B	H	S
X	U	I	R	M	D	S	U	X	Y	N	C	Y	U	M	H	X	Q	Y	U
W	R	R	L	M	E	W	O	P	L	A	Z	A	I	E	S	W	B	N	W
H	A	U	G	Y	D	H	D	R	O	E	G	H	W	A	R	X	K	D	E
D	L	O	Z	R	W	S	M	P	T	S	L	X	G	V	O	V	Z	L	T
B	E	L	C	H	O	U	X	M	A	R	V	E	L	E	W	Y	O	A	A
P	Y	F	Y	P	R	L	C	O	N	Q	U	I	S	T	A	D	O	R	N
S	O	Z	K	Q	C	G	Q	T	Y	X	S	C	E	N	E	R	Y	M	I
H	J	X	R	R	H	A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y	J	C	Y	B	L	M
D	D	D	H	B	I	A	C	C	U	R	A	T	E	I	Z	I	M	F	O
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	O	H	C	N	F	C	E	H	N	W	D

- lush
- rural
- ancestry
- resort
- worship
- crowded
- conquistador
- dominate
- belch
- flourish
- plaza
- accurate
- sacrifice
- scenery
- marvel

Listening Practice | Intermediate

35. *Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.*

MEXICO

Mexico is the southern neighbor of the United States. Its full name in Spanish is Estados Unidos Mexicanos, which means the United Mexican States. Spanish is the language of Mexico because Spain ruled Mexico for 300 years.

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

Official name

United Mexican States

Capital

Mexico City

Official language

Spanish

Population

127,000,000 people

Rank among countries in population

10th

[1] _____ cities

Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ecatepec de [2] _____

Area

758,000 square miles

1,960,000 [3] _____ kilometers

Rank among countries in area

14th

Highest [4] _____

Pico de Orizaba - 18,406 feet/5,610 meters

Currency

Mexican peso

MEXICO'S PEOPLE

Most of Mexico's people have both [5] _____ and Native American **ancestry**. Although most Mexicans speak Spanish, some still speak the Native American languages of their ancestors. Spanish **conquistadors**-explorers and conquerors-came to Mexico in the 1500s. The conquistadors destroyed an empire built by Aztec Indians in Mexico. Spain ruled Mexico until 1821, when Mexico won

its [6] _____.

[7] _____ Spanish rule, Mexicans [8] _____ Roman Catholics. They created a version of the Catholic religion that's their own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe. A three-day festival [9] _____ Our Lady of Guadalupe starts on December 12 each year. During the festival, people dance in the streets wearing Aztec headdresses and costumes.

[10] _____ CITY

Mexico City is the capital and largest city in Mexico. More than 20 million people call this city home.

That's nearly one-fifth of the entire country's population. Many Mexicans call their capital

[11] _____ Mexico, because it **dominates** the country so completely.

Mexico City is one of the [12] _____ growing cities in the world. In 2000, it was the second largest city in the world. Only Tokyo, the capital of Japan, had more people.

Mexico City is [13] _____ on the site of the capital of the Aztec Empire. Many

[14] _____ from the [15] _____ [16] _____ were used in its first buildings. Today, it's a modern city with many tall buildings and wide, tree-lined streets.

LIFE IN MEXICO

A large public square, or **plaza**, lies at the center of most towns and cities in Mexico. Mexicans like to

[17] _____ in the plaza on their time off. There's usually a church on the plaza and a

[18] _____ nearby.

A large number of Mexicans are poor. Some families live without [19] _____ or running

[20] _____ in their [21] _____. Some [22] _____ have no

[23] _____. Some children leave school early to earn [24] _____ and help support [25] _____ families.

Many Mexicans have moved to Mexico City or other cities in Mexico to find jobs. The cities also offer more schools and better health care than **rural** areas. But the cities have become extremely **crowded**.

THE MEXICAN [26] _____

Mexico offers dramatic **scenery**. North [27] _____ Mexico looks like the set for a cowboy

movie. The bone-dry desert is filled with sagebrush and crossed by deep canyons. Southern Mexico

has **lush** tropical [28] _____. [29] _____ Mexico is a high plateau with

snowcapped mountains on [30] _____ side. Active volcanoes such as Popocatépetl sometimes **belch** smoke into the sky.

Visitors **marvel** at Mexico's white, sandy beaches and clear, turquoise waters. Acapulco, Mazatlán, and Puerto Vallarta are famous vacation spots on Mexico's western coast. Well-known **resorts** also **flourish** on the Yucatán Peninsula in southeastern Mexico. Mexico is one of the world's top tourist

spots.

CHOCOLATE FOR DINNER

Would you like to have [31] _____ sauce for dinner? How about chocolate [32] _____ on [33] _____? A popular sauce in Mexico contains chocolate, cinnamon, [34] _____ peppers, and other ingredients. It's called mole. Mexicans consider pavo en mole-turkey with mole sauce-their national dish.

ANCIENT [35] _____

Many tourists also come to Mexico to see the remains of ancient civilizations. [36] _____ Americans-including the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, Toltec, and Aztec-developed [37] _____ in Mexico long before Europeans arrived. They built great cities with huge stone pyramids and other religious structures.

The Maya had an advanced culture. They were skillful in mathematics. They knew a great deal [38] _____ the stars. They created a complex and **accurate** calendar. They [39] _____ books in a system of writing that people can no longer read.

END OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

The [40] _____ ruled the last great Native American empire. They built a grand city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs followed a religion based on human **sacrifice**. They had a belief that a pale god would come from the east and destroy them.

