



BRITISH LEARNING CENTRE

YEAR 2

Reading Comprehension

Workbook

Stories, poems, letters, diaries and fact texts with questions that build the key reading skills for Year 2.

Name:

English | Learn it · Practise · Challenge · Check

How to use this workbook

1

Learn it

Read the explanation, key words and worked example.

2

Practise

Answer the questions on Sheet A.

3

Challenge

Try the harder questions on Sheet B.

4

Check

Check with the answers at the back and tick the tracker.

My progress tracker

#	Unit · I can...	Tried	Nearly	Got it!
1	Working out word meanings I can work out the meaning of new words using clues in the text.			
2	Finding information I can find and copy key information from a text.			
3	Facts and headings I can use titles and headings to find facts in non-fiction.			
4	Putting events in order I can put the main events or steps of a text in order.			
5	Enjoying poems I can talk about rhyme, patterns and interesting words in poems.			
6	How do characters feel? I can work out how characters feel from what they say and do.			
7	Being a text detective I can use clues in the text to work things out and explain how.			
8	Predicting what happens next I can predict what might happen next and explain why.			
9	Explaining why I can explain why things happen, using because and evidence.			
10	Summing up a text I can sum up the main ideas of a text in a few sentences.			



CHECK

Start test

Start test

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 14

Read each short text. Then answer the question.

- 1 Read: 'The kitten was timid. It hid under the bed whenever visitors came.' What does **timid** mean?

☐ shy and easily scared ☐ loud ☐ hungry

- 2 Read: 'Anna's cousin lives in Phuket. He has a green bike called Speedy.' The bike is called _____.

- 3 Read: 'First, Leo mixed the flour and eggs. Next, he added milk. Finally, he cooked the pancakes.' What did Leo do second?

☐ added milk ☐ mixed the flour and eggs ☐ cooked the pancakes

- 4 Read: 'Jasmine grinned and punched the air when she saw her test score.' How does Jasmine feel? How do you know?

- 5 Read: 'Penguins cannot fly, but they are excellent swimmers.' Penguins can fly.

☐ True ☐ False

- 6 Read: 'Sam carried a bucket and spade towards the sea.' What is Sam going to do?

☐ play in the sand ☐ go to school ☐ cook dinner

- 7 Read: 'The plants died because nobody watered them.' Why did the plants die?

- 8 Which pair of words rhyme?

☐ light / night ☐ light / lamp ☐ night / day

- 9 Read: 'Omar looked at the empty plate and the crumbs on the dog's nose.' Who ate the sandwich?

☐ the dog ☐ Omar ☐ a bird

10

Read: 'Owls hunt at night. They have excellent hearing.' Owls hunt at _____.

- 11** Read: 'Kim lost her kite in the wind. She searched the park and found it in a tree.' Which is the best summary?

☐ Kim lost her kite and found it in a tree. ☐ Kim went to the park.
☐ The wind was strong.

- 12** A book about sharks has the heading 'What do sharks eat?' What will this part tell you?

☐ what sharks eat ☐ where sharks live ☐ how big sharks are

- 13** Read: 'Rain drummed on the roof all night.' The word **drummed** tells us the rain was noisy.

☐ True ☐ False

- 14** Read: 'The sky went black. The wind howled. Lek looked at her washing on the line.' What might Lek do next? Why?

1

UNIT 1 · LEARN IT

Working out word meanings

I can... work out the meaning of new words using clues in the text.

When you meet a new word, read the sentence before it and the sentence after it. The clues can help you work out the meaning.

You can check your idea in a dictionary.

Top tip: Swap the word for one you know. If the sentence still makes sense, you are probably right.

Key words

vocabulary

meaning

clue

sentence

dictionary

Worked example

The path was so narrow that only one person could walk on it at a time.

Question: What does **narrow** mean?

Answer: **not wide**

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The Night Market FICTION

Every Friday evening, Lek and her mum visit the night market. As soon as they arrive, Lek can smell sizzling sausages and sweet pancakes. The market is always crowded, so Lek holds Mum's hand tightly.

The stalls are glittering with fairy lights. One stall sells tiny wooden elephants, and another sells silk scarves in every colour of the rainbow. Lek's favourite stall belongs to an elderly man with a white beard. He makes coconut ice cream and serves it in a real coconut shell.

"Your usual?" he asks with a grin. Lek nods eagerly. She can hardly wait for the first cold, creamy spoonful.

- 1 "The market is always **crowded**." What does **crowded** mean?

☐ full of people ☐ empty ☐ very dark

- 2 Which word tells you the sausages are cooking in a hot pan?

