



Lesson 1

No Nonsense English

9-10
years

Vowel endings

1. Find a vowel to complete these words.

- a** spaghet__ **b** bing__ **c** gn__ **d** umbrell__ **e** macaron__
f yog__ **g** tog__ **h** pitt__ **i** volcan__ **j** kiw__

2. Complete these sentences by changing the nouns in brackets to plurals.

- a** I saw the _____ of the match afterwards. (hero)
b We often went to the _____ in the town. (disco)
c _____ are flightless birds that come from Australia. (emu)
d I bought 1lb of _____ at the supermarket today. (potato)

Lesson 2

Plurals

1. Write the plural of these singular nouns.

- a** axe _____ **b** splash _____ **c** box _____ **d** trolley _____
e shelf _____ **f** torch _____ **g** church _____ **h** slipper _____

2. Write the singular of these plural nouns.

- a** halves _____ **b** lollies _____ **c** taxes _____ **d** losses _____
e ferries _____ **f** bunches _____ **g** scissors _____ **h** skies _____

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		30

Total
30



Lesson 3

No Nonsense English

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Prefixes 1

1. Join the words to their correct meanings.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| a To walk around something. | automatic |
| b To move a plant from one place to another. | circle |
| c A completely round shape. | telephone |
| d The word that describes a machine that works by itself. | biped |
| e A device for talking to people a long way away. | circumambulate |
| f An animal with two feet. | transplant |

Lesson 4

Synonyms

1. Match the words that are synonyms.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| a tranquil | sob |
| b frighten | missing |
| c heavy | timber |
| d lost | peaceful |
| e wood | weighty |
| f cry | scare |

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		12

Total
12



Lesson 5

Adverbs

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1. Underline the adverbs in these sentences.

- a He laughed and limped slowly off down the road.
- b They played well and scored runs quickly.
- c I failed completely to get the toy boat to float.
- d I scrambled hurriedly down the slope.
- e He swerved on the bike and crashed noisily through the hedge.

Lesson 6

Root words

1. Write a short root word hidden in the middle of these long words.

- a signature _____ b participate _____ c presentation _____
- d disagreement _____ e transplant _____ f requirement _____

2. Complete each sentence using a word that includes the root word in brackets.

- a We had an _____ chance of winning the game right to the end. (excel)
- b The day was sunny and the air smelled _____. (wonder)
- c It was my turn to _____ the team. (organ)
- d Sam needed a r_____ as the game didn't work on his laptop. (place)

0	Tough	15
	OK	Got it!

Total
15



Lesson 7

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Changing word order

1. Change the word order but not the meaning of these sentences.

- a** Until the end, I was worried. _____
- b** Under the seat, there was a snake. _____

2. Swap the subject and the object to change the meaning of each sentence.

- a** The rabbit looked at the egg. _____
- b** The fox bit the postman. _____
- c** The bus went over the bridge. _____

Lesson 8

Editing text

1. Choose connectives to join the sentences. Avoid using 'because', 'and' or 'but'.

- a** I kept walking. I got to the finishing line. I didn't win.

- b** I hadn't walked fast enough. I felt very disappointed.

- c** I was so tired. I took the bus all the way home.

0	Tough	8
	OK	Got it!

Total





Lesson 9

Speech

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1. Rewrite these sentences with direct speech in place of reported speech.

a The frog asked the princess if she would marry him.

b The policeman told the two boys to get out of the car.

2. Rewrite these sentences with reported speech in place of the direct speech.

a "Don't stop in the road whatever you do," the driving instructor told him.

b "A bath may help you to relax," suggested Mum.

Lesson 10

Auxiliary verbs

1. Underline the auxiliary verb in these sentences.

a The dogs were barking loudly when we arrived.

b He had been certain that they would come sooner or later.

c He could play on the computer as his brother would be out until dinner time.

d We might go to our caravan at the weekend and Granny may come as well.