In 1520, someone did come from the east, but he was not a god. He was Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés. Cortés and his small army destroyed the Aztec Empire and started a Spanish empire in Mexico.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| A. central | B. sauce | C. turkey | D. civilizations |
| E. Major | F. relax | G. chocolate | H. simply |
| I. sewers | J. water | K. Aztecs | L. became |
| M. capital | N. either | O. LANDSCAPE | P. electricity |
| Q. point | R. communities | S. Central | T. honoring |
| U. Morelos | V. square | W. Native | X. chili |
| Y. money | Z. forests | AA. MEXICO | BB. wrote |
| CC. Spanish | DD. MEXICO | EE. Aztec | FF. homes |
| GG. their | HH. about | II. independence | JJ. built |
| KK. marketplace | LL. Under | MM. stones | NN. fastest |

Listening Practice | Advanced

36. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

[1] _____

Mexico is the southern [2] _____ of the United States. Its full name in Spanish is

[3] _____ Unidos [4] _____, which means the United Mexican

[5] _____. Spanish is the language of Mexico because [6] _____ ruled

[7] _____ for 300 years.

FACTS [8] _____ MEXICO

Official name

United [9] _____ [10] _____

Capital

Mexico City

Official [11] _____

[12] _____

Population

127,000,000 people

Rank among countries in population

10th

[13] _____ cities

Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ecatepec de [14] _____

Area

758,000 [15] _____ [16] _____

1,960,000 square kilometers

Rank among countries in area

14th

Highest point

Pico de [17] _____ - 18,406 feet/5,610 meters

Currency

[18] _____ peso

[19] _____ [20] _____

Most of Mexico's [21] _____ have both Spanish and Native American

[22] _____. Although most [23] _____ speak Spanish, some still speak the

Native American languages of their ancestors.

Spanish [24] _____ and conquerors-came to Mexico in the 1500s. The conquistadors [25] _____ an empire [26] _____ by [27] _____ Indians in Mexico. [28] _____ ruled Mexico [29] _____ 1821, when [30] _____ won its [31] _____.

Under Spanish rule, [32] _____ [33] _____ Roman Catholics. They [34] _____ a version of the [35] _____ [36] _____ that's [37] _____ own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of [38] _____. A three-day [39] _____ honoring Our Lady of [40] _____ [41] _____ on [42] _____ 12 each year. [43] _____ the [44] _____, [45] _____ dance in the [46] _____ wearing [47] _____ headdresses and costumes.

[48] _____ CITY

Mexico City is the capital and largest city in Mexico. More than 20 million [49] _____ call this city home. That's [50] _____ one-fifth of the entire country's population. Many [51] _____ call their capital simply Mexico, because it [52] _____ the [53] _____ so completely.

Mexico City is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. In 2000, it was the second largest city in the world. Only Tokyo, the capital of [54] _____, had more [55] _____. Mexico City is [56] _____ on the site of the [57] _____ of the [58] _____ Empire. Many stones from the Aztec capital were used in its first buildings. Today, it's a modern city with many tall buildings and wide, tree-lined streets.

LIFE IN MEXICO

A large [59] _____ [60] _____, or **plaza**, lies at the [61] _____ of most [62] _____ and cities in Mexico. Mexicans like to relax in the plaza on [63] _____ time off. There's usually a church on the [64] _____ and a marketplace nearby.

A large [65] _____ of Mexicans are poor. Some [66] _____ live [67] _____ electricity or running water in their [68] _____. Some communities have no [69] _____. Some children leave school [70] _____ to earn [71] _____ and help support their families.

Many [72] _____ have moved to Mexico City or other cities in Mexico to find jobs. The cities also offer more schools and better [73] _____ care than **rural** areas. But the cities have [74] _____ extremely [75] _____.

THE MEXICAN [76] _____

Mexico offers [77] _____ [78] _____. [79] _____ central Mexico looks like the set for a cowboy movie. The bone-dry desert is [80] _____ with [81] _____ and crossed by deep canyons. Southern Mexico has **lush** tropical [82] _____. [83] _____ Mexico is a high plateau with snowcapped mountains on either side. Active volcanoes such as Popocatépetl sometimes **belch** [84] _____ into the sky.

[85] _____ **marvel** at [86] _____ white, sandy beaches and clear, turquoise waters. Acapulco, Mazatlán, and Puerto [87] _____ are famous [88] _____ spots on Mexico's western coast. [89] _____ **resorts** also **flourish** on the Yucatán Peninsula in southeastern [90] _____. Mexico is one of the world's top [91] _____ spots.

CHOCOLATE FOR DINNER

Would you like to have chocolate sauce for dinner? How about [92] _____ sauce on turkey? A [93] _____ sauce in Mexico contains [94] _____, cinnamon, chili peppers, and other ingredients. It's called mole. Mexicans [95] _____ pavo en mole-turkey with mole sauce-their [96] _____ dish.

ANCIENT MEXICO

Many tourists also come to Mexico to see the remains of ancient [97] _____. Native Americans-including the [98] _____, [99] _____, Maya, [100] _____, and [101] _____ civilizations in Mexico long before Europeans arrived. They built great cities with huge stone [102] _____ and [103] _____ [104] _____ structures.

The Maya had an advanced culture. They were skillful in mathematics. They knew a great deal about the stars. They created a complex and [105] _____ [106] _____. They wrote [107] _____ in a system of writing that [108] _____ can no longer read.

END OF THE AZTEC [109] _____

The Aztecs ruled the last great Native [110] _____ [111] _____. They built a grand city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs [112] _____ a [113] _____ based on [114] _____ [115] _____. They had a belief that a pale god [116] _____ come from the east and destroy them.