☐ sizzling ☐ glittering ☐ creamy

- 3 The stalls are _____ with fairy lights.

- 4 What does **elderly** mean?

☐ old ☐ young ☐ tall

- 5 The man serves the ice cream in a coconut shell.

☐ True ☐ False

- 6 Find and copy two words that describe the ice cream.

- 7 "Lek nods **eagerly**." What does **eagerly** tell you about how Lek feels?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Octopuses NON-FICTION

An octopus is a sea animal with eight long arms. Each arm is covered in suckers, which help it to grip rocks and catch food. An octopus has no bones, so it can squeeze its soft body through tiny gaps.

Octopuses are very clever. They can solve puzzles and even open jars! They are also experts at hiding. An octopus can change the colour of its skin to match the rocks and sand around it. This is called camouflage.

If a hungry fish attacks, an octopus squirts a cloud of dark ink into the water. While the fish cannot see, the octopus escapes.

1 An octopus has eight long _____.

2 What do the suckers help an octopus to do?

☐ grip rocks and catch food ☐ swim faster ☐ see in the dark

3 "It can **squeeze** its soft body through tiny gaps." **Squeeze** means...

☐ push through a small space ☐ jump over ☐ break

4 An octopus has lots of bones.

☐ True ☐ False

5 Changing colour to hide is called _____.

6 What does **escapes** mean?

☐ gets away ☐ falls asleep ☐ eats

7 Why does an octopus squirt ink?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Finding information

I **can...** find and copy key information from a text.

To **retrieve** means to find information in the text. Look for key words from the question.

Scan the text quickly with your eyes until you find the key word. Then read that part carefully.

Top tip: Underline the key word in the question before you start looking.

Key words

retrieve

key word

scan

copy

detail

Worked example

Zara's grandad lives in Hua Hin. He has a small boat called Blue Bird.

Question: What is the boat called?

Answer: **Blue Bird**

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Grandad's Boat FICTION

Every school holiday, Arjun stays with his grandad in a fishing village near Hua Hin. Grandad has a small wooden boat called Sea Star. It is painted blue and white, with a red stripe along the side.

Early on Tuesday morning, before the sun came up, Grandad woke Arjun. "The sea is calm today," he whispered. "Shall we go fishing?"

They pushed Sea Star into the water and Grandad started the noisy engine. Arjun wore his orange life jacket. By nine o'clock they had caught four silver fish and one grumpy-looking crab. Arjun let the crab go. "Back you go," he laughed, as it scuttled away into the waves.

1 Where does Grandad live?

☐ in a fishing village near Hua Hin ☐ in Bangkok ☐ on an island

2 What colour is the stripe on the boat?

☐ red ☐ blue ☐ white

3 Arjun wore his _____ life jacket.

4 When did they go fishing?

☐ early on Tuesday morning ☐ on Sunday afternoon ☐ at night

5 They caught four silver fish.

☐ True ☐ False

6 What did Arjun do with the crab?

7 Find and copy the word that shows how the crab moved.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the letter. Then answer the questions.**A Letter from Chiang Mai** LETTER

Dear Olivia,

I hope you are well. We arrived in Chiang Mai on Saturday. It is much cooler here than in Bangkok, and there are mountains all around the city.

Yesterday we visited an elephant sanctuary. The elephants there have been rescued, so nobody rides them. Instead, we helped to wash them in the river! A young elephant called Dok Mai sprayed water all over me. I was soaking wet, but I could not stop laughing.

Tomorrow we are going to a temple on top of a mountain. There are over three hundred steps to climb! I will send you a photo from the top.

Your friend,

Chen

- 1 Chen is writing to _____.
- 2 When did Chen arrive in Chiang Mai?
☐ on Saturday ☐ on Monday ☐ yesterday
- 3 How is Chiang Mai different from Bangkok?
☐ It is cooler. ☐ It is hotter. ☐ It is flatter.
- 4 Where is the temple?
☐ on top of a mountain ☐ next to the river ☐ in Bangkok
- 5 How did the visitors help the elephants?

- 6 How many steps are there up to the temple?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Facts and headings

I can... use titles and headings to find facts in non-fiction.

Non-fiction texts give us facts. A **fact** is something that is true and can be checked.

Headings split the text into parts, so you can find information quickly.

Top tip: Read the headings first. Which part will have your answer?

Key words

non-fiction

heading

fact

information

title

Worked example

What do pandas eat?

Pandas eat bamboo for most of the day.

Question: What do pandas eat? Which heading helped you?

