The activities in this book address many outcomes in the syllabus.
Intelligent Australia Productions is committed to raising standards in Literacy and Numeracy in Australian schools.

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**Solutions** 45
Smarten up in English contains 40 activities in English suitable for children age eight and nine.

As well as providing students with practice in Reading, Spelling and Writing, there are exercises focusing on grammar, punctuation, vocabulary development, story analysis, and more. Some of the exercises require students to be original and creative, thereby bringing their higher thinking skills into play.

Smarten up in English is intended as a supplement to the core English syllabus. While it addresses many key indicators and learning outcomes it should be used in conjunction with more prescriptive materials and/or texts.

Each page represents a stand-alone lesson and, while some activities may prove more challenging than others, most eight and nine year olds should be able to complete the work without difficulty. There may be times though — as in the case of new and difficult words — when a little help from teachers or parents is required.

For some of the activities it would be useful to have a dictionary and/or thesaurus on hand.

Some questions, such as those seeking the student’s thoughts or opinion, don’t have a single correct answer. For these, students should be encouraged to bring their best, most original thinking to the fore and come up with a response that is perhaps unique or ‘different’. In the process of doing this they will certainly ‘smarten up in English’.

I’m gonna rid the world of mices.

Better smarten up in English while you’re at it.
Common Nouns
A common noun is something you can put the word ‘the’ in front of.
eg the table.
Some nouns (such as table) can be seen and felt.
Some can be seen, felt, smelt and tasted eg soup.
Some can only be seen eg sky.
Others can only be heard eg music.
Others may only be thought about eg dream.

1) Write out all the common nouns in this sentence:
Across the street is an old house with broken windows.

Proper Nouns
Proper nouns are names.
People have names so they are proper nouns eg Peter Smith.
Cities have names so they are proper nouns eg Sydney.
Books have names (titles) so they are proper nouns eg Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.
Movies have names so they are proper nouns eg Lion King.

2) Write out all the proper nouns in this sentence:
Emma told us that she was born in London but grew up in Perth.

Pronouns
Pronouns are small words used in the place of common nouns or proper nouns.
The word she is a pronoun.
Instead of saying Anne opened the door and then Anne walked inside.
we say Anne opened the door and then she walked inside.
The word it is a pronoun.
Instead of saying As the table got older the table faded.
we say As the table got older it faded.
Some other pronouns are our, he, we, they. There are many more.

3) Write out all the pronouns in this sentence:
My brother said he will go fishing with his friend on Sunday.

Challenge:
On the other side of this page write 8 common nouns, 8 proper nouns and 4 pronouns that are not mentioned here. (put them in lists)
Verbs are **doing** words, sometimes called **action** words.

*Running* is a verb and so is *run* and *ran.*

*Swimming* is a verb and so is *swim, swam* and *swum.*

*Carrying* is a verb and so is *carry* and *carried.*

*Thinking* is a verb and so is *think* and *thought.*

*Zooming* is a verb and so is *zoom* and *zoomed.*

There are thousands more verbs in the English language.

1. **On the line write the two verbs in each of these sentences:**
   a. Zac and Harry walked to the shops and spent their money.

   …………………………………………………………………………………..…………………….

   b. Jennifer rode her bicycle to the park and played on the swings.

   …………………………………………………………………………………..…………………….

   c. Our teacher closed the door and wrote on the blackboard.

   …………………………………………………………………………………..…………………….

2. **Write sentences that contain these verbs:**
   a. *digging* ……………………………………………………………………………………………

   b. *watching* ……………………………………………………………………………………………

   **Challenge**
   1. **Write a sentence containing the verbs:**
      *write* and *send* …………………………………………………………………………………..…………………….

      ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………….

   2. **Write a sentence containing the verbs:**
      *swim, splash* and *dive* ……………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………….

      ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………….
Adjectives are words that describe nouns. Here are some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Adjectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sky</td>
<td>cloudy, clear, stormy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fish</td>
<td>large, tiny, scaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>young, short, happy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We use adjectives to make our writing ‘richer’ and more interesting.

1) **Write down the two adjectives in each of these sentences:**

a. A tiny insect flew onto the beautiful flower.

b. Mrs Jones placed the large pot in a dusty corner.

c. Bobby’s bicycle has shiny handlebars and a comfortable seat.

2) **Write two adjectives that could describe a ....**

a. **lion**

b. **shopping bag**

c. **snake**

3) **Write sentences that contain these adjectives ...**

a. **small** and **colourful**

b. **speedy** and **excited**

c. **hungry** and **tasty**
Past Tense: When to use *did* and *done*.

- I did, we did, she did, they did, etc are all correct.
- I done, we done, she done, they done, etc are all incorrect.

We may use ‘done’ to speak about things that have happened as long as we put one of these words in front of it. was, were, has, had, have. *Note: These words are never used in front of ‘did’.*

**Example:**
- I did my homework. (correct)
- I done my homework (incorrect)
- I have done my homework (correct)

1. **Correctly write the sentences below by using ‘did’.**

   - They done a good job washing the car.

   - Mum done some gardening at my auntie’s place.

2. **Now correct the sentences by adding ‘have’ or ‘has’.**

   - They done a good job washing the car.

   - Mum done some gardening at my auntie’s place.