In 1520, someone did come from the east, but he was not a god. He was Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés. Cortés and his small army [117] _____ the Aztec Empire and [118] _____ a Spanish [119] _____ in Mexico.

Spelling Practice

37. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

METICO

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FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

Official name

United Mexican States

Capital

Mexico City

Official language

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Rank among countries in population

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Major cities

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MEXICO'S PEOPLE

Most of Mexico's people have both Spanish and Native American **ancestry**. Although most Mexicans speak Spanish, some still speak the Native American languages of their ancestors.

Spanish **conquistadors**-explorers and conquerors-came to Mexico in the 1500s. The conquistadors destroyed an empire built by Aztec Indians in Mexico. Spain ruled Mexico until 1821, when Mexico won its independence.

Under Spanish rule, Mexicans became Roman Catholics. They created a

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____
- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____
- 26. _____
- 27. _____
- 28. _____
- 29. _____
- 30. _____
- 31. _____
- 32. _____
- 33. _____
- 34. _____
- 35. _____
- 36. _____

version of the Catholic religion that's their own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the Virgine Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe. A three-day festival honoreng Our Lady of Guadalupe starts on December 12 each year. During tha festival, people dance in the streets wearing Aztec headdresses end costumes.

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MEXICO CITYE

Mexico City is the kapital and largest city in Mexico. More than 20 million people call this city home. Thak's nearly one-fifth of the entire cowntry's population. Many Mexicans call their capital simply Mexico, because it **dominates** the country so completele.

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46.

Mexico City is one of the fastest growng cities in the world. In 2000, it was the second largest sity in the world. Only Tokyo, the capital of Japan, had mor people.

47.
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49.

Mexico City is built on tha site of the capital of the Aztec Empire. Many stones from the Aztec capitel were used in its first buildings. Today, it's a modern city wiht many tall buildings and wide, tree-lined streets.

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LIKE IN MEXICO

A large public square, or **plazae**, lies at the center of most towns and cities in Mexico. Mexicans like to relax in the plaza one their time off. There's usually an church on the plaza and a marketplace nearby.

53.
54.
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56.

A large number of Mexicans are poor. Some families live wihtout electricity ore running water in their homes. Some communities have no sewers. Some children leave shool early to earn money and help suppert their families.

57.
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60.

Many Mexicans have moved too Mexico City or other cities in Mexico to find jobs. The citys also offer more schools and better health care than **rural** areas. But the cities have become extremely **crowdd**.

61.
62.
63.

THE MEXITAN LANDSCAPE

Mexico offers dramatic **scenery**. North central Mexico looks like tha set for a cowboy movie. The bone-dry desirt is filled with sagebrush and crossed by deep canyons. Sowthern Mexico has **lush** tropical forests. Central Mexico is a high plateau wiht snowcapped mountains on either side. Active volcanoes such as Popocatépetll sometimes **belch** smoke into tha sky.

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67.
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Visitors **marvel** at Mexico's white, sandy beaches and cler, turquoise waters. Acapulco, Mazatlán, and Puerto Vallarta are famous vacation sppots on Mexico's western coast. Well-known **resorts** also **flourish** on the Yucatán Peninsula in southeastern Mexiko. Mexico is one of the world's top tourist spots.

71.
72.
73.
74.
75.

CHOCOLATE FOR DUNNER

Would you like to hav chocolate sauce for dinner? How about chocolate sauce on turkey? A popular sauce in Mexico contains

76.
77.
78.

chocolate, cinnamon, chili peppers, and other ingredients. It's called mole. Mexicans consider pavo en mole-turkey with mole sauce-their national dish.

ANCIENT MEXICO

Many tourists also come to Mexico to see the remains of ancient civilizations. Native Americans including the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, Toltec, and Aztec-developed civilizations in Mexico long before Europeans arrived. They built great cities with huge stone pyramids and other religious structures.

The Maya had an advanced culture. They were skillful in mathematics. They knew a great deal about the stars. They created a complex and **accurate** calendar. They wrote books in a system of writing that people can no longer read.

END OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

The Aztecs ruled the last great Native American empire. They built a grand city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs followed a religion based on human **sacrifice**. They had a belief that a pale god would come from the east and destroy them.

In 1520, someone did come from the east, but he was not a god. He was Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés. Cortés and his small army destroyed the Aztec Empire and started a Spanish empire in Mexico.

79. _____
80. _____
81. _____
82. _____
83. _____
84. _____
85. _____
86. _____
87. _____
88. _____
89. _____
90. _____
91. _____
92. _____
93. _____
94. _____
95. _____
96. _____
97. _____
98. _____
99. _____

Places | Mexico

Comprehension

1. *Place the headings where they belong in the text below.*

[1] MEXICO _____

Mexico is the southern neighbor of the United States. Its full name in Spanish is Estados Unidos Mexicanos, which means the United Mexican States. Spanish is the language of Mexico because Spain ruled Mexico for 300 years.

[2] FACTS ABOUT MEXICO _____

[3] Official name _____

United Mexican States

[4] Capital _____

Mexico City

[5] Official language _____

Spanish

[6] Population _____

127,000,000 people

[7] Rank among countries in population _____

10th

[8] Major cities _____

Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ecatepec de Morelos

[9] Area _____

758,000 square miles

1,960,000 square kilometers

[10] Rank among countries in area _____

14th

[11] Highest point _____

Pico de Orizaba - 18,406 feet/5,610 meters

[12] Currency _____

Mexican peso

[13] MEXICO'S PEOPLE _____

Most of Mexico's people have both Spanish and Native American **ancestry**. Although most Mexicans speak Spanish, some still speak the Native American languages of their ancestors.

