

English

YEAR

3

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Introduction

Reading unlocks the world. Reading newspaper and magazine articles provides you with valuable information about what is going on around you, reading letters and diary extracts allows you to share the thoughts and experiences of other people, and reading stories and poems unlocks your imagination and lets you fly freely to places, spaces and times you may never be able to visit in real life.

This series adopts a skills-based approach to teaching English. This means that you will be introduced to a skill, such as the comprehension skill of inference or how to write a descriptive passage, and you will return to it throughout Years 3 to 6, getting better and better at it over time.

The answers are available as a PDF download from the Galore Park website: English Year 3 Answers (ISBN 9781471896644). The answers download also contains suggested reading lists for each chapter, as well as tables to show how each chapter of this book relates to the ISEB 11+ English syllabus and the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum.

➔ Notes on features

You will come across the following features that are designed to help you:

Skill focus

This box will explain the comprehension skill each chapter focuses on.



The reading lists for each chapter can be found in *English Year 3 Answers* (available as a PDF download from the Galore Park website).

In these boxes you will come across questions to help you:

- practise your comprehension skills
- practise using grammar correctly
- practise using punctuation correctly
- practise your spelling
- develop your vocabulary
- practise your creative writing skills.



Speaking and listening

These activities will help you develop your speaking and listening skills.



The hedgerow

Hedgerows are fascinating places, full of busy little critters and creepy crawlies. Some fantastic stories have been written about hedgerows and a hedgerow is also a great setting for a story of your own. Imagine all the adventures the hedgerow creatures could get up to!

Skill focus: Retrieval

In this chapter you will learn how to spot a question that asks you to find information in a text. You will then practise finding the correct information.



A reading list of books about animals can be found in *English Year 3 Answers*.

→ Comprehension

For all comprehension exercises you should begin by reading through the passage. You do this to make sure you know what it is about and that you can understand it.

Next, you should look at the questions, read them through and start to think about what the answers might be. From reading the passage, you might remember some of the answers, or remember where to find them.

Finally, you should go back to the text and try to find the answers to the questions.

Some of the questions you will come across will be retrieval questions. Some dogs, like Labradors, are called retrievers, because they are sent to find things and bring them back. In the same way, retrieval questions ask you to find a specific piece of information in the text and write it in the answer.

Retrieval questions often include the following phrases:

- Who was ...?
- Where is ...?
- When did ...?
- What was ...?
- Find and copy ...
- List ...

To answer retrieval questions, follow these steps:

1 Look at the question and work out what the answer will contain. For example, if it asks 'Who?', then the answer will be a name. If it asks 'Where?', then the answer will be a place.

2 Try to remember where in the text you think the answer is.

OR

2 Scan the text to find the section that contains the answer. You can do this by looking for important words. For example, if the question is about Mr Jones, look for his name. If it is about what time something happened, look for 'o'clock' or numbers.

3 Once you have found the correct part of the text, scan your eyes along the lines quickly to try to spot the right words.

4 Use the words in the question, to help you write your answer. For example, your answer to the question, 'What is the boy's name?', should begin, 'The boy's name is ...'.

Scanning is an important skill, which you will always use in comprehension exercises. It means reading something quickly to find specific pieces of information.

- 1 To practise scanning, time yourself for 1 minute and count how many times the letters 'sh' are written in the passage below:

Sarah was sure that she had remembered to shut the front door. She thought back to the morning. After her shower, she had put on her shorts and short-sleeved shirt and gone downstairs. She had found a stray cat in the back garden, shouted at it and ushered it over the fence. Then she came back indoors, switched off the lights and shoved the dirty dishes into the dishwasher. She put the milk back on the shelf in the fridge and shut the fridge door, then went into the hallway and put on her shoes. Her keys were nowhere to be found and she shook every coat on the hook, hoping to hear them jangle. They were not there and she shrugged, unsure of where to search next. Suddenly she saw a shiny shape in the shadows on the floor. Her keys! She must have dropped them yesterday. Smiling, she opened the front door, pulled it behind her and stuck the key in the lock. Yes, she had definitely shut the front door!

