

ENGLISH LESSON 1

Task 1

- **Complete the following using similes - use your imagination and exaggeration in a humorous way.**

A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two different things. The simile is usually in a phrase that begins with the words "as" or "like."

1. He waddled into the room ...

E.g. He waddled into the room like a baby wearing a wet nappy.

2. She tripped over the wire and fell like a ...

3. The head chef slurped her soup like a ...

4. My father couldn't dance to save his life. He moved about the dance floor like a ...

5. The film was as boring as ...

6. That noise is horrible. It sounds like ...

7. My grandfather is as old as ...

8. My best friend sings ...

9. The teacher was ...

10. Make up your own!

ENGLISH LESSON 2

Read the following passage and answer the questions which follow.

The passage you are going to read is the first short chapter of the novel. It is prefaced by the following clipping from a newspaper telling the reader exactly what has happened to Liam!

Liverpool Echo

A rocket, launched yesterday from a private site in northern China, is missing along with its crew of five. Yesterday the Internet was alive with rumours of a secret manned space mission. Today Nasa and the Russian Federal Space Agency both confirmed that a rocket did take off but denied it was theirs. The rocket entered high orbit and then disappeared into "deep space". No manned rocket has left Earth's orbit since Apollo 17 in 1972.

I am not exactly in the Lake District

Mum, Dad – if you're listening – you know I said I was going to the South Lakeland Outdoor Activity Centre with the school? To be completely honest, I'm not exactly in the Lake District. To be completely honest, I'm more sort of in space. I'm on this rocket, the Infinite Possibility. I'm about two hundred thousand miles above the surface of the Earth. I'm alright . . . ish. I know I've got some explaining to do. This is me doing it. I lied about my age. I sort of gave the impression I was about thirty. Obviously, I'm more sort of thirteen-ish. On my next birthday. To be fair, everyone lies about their age. Adults pretend to be younger. Teenagers pretend to be older. Children wish they were grownups. Grownups wish they were children.

It's not like I had to try very hard, is it? Everyone always thinks I'm older than I really am, just because I'm tall. In St Joan of Arc Primary, the teachers seemed to think that height and age were the same thing. If you were taller than someone, you must be older than them. If you were tall and you made a mistake – even if it was only your first day – you got, "You should know better, big lad like you." Why, by the way? Why should a big lad know better just because he's big? King Kong's a big lad. Would he know the way to the toilet block on his first day at school? When no one had told him? No, I don't think he would. Anyway a few hours back the Infinite Possibility was supposed to complete a routine manoeuvre and basically it didn't. It rolled out of orbit, wrecking all the communication equipment, and now we're very lost in space.

I've got this mobile phone with me – because it had pictures of home on it. It's got an audio-diary function. That's what I'm talking into now. Unless you get this message you won't know about this because we're on a secret mission. They already told us that if it goes wrong they're going to deny all knowledge of it. And us. There's five of us on board. The others are all asleep. Can you believe that, by the way? We're in a rocket, spinning hopelessly out of control and into Forever, and what is their chosen course of action? A nap.

When we got the manoeuvre just slightly wrong – just slightly enough to make us completely doomed – they all screamed for about an hour and then they dozed off. I can't sleep. I can't get comfortable in sleeping bags because they're always too small for me. Plus, I think if I stay awake I might have an idea. And save us all. That's why I'm recording this on my Draxphone. If I do get home, I'm going to give it to you and then you'll understand how I ended up in deep space when I said I was going pond dipping in the Lake District.

If you are listening to this though, and you are not my mum and dad, you are probably a pointy-headed, ninety-legged, sucker-footed alien, in which case, can I just say, "Hello, I come in peace. And, if you happen to have the technology, would you mind posting this to: Mr and Mrs Digby – 23, Glenarm Close, Bootle, Liverpool 22, England, The Earth, Solar System, Milky Way, et cetera. If it's not too much trouble."

The slightly worrying thing is that I am sort of enjoying this. Being doomed is Not Good. But being weightless is Outstanding. Every time I lean forward I do a perfect somersault. When I stretch my arms in the air I levitate. Back on Earth my only special skills are being above average in maths and height. Up here I've got so many skills I'm practically a Power Ranger. Then there's the stars.