Spanish **conquistadors**-explorers and conquerors-came to Mexico in the 1500s. The conquistadors

destroyed an empire built by Aztec Indians in Mexico. Spain ruled Mexico until 1821, when Mexico won its independence.

Under Spanish rule, Mexicans became Roman Catholics. They created a version of the Catholic religion that's their own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe. A three-day festival honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe starts on December 12 each year. During the festival, people dance in the streets wearing Aztec headdresses and costumes.

[14] MEXICO CITY

Mexico City is the capital and largest city in Mexico. More than 20 million people call this city home. That's nearly one-fifth of the entire country's population. Many Mexicans call their capital simply Mexico, because it **dominates** the country so completely.

Mexico City is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. In 2000, it was the second largest city in the world. Only Tokyo, the capital of Japan, had more people.

Mexico City is built on the site of the capital of the Aztec Empire. Many stones from the Aztec capital were used in its first buildings. Today, it's a modern city with many tall buildings and wide, tree-lined streets.

[15] LIFE IN MEXICO

A large public square, or **plaza**, lies at the center of most towns and cities in Mexico. Mexicans like to relax in the plaza on their time off. There's usually a church on the plaza and a marketplace nearby. A large number of Mexicans are poor. Some families live without electricity or running water in their homes. Some communities have no sewers. Some children leave school early to earn money and help support their families.

Many Mexicans have moved to Mexico City or other cities in Mexico to find jobs. The cities also offer more schools and better health care than **rural** areas. But the cities have become extremely **crowded**.

[16] THE MEXICAN LANDSCAPE

Mexico offers dramatic **scenery**. North central Mexico looks like the set for a cowboy movie. The bone-dry desert is filled with sagebrush and crossed by deep canyons. Southern Mexico has **lush** tropical forests. Central Mexico is a high plateau with snowcapped mountains on either side. Active volcanoes such as Popocatépetl sometimes **belch** smoke into the sky.

Visitors **marvel** at Mexico's white, sandy beaches and clear, turquoise waters. Acapulco, Mazatlán, and Puerto Vallarta are famous vacation spots on Mexico's western coast. Well-known **resorts** also **flourish** on the Yucatán Peninsula in southeastern Mexico. Mexico is one of the world's top tourist spots.

[17] CHOCOLATE FOR DINNER

Would you like to have chocolate sauce for dinner? How about chocolate sauce on turkey? A popular

sauce in Mexico contains chocolate, cinnamon, chili peppers, and other ingredients. It's called mole. Mexicans consider pavo en mole-turkey with mole sauce-their national dish.

[18] ANCIENT MEXICO

Many tourists also come to Mexico to see the remains of ancient civilizations. Native Americans-including the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, Toltec, and Aztec-developed civilizations in Mexico long before Europeans arrived. They built great cities with huge stone pyramids and other religious structures. The Maya had an advanced culture. They were skillful in mathematics. They knew a great deal about the stars. They created a complex and **accurate** calendar. They wrote books in a system of writing that people can no longer read.

[19] END OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

The Aztecs ruled the last great Native American empire. They built a grand city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs followed a religion based on human **sacrifice**. They had a belief that a pale god would come from the east and destroy them.

In 1520, someone did come from the east, but he was not a god. He was Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés. Cortés and his small army destroyed the Aztec Empire and started a Spanish empire in Mexico.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. CHOCOLATE FOR DINNER | B. Rank among countries in population |
| C. MEXICO | D. THE MEXICAN LANDSCAPE |
| E. Population | F. FACTS ABOUT MEXICO |
| G. Highest point | H. ANCIENT MEXICO |
| I. Currency | J. Rank among countries in area |
| K. Capital | L. Official language |
| M. LIFE IN MEXICO | N. Area |
| O. Official name | P. MEXICO CITY |
| Q. MEXICO'S PEOPLE | R. END OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE |
| S. Major cities | |

For each question below a number of similar words appear, but only one is spelled correctly and matches the clue that is provided. Write the letter of the correctly spelled word in the space by the question number.

3. **b** a. KONQUISTADOR b. CONQUISTADOR c. CONQUISTADER
d. CONQUISRADOR
The _____s were the sixteenth-century Spanish conquerors of Central and South America.
4. **c** a. SCENEDY b. SCENERYE c. SCENERY d. SENERY
The _____ in a country area is the land, water, or plants that you can see around you.
5. **d** a. ACURATE b. ACCURATEE c. ACCURAT d. ACCURATE
_____ information, measurements, and statistics are correct to a very detailed level. An _____ instrument is able to give you information of this kind.
6. **b** a. MAZVEL b. MARVEL c. MYRVEL d. MARVELL
If you _____ at something, you express your great surprise, wonder, or admiration.
7. **d** a. ANCISTRY b. ENCESTRY c. ANCESTRI d. ANCESTRY
Your _____ is the fact that you are descended from certain people.
8. **d** a. RESORTE b. RASORT c. RESERT d. RESORT
A _____ is a place where a lot of people spend their holidays.
9. **d** a. DOMINATEE b. DOMINAT c. DOMINEAT d. DOMINATE
To _____ a situation means to be the most powerful or important person or thing in it.
10. **b** a. FLOWRISH b. FLOURISH c. FXOURISH d. FLOURICH
If something _____es, it is successful, active, or common, and developing quickly and strongly.
11. **d** a. CROWDD b. CRODED c. CROWWDED d. CROWDED
If a place is _____, it is full of people.
12. **d** a. BEBCH b. BELKH c. BYLCH d. BELCH
If someone _____es, they make a sudden noise in their throat because air has risen up from their stomach.
13. **a** a. SACRIFICE b. SACRIFIKE c. SACRIFIC d. SACRIFICEE
To _____ an animal or person means to kill them in a special religious ceremony as an offering to a god.
14. **b** a. RURLE b. RURAL c. RURALE d. RURYL
_____ places are far away from large towns or cities.
15. **c** a. WORCHIP b. WORSHP c. WORSHIP d. WERSHIP
If you _____ a god, you show your respect to the god, for example by saying prayers.
16. **b** a. PLAZU b. PLAZA c. PLAZAE d. PLLAZA
A _____ is an open square in a city.