2. Change the sentences into the past tense by changing the auxiliary verb.

a The dogs are running around. _____

b They are having a holiday today. _____

c Sam is waiting for you. _____

0	Tough	11
	OK	Got it!

Total





First, second and third person

1. Fill in the gaps using the correct personal pronoun, indicated in brackets.

a _____ went to see what would happen at the trial. (first person plural)

b _____ can't hang around here in the rain. (second person plural)

c _____ tried to open the door to the kitchen. (third person plural)

2. Rewrite these sentences in the person indicated in brackets.

a Can't you wake up? _____ (third person plural)

b Who am I seeing? _____ (second person singular)

c We tried to leave. _____ (third person singular)

Commas and clauses 1

1. Write the missing comma in each of these sentences.

a Although we were late the show had still not started.

b When they turned round the lion gave a roar.

c After I missed the train I went and had a cup of tea.

d Even if it rains we'll walk in the woods.

2. Tick the sentence that uses the comma correctly. Correct the one that has the comma in the wrong place.

a Although, it was all his fault he never stopped complaining. _____

b After the interval, the show got much better. _____

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		12

Total





Lesson 13

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Colons, semi-colons, hyphens and dashes

1. Write the missing colons and semi-colons in these sentences.

- a** She bought vegetables cabbage for her Mum potatoes for her Gran onions for herself.
- b** The notice said 'Keep off the grass'.
- c** This is what you have to do turn left at the end of the road.

2. Write the missing hyphens and dashes in these sentences.

- a** Passing the exam gave my self confidence a great boost.
- b** He was a first time buyer.
- c** I had pre booked tickets for the show.
- d** Where was the diary the diary her Mother had given her?

Lesson 14

Dialogue

1. Put the correct punctuation and speech marks into these sentences.

- a** Do that again he whispered and you'll be very very sorry
- b** Why are you here he gasped I asked you not to come
- c** Hurry up Mum called Why can't you ever be on time
- d** We sat by the river for a long time It's no good said Helen we'll never see the otter again
- e** Ask yourself three questions she said. Why How And when

0	Tough	12
	OK	Got it!

Total
12



Story openings

1. Read the extracts again. Then answer these questions.

- a** What part of the ship was turned towards England? _____
- b** What do you think the 'rattle of the cordage' means? _____
- c** What was the warning sound used to indicate that the ship was ready to go? _____
- d** Which ocean is *The Spartan* going to cross? _____
- e** Was anyone watching the ship depart? How do you know?

- f** How soon after departure did the calamity happen? _____

Recount writing

1. Read the extract again. Then write True or False after each statement.

- a** The trip started in the afternoon. _____
- b** The writer has a sister. _____
- c** Giraffes and zebras can be kept together. _____
- d** Giraffes and zebras eat meat. _____
- e** A small monkey leaped on the car. _____
- f** There was a special place for picnics. _____

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		12

Total

12



Lesson 17

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Hard and soft c

1. Circle the words that have a soft c sound and underline those with a hard c sound.

a carnival ceiling canter icing bicycle carpet price space crocus cut

b Which word has both a hard c and a soft c? _____

2. Underline the misspelt words and write the correct spellings.

a I bought a komic at the market. _____

b I can't cend a letter without a stamp. _____

c The commander of the spase ship climbed out. _____

d I ate a karrot and a stick of selery. _____

Lesson 18

Common letter strings

1. Group these words together by their pronunciation.

droop moult route flavour mouth moon shoulder wood goodnight
behaviour youngster could shout fourth pour bought sour dough

oh

ow

uh

aw

oo

short oo

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

0	Tough	OK	Got it!	24
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Total

24



Lesson 19

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Homophones

1. Select the correct homophone to complete these sentences.

- a** The lion gave a terrible _____. (raw/roar)
- b** It could be _____ all over the zoo. (heard/herd)
- c** I went close _____ its cage. (by/buy)
- d** It seemed to be in some kind of _____. (pane/pain)
- e** I _____ at once why the lion was suffering. (saw/sore)
- f** There were some nails on the _____ of the cage. (flaw/floor)
- g** One of them was stuck in its _____. (poor/paw)
- h** Just then it started _____. (reigning/raining)

Lesson 20

Possessive pronouns

1. Underline the possessive pronouns in these sentences.

- a** He held his umbrella over my head to protect me.
- b** The cat was ours. She had been stolen from our house.
- c** Zog was an alien. His head had two antennae. His feet were not like ours at all.
- d** Your homework was terrible. All its answers were wrong.
- e** Call at our house today. Jackie's bringing her new computer game round.