3. **Write a sentence of your own using ‘was done’.**

4. **Write a sentence of your own using ‘had done’.**
Past Tense: When to use *saw* and *seen*.
- I saw, we saw, she saw, they saw, etc are all correct.
- I seen, we seen, she seen, they seen, etc are all incorrect.

We may use ‘seen’ as long as we put one of these words in front of it: was, were, has, had, have. *Note: These words are never used in front of ‘saw’.*

**Example:**
- They saw a kite in the sky. (correct)
- They seen a kite in the sky. (incorrect)
- They have seen a kite in the sky. (correct)

1. **Correctly write the sentences below by using ‘saw’.**
   - We seen a large jellyfish in the water.

2. **Now correct the sentences by adding ‘have’ or ‘has’**.
   - We seen a large jellyfish in the water.

3. **Write a sentence of your own using ‘was seen’**.

4. **Write a sentence of your own using ‘had seen’**.
Capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas, apostrophes and speech marks are missing from the sentences below. Write each sentence out correctly.

• tommy wants to go to new york when he visits america in august

• mrs simmonds wrote bread butter milk and cereal on her shopping list

• get out of there yelled the very angry man

• may i have another ride on the roller coaster mum asked peter

• whats the weather going to be like on sunday asked uncle nick

• billy said im sure you wont come last in the race
Capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas, apostrophes and speech marks are missing from the sentences below. Write each sentence out correctly.

• susans dad likes football cricket hockey and swimming

• tina said to laura aren’t you afraid of going in that cave

• the cats foot is stuck in the drain said tims little brother

• id like lettuce tomato carrot and cheese on the sandwich said joanne

• japans a great place for a holiday said sams big sister emma

• janets dog isn’t in his kennel said tammy where is he she asked
Capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas, apostrophes and speech marks are missing from the sentences below. Write each sentence out correctly.

• joey said may i go out to play now dad

• when i grow up id like to be a nurse said katie

• a dogs tail is nearly always longer than its ears

• this isnt the meal i ordered said the disappointed man from england

• im saving up for a holiday to new zealand said tobys sister julie

• tammy said my favourite colours are pink blue grey red and green
Capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas, apostrophes and speech marks are missing from the sentences below. Write each sentence out correctly.

- fishings fun exclaimed tommy as he threw in his line

- lauren said were going to bali in july

- the naughty boy yelled i didnt do it

- every christmas we leave a glass of milk out for santa claus said suzie

- help yelled the man who was dangling from the cliff

- australias longest river is the murray river said miss brown
Capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas, apostrophes and speech marks are missing from the sentences below. Write each sentence out correctly.

• sarah stamped her foot on the floor and screamed its not my fault

• dont forget to wear your helmet when you ride to tims place said dad

• i read little red riding hood when i was in kindergarten said mandy

• people from france are french and people from spain are spanish

• anna said i have birds fish dogs kittens and rabbits

• i wont come tomorrow but ill come next week said bobs father
1. In each sentence below there is one word spelled incorrectly. Rule out the word and write it on the line with its correct spelling.

a. Tina and Anne walked home from school twogether.  

b. Tommorow I’m getting a new pair of shoes.  

c. London and New York are very big citys.  

d. It sometimes rains on clowdy days.  

2. One colour is spelled incorrectly. Write its correct spelling on the line.

a. green   pirple   grey   silver  

b. orange   blue   wite   pink  

3. Each of these sentences has two spelling mistakes. Rule a line through the wrongly-spelt words and write these words correctly on the lines.

a. If you swim in the sea you shoold be very carful.  

b. Peeple should treat others how they would like to be treated themselfs.  

c. “Wood you like a peice of bread or some cake?” asked Mrs Jackson.  

Challenge: All the words below have something to do with the circus. All are spelled incorrectly. Write their correct spellings on the lines.

clouns elaphants tigres  
trapeez juggeler paraid
Circle the bold words that are spelled correctly.

a. Green and red are **colours** **collors** **culours**.

b. It’s good to have common **sense** **sence** **sens**.

c. We keep things cold in the **fridj** **fridje** **fridge**.

d. It’s very nice **wether** **weather** **whether**.

e. We should **obay** **abey** **obey** our teachers and parents.

f. My dad likes to read the morning **newspapper** **newspaper** **newzpapper**.

g. My big sister had a late night so she **slept** **slept** **sleapt** in this morning.

h. Tomorrow our family is going on a **picnick** **picknic** **picnic**.

i. Big ships sail across the **oshean** **ocean** **oshun**.

j. Blood is pumped by our **heart** **hart** **hearte**.

k. There are sixty seconds in a **minute** **minut** **minnuet**.

l. In one day there are twenty-four **ours** **hours** **howrs**.

m. My friend and I entered a **competition** **compatition** **competision**.

n. All birds have **fethers** **feathez** **feathers**.

o. Elephants and camels are **mammals** **mammels** **mammuls**.