17. d a. LUSSH b. LUSHE c. LUCH d. LUSH
_____ fields or gardens have a lot of very healthy grass or plants.

Choose the best option the completes the sentences below:

18. c If you have a change of _____, you go somewhere different after being in a particular place for a long time.
a. sacrifice b. crowded c. scenery d. resort e. marvel
19. c origin, house, family, line
a. lush b. flourish c. ancestry d. worship e. dominate
20. a _____s are things that people have done, or that have happened, which are very unexpected or surprising.
a. marvel b. rural c. conquistador d. accurate e. ancestry
21. c to show profound religious devotion and respect to; adore or venerate (God or any person or thing considered divine)
a. belch b. conquistador c. worship d. crowded e. plaza
22. c If a building, mountain, or other object _____s an area, it is so large or impressive that you cannot avoid seeing it.
a. accurate b. scenery c. dominate d. rural e. resort
23. d n open space or square, esp. in Spain or a Spanish-speaking country
a. flourish b. worship c. ancestry d. plaza e. belch
24. c If your timetable, your life, or your mind is _____, it is full of events, activities, or thoughts.
a. marvel b. lush c. crowded d. dominate e. plaza
25. b any of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico, Peru, or other parts of America in the 16th cent.
a. belch b. conquistador c. marvel d. crowded e. sacrifice
26. d If you _____ to a course of action that you do not really approve of, you adopt it because you cannot see any other way of achieving what you want.
a. sacrifice b. flourish c. scenery d. resort e. rural
27. d of, relating to, or characteristic of the country or country life
a. dominate b. worship c. resort d. rural e. lush
28. d If you _____ an object, you wave it about in a way that makes people notice it.
a. accurate b. ancestry c. plaza d. flourish e. conquistador
29. b You can use _____ to describe the results of someone's actions when they do or copy something correctly or exactly.
a. scenery b. accurate c. belch d. conquistador e. marvel
30. b to expel or be expelled forcefully from inside
a. plaza b. belch c. lush d. resort e. flourish
31. c characterized by a rich growth of vegetation
a. worship b. sacrifice c. lush d. accurate e. crowded

32. **b** Self-_____ is the giving up of what you want so that other people can have what they need or want.
 a. ancestry b. sacrifice c. lush d. rural e. dominate

33. Beginning with the circled letter, use the clues to find and mark the trail of letters of all the connected words through the maze to the last letter. The path can wander up, down, left, right, and diagonally.

B	N	F	V	J	J	M	R	H	J	V	N	A	R	V	E	L	B	E	L
W	I	F	R	H	J	Q	Q	V	X	U	B	M	Q	K	R	O	W	H	C
O	I	T	B	Z	N	E	V	P	K	C	C	K	A	Z	S	H	O	C	C
Z	O	K	X	W	I	G	J	O	R	Q	E	C	S	A	L	I	P	A	U
U	B	X	I	E	T	E	F	Z	V	E	N	E	R	X	P	E	T	A	R
G	K	H	I	A	T	V	O	E	Y	C	Q	G	Y	F	U	R	M	W	F
H	D	F	U	B	K	F	M	H	N	K	Q	Y	X	L	O	I	S	H	R
K	T	L	V	Q	E	N	O	A	G	P	S	D	M	V	Z	G	B	R	E
U	R	A	X	Y	X	V	Q	K	W	V	E	V	A	M	I	E	Q	O	S
R	G	O	J	V	P	I	I	Y	R	T	S	Q	H	O	R	C	T	R	X
H	S	P	B	Y	X	J	M	S	B	C	E	L	T	W	S	Z	Z	P	D
L	U	K	U	I	I	T	C	A	Z	N	T	H	O	D	M	F	H	Q	K
R	M	J	O	I	P	Y	R	A	I	A	O	D	D	E	Y	X	V	I	Z
O	B	P	L	Q	Q	N	I	F	I	E	M	I	G	Y	F	K	V	Z	A
D	A	T	S	I	U	O	C	E	C	T	A	N	X	I	D	I	N	L	S

1. You can describe something or someone as a _____ to indicate that you think that they are wonderful.
2. to expel or be expelled forcefully from inside
3. to show profound religious devotion and respect to; adore or venerate (God or any person or thing considered divine)
4. _____ information, measurements, and statistics are correct to a very detailed level. An _____ instrument is able to give you information of this kind.
5. A _____ is an open square in a city.
6. If you have a change of _____, you go somewhere different after being in a particular place for a long time.
7. If something _____, it is successful, active, or common, and developing quickly and strongly.
8. If you _____ to a course of action that you do not really approve of, you adopt it because you cannot see any other way of achieving what you want.