Answer: **Bamboo.** The heading **"What do pandas eat?"** helped me.

Read the text. Then answer the questions.**Coral Reefs** NON-FICTION**What is a coral reef?**

A coral reef looks like a colourful garden under the sea, but coral is really made of tiny animals. They live together in big groups and build hard skeletons around themselves.

Where are coral reefs found?

Most coral reefs grow in warm, shallow seas where there is lots of sunlight. Thailand has beautiful reefs near islands such as Ko Tao.

Who lives on a reef?

Thousands of creatures make their home on a reef. Clownfish hide in sea anemones, sea turtles nibble on sponges, and small sharks swim along the edges.

How can we help?

Reefs can be damaged easily. Never touch or stand on coral, and always put rubbish in the bin so it does not end up in the sea.

1 What is coral made of?

☐ tiny animals ☐ rocks ☐ plants

2 Which heading helps you find out where reefs grow?

☐ Where are coral reefs found? ☐ Who lives on a reef? ☐ How can we help?

3 It is fine to stand on coral.

☐ True ☐ False

4 Write one way we can help to protect reefs.

5 Why do you think the writer says a reef looks like a garden?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Loy Krathong NON-FICTION

What is Loy Krathong?

Loy Krathong is a festival of light in Thailand. It takes place on the full moon night of the twelfth Thai month, usually in November.

What is a krathong?

A krathong is a small floating basket. It is often made from a slice of banana tree trunk, with folded banana leaves, flowers, a candle and three incense sticks.

What do people do?

At night, people go to rivers and lakes. They light the candle, make a wish and gently place their krathong on the water. Many people believe it carries their worries away.

Looking after rivers

Today, lots of people choose krathongs made from bread or leaves, because these do not harm the water.

1 What kind of festival is Loy Krathong?

☐ a festival of light ☐ a harvest festival ☐ a music festival

2 Which part tells you what a krathong is made of?

☐ What is a krathong? ☐ What do people do? ☐ Looking after rivers

3 How many incense sticks go on a krathong?

☐ three ☐ one ☐ five

4 What do many people believe the krathong carries away?

5 Why do lots of people now choose krathongs made from bread or leaves?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Putting events in order

I can... put the main events or steps of a text in order.

Stories have a beginning, a middle and an end. Instructions have steps in order.

Time words such as **first**, **after that**, **later** and **finally** help you to follow the order.

Top tip: Number the events lightly in pencil as you read.

Worked example

After breakfast, Noah packed his bag. Later, he walked to school. Finally, he met his friends at the gate.

Question: What did Noah do after he packed his bag?

Answer: **He walked to school.**

Key words

sequence

order

beginning

middle

end

time words

Read the instructions. Then answer the questions.

How to Grow a Sunflower INSTRUCTIONS

You will need: a sunflower seed, a small pot, some soil, a watering can and a sunny window.

1. First, fill your pot with soil, leaving a small gap at the top.
2. Next, push the seed into the soil with your finger, about 2 cm deep.
3. Cover the seed with soil and pat it down gently.
4. After that, water the soil so it is damp but not soaking wet.
5. Put the pot on a sunny window sill. Water it every two days.
6. When the seedling is about 10 cm tall, plant it outside in the garden.

Top tip: sunflowers grow very tall, so give yours a stick to lean on!

1 What do you do first?

- ☐ fill the pot with soil ☐ water the seed ☐ push in the seed

2 What should you do after you cover the seed?

- ☐ water the soil ☐ plant it outside ☐ give it a stick

3 You should water the pot every day.

- ☐ True ☐ False

4 Where should you put the pot?

- ☐ on a sunny window sill ☐ in a dark cupboard ☐ in the fridge

5 When should you plant the sunflower outside?

6 Put these in order: *water the soil, plant it outside, push in the seed, fill the pot.*

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The Dragon Boat Race FICTION

The whole town had come to the river for the Dragon Boat Race. Mei's team, the Red Dragons, climbed into their long boat. Mei sat at the front with the big drum.

First, the judge raised a green flag. Everyone held their paddles still. Then the flag dropped, and the boats shot forward. Boom, boom, boom went Mei's drum, and twenty paddles dipped into the water together.

Halfway along the river, the Red Dragons were behind the Blue Tigers. Mei beat the drum faster and louder. Slowly, her team crept closer. At the last moment, the golden dragon head on their boat crossed the line first.

The crowd roared. Mei's grandmother waved a red scarf from the bridge, cheering loudest of all.