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Unjumbling Challenge

*Example: Unjumble ‘lowley’ to spell a colour. **Answer**: yellow*

1. Unjumble ‘drabe’ to spell something you can toast. ........................................

2. Unjumble ‘ansek’ to spell a reptile. ..........................................................

3. Unjumble ‘yomen’ to spell something you can spend. ..................................

4. Unjumble ‘bamowt’ to spell a marsupial. ..................................................
How’s your Number spelling?
Write these numbers in words:
1) 18
2) 43
3) 24
4) 76
5) 19

More numbers to spell.
6) 51
7) 35
8) 16
9) 67
10) 15

Days of the week.
Only one of the days is spelt correctly. Write out the other six with their correct spellings.
   Sunday  Munday  Tuseday  Wendsday  Thirsday  Fryday  Saterday

Months of the year.
Only six of the months are spelled correctly. Write out the other six with their correct spellings.
   January  February  March  Aprel  May  June  Juily
   Augest  September  Octobre  November  December
1. Alphabetical Order
a. Here are the names of 8 fruits. Write them out in alphabetical order.

orange pear banana lemon apple watermelon grape mango

b. Here are four fruits that all begin with p. Try writing these in alphabetical order.

pear plum passionfruit pineapple

c. Now try these:

apple avocado apricot

2. Dictionary Skills
Use your dictionary to find the meanings of these words (all are nouns).

clam

rind

tee

comet

3. Word Building
Look at these sounds: aw, or and ore They sound exactly the same. See how many words you can think of, or find, that contain aw, or and ore (your dictionary will be useful where these sounds occur at the beginning of words)

aw or ore
1. Alphabetical Order
   a. Here are the names of 8 cities. Write them out in alphabetical order.

   London  Rome  Paris  Sydney  Zurich  Athens  Tokyo  Chicago

   b. Here are four cities that all begin with A. Try writing these in alphabetical order.

   Ankara  Adelaide  Alexandria  Atlanta

   c. Now try these:

   Brisbane  Berlin  Brussels  Boston

2. Dictionary Skills
   Use your dictionary to find the meanings of these words (all are nouns).

   gnat

   kindling

   gnu

   ocelot

3. Word Building: Look at these sounds: ph, gl and sp. They are found in words such as elephant, glue and wisp. See how many words you can think of, or find, that contain ph, gl and sp (your dictionary will be useful where these sounds occur at the beginning of words)

   ph

   gl

   sp
1. Alphabetical Order
   a. Here are the names of 8 insects. Write them out in alphabetical order.
      wasp  bee  grasshopper  aphid  mosquito  fly  cockroach  louse

   b. Here are four sea creatures that all begin with s. Try writing these in alphabetical order.
      squid  swordfish  salmon  snapper

   c. Now do the same with these mammals.
      monkey  mouse  mongoose  moose

2. Dictionary Skills
   Use your dictionary to find the meanings of these words (all are nouns).
   harp
   opera
   lute
   duet

3. Word Building: Look at these sounds: kn, gn and wh. They are found in words such as knight, gnome and whisper. See how many words you can think of, or find, that contain kn, gn and wh (your dictionary will be useful where these sounds occur at the beginning of words)
Sometimes a word has more than one meaning.

1. Rule two lines from each word on the left to show two different meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box</td>
<td>a large trunk or box used to store clothes etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cap</td>
<td>a slice of meat with bone in it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cast</td>
<td>a wooden or cardboard container with a lid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chest</td>
<td>the actors in a play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chop</td>
<td>a small explosive used in toy guns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the front part of your body from your neck to your waist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to cut by hitting with quick heavy blows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to strike someone with your fist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a hat with a peak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Writing sentences.

Look at the word arm in these two sentences.

- The girl hurt her arm playing tennis. *(meaning 1)*
- The policeman had to arm himself before chasing the robbers. *(meaning 2)*

a. Write another sentence using the first meaning of arm.

b. Write another sentence using the second meaning of arm.
Some words have more than one meaning.

Example: bill

- The man paid the bill at the restaurant. *(meaning 1)*
- The duck put its bill into the water. *(meaning 2)*

1. Write your own sentence using the first meaning of bill.

2. Write your own sentence using the second meaning of bill.

Example: blind

- Some people have a curtain to cover their window; others have a blind.
- The blind man was walking with a white stick.

3. Write your own sentence using the first meaning of blind.

4. Write your own sentence using the second meaning of blind.

Example: book

*meaning 1:* something you read
*meaning 2:* to reserve a seat or a table

5. Write your own sentence using the first meaning of book.

6. Write your own sentence using the second meaning of book.
Change the meaning of each word below by making another sentence.

1. She put the groceries in the **boot** of the car.
   
   *Your sentence to show a different meaning of boot*….

2. Stone-Age man used a **club** to kill wild animals.
   
   *Your sentence to show a different meaning of club*….

3. The teacher said, “Of **course** you must do your homework.”
   
   *Your sentence to show a different meaning of course*….

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**Challenge:** The word **tip** has many different meanings. Can you make sentences to show three of these meanings?

1. ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................

2. ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................

3. ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................
The Surprise Gift
Anna was excited as she undid the ribbon around the small box. This was the gift her mother had pledged to her months ago.

Anna carefully removed the lid and peered into the box. There it was......the most magnificent bracelet she’d ever seen!

“Oh mum,” said Anna, “you’re the greatest mum in the world.”

A. Use a word from the story to complete these sentences.
1. Another word for **promised** is .........................................................
2. Another word for **looked** is ............................................................
3. A word meaning the opposite of **plain** is ...........................................
4. A word meaning the opposite of **replaced** is ....................................
5. A word meaning the opposite of **carelessly** is ..............................

B. Use a word from the box to complete these sentences.

```
gift       lid       undid       best
```

1. Another word for **greatest** is .................................................
2. Another word for **present** is ...................................................
3. A word meaning almost the same as **top** is ..............................
4. A word meaning the opposite of **tied** is .................................