- 9. If a place is _____, a lot of people live there.
- 10. If a building, mountain, or other object _____s an area, it is so large or impressive that you cannot avoid seeing it.
- 11. origin, house, family, line
- 12. Self- _____ is the giving up of what you want so that other people can have what they need or want.
- 13. any of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico, Peru, or other parts of America in the 16th cent.
- 14. characterized by a rich growth of vegetation
- 15. _____ places are far away from large towns or cities.

34. **Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.**

P	L	H	R	R	F	B	P	Z	K	O	H	O	P	X	P	P	W	Y	A
Y	R	S	E	P	E	N	N	X	V	X	U	Q	W	W	I	J	B	H	S
X	U	I	R	M	D	S	U	X	Y	N	C	Y	U	M	H	X	Q	Y	U
W	R	R	L	M	E	W	O	P	L	A	Z	A	I	E	S	W	B	N	W
H	A	U	G	Y	D	H	D	R	O	E	G	H	W	A	R	X	K	D	E
D	L	O	Z	R	W	S	M	P	T	S	L	X	G	V	O	V	Z	L	T
B	E	L	C	H	O	U	X	M	A	R	V	E	L	E	W	Y	O	A	A
P	Y	F	Y	P	R	L	C	O	N	Q	U	I	S	T	A	D	O	R	N
S	O	Z	K	Q	C	G	Q	T	Y	X	S	C	E	N	E	R	Y	M	I
H	J	X	R	R	H	A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y	J	C	Y	B	L	M
D	D	D	H	B	I	A	C	C	U	R	A	T	E	I	Z	I	M	F	O
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	O	H	C	N	F	C	E	H	N	W	D

- lush
- resort
- conquistador
- flourish
- sacrifice
- rural
- worship
- dominate
- plaza
- scenery
- ancestry
- crowded
- belch
- accurate
- marvel

Listening Practice | Intermediate

35. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

MEXICO

Mexico is the southern neighbor of the United States. Its full name in Spanish is Estados Unidos Mexicanos, which means the United Mexican States. Spanish is the language of Mexico because Spain ruled Mexico for 300 years.

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

Official name

United Mexican States

Capital

Mexico City

Official language

Spanish

Population

127,000,000 people

Rank among countries in population

10th

[1] Major _____ cities

Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ecatepec de [2] Morelos _____

Area

758,000 square miles

1,960,000 [3] square _____ kilometers

Rank among countries in area

14th

Highest [4] point _____

Pico de Orizaba - 18,406 feet/5,610 meters

Currency

Mexican peso

MEXICO'S PEOPLE

Most of Mexico's people have both [5] Spanish _____ and Native American **ancestry**. Although most Mexicans speak Spanish, some still speak the Native American languages of their ancestors. Spanish **conquistadors**-explorers and conquerors-came to Mexico in the 1500s. The conquistadors destroyed an empire built by Aztec Indians in Mexico. Spain ruled Mexico until 1821, when Mexico won

its [6] **independence** _____.

[7] **Under** _____ Spanish rule, Mexicans [8] **became** _____ Roman Catholics. They created a version of the Catholic religion that's their own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe. A three-day festival [9] **honoring** _____ Our Lady of Guadalupe starts on December 12 each year. During the festival, people dance in the streets wearing Aztec headdresses and costumes.

[10] **MEXICO** _____ **CITY**

Mexico City is the capital and largest city in Mexico. More than 20 million people call this city home.

That's nearly one-fifth of the entire country's population. Many Mexicans call their capital

[11] **simply** _____ Mexico, because it **dominates** the country so completely.

Mexico City is one of the [12] **fastest** _____ growing cities in the world. In 2000, it was the second largest city in the world. Only Tokyo, the capital of Japan, had more people.

Mexico City is [13] **built** _____ on the site of the capital of the Aztec Empire. Many

[14] **stones** _____ from the [15] **Aztec** _____ [16] **capital** _____ were used in its first buildings. Today, it's a modern city with many tall buildings and wide, tree-lined streets.

LIFE IN MEXICO

A large public square, or **plaza**, lies at the center of most towns and cities in Mexico. Mexicans like to

[17] **relax** _____ in the plaza on their time off. There's usually a church on the plaza and a

[18] **marketplace** _____ nearby.

A large number of Mexicans are poor. Some families live without [19] **electricity** _____ or running

[20] **water** _____ in their [21] **homes** _____. Some [22] **communities** _____ have no

[23] **sewers** _____. Some children leave school early to earn [24] **money** _____ and help support [25] **their** _____ families.

Many Mexicans have moved to Mexico City or other cities in Mexico to find jobs. The cities also offer more schools and better health care than **rural** areas. But the cities have become extremely **crowded**.

THE MEXICAN [26] **LANDSCAPE** _____

Mexico offers dramatic **scenery**. North [27] **central** _____ Mexico looks like the set for a cowboy

movie. The bone-dry desert is filled with sagebrush and crossed by deep canyons. Southern Mexico

has **lush** tropical [28] **forests** _____. [29] **Central** _____ Mexico is a high plateau with

snowcapped mountains on [30] **either** _____ side. Active volcanoes such as Popocatépetl sometimes **belch** smoke into the sky.

Visitors **marvel** at Mexico's white, sandy beaches and clear, turquoise waters. Acapulco, Mazatlán, and Puerto Vallarta are famous vacation spots on Mexico's western coast. Well-known **resorts** also **flourish** on the Yucatán Peninsula in southeastern Mexico. Mexico is one of the world's top tourist

spots.

CHOCOLATE FOR DINNER

Would you like to have [31] **chocolate** _____ sauce for dinner? How about chocolate [32] **sauce** _____ on [33] **turkey** _____? A popular sauce in Mexico contains chocolate, cinnamon, [34] **chili** _____ peppers, and other ingredients. It's called mole. Mexicans consider pavo en mole-turkey with mole sauce-their national dish.