1 Mei's team was called the _____.

2 What did Mei do in the boat?

☐ beat the drum ☐ steer the boat ☐ wave a flag

3 What happened just before the boats shot forward?

☐ The flag dropped. ☐ The crowd roared. ☐ Mei's grandmother waved.

4 Number these events 1 to 4: *the Red Dragons crossed the line, the judge raised a flag, Mei beat the drum faster, the boats shot forward.*

5 How do you think Mei felt at the end? Why?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Enjoying poems

I can... talk about rhyme, patterns and interesting words in poems.

Poems often use rhyme, repeated patterns and sound words like *splash* and *crash*.

A group of lines in a poem is called a **verse**.

Top tip: Read the poem aloud. Listen for the rhymes and patterns.

Key words

poem

rhyme

verse

pattern

sound words

Worked example

*Pitter, patter, on the pane,
Here comes the summer rain.*

Question: Find a sound word in these lines.

Answer: **pitter or patter**

Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

Monsoon POEM

*The sky turns grey, the wind blows strong,
The palm trees sway and sing a song.
The first drops fall – plip, plop, plip –
Along the roof they drip, drip, drip.*

*Then CRASH! The thunder shakes the town,
The rain comes pouring, pounding down.
The streets become a rushing stream,
The tuk-tuks hiss, the car lights gleam.*

*At last it stops. The frogs appear,
They croak and croak for all to hear.
The sun peeps out, the puddles shine,
And steam rises from the washing line.*

- 1 What colour does the sky turn?
☐ grey ☐ blue ☐ pink
- 2 Which word rhymes with **strong**?
☐ song ☐ sway ☐ wind
- 3 Find and copy two sound words from the first verse.

- 4 The frogs appear before the rain stops.
☐ True ☐ False

- 5 How many verses does the poem have?
☐ three ☐ two ☐ four

- 6 Why is CRASH written in capital letters?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

Songkran Splash *POEM*

*It's April, it's Songkran, it's hot as can be,
So grab a big bucket and come out with me!
There's water in bowls and there's water in pipes,
There's water on shirts with the flowers and stripes.*

*Splash goes my auntie, and splash goes my cat –
(He did not like that, and he ran off, and that's that!)*

*We pour on Grandma's hands, gentle and slow,
And wish her good luck – then she soaks me! Oh no!*

*By evening we're dripping from top to our toes,
With water in ears and a drop on each nose.
The new year is here and the streets are all wet –
The best splashing day that we've ever had yet!*

1 In which month is Songkran?

☐ April ☐ June ☐ November

2 Which word rhymes with **cat**?

☐ that ☐ splash ☐ ran

3 Why do they pour water on Grandma's hands?

☐ to wish her good luck ☐ to wash them ☐ to cool the cat

4 Find two words that rhyme in the last verse.

5 What is funny about the end of the second verse?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

How do characters feel?

I can... work out how characters feel from what they say and do.

Writers do not always tell us how a character feels. They show us with clues.

Look at what the character says, does and looks like. This is your **evidence**.

Top tip: Answer like this: I think... because the text says...

Key words

character

feelings

infer

evidence

clue

Worked example

Tom slammed the door and threw his bag on the floor.

Question: How does Tom feel?

Answer: I think he is angry, because he slammed the door and threw his bag.

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Aiko's Big Moment FICTION

Aiko stood behind the curtain, clutching her violin. Her hands were cold and damp, and her heart was thumping so loudly that she was sure everyone could hear it. Through a gap in the curtain, she could see rows and rows of parents.

"Next is Aiko Tanaka," said Miss Rose.

Aiko walked slowly onto the stage. She lifted her violin and looked out at the crowd. Then she spotted her little brother in the front row, waving both arms and pulling a silly face. Aiko's shoulders relaxed. She took a deep breath and began to play.

When the last note finished, the hall burst into clapping. Aiko bowed, and a huge smile spread across her face.

- 1 What instrument does Aiko play?
☐ the violin ☐ the piano ☐ the drums
- 2 How does Aiko feel behind the curtain?
☐ nervous ☐ bored ☐ angry
- 3 Find two clues that show how she feels behind the curtain.

- 4 Who helps Aiko to relax?
☐ her little brother ☐ Miss Rose ☐ her mum
- 5 How does Aiko feel at the end? How do you know?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the diary. Then answer the questions.

Ollie's Diary FICTION

Monday 3rd March

Today we moved from London to Pattaya. The flight took nearly twelve hours and I could not sleep at all. When we landed, the air felt like a warm, wet towel.

Our new flat is on the ninth floor and I can see the sea from my window! But my room feels empty without my old things, and I keep thinking about my best friend, Harry. I wonder what he is doing right now.