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		13

Total
13



Lesson 21

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Suffixes

1. Choose the correct 'shun' suffix for each of these words.

- a** _____ is very important if you want a _____ (educate/profess)
b Cars are a major cause of _____. (pollute)
c A person who advises on diet is call a _____. (diet)
d You need to pay more _____ to your work. (attend)
e We want to build an _____ to our house. (extend)
f This book is a _____ from French. (translate)
g In the _____ the thief escaped. (confuse)

Lesson 22

Onomatopoeia

1. Complete the sentences using these words.

squeaked smacked splashing purring plopped popped whoosh

- a** The frog _____ into the _____ water.
b The cork _____ out of the bottle and _____ into the ceiling.
c There was a _____ as the water shot out of the hose.
d The mouse _____ when it heard the _____ of the cat.

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		11

Total

11



Grammatical agreement

1. Circle the correct form of the verb in these sentences.

- a** The three sheep runs/run towards the bottom of the field.
b My favourite team play/plays at home this week.
c After dark the lights go/goes on in the square.

2. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- a** The mouse _____ back into its hole. (scurry)
b John and Rob usually _____ athletics after school. (practise)
c We _____ to visit France in the summer. (hope)

Verb tenses

1. Underline the verbs not in the present tense. Write the sentences correctly in the present tense.

- a** I try to remember a joke when I heard one.

- b** I always lost my wallet and I'm looking for it now.

- c** I met Susie at 3pm on Tuesdays so we can go to the aerobics class together.

- d** Don't go in the cave! You must see the bats hanging from the ceiling.

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		10

Total





Sentence types

1. Underline the statements, circle the orders, put a wavy line under the questions and write in all the missing punctuation.

- a We were waiting under the tree for the bus. Just then Jade shouted, "Look out
- b I couldn't see anything wrong. What on earth are you talking about Its quite safe here."
- c "Run yelled Jade. The tree. It's not safe
- d I could see the tree above me It looked fine What was she talking about
- e "I'll stand here as long as I like " I replied
- f Suddenly there was a tearing sound The branch was coming down fast

Adapting texts 1

1. Rewrite this passage into six sentences, making it suitable for a younger child to read:

They hacked their way through the dense green jungle. Mike slithered dangerously on the muddy path that snaked up the hillside, past the lake, over the rope bridge and towards the clouds. Birds exploded up from the far tops of the trees and the rain lashed their faces.

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____
- e _____
- f _____

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		12

Total





Lesson 27

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Ambiguities

1. Rewrite these sentences to make their meaning clear.

a I saw a postman with a sack wearing shorts.

b I caught a fish with a worm which I'll have for supper.

c I frightened the bird with the gun.

d The fireman saved the cat with the ladder.

Lesson 28

Sentence structure

1. Rewrite these sentences as one sentence. Add extra words if you need them.

a She turned left at the lights. She drove down the road. She stopped at the school.

b I waited by the door. He came out. He shook me by the hand.

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		6

Total
6



Indicating intonation

1. Using punctuation, change each statement first into an order, then a question.

a They are going to the shop after tea.

b No one is ever allowed in.

c We are going to win this afternoon.

Commas and clauses 2

1. Add the missing commas to these sentences.

a The Smirks living in holes and caves near the mountain are dangerous creatures.

b The caves which are dark and deep smell of damp and old bones.

2. Underline the subordinate clauses in these sentences.

a While I was waiting for the bus, I saw a most extraordinary sight.

b An old man, who was wearing a hat made of old shoes, came cycling up the road.