ANCIENT [35] **MEXICO** _____

Many tourists also come to Mexico to see the remains of ancient civilizations. [36] **Native** _____ Americans-including the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, Toltec, and Aztec-developed [37] **civilizations** _____ in Mexico long before Europeans arrived. They built great cities with huge stone pyramids and other religious structures.

The Maya had an advanced culture. They were skillful in mathematics. They knew a great deal [38] **about** _____ the stars. They created a complex and **accurate** calendar. They [39] **wrote** _____ books in a system of writing that people can no longer read.

END OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

The [40] **Aztecs** _____ ruled the last great Native American empire. They built a grand city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs followed a religion based on human **sacrifice**. They had a belief that a pale god would come from the east and destroy them.

In 1520, someone did come from the east, but he was not a god. He was Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés. Cortés and his small army destroyed the Aztec Empire and started a Spanish empire in Mexico.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| A. central | B. sauce | C. turkey | D. civilizations |
| E. Major | F. relax | G. chocolate | H. simply |
| I. sewers | J. water | K. Aztecs | L. became |
| M. capital | N. either | O. LANDSCAPE | P. electricity |
| Q. point | R. communities | S. Central | T. honoring |
| U. Morelos | V. square | W. Native | X. chili |
| Y. money | Z. forests | AA. MEXICO | BB. wrote |
| CC. Spanish | DD. MEXICO | EE. Aztec | FF. homes |
| GG. their | HH. about | II. independence | JJ. built |
| KK. marketplace | LL. Under | MM. stones | NN. fastest |

Listening Practice | Advanced

36. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

[1] **MEXICO** _____

Mexico is the southern [2] **neighbor** _____ of the United States. Its full name in Spanish is [3] **Estados** _____ Unidos [4] **Mexicanos** _____, which means the United Mexican [5] **States** _____. Spanish is the language of Mexico because [6] **Spain** _____ ruled [7] **Mexico** _____ for 300 years.

FACTS [8] ABOUT _____ MEXICO

Official name

United [9] **Mexican** _____ [10] **States** _____

Capital

Mexico City

Official [11] language _____

[12] **Spanish** _____

Population

127,000,000 people

Rank among countries in population

10th

[13] **Major** _____ **cities**

Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ecatepec de [14] **Morelos** _____

Area

758,000 [15] **square** _____ [16] **miles** _____

1,960,000 square kilometers

Rank among countries in area

14th

Highest point

Pico de [17] **Orizaba** _____ - 18,406 feet/5,610 meters

Currency

[18] **Mexican** _____ peso

[19] **MEXICO'S** _____ [20] **PEOPLE** _____

Most of Mexico's [21] **people** _____ have both Spanish and Native American

[22] **ancestry** _____. Although most [23] **Mexicans** _____ speak Spanish, some still speak the Native American languages of their ancestors.

Spanish **[24] conquistadors-explorers** and conquerors-came to Mexico in the 1500s. The conquistadors **[25] destroyed** an empire **[26] built** by **[27] Aztec** Indians in Mexico. **[28] Spain** ruled Mexico **[29] until** 1821, when **[30] Mexico** won its **[31] independence**.

Under Spanish rule, **[32] Mexicans** **[33] became** Roman Catholics. They **[34] created** a version of the **[35] Catholic** **[36] religion** that's **[37] their** own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of **[38] Guadalupe**. A three-day **[39] festival** honoring Our Lady of **[40] Guadalupe** **[41] starts** on **[42] December** 12 each year. **[43] During** the **[44] festival**, **[45] people** dance in the **[46] streets** wearing **[47] Aztec** headdresses and costumes.

[48] MEXICO CITY

Mexico City is the capital and largest city in Mexico. More than 20 million **[49] people** call this city home. That's **[50] nearly** one-fifth of the entire country's population. Many **[51] Mexicans** call their capital simply Mexico, because it **[52] dominates** the **[53] country** so completely.

Mexico City is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. In 2000, it was the second largest city in the world. Only Tokyo, the capital of **[54] Japan**, had more **[55] people**. Mexico City is **[56] built** on the site of the **[57] capital** of the **[58] Aztec** Empire. Many stones from the Aztec capital were used in its first buildings. Today, it's a modern city with many tall buildings and wide, tree-lined streets.

LIFE IN MEXICO

A large **[59] public** **[60] square**, or **plaza**, lies at the **[61] center** of most **[62] towns** and cities in Mexico. Mexicans like to relax in the plaza on **[63] their** time off. There's usually a church on the **[64] plaza** and a marketplace nearby.

A large **[65] number** of Mexicans are poor. Some **[66] families** live **[67] without** electricity or running water in their **[68] homes**. Some communities have no **[69] sewers**. Some children leave school **[70] early** to earn **[71] money** and help support their families.

Many **[72] Mexicans** have moved to Mexico City or other cities in Mexico to find jobs. The cities also offer more schools and better **[73] health** care than **rural** areas. But the cities have **[74] become** extremely **[75] crowded**.

THE MEXICAN [76] LANDSCAPE

Mexico offers [77] **dramatic** [78] **scenery** . [79] **North** central Mexico looks like the set for a cowboy movie. The bone-dry desert is [80] **filled** with [81] **sagebrush** and crossed by deep canyons. Southern Mexico has **lush** tropical [82] **forests** . [83] **Central** Mexico is a high plateau with snowcapped mountains on either side. Active volcanoes such as Popocatépetl sometimes **belch** [84] **smoke** into the sky.