**Challenge**
For each word in bold write a word with the opposite meaning.

happy ........................... nearer ................................. loud ..........................

exciting .......................... speedy ..............................
A. For each word below write a word with a similar meaning.
1. clever ................................................................. 2. speedy .................................................................
3. humorous ............................................................ 4. sad .................................................................
5. wealthy ............................................................... 6. shiny .................................................................

B. For each word below write a word with an opposite meaning.
1. noisy ................................................................. 2. few .................................................................
3. incorrect ............................................................. 4. boring .........................................................
5. wet ................................................................. 6. unusual ......................................................

C. Rewrite the sentence below, replacing the underlined words with words of similar meaning.
After eating a small meal the frog jumped a long distance.

D. Rewrite the sentence below, replacing the underlined words with words of opposite meaning.
The sensible boy always had a very tidy room.

Challenge
Here are two words that you know. They look exactly the same but they have different meanings. Write two sentences to show the different meanings.
tear .................................................................
tear .................................................................
A. Draw lines to match the words in List A to those with a similar meaning in List B.

**List A**
- quick
- lazy
- enormous
- untidy
- draw

**List B**
- messy
- idle
- sketch
- fast
- gigantic

B. Draw lines to match the words in List A to those with an opposite meaning in List B.

**List A**
- exciting
- boiling
- pretty
- tiny
- bright

**List B**
- large
- plain
- freezing
- boring
- dull

**Challenge:** In this space write all the words you can think of that have a similar meaning to **big**.
A. Read each sentence. Then write out the statement that tells how the three things are alike.

1. How are cats, cows and fish alike?
   - They all like to swim.
   - They all have feet.
   - They all have a tail.

2. How are planes, birds and kites alike?
   - They are all made by people.
   - They can all fly.
   - They all have wings.

3. How are houses, office buildings and hotels alike?
   - They all have many rooms.
   - They are all places where people live.
   - They all have trees nearby.

4. How are dolphins, submarines and octopuses alike?
   - They are all underwater some or all of the time.
   - They are all above the water some or all of the time.
   - They all need to breathe.

B. Write a sentence that tells how the items in each group are alike.

1. chair  sofa  stool

2. bird  jet  hot air balloon

3. bus  tram  train
Answer the questions below.

1. Write out the things that people can ride in.
   car           kite            train           toy boat

2. Write out the things that are soft to touch.
   rock             pillow         baby’s skin          bicycle frame

3. Write out the things that give light.
   cup             torch          table           sun

4. Write out the things that we can write with.
   pencil       spoon       crayon       glass

5. Write out the things that can fly.
   kite          plane          umbrella          window

6. Write out the things where you would find water.
   oven          bathroom          taxi           beach

7. Write out the things that give entertainment.
   fruit         office          circus          fair

8. Write out the things that can grow.
   rock            flower          hill           tree

Challenge
Write down (below) all the things you can think of that have a circle or sphere shape.
1) Rule lines to match the words on the left with those on the right.

- grandmother
- shoes
- circus
- dog
- ship
- monkey
- magician
- book

- clown
- jungle
- tricks
- library
- ocean
- grandfather
- socks
- kennel

2) a) circle the things that belong to a car:

   seats    wheels    paddles    doors    wings

b) circle the things that belong to a book:

   skin       chapters    sounds    pages    cover

c) circle the things that belong to a tree:

   legs        branches    tail    twigs    leaves

Challenge: How many things can you think of that belong in a city? (write small: you may think of many!)
Once, a long time ago, there lived a hermit. His home was a tiny bark hut by the side of a river near a forest. The hermit was friends with all the animals.

One day, while fishing in the river, the hermit saw a pelican who had only one wing. “Poor pelican……..how did you lose your wing?” enquired the hermit. The pelican replied, “I have had one wing all of my life. I was born this way. Please do not feel sorry for me for I am happy.”

The pelican asked, “Hermit, why do you live alone, and not with the villagers? You must be a very lonely and unhappy man.” “No,” replied the hermit. “This is the life I have chosen. I am the happiest man in the world.”

1) Where is this story set?

2) Who are the characters in the story?

3) What would be a good title for the story?

4) Why did the man feel sorry for the pelican?

5) Why do you think the pelican was not unhappy?

6) The hermit was happy living alone. What might be reasons for this?
Read the story below and then answer the questions.

Once, in a cave near the ocean, there lived a dragon. The dragon did not like anyone coming near its home. If they did the dragon would raise itself on its hind legs, begin snorting and puffing, and breathe fire in the direction of the trespasser.

One stormy day a seal pup, which had been washed up on the shore in the storm, noticed the dragon’s cave. Keen to take shelter the young seal made its way towards the dragon’s cave. The dragon, asleep inside the cave, did not hear the seal pup approaching.

Just as the seal pup was about to enter the cave a big clap of thunder woke the dragon. It saw the tiny seal pup, reared up and blew fire in its direction.

The seal pup was so terrified that the dragon began to take pity upon it. The dragon said, “You may take shelter in my cave until the storm passes.”

When the weather calmed the grateful seal pup swam away, afraid no more.

1) What is the setting for this story?

2) Give the story a title.

3) What could be something that might happen next?