Tuesday 4th March

This morning, a girl called Fah knocked on our door. She lives next door and she is in Year 2 too. She showed me the swimming pool and taught me to say "sawasdee". Maybe living here will be all right after all.

1 Where did Ollie's family move to?

☐ Pattaya ☐ London ☐ Bangkok

2 Ollie slept on the plane.

☐ True ☐ False

3 Who is Fah?

☐ a girl who lives next door ☐ Ollie's teacher ☐ a friend from London

4 How does Ollie feel on Monday evening? Find a clue.

5 How have Ollie's feelings changed by Tuesday? Why?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Being a text detective

I can... use clues in the text to work things out and explain how.

Good readers are like detectives. They put clues together to work out things the text does not say.

Always explain how you know, using words from the text.

Top tip: Point to the clue in the text. That is your evidence.

Worked example

Maya came in with wet hair and a dripping umbrella.

Question: What is the weather like outside? How do you know?

Answer: **It is raining, because Maya's hair is wet and her umbrella is dripping.**

Key words

infer

clue

evidence

detective

explain

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Who Ate the Cake? FICTION

On Saturday, Mum baked a chocolate cake for Grandpa's birthday and left it on the kitchen table. When she came back, one big slice was missing.

"Who ate the cake?" she asked.

Nam was sitting on the sofa, reading a book. His hands were clean. Ploy was in the garden, and her hands were covered in mud. Baby Tida was asleep in her cot.

Then Mum noticed some small brown paw prints on the floor. They led from the table, across the kitchen and under a chair. Under the chair sat Coco the puppy, licking her lips. There was chocolate on her nose.

"Coco!" gasped Mum. "Chocolate is not good for dogs!" She quickly phoned the vet for advice.

1 Mum baked the cake for _____'s birthday.

2 Who ate the cake?

☐ Coco the puppy ☐ Nam ☐ Baby Tida

3 Write two clues that tell you who ate the cake.

4 Why could Baby Tida not have eaten the cake?

5 Why do you think Mum phoned the vet?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The New Neighbour FICTION

A big van stopped outside the empty house on Mango Lane. Two men carried in boxes, a bed and a sofa. Then they carried in something strange: a tall wooden post with a round cushion on top and a long, dangly toy.

Priya watched from her window. Next came a basket with a little metal door. Something inside it was making a cross, hissing sound.

Later, a lady in a sunhat knocked on Priya's door. "Hello, I'm Mrs Kaur, your new neighbour," she said. "I'm sorry to bother you, but have you seen a small ginger face anywhere? Someone escaped when I opened the basket!"

Priya looked at the tree in her garden. Two green eyes were peeping out from between the leaves.

1 The empty house is on _____ Lane.

2 What kind of pet does Mrs Kaur have?

☐ a cat ☐ a dog ☐ a parrot

3 Write two clues that tell you what the pet is.

4 The animal in the basket was happy.

☐ True ☐ False

5 Where is the pet now?

☐ in the tree in Priya's garden ☐ in the basket ☐ in the van

6 What do you think Priya will do next?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Predicting what happens next

I can... predict what might happen next and explain why.

When we **predict**, we use what we have read to make a good guess about what will happen next.

A good prediction uses clues from the text and what you know about the characters.

Top tip: Check your prediction as you read on. Were you right?

Key words

predict

prediction

evidence

clue

title

Worked example

Ravi saw the ice cream van. He checked his pocket. It was empty.

Question: What might happen next?

Answer: I think Ravi will ask his mum for some money, because his pocket is empty.

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The Mystery Parcel FICTION

When Sofia got home from school, there was a parcel on the doormat. It had her name on it, written in shaky handwriting, and it had stamps from Spain. Sofia's grandmother lived in Spain.

The box was light, but when Sofia shook it, something inside rattled. On the lid was a label: "Open on your birthday!" Sofia's birthday was tomorrow.

She put the box on her shelf and tried to forget about it. But at bedtime, she could not stop looking at it. She tiptoed across the room and picked it up. Her fingers began to pull at the tape...

1 Where was the parcel?

☐ on the doormat ☐ on the shelf ☐ at school

2 Who do you think sent the parcel?

☐ Sofia's grandmother ☐ Sofia's teacher ☐ Sofia's friend

3 Which clues helped you to decide who sent it?

4 The label said, "Open on your _____!"

5 Sofia's birthday was today.

☐ True ☐ False

6 What do you predict Sofia will do next? Why?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The Kite Competition FICTION

Every March, the town holds a kite competition in the big park. This year, Kofi and his big sister Ama had made a kite shaped like a golden fish. It had a long tail made from strips of shiny paper.