On Earth, our house is right next to the New Strand Shopping Centre. The multi-storey blots out most of the sky. The only stars I ever really noticed were the ones on the "It's Your Solar System" glow-in-the-dark mobile I got when I was nine. And the only reason I noticed them was that they kept getting tangled in my hair. Mobiles do not make good presents for persons of above average height.

The stars look different from here. There's a lot more of them, for one thing. Big swirls and knots and clouds of them, so bright they hurt to look at. When you're in it, space looks like the biggest firework display ever – except it's on pause. It looks like freeze-frame fireworks. Even if you're Completely Doomed, you've got to be impressed.

The only bad thing about the view is that it doesn't include Earth. We haven't seen it since we rolled out of orbit. I said to the others, "Well, it must be somewhere. We're probably just facing the wrong way. We'll find it. Definitely." But that didn't seem to calm them down. One of them – Samson Two – drew me a diagram to prove that even if we were

facing the wrong way we should still be able to see it. I said, "So what are you saying? That we've fallen into some magic wormhole and come out on the other side of the universe?"

"Possibly."

"That the whole Earth just vanished? That it's gone?"

"Possibly."

They all screamed until they wore themselves out, and then they went to sleep. At least sleep uses less oxygen.

- Before you do anything else, read the passage two or three times. Yes, that's correct – read it again, at least once!
- Then write the title Lesson 2: Cosmic on a piece of paper, together with the date and answer the reading questions below in full sentences.

1. Where did Liam, the narrator, tell his parents he was going?
2. What is the name of the rocket in which Liam finds himself, and how far above the Earth is he?
3. In the second paragraph, Liam sounds annoyed at the way he is treated. Explain why.
4. How is Liam recording his diary, and what are the other four crew members doing while he records it?
5. What problem does Liam have with sleeping bags? What do you think is the reason that the writer gives us this bit of information?
6. Liam talks about his situation being 'Not Good', weightlessness being 'Outstanding' and the fact that he and the other rocket crew members are 'Completely Doomed'. Why do you think these words are in capital letters?
7. In the seventh and eighth paragraphs, Liam tells us about the stars. Do you think the writer describes them well? Explain why.
8. Find a sentence or paragraph in the passage intended to make the reader smile, and explain why you think it is funny.
9. How would you describe the tone (mood/atmosphere) of the passage? How do you think the writer wants the reader to feel at the end of this passage (the opening chapter of the novel)?
10. Do you think that the writer gets Liam's voice right: when you read the passage, does it feel like you are listening to the voice of twelve year old boy? Write a few sentences in which you explain what you think using short quotations or references to the passage.

ENGLISH LESSON 3

'Cosmic' writing task

- Now it's your turn to write about a challenging situation! Write a diary or blog entry in which you describe finding yourself in a difficult situation. Instead of making the situation sound sad or upsetting, make it sound funny in the way Frank Cottrell Boyce does in 'Cosmic'.

Try to include the following:

- Some entertaining or imaginative images (metaphors, similes etc)
E.g. ***Space looks like the biggest firework display ever***
- Exaggeration to show how strongly you feel about what you are describing
E.g. ***I'm practically a Power Ranger***
- Understatement (the complete opposite of exaggeration)
E.g. ***Being doomed is Not Good.***
- Humour (anything which the reader might find funny)
- A variety of sentences, particularly short sentences which help to make the point about how you are feeling; you could also try using short paragraphs to achieve a similar effect.

Write as well as you can. Please ensure you think carefully about how you use punctuation. We have learnt about:

- Commas, full stops, colons, semi-colons, inverted commas, brackets, dashes, hyphens

Before you begin writing, make a short plan below.

Plan

ENGLISH LESSON 4

Today, your task is to edit your writing from yesterday.

Task 1: Read through your writing. Did you include everything asked for? (See Day 3)

Task 2: Check that each sentence makes sense – do you need to edit your punctuation? Will the reader understand what you mean? Is each sentence clear enough?

Task 3: Read your first sentence – can you extend it using an adjective, an adverb, or include a simile or a metaphor? Can you up-level any of the vocabulary used? Can you use a better verb?

Task 4: Do the above ***for every sentence in your writing.*** Take your time doing this.

Task 5: Write out (neatly) your new, up-levelled piece of writing. I will want to see both versions, so that I can check how you have persevered with your editing.

ENGLISH LESSON 5

See separate pack, which will tell you everything you need to know (and do!) for your English lesson today. Remember, you do not need to print anything out – you can write on plain or lined paper.
Good luck!