If dragons really existed how would things be different from what they are now?

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Read the passage below and then answer the questions.

Some animals, called amphibians, are able to live on the land or in the water. One such animal is the frog. Others are the salamander and the newt.

Unlike amphibians, another kind of animal, reptiles, cannot live both on land and in water. Common reptiles are snakes, crocodiles and lizards.

Most animals that people call creepy crawlies are insects; however, spiders and scorpions (also creepy crawlies) belong to another group: arachnids.

1) Reptiles mentioned above are ____________________________________________________________

2) Arachnids mentioned above are __________________________________________________________

3) Amphibians can live ___________________________________________ and _________________________

4) This passage is about _________________________________________________________________

For fast finishers:

How many creepy crawlies can you name?

eg cockroach, red-back spider.....
Write one word that tells what the story is about.

Example: Trains can carry a lot of people. They have many wheels and can move very fast. trains

1. The thing I am scared of most isn’t spiders or snakes, it’s the dark. Whenever the lights go off I start to worry something bad will happen.

2. When I grow up I would like to join the circus. It would be fun to be with animals all day and to watch the clowns do their tricks.

3. Sometimes I have dreams where I am being chased by a monster. Sometimes I dream I’m falling off a high mountain. It’s always good when I wake up because I know it didn’t really happen.

4. Saturn is a beautiful planet. It has rings around it and has many moons.

5. My favourite fruit is apples. My doctor says that eating them will help me to stay healthy.

6. Yesterday I got my first pair of glasses. They will help me to see better. My parents say I look very nice with them on.

Challenge: Write a paragraph with one of these as the main idea. Pirates Holidays My Gran (or Grandad)
Paragraphs need a main idea and also details about that idea. Read each paragraph. After reading, look at the box to find the paragraph’s main idea and details. Write them on the lines.

1. Life on a farm is much different from city life. On farms it is much quieter than in the city. Instead of cars and buses there are animals to see, hear and care for. The smells on a farm are very different from those in the city. On farms there are many jobs to do.

Main Idea: ____________________________________________________________

Details:  
a) ________________________________________________________________
b) ________________________________________________________________
c) ________________________________________________________________
d) ________________________________________________________________

2. Going to the movies is something I enjoy. Before I go into the cinema I usually buy some sweets to chew on. Inside the cinema it’s very dark and you have to be careful when you make your way to your seat. People need to be quiet when they’re watching the show. My favourite movies are those that have surprise endings.

Main Idea: ____________________________________________________________

Details:  
a) ________________________________________________________________
b) ________________________________________________________________
c) ________________________________________________________________
d) ________________________________________________________________

Challenge
On the back of this page or in your book write a paragraph about your pet. When you’ve finished write down the main idea and four details (as here at the left).

If you don’t have a pet write about someone else’s.
The main idea tells what a story is about.
Circle the sentence in each story that gives the main idea.
Draw a line through any sentence that does not belong in the story.

1. Studying planets is very interesting. There are nine planets altogether. Earth is the third planet from the sun. The planet with the most rings is Saturn. Rockets go very fast. Jupiter is the biggest planet.

2. Climbing trees can be fun. The best trees to climb are the ones with branches that are not too far off the ground. It’s even better if there are not too many sharp twigs. The trees I like to climb most are ones where I can move out safely along a branch and find a nice place to sit. If there are a lot of leaves I can look down at people who don’t know I’m there. Some trees give lots of shade on the ground below. If ever you climb a tree you should be very careful.

3. I like to make things out of paper. I take a coloured paper square and fold it. Then I fold it again, and again. If I fold it in certain ways I can make interesting shapes. I like to sketch things too. Sometimes, when I’ve finished folding, I take a pair of scissors and cut out eyes or ears.

4. I have a very good collection of books. Some of my books are big and heavy and others are small and light. My brother likes playing with his toys. Every time I have a birthday my parents buy books for me because they know I love to read. I have books about animals, puzzles, adventures and many other things.

5. My grandparents are very kind to me. Sometimes when I’m on holidays I go and stay with them. My friend likes going to the mountains. When I’m at my grandparents’ house I like to play with their pet goat. I’m always sad when it’s time to go back home.

Challenge: Write a few sentences using one of these as the main idea: Birds, Horses, Whales, Creepy Crawlies
Read each story. Underline the title below it that states the main idea. Then write two details from the story.

A. One day a pet cat met a pet rabbit. The cat asked the rabbit why it had such large ears. The rabbit replied that its ears were large because it helped it hear when hungry foxes were approaching. The cat wondered why it wasn’t born with big ears so it could hear angry dogs approaching. The rabbit then asked the cat why it makes a purring sound. The cat replied, “I like to have my fur stroked and my tummy rubbed; my owners like the sound of my purr so whenever they stroke me or rub my tummy I purr for them…..that makes them do it for longer.” The rabbit wondered why it wasn’t born being able to make a purring sound.

The Purring Cat        A Curious Cat Meets a Curious Rabbit        Why a Rabbit has Large Ears
1. ..............................................................................................................................................................................
2. ..............................................................................................................................................................................

B. A tired bird stopped for a rest on a cloud.
“Where are you flying?” asked the cloud.
“I’m flying south to warmer weather; I still have a long way to go,” replied the bird. The bird was so tired and its feathers looked so worn that the cloud said, “Hang on tight, bird, I’ll take you as far south as you wish to go.”