0	Tough	10
	OK	Got it!

Total

10

**Narrative poetry**

1. Read the poem again, then write True or False after each statement.

- a** When he spoke, the old sailor could see the moon. _____
- b** The captain was confident that the weather would stay fine. _____
- c** The vessel suddenly leaped forward when the storm hit it. _____
- d** The captain died at the wheel. _____
- e** He was looking down at the sea when he died. _____
- f** After the storm hit the ship, it stopped snowing. _____
- g** The sails became covered in ice. _____

Taking notes

1. Read the notes again, then write True or False after each statement.

- a** The children assembled twenty minutes before the coach came. _____
- b** The journey to Paddington took two hours. _____
- c** The underground trains were running on time. _____
- d** Johnny usually remembered his packed lunch on trips. _____
- e** The class had two hours at the Science Museum. _____
- f** The teacher had had an easy day. _____

0	Tough	13
OK	Got it!	

Total





Antonyms

1. Rewrite these sentences, changing each bold word for its antonym.

- a It was a **cool** day. The clouds were **low**. _____
- b The apples were **big** and **sweet**. _____
- c The spire was **crooked** and **narrow**. _____
- d The sea was **rough** and **deep**. _____
- e The work was **boring** and **hard**. _____

Unstressed vowels

1. Spell these words correctly, putting in the missing unstressed vowels.

- a genus _____ b misrble _____
- c compulsry _____ d darkning _____
- e gardn _____ f poisnus _____

2. Split these words into syllables, then underline the unstressed vowels.

- a. thickening _____ b fishery _____

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		18

Total





Letter strings – ie and ei

1. Complete each sentence with a word that uses one of the letter strings and has a similar meaning to the word in brackets.

- a** His parcel was extremely w_____. (heavy)
b I b_____ I will get full marks on the test tomorrow. (think)
c “Please can I have the last p_____ of apple p_____?” (slice / cake)
d The policemen caught the t_____ climbing out of the window. (burglar)
e Australia is a f_____ country. (overseas)
f Sanjay is my best f_____. (mate)
g Josh b_____ outlined the plan to Geoff. (quickly)

Lesson 36

Prefixes 2

1. Add the prefix in or im to these words.

- a** _____efficient **b** _____perfect **c** _____finite **d** _____material
e _____frequent **f** _____mortal **g** _____appropriate **h** _____gratitude

2. Add the prefix il or ir to these words.

- a** _____rational **b** _____literate **c** _____reparable **d** _____regular
e _____legal **f** _____resistible **g** _____replaceable **h** _____logical

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		23

Total
23



Borrowed words

1. Match these words with their meanings and the country they came from.

Word	Meaning	Country of origin
a au revoir	a sleep in the afternoon	Germany
b opera	an artist's work room	Spain
c blitz	good bye	China
d studio	a rich business person	Italy
e sari	a musical play	France
f siesta	a bombardment from the air	Italy
g tycoon	a type of woman's dress	India

Shortened words

1. Write the longer form of these abbreviations and acronyms.

- a** exam _____ **f** BBC _____
- b** hippo _____ **g** advert _____
- c** maths _____ **h** pub _____
- d** km _____ **i** 3D _____
- e** Aussie _____ **j** approx _____

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		17

Total





Conjunctions

1. Underline the conjunctions in these sentences.

- a** I went outside while it was very cold but I quickly had to go back indoors.
b The dogs had run away so I searched until I eventually found them.
c I wanted to go shopping because I need to buy a present and I was working the next day.

2. Join these three short sentences in two different ways using different conjunctions.

I went for a walk. I needed the exercise. I soon got tired.

- a** _____
b _____

Double negatives

1. Rewrite these sentences correctly, removing the double negative.

- a** I couldn't never be an actor. _____
b He didn't know no one. _____
c No one got nothing back. _____
d We never went nowhere. _____
e The meal was not no good. _____

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		10

Total

10



Adapting texts 2

1. Rewrite this text by simplifying any imagery and complex sentences. (4 marks)

The vast, multi-coloured and streaky sea was gradually spread out on the green carpet in front of us. The ropes and large wicker basket were carefully placed at the bottom. After what seemed like an age of silence, there was a sudden, deafening roar and, slowly, life was breathed into the motionless expanse. An eerie feeling crept over us as we gazed upon this magical sight; the ripples were calm at first, but the waves soon became more violent as the stripey sea rose upwards. The full wonder of this magnificent sight was soon clear for all to see, as the hot air balloon grew to its full size and lifted up to the heavens.