At first, the kite flew beautifully. It danced higher than all the others, and the judges pointed at it and wrote in their notebooks. Kofi grinned.

Then Kofi noticed something. The string was rubbing against a sharp branch of the tall tree behind them. Each time the wind pulled, a few more threads snapped.

"Ama!" he shouted, but the wind was too loud. The string was getting thinner and thinner...

1 What shape was the kite?

☐ a golden fish ☐ a bird ☐ a dragon

2 The judges liked the kite.

☐ True ☐ False

3 What was the string rubbing against?

☐ a sharp branch ☐ a fence ☐ a rock

4 Why could Ama not hear Kofi?

5 What do you predict will happen next?

☐ The string will break and the kite will fly away. ☐ The kite will turn into a real fish.

☐ The wind will stop for ever.

6 Which clues helped you to predict this?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Explaining why

I can... explain why things happen, using because and evidence.

A **why** question asks you to give a reason.

Use **because** in your answer. Then add a clue from the text.

Top tip: A good answer: It happened because... The text says...

Key words

explain

reason

because

cause

Worked example

The ice lolly melted quickly because the sun was very hot.

Question: Why did the ice lolly melt quickly?

Answer: **Because the sun was very hot.**

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

How Do Geckos Climb Walls? NON-FICTION

If you live in Thailand, you have probably seen a gecko running up a wall or even walking across the ceiling. But how do geckos do it without falling?

The secret is in their toes. Each toe is covered in millions of tiny hairs. They are so small that you cannot see them. The hairs touch the wall so closely that they stick to it, a little like tape.

Geckos can lift their toes off easily, so they can run fast. This helps them to catch insects such as moths and flies.

Geckos often wait near lights at night. They do this because insects fly towards the light. It is an easy place to find dinner!

- 1 Where can geckos walk?
☐ up walls and across ceilings ☐ only on the floor ☐ only in water

- 2 Each toe is covered in millions of tiny _____.

- 3 You can easily see the hairs on a gecko's toes.
☐ True ☐ False

- 4 What do geckos eat?
☐ insects ☐ fruit ☐ fish

- 5 Why do geckos not fall off the ceiling?

- 6 Why do geckos wait near lights at night?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The Broken Bowl FICTION

Grandma's blue bowl was the most special thing in the house. It had belonged to her own mother, and it sat on a high shelf where nobody could touch it.

One afternoon, Minh was playing with his ball indoors, even though he knew he should not. He kicked it too hard. It flew up, hit the shelf and – crash! – the blue bowl smashed on the floor.

Minh's tummy felt tight. He could hide the pieces and say nothing. Instead, he picked them up carefully and took them to Grandma.

"I'm sorry, Grandma," he said quietly. "I was playing ball inside."

Grandma was sad, but she hugged him. "Thank you for telling me the truth," she said. "Tomorrow we will try to mend it together."

1 Why was the bowl so special?

☐ It had belonged to Grandma's mother. ☐ It was new. ☐ It was very big.

2 Why was the bowl on a high shelf?

☐ so nobody could touch it ☐ so it could get sun ☐ because it was dirty

3 Why did the bowl break?

4 Why did Minh's tummy feel tight?

5 Why did Grandma thank Minh?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Summing up a text

I can... sum up the main ideas of a text in a few sentences.

To **summarise**, you tell only the most important ideas, in your own words.

Leave out small details. Keep the key events or the main facts.

Top tip: Try to sum up each paragraph in one short sentence.

Key words

summarise

main idea

key events

important

Worked example

Lily wanted a pet. She saved her pocket money for months. At last, she bought a goldfish and named it Sunny.

Question: Sum up the text in one sentence.

Answer: **Lily saved up and bought a pet goldfish.**

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The Mouse and the Tiger FICTION

A little mouse lived in a rice field. One day, she got caught in a farmer's net. She pulled and wriggled, but she could not get out.

A big tiger walked by. "Help me, please!" cried the mouse. The tiger laughed. "Why should I help something so small?" he said, and walked away. So the mouse began to nibble the net with her sharp teeth. She nibbled all night, and by morning she was free.

A few days later, the mouse heard a loud roar. The tiger was trapped in a net just like hers! This time, the mouse did not walk away. She nibbled and nibbled until the tiger could step out.

"Thank you," said the tiger, looking at his paws. "I was wrong. Even small friends can be a big help."