The Bird who liked to be Warm        The Cloud        A Tired Bird meets a Friendly Cloud
1. ..............................................................................................................................................................................
2. ..............................................................................................................................................................................

Challenge: Write a few sentences using one of these as the main idea: Seahells    My Cousin    My Dream
Here are the main ideas of five different stories. Under each main idea there are three sentences. Only two of the sentences are from the story. **Put a ring around the sentence which is not from the story.**

1. **Main Idea:** My great holiday.
   - It was fun swimming in the bay.
   - I really liked the horse rides.
   - Then it was time for school.

2. **Main Idea:** The scary dream.
   - There was no escape.
   - That was so enjoyable.
   - I ran as fast as I could.

3. **Main Idea:** My cousin’s birthday party.
   - My auntie lit the cake.
   - I hoped he would like the gift I bought for him.
   - Mum said, “Have you fed the cat yet?”

4. **Main Idea:** A journey through space.
   - Soon after that the postman came.
   - Suddenly a huge comet whizzed past.
   - We were fast approaching planet Saturn.

5. **Main Idea:** My dog Toby.
   - He always sleeps near my bed.
   - So I changed the channel.
   - Dad takes him for a walk every day.

**Challenge:** Choose one of the 5 main ideas above. Now write a paragraph with that main idea. Your paragraph should include the two sample sentences listed here.

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………………………………………………………………………………………
Read the sentences. Try to put yourself in the place of the characters. 
How do they feel? Write the word that best describes the feeling.

1. The three people in the boat had somehow survived the storm but suddenly they noticed some dark fins circling their tiny craft.
   - happy
   - surprised
   - frightened

2. Jenny raced through the door and shouted, “Hey, I’ve just won a million dollars!”
   - disappointed
   - excited
   - tired

3. Being new at the school wasn’t easy. Everyone else knew each other but Carlos sat by himself, eating his lunch.
   - peaceful
   - worried
   - lonely

4. “Sorry Katie,” said the coach. Katie had tried so hard to be selected in the softball team but she didn’t make it.
   - disappointed
   - amused
   - worried

5. “I’ll never pass this test,” thought Simon. “I knew I should have studied harder.”
   - angry
   - surprised
   - worried

6. “What!” said Johnny as he looked at the clock, “I didn’t realise it was so late.”
   - surprised
   - glad
   - nervous

7. As soon as Jenny’s dad came home he saw that the house had been broken into.
   - calm
   - excited
   - angry

   - surprised
   - happy
   - calm

Challenge: Write a very short story set to one of the mood words in bold (above).

...
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Samuel was strolling slowly along the peaceful beach, stopping often to pick up seashells. Sometimes he would see a special one, maybe one that had an unusual shape or a nice pattern. By now his bag was over half full.

Samuel was looking forward to showing the shells to his grandma because he knew that she loved seashells. How surprised she would be when he’d lay them out on the table and say, “Granny, these are for you.”

1) In this story, how would you say Samuel is feeling?

2) How do you think Samuel’s grandma will feel when she sees the shells?

3) The beach was peaceful. What does that tell us? (try to describe the scene)
Describe the mood of each story below. (use ‘mood’ words)

eg "This story is very soothing and calm. Cows grazing on the side of a hill, under a clear blue sky, makes a quiet and peaceful scene."

1. A tiny boat is being tossed around in a storm. Waves are crashing into the boat and the water level in the boat is rising. The four people in the boat are wet and tired. It is almost dark....just light enough to see the fins of four large sharks which are circling and coming closer and closer.

2. The clowns have just appeared and all the children in the audience are happy. Bozo runs up behind Coco and dongs him on the head, causing Coco to fall down and do two backward somersaults. Bozo starts clapping his hands but, when he is not looking, up comes Coco and puts a bin over Bozo’s head.

3. Sally put her head in her hands. Where can Midnight be? The last time she saw her beautiful black horse was yesterday when she led him into the stables. No-one had heard anything in the night. Just how the stable doors were opened and who stole Midnight were mysteries.

**Challenge**

Write a mood word here: 

Now write a short paragraph with that mood.

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…………………………………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………
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…………………………………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Read this paragraph and answer the questions below.

Have you ever thought about how amazing humans are? Of all the creatures who have ever lived, human beings have been able to make use of the earth and skies in more ways than any other animal. We can dive under the ocean, fly through the air and even walk on the moon.

Without us even thinking about it, our heart beats, we digest our food, we breathe and our body heals and protects itself. But other animals do that, too. What makes us special?

One reason we are special is our brain. We are able to think about other things besides the need to survive each day. We have language, science and art. What we learn, we pass on in books so that others can learn from us.

1) In one sentence say what this paragraph is about.

2) Give an outline of the paragraph by writing three facts mentioned in it.

   •

   •

   •

Write a summary of your day so far, from the time you got out of bed until now.

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A summary tells briefly what a paragraph or story is about. It gives the main facts or ideas but does not give all the details.

Read the passage below and then use the word box to supply the missing words in the summary.

Say the word ‘shark’ and everyone thinks of a huge torpedo-shaped fish, racing through the ocean with its giant fin cutting the water like a knife. Sure, there are sharks like that but there are lots of other kinds too, all quite different: large, small, fast, slow, lazy, dangerous and harmless….but they have something in common: all sharks are fish.