Prepositions

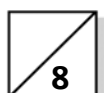
1. Complete these sentences with the most appropriate prepositions.

towards around in underneath through behind

- a** I found Tigger _____ the hedge _____ the back garden.
b "If you're looking for the pickle, it's _____ the cans of soup."
c She ran _____ the bus stop when she saw the bus come _____ the corner.
d Sunil jogged _____ the park every morning before work.

0	Tough	OK
		Got it!
		8

Total





Lesson 43

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Clauses

1. Underline the subordinate clauses and circle the connectives in these sentences.

- a The man, who lives next door, has a small terrier called Molly.
- b I will be there at 5 o'clock, if the train is on time.
- c Despite leaving on time, we still arrived late for the match.
- d The play was cancelled, due to low ticket sales.
- e On a Sunday morning, while Mum prepares breakfast, I practice for my piano lesson.
- f I didn't believe her, until I saw it for myself.
- g Since I won't be here for long, you can take my seat.

Lesson 44

Punctuating sentences

1. Write out this passage, putting in all the missing punctuation. (4 marks)

come in come in what are you waiting out there for called aunt flo right now what would you like for lunch you can have any or all of the following freshly baked rolls three types of cheese slices of smoked ham a mixture of green salad leaves and beef or cherry tomatoes that all sounds very tasty aunt flo answered andy but im not really hungry as i stopped to eat my lunch on the way here

0	Tough	11
	OK	Got it!

Total

11



Apostrophes

1. Add the missing apostrophes into this passage. (10 marks)

The waving grasses brought tears to Adams eyes. His hay fever was worse. The pollen was making his eyes itch and his eyes condition got worse when he rubbed them. His handkerchiefs edge was wet with tears. He decided to go and visit some friends to make himself feel better. Adam walked round to Ceris and Daves house and rang the bell. The bells ring was loud and it woke the dog. He could hear Brutus howls from outside, followed quickly by Daves voice telling Brutus to be quiet. As she opened the door, Ceris face broke into a pitiful smile because she could see the state of Adams eyes. "Come in away from the pollen," she said. "You look like you need some of Ceris and Daves tea and biscuits!"

Brackets and dashes

1. Add dashes where appropriate in these sentences.

- a** They looked around they were alone.
- b** It was easy or so he thought!
- c** The book although dull on the outside explored a world of adventure inside.

2. Use brackets to enclose the additional information in these sentences.

- a** "Read chapter two pages 17-25 for homework and summarise the main points."
- b** That house the one with the white front door is where Jermaine lives.
- c** 'Alas, poor Yorick!,' Shakespeare, Hamlet is from a great scene in the play!
- d** Mr Mitchell the baker said 'Hello' to me as I walked past his shop yesterday.

0	Tough	17
	OK	Got it!

Total





Stories from different places

1. Read the story extracts again, then write True or False next to the statements below.

- a** The youngest lassie was pretty. _____
- b** The gentleman sent the youngest lassie to live in the woods. _____
- c** The lassie found the hoosie on her own. _____
- d** The story takes place at Easter. _____
- e** The calf helped the lassie to go to the kirk. _____
- f** The prince didn't notice the lassie. _____
- g** The lassie returned home in time to finish cooking the food. _____

Lesson 48

Objective or subjective?

1. Read the two texts again, then write True or False next to the statements below.

- a** The residents have proposed a new road development. _____
- b** The road will link three roads, two motorways and the existing ringroad. _____
- c** It isn't clear how many homes will be knocked down to make way for the road. _____
- d** The new road will definitely divert traffic away from the city. _____
- e** The author of the second text is passionate about stopping the new road. _____
- f** Farms will be destroyed and no new jobs will be created. _____
- g** There are some old roads in the countryside around the city. _____

0	Tough	14

Total





Handwriting practice

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Copy this piece of writing on the lines underneath.

Tom was behind the palm tree. He was lying in the long grass. From there he could see the pirate's boots. They were black – and very old. He could also see his sword. The point was sharp and the blade was shiny. He hoped that the pirates had given up looking for him. Just then he heard a rustle in the grass and felt a hand on his shoulder.