1 Where did the mouse live?

☐ in a rice field ☐ in a house ☐ in a tree

2 The mouse got caught in a farmer's _____.

3 The tiger helped the mouse at the start.

☐ True ☐ False

4 How did the mouse get free?

☐ She nibbled the net. ☐ The tiger helped her. ☐ The farmer let her go.

5 Which is the best summary of the story?

☐ A tiger will not help a mouse, but later the mouse helps the tiger escape.
☐ A mouse eats rice all day. ☐ A tiger and a mouse go to the market.

6 What lesson does the tiger learn?

7 Sum up the second paragraph in one sentence.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.**Honeybees** NON-FICTION

Honeybees live together in a home called a hive. A hive can have thousands of bees, but only one queen. The queen's job is to lay eggs.

Most of the bees are worker bees. They fly from flower to flower to collect a sweet juice called nectar. Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey and store it in little wax rooms called cells.

Bees are very important to people. As they visit flowers, they carry pollen from one flower to the next. This helps plants to make fruit and seeds. Without bees, we would have fewer apples, strawberries and melons.

1 Honeybees live in a _____.

2 How many queens are there in a hive?

☐ one ☐ two ☐ thousands

3 What do worker bees collect from flowers?

☐ nectar ☐ water ☐ leaves

4 Honey is stored in wax cells.

☐ True ☐ False

5 What is the second paragraph mostly about?

☐ what worker bees do ☐ the queen bee ☐ why bees are important

6 Why are bees important to people?

7 Sum up the whole text in one or two sentences.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!



CHECK

End test

End test

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 14

Read each short text. Then answer the question.

- 1 Read: 'The path up the hill was steep, so we walked slowly.' What does **steep** mean?
☐ going up sharply ☐ flat ☐ wet
- 2 Read: 'Mr Park's shop sells fresh bread. It opens at seven o'clock.' The shop opens at _____ o'clock.
- 3 Read: 'After lunch, the class went to the library. Later, they had PE. At the end of the day, they sang songs.' What did the class do after the library?
☐ had PE ☐ had lunch ☐ sang songs
- 4 Read: 'Ben's cheeks went red and he stared at the floor.' How might Ben feel? How do you know?

- 5 Read: 'Camels can go for days without drinking water.' Camels need a drink every hour.
☐ True ☐ False
- 6 Read: 'Ana put on her swimming costume and grabbed her goggles.' Where is Ana going?
☐ swimming ☐ to bed ☐ to the shops
- 7 Read: 'The road was closed because a tree had fallen across it.' Why was the road closed?

- 8 Which pair of words rhyme?
☐ cake / lake ☐ cake / cook ☐ lake / sea
- 9 Read: 'There were muddy paw prints across the clean floor, and the back door was open.' What came into the house?
☐ an animal ☐ a car ☐ the rain

10 Read: 'Starfish live in the sea. Most starfish have five arms.' Most starfish have _____ arms.

11 Read: 'Tim wanted to win the race. He practised every day. On sports day, he came first.' Which is the best summary?

☐ Tim practised hard and won the race. ☐ Tim likes sports day. ☐ Tim ran every day.

12 A book about volcanoes has the heading 'Where are volcanoes found?' What will this part tell you?

☐ where volcanoes are in the world ☐ how volcanoes smell ☐ who found volcanoes

13 Read: 'The waves crashed against the rocks.' The word **crashed** tells us the waves were gentle.

☐ True ☐ False

14 Read: 'Pim's ice cream began to drip down the cone. She was still chatting to her friend.' What might happen next? Why?

**Start test**

1 shy and easily scared 2 Speedy 3 added milk 4 Happy and proud, because she grinned and punched the air. 5 False 6 play in the sand 7 Because nobody watered them. 8 light / night 9 the dog 10 night 11 Kim lost her kite and found it in a tree. 12 what sharks eat 13 True 14 She will bring the washing in, because a storm is coming.

Unit 1 · Sheet A — Working out word meanings

1 full of people 2 sizzling 3 glittering 4 old 5 True 6 cold, creamy 7 She really wants the ice cream. She is excited.

Unit 1 · Sheet B — Working out word meanings

1 arms 2 grip rocks and catch food 3 push through a small space 4 False 5 camouflage 6 gets away 7 So the fish cannot see, and the octopus can escape.