However, unlike most fish sharks don’t have bones; a shark’s skeleton is made of cartilage just like the gristly material that makes up the hard parts of your own nose.

Sharks breathe through 5-7 openings, called gill slits, on each side of their head.

Some sharks are shaped like ..............................................................

Their ......................... is very large.

Although there are .................................................. different kinds of shark each one is a ..................................................

Most fish have bones but sharks ....................... , they have ..................................................

A shark’s gill slits are openings, in each ........................................ of the head, through which it ..................................................
Read this paragraph and answer the questions below.

All animals are divided into two main kinds – invertebrates, which are animals without backbones, and vertebrates, those with backbones. Insects, worms, clams and snails are a few examples of animals without backbones.

When we think of wild animals, we usually think of the vertebrates – birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Of these, the group we are most familiar with are the mammals; maybe that’s because humans are mammals but these days humans no longer live in the wild.

A wild animal is an animal that can survive on its own without any help from humans. Wild animals must find their own food and shelter and be able to defend themselves.

1) In one sentence say what this passage is about.

2) Four facts mentioned in this passage are:

- ...........................................................
- ...........................................................
- ...........................................................
- ...........................................................

Challenge
Some animals are not wild. These include farm animals and pets. How many of these can you name?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm Animals</th>
<th>Pets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Sunny Bay is a popular holiday spot. There are many things for families to do at Sunny Bay. There is a row of barbeques, swings for the children, and a shop. A favourite thing to do at Sunny Bay is jumping off the jetty into the sparkling blue water.

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

2. Is Sunny Bay a nice place for children, for adults or for both?

3. Which word in the paragraph is another word for glistening?

4. Circle the words a visitor could use to tell about a trip to Sunny Bay. 
   fun boring exciting relaxing unfriendly

5. A lot of people go to Sunny Bay. Which word in the passage tells us that?

6. What may children do at Sunny Bay if the weather is not good for swimming?

Time to write: Tell about something that happened when you once went to the beach. If you can’t think of anything use your imagination and make something up!
Solutions

page 5 Grammar
1) street  house  windows  2) Emma  London  Perth  3) My  he  his

page 6 Grammar
1. a. walked  spent  b. rode  played  c. closed  wrote
2. teacher to check

page 7 Grammar
1) a. tiny  beautiful  b. large  dusty  c. shiny  comfortable
2) teacher to check  3) teacher to check

page 8 Grammar
1. They did a good job washing the car.  Mum did some gardening at my auntie’s place.
2. They have done a good job washing the car.  Mum has done some gardening at my auntie’s place.
3. teacher to check  4. teacher to check

page 9 Grammar
1. We saw a large jellyfish in the water.  She saw two goats on the hill.
2. We have seen a large jellyfish in the water.  She has seen two goats on the hill.
3. teacher to check  4. teacher to check

page 10 Punctuation
- Tommy wants to go to New York when he visits America in August.
- Mrs Simmonds wrote bread, butter, milk and cereal on her shopping list.
- “Get out of there!” yelled the very angry man.
- “May I have another ride on the roller coaster, mum?” asked Peter.
- “What’s the weather going to be like on Sunday?” asked Uncle Nick.
- Billy said, “I’m sure you won’t come last in the race.”

page 11 Punctuation
- Susan’s dad likes football, cricket, hockey and swimming.
- Tina said to Laura, “Aren’t you afraid of going in that cave?”
- “The cat’s foot is stuck in the drain,” said Tim’s little brother.
- “I’d like lettuce, tomato, carrot and cheese on the sandwich,” said Joanne.
- “Japan’s a great place for a holiday,” said Sam’s big sister Emma.
- “Janet’s dog isn’t in his kennel,” said Tammy. “Where is he?” she asked.

page 12 Punctuation
- Joey said, “May I go out to play now dad?”
- “When I grow up I’d like to be a nurse,” said Katie.
- A dog’s tail is nearly always longer than its ears.
- “This isn’t the meal I ordered,” said the disappointed man from England.
- “I’m saving up for a holiday to New Zealand,” said Toby’s sister Julie.
- Tammy said, “My favourite colours are pink, blue, grey, red and green.”
page 13 Punctuation
• “Fishing’s fun!” exclaimed Tommy as he threw in his line.
• Lauren said, “We’re going to Bali in July.”
• The naughty boy yelled, “I didn’t do it!”
• “Every Christmas we leave a glass of milk out for Santa Claus,” said Suzie.
• “Help!” yelled the man who was dangling from the cliff.
• “Australia’s longest river is the Murray River,” said Miss Brown.

page 14 Punctuation
• Sarah stamped her foot on the floor and screamed, “It’s not my fault!”
• “Don’t forget to wear your helmet when you ride to Tim’s place,” said dad.
• “I read ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ when I was in kindergarten,” said Mandy.
• People from France are French and people from Spain are Spanish.
• Anna said, “I have birds, fish, dogs, kittens and rabbits.”
• “I won’t come tomorrow but I’ll come next week,” said Bob’s father.

