

# UNIT 7 LANGUAGE SUMMARY

## Adjectives

### Talking about ancestry

adopted  
adoptive  
ancestral  
ethnic  
genetic  
hereditary

## Nouns

### Talking about ancestry

adopt  
ancestor  
ancestry  
ethnicity  
genes  
genealogy  
heritage

## Talking about customs and traditions

festivities  
practice  
rites  
ritual  
significance

## Verbs

### Talking about ancestry

inherit

### Talking about customs and traditions

honor  
keep a tradition alive  
mark  
observe  
pay tribute to  
signify  
symbolize

## Insider English

a touch of  
from top to bottom

## Discussing the growing interest in DNA testing and genealogy

No way would I have done it otherwise.  
Little did I know how fascinating my results would be!  
Never had I imagined that I had ancestors from Asia.  
Only when the results arrived did I realize how little my ethnic background matters.  
Not until then did I fully appreciate my wonderful adoptive parents.

## Talking about celebrations in your family and community

Through the kitchen door wafts the delicious smell of fresh dumplings.  
On the red tablecloth lies a stack of red envelopes.  
In the envelopes are crisp new dollar bills.

## Sharing a story about visiting a place with special significance

### Expressing an opinion

I have to admit, ....  
To tell you the truth, ...  
To be (perfectly) honest, ...  
Don't get me wrong, ...

### Responding to someone else's story

I can see how it would be strange.  
I think I can understand that.  
How did you handle that?  
It must have been pretty overwhelming.  
It can't have been easy.

### Commenting on your own story

It's difficult to put into words.  
It's hard to describe.  
It's difficult to say why exactly.  
That was the best part!  
... if you know what I mean.

## Summarizing information about a topic

### Summarizing arguments

On one side ... while on the other ...  
Some [people] argue that ... but other [people] disagree ...  
While some [people] say ... other [people] feel ...  
Many [people] claim that ... . However, other [people] maintain that ...

## Useful phrases

The thing that makes it special for me is ...  
From every direction come the sounds of ...  
Not until you take part in it yourself do you fully appreciate the ...  
In the center of the poster sits a colorful ...  
It's really important to stress that it's fun for the whole family ...

# UNIT 8 LANGUAGE SUMMARY

## Nouns

### Talking about attention and distraction

concentration  
distraction  
focus  
interruption

## Verbs

### Talking about attention and distraction

avoid distraction  
concentrate  
be / get distracted (by)  
be / get interrupted (by)  
focus (on)  
get / stay focused (on)  
interrupt  
lose focus

## Expressions with *get*

get accustomed to  
get at  
get attached to  
get blown away by  
get complicated  
get frustrated  
get lost  
get rid of  
get something right  
get something straight  
get the go-ahead

## Insider English

I don't buy it.  
go off the rails  
stay on track

## Discussing distractions and attention spans

We can't get anything done because we constantly get interrupted.

Our ability to concentrate is getting eaten away by technology.

It is increasingly difficult for us to get focused and stay focused.

This got me thinking about all the things demanding my attention.

## Talking about instincts and gut reactions

As Gladwell points out, sometimes all it takes is one person's intuition.

As can be seen from this example, there really is something to be said for "split-second thinking."

As we can all attest, split-second decisions are often more accurate.

## Describing the best features and selling points of apps

### Speaking persuasively about a product

It enables users to block distractions.

That's the whole point of this new app.

The bottom line is, with this app, you can ...

What the app also offers is a way to ...

Our goal is to make it as customizable as possible.

We're aiming to give users all the flexibility they could possibly want.

No other app on the market offers a feature like this.

This is a great opportunity to remove that temptation ...

You won't want to miss out on this great product.

We're all about keeping you on track ...

## Writing presentation slides

### Adapting content for presentations

Present all points succinctly, using formal language.

Add images, quotes, and statistics to make presentation slides more interesting.

Include one introduction slide.

Include content slides, one for each aspect of the presentation.

Include one ending slide.

## Useful phrases

What's a unique selling point for our product?

... is something no other product on the market can offer right now.

I think ... should present the details because I'll get confused if people ask questions.

I love the idea of ... – it's simple but exciting.

I don't think there's much of a market for ...