Unit 2 · Sheet A — Finding information

1 in a fishing village near Hua Hin 2 red 3 orange 4 early on Tuesday morning 5 True 6 He let it go back into the sea. 7 scuttled

Unit 2 · Sheet B — Finding information

1 Olivia 2 on Saturday 3 It is cooler. 4 on top of a mountain 5 They washed them in the river. 6 over three hundred

Unit 3 · Sheet A — Facts and headings

1 tiny animals 2 Where are coral reefs found? 3 False 4 Never touch or stand on coral, or always put rubbish in the bin. 5 Because it is colourful and full of living things, like a garden full of plants.

Unit 3 · Sheet B — Facts and headings

1 a festival of light 2 What is a krathong? 3 three 4 their worries 5 Because they do not harm the water.

Unit 4 · Sheet A — Putting events in order

1 fill the pot with soil 2 water the soil 3 False 4 on a sunny window sill 5 When the seedling is about 10 cm tall. 6 1 fill the pot, 2 push in the seed, 3 water the soil, 4 plant it outside

Unit 4 · Sheet B — Putting events in order

1 Red Dragons 2 beat the drum 3 The flag dropped. 4 1 the judge raised a flag, 2 the boats shot forward, 3 Mei beat the drum faster, 4 the Red Dragons crossed the line 5 Proud and happy, because her team won and her grandmother was cheering.

Unit 5 · Sheet A — Enjoying poems

1 grey 2 song 3 plip, plop, drip 4 False 5 three 6 To show that the thunder is very loud.

Unit 5 · Sheet B — Enjoying poems

1 April 2 that 3 to wish her good luck 4 toes and nose, or wet and yet 5 They pour water gently on Grandma, but then she soaks the child!

Unit 6 · Sheet A — How do characters feel?

1 the violin 2 nervous 3 Her hands were cold and damp; her heart was thumping loudly; she was clutching her violin. 4 her little brother 5 Happy and proud, because a huge smile spread across her face.

Unit 6 · Sheet B — How do characters feel?

1 Pattaya 2 False 3 a girl who lives next door 4 Sad and lonely. His room feels empty and he keeps thinking about Harry. 5 He feels happier, because Fah has been friendly to him.

Unit 7 · Sheet A — Being a text detective

1 Grandpa 2 Coco the puppy 3 The paw prints led under the chair; Coco was licking her lips; there was chocolate on her nose. 4 Because she was asleep in her cot. 5 Because chocolate is not good for dogs, so she was worried about Coco.

Unit 7 · Sheet B — Being a text detective

1 Mango 2 a cat 3 The post with a cushion and a dangly toy; the hissing sound; the small ginger face; the green eyes in the tree. 4 False 5 in the tree in Priya's garden 6 Answers will vary, e.g. tell Mrs Kaur that her cat is in the tree.

Unit 8 · Sheet A — Predicting what happens next

1 on the doormat 2 Sofia's grandmother 3 It had stamps from Spain, where her grandmother lives, and shaky handwriting. 4 birthday 5 False 6 Answers will vary, e.g. she will open the parcel, because she is already pulling at the tape.

Unit 8 · Sheet B — Predicting what happens next

1 a golden fish 2 True 3 a sharp branch 4 Because the wind was too loud. 5 The string will break and the kite will fly away. 6 The threads were snapping and the string was getting thinner and thinner.

Unit 9 · Sheet A — Explaining why

1 up walls and across ceilings 2 hairs 3 False 4 insects 5 Because the tiny hairs on their toes stick to it. 6 Because insects fly towards the light, so it is easy to find food there.

Unit 9 · Sheet B — Explaining why

1 It had belonged to Grandma's mother. 2 so nobody could touch it 3 Because Minh kicked the ball too hard and it hit the shelf. 4 Because he was worried about what he had done. 5 Because he told her the truth.

Unit 10 · Sheet A — Summing up a text

1 in a rice field **2** net **3** False **4** She nibbled the net. **5** A tiger will not help a mouse, but later the mouse helps the tiger escape. **6** Even small friends can be a big help. **7** The tiger would not help, so the mouse nibbled the net all night and got free.

Unit 10 · Sheet B — Summing up a text

1 hive **2** one **3** nectar **4** True **5** what worker bees do **6** They carry pollen from flower to flower, which helps plants make fruit and seeds. **7** Honeybees live in hives, make honey from nectar and help plants to make fruit.

End test

1 going up sharply **2** seven **3** had PE **4** Embarrassed or shy, because his cheeks went red and he stared at the floor. **5** False **6** swimming **7** Because a tree had fallen across it. **8** cake / lake **9** an animal **10** five **11** Tim practised hard and won the race. **12** where volcanoes are in the world **13** False **14** The ice cream will melt onto her hand or fall off, because she is not eating it and it is already dripping.