page 15 Spelling
1. a. together b. tomorrow c. cities d. cloudy  2. a. purple b. white
3. a. should careful b. People themselves c. Would piece
Challenge: clowns elephants tigers trapeze juggler parade

page 16 Spelling
a. colours b. sense c. fridge d. weather e. obey f. newspaper g. slept h. picnic
i. ocean j. heart k. minute l. hours m. competition n. feathers o. mammals
Unjumbling Challenge: 1. bread  2. snake  3. money  4. wombat

page 17 Spelling
1) eighteen  2) forty-three  3) twenty-four  4) seventy-six  5) nineteen
6) fifty-one  7) thirty-five  8) sixteen  9) sixty-seven  10) fifteen
Days of the week: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
Months of the year: January February April July August October

page 18 All About Words
1. a. apple banana grape lemon mango orange pear watermelon
   b. passionfruit pear pineapple plum c. apple apricot avocado
2. teacher to check
3. teacher to check

page 19 All About Words
1. a. Athens Chicago London Paris Rome Sydney Tokyo Zurich
   b. Adelaide Alexandria Ankara Atlanta c. Berlin Boston Brisbane Brussels
2. teacher to check
3. teacher to check

page 20 All About Words
1. a. aphid bee cockroach fly grasshopper louse mosquito wasp
   b. salmon snapper squid swordfish c. mongoose monkey moose mouse
2. teacher to check
3. teacher to check
Changes in Word Meanings

1. **box**: a wooden or cardboard container with a lid        **to strike someone with your fist**
   **cap**: a small explosive used in toy guns        **a hat with a peak**
   **cast**: to throw out or fling        **the actors in a play**
   **chest**: a large trunk or box used to store clothes etc        **the front part of your body from your neck to your waist**
   **chop**: a slice of meat with bone in it        **to cut by hitting with quick heavy blows**

2. **teacher to check**

Changes in Word Meanings

Changes in Word Meanings

Comparing Word Meanings

A. 1. pledged        2. peered        3. magnificent        4. removed        5. carefully
B. 1. best        2. gift        3. lid        4. undid
**Challenge:** teacher to check

Comparing Word Meanings

Comparing Word Meanings

Comparing & Contrasting

A. 1. *They all have a tail*        2. *They can all fly*        3. *They all have many rooms*        4. *They are all underwater some or all of the time*
B. 1. *We can sit on all of them.*        2. *They can all be seen in the sky*        3. *They all carry passengers*

Comparing & Contrasting

Comparing & Contrasting

Comparing & Contrasting

Identifying Relationships

1) grandmother-grandfather        shoes-socks        circus-clown        dog-kennel
   ship-ocean        monkey-jungle        magician-tricks        book-library
2) a) seats    wheels    doors        b) chapters    pages    cover        c) branches    twigs    leaves
**Challenge:** teacher to check
page 30 Reading Comprehension
1) at a river near a forest  2) hermit pelican  3) responses will vary  4) it had only one wing  5) it had had one wing all its life and didn’t know anything different  6) responses will vary

page 31 Reading Comprehension
1) on the shore near a cave/ in the cave  2) responses will vary  3) responses will vary

page 32 Reading Comprehension
1) snakes crocodiles lizards  2) spiders scorpions  3) on the land in the water  4) different kinds of animals

page 33 Identifying the Main Idea
1. dark  2. circus  3. dreams  4. Saturn  5. apples  6. glasses
Challenge: teacher to check

page 34 Identifying the Main Idea
1. Main Idea: farm life  Details: animals, quietness, jobs, smells  2. Main Idea: the movies  Details: favourite kind, sweets, quiet, dark
Challenge: teacher to check

page 35 Identifying the Main Idea
1. Main Idea: Studying planets is very interesting.  Sentence that does not belong: Rockets go very fast.
2. Main Idea: Climbing trees can be fun.  Sentence that does not belong: Some trees give lots of shade on the ground below.
3. Main Idea: I like to make things out of paper.  Sentence that does not belong: I like to sketch things too.
4. Main Idea: I have a very good collection of books.  Sentence that does not belong: My brother likes playing with his toys.
5. Main Idea: My grandparents are very kind to me.  Sentence that does not belong: My friend likes going to the mountains.
Challenge: teacher to check

page 36 Identifying the Main Idea
A. The Purring Cat; story details will vary  B. A Tired Bird meets a Friendly Cloud; story details will vary
Challenge: teacher to check

page 37 Identifying the Main Idea
The sentence that is not from the story is
1. Then it was time for school.  2. That was so enjoyable.  3. Mum said, “Have you fed the cat yet?”  4. Soon after that the postman came.  5. So I changed the channel.
Challenge: teacher to check

page 38 Mood of a Story
1. frightened  2. excited  3. lonely  4. disappointed  5. worried  6. surprised  7. angry  8. happy
Challenge: teacher to check
**Mood of a Story**

1. Samuel would be feeling pleased with himself for doing something thoughtful for his grandma. He would be looking forward to giving her the seashells.
2. She would feel surprised and happy that Samuel had collected shells for her.
3. It tells us that there were not too many people around and that the weather and waves were calm.

**Outlining & Summarising**

1. The paragraph tells how humans are very special and how we have amazing abilities.
2. teacher to check

**Outlining & Summarising**

torpedoes  fin  many  fish  don’t  cartilage  side  breathes

**Outlining & Summarising**

1. The paragraph is about the different kinds of animals and ways of dividing them up into groups which share certain features.
2. teacher to check

**Reading & Writing**

1. Sunny Bay is a popular holiday spot.
2. both
3. sparkling
4. fun  exciting  relaxing
5. popular
6. play on the swings