[85] **Visitors** **marvel** at [86] **Mexico's** white, sandy beaches and clear, turquoise waters. Acapulco, Mazatlán, and Puerto [87] **Vallarta** are famous [88] **vacation** spots on Mexico's western coast. [89] **Well-known** **resorts** also **flourish** on the Yucatán Peninsula in southeastern [90] **Mexico** . Mexico is one of the world's top [91] **tourist** spots.

CHOCOLATE FOR DINNER

Would you like to have chocolate sauce for dinner? How about [92] **chocolate** sauce on turkey? A [93] **popular** sauce in Mexico contains [94] **chocolate** , cinnamon, chili peppers, and other ingredients. It's called mole. Mexicans [95] **consider** pavo en mole-turkey with mole sauce-their [96] **national** dish.

ANCIENT MEXICO

Many tourists also come to Mexico to see the remains of ancient [97] **civilizations** . Native Americans-including the [98] **Olmec** , [99] **Zapotec** , Maya, [100] **Toltec** , and [101] **Aztec-developed** civilizations in Mexico long before Europeans arrived. They built great cities with huge stone [102] **pyramids** and [103] **other** [104] **religious** structures.

The Maya had an advanced culture. They were skillful in mathematics. They knew a great deal about the stars. They created a complex and [105] **accurate** [106] **calendar** . They wrote [107] **books** in a system of writing that [108] **people** can no longer read.

END OF THE AZTEC [109] **EMPIRE**

The Aztecs ruled the last great Native [110] **American** [111] **empire** . They built a grand city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs [112] **followed** a [113] **religion** based on [114] **human** [115] **sacrifice** . They had a belief that a pale god [116] **would** come from the east and destroy them.

In 1520, someone did come from the east, but he was not a god. He was Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés. Cortés and his small army [117] **destroyed** the Aztec Empire and [118] **started** a Spanish [119] **empire** in Mexico.

Spelling Practice

37. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

METICO

Mexico is the southern neighbor of the United States. Its full name **inn** Spanish is Estados Unidos Mexicanos, which means the **Unitd** Mexican States. Spanish is the language **off** Mexico because Spain ruled Mexico **fore** 300 years.

FUCTS ABOUT MEXICO

Official name

United Mexican **Stattes**

Capitle

Mexico **Citi**

Officiel language

Spanich

Populatiien

127,000,000 **peopel**

Rank among countries **inn** population

tcth

Majer cities

Mexxico City, Guadalajara, Ecatepec de Morelos

Arai

758,000 **squar** miles

1,960,000 square **kelometers**

Rank among countries **inn** area

theth

Highest **poent**

Piko de Orizaba - 18,406 feet/5,610 meters

Currence

Mexican **pese**

MEFICO'S PEOPLE

Most of Mexico's people have both Spanish and Native **Amirican** **ancestry**. Although **moste** Mexicans speak Spanish, some still speak the Native American languages of **they're** ancestors.

Spanish **conquistadors**-explorers and conquerors-came to **Mexiko** in the 1500s. The conquistadors **destroyd** an empire built by Aztec Indians in Mexico. Spain **ruld** Mexico until 1821, when Mexico won its **endependence**.

Under **Spanich** rule, Mexicans became Roman Catholics. They created a

- 1. **MEXICO**
- 2. **in**
- 3. **United**
- 4. **of**
- 5. **for**
- 6. **FACTS**
- 7. **Official**
- 8. **States**
- 9. **Capital**
- 10. **City**
- 11. **Official**
- 12. **Spanish**
- 13. **Population**
- 14. **people**
- 15. **in**
- 16. **th**
- 17. **Major**
- 18. **Mexico**
- 19. **Area**
- 20. **square**
- 21. **kilometers**
- 22. **in**
- 23. **th**
- 24. **point**
- 25. **Pico**
- 26. **Currency**
- 27. **peso**
- 28. **MEXICO**
- 29. **American**
- 30. **most**
- 31. **their**
- 32. **Mexico**
- 33. **destroyed**
- 34. **ruled**
- 35. **independence**
- 36. **Spanish**

version of the Catholic **religiun** that's their own. For example, Mexicans **worship** the **Virgine** Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe. A three-day festival **honoreng** Our Lady of Guadalupe starts on December 12 each year. During **tha** festival, people dance in the streets wearing Aztec headdresses **end** costumes.

MEXICO CITYE

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37. **religion**

38. **Virgin**

39. **honoring**

40. **the**

41. **and**

42. **CITY**

43. **capital**

44. **That**

45. **country**

46. **completely**

47. **growing**

48. **city**

49. **more**

50. **the**

51. **capital**

52. **with**

53. **LIFE**

54. **plaza**

55. **on**

56. **a**

57. **without**

58. **or**

59. **school**

60. **support**

61. **to**

62. **cities**

63. **crowded**

64. **MEXICAN**

65. **the**

66. **desert**

67. **Southern**

68. **with**

69. **Popocatépetl**

70. **the**

71. **clear**

72. **Mazatlán**

73. **spots**

74. **Mexico**

75. **s**

76. **DINNER**

77. **have**

78. **A**

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- 79. ingredients
- 80. consider
- 81. national
- 82. ANCIENT
- 83. the
- 84. Americans-including
- 85. before
- 86. cities
- 87. religious
- 88. The
- 89. They
- 90. of
- 91. can
- 92. OF
- 93. They
- 94. religion
- 95. a
- 96. and
- 97. a
- 98. destroyed
- 99. Spanish