Now look at these questions. The important words, which you should scan for, are underlined.

- 2 Which clothes does Sarah put on after her shower?

Here you might scan for 'shower' because you know she put her clothes on after her shower. You might also scan for different types of clothes.

- 3 How does Sarah get rid of the cat?

Scan for the word 'cat' and reread the part of the text where Sarah saw the cat. Make sure you read all of that part and find out everything she did.

- 4 Where does Sarah find her keys in the end?

Here you should scan for the word 'keys'. You might find it more than once so make sure you scan carefully so you can spot when she actually finds them.

- 5 How do you know Sarah is pleased to find her keys?

Here you need to scan for words that suggest she was pleased. Think about other words for 'pleased', such as happy, smile and glad.

Now try to answer these questions yourself.

→ Grammar

In this section you will look at different types of nouns, including collective nouns and proper nouns.

Nouns

A noun is the name of a person, a place or a thing. For example:

hedge door garden

These are called common nouns because they are the general name for things. Language is full of common nouns. Look at this sentence, from the first passage you read. The common nouns have been underlined:

I took off my hat and biffed the badger gently on its bottom.

In this sentence from the second passage you read, the underlined words are the names of places. These are called proper nouns and need to begin with a capital letter:

Hedgehogs are mammals found in the woods and hedges of Europe, Asia and Africa.

Proper nouns are the words for specific, one-of-a-kind places, people or things. For example:

- People: James, Queen Elizabeth, Mr Taylor
- Places: Spain, Paris, Lincolnshire, Jupiter
- Things: Coca Cola, January, River Severn, Mount Everest

Be careful: seasons are not classified as proper nouns.

Sometimes we need a noun for a group of similar things. These are called collective nouns. For example:

A group of lions is called a pride.

A group of wolves is called a pack.

21 Copy these sentences and underline the common nouns:

- (a) The author met a badger in a field.
- (b) The badger returned the next day with a friend.
- (c) Bats have big ears, furry bodies and wings like leather.
- (d) Bats sleep in caves and attics during the day.
- (e) Hedgehogs have thick spines covering their backs.
- (f) Most squirrels have big, bushy tails and live in trees.

22 Copy out these sentences, adding capital letters to the start of the proper nouns:

- (a) Squirrels are found in africa, asia and europe.
- (b) The author dick king-smith writes many books about garden creatures.
- (c) One of his most popular stories is called the hodgeheg.
- (d) Hedgehogs hibernate from november to march.
- (e) The wildlife trust is a charity in the united kingdom, which works to conserve hedgerow animals.

23 Match up the animal with its collective noun. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) ants | (i) pod |
| (b) bees | (ii) shoal |
| (c) geese | (iii) clutch |
| (d) dolphins | (iv) swarm |
| (e) fish | (v) warren |
| (f) rabbits | (vi) colony |
| (g) chicks | (vii) herd |
| (h) cows | (viii) flock |

→ Punctuation

In this section, you will practise basic sentence punctuation.

Capital letters and full stops

In English, every sentence must start with a capital letter. A full stop shows that the sentence has finished.

Look at these examples from the passages you read:

Moles are small mammals that spend almost all their lives underground.

Nobody ever believes this story.

24 Copy out these sentences, adding in the missing capital letters and full stops:

- (a) hedgerows provide a place to live for many different creatures
- (b) many birds build their nests in hedges
- (c) they mark the boundary between fields
- (d) hedges protect the soil in fields from the wind

25 Capital letters have been put in the wrong places in these sentences. Copy out these sentences, correcting them:

- (a) the Ditches next to hedgerows provide a home for Toads and Frogs.
- (b) berries grow on Hedges and provide food for Birds.
- (c) farmers trim hedges to keep them in Good Condition.
- (d) some Hedges are protected by Law.

26 Copy out the passage below, adding in the missing full stops and capital letters. You should end up with five sentences.

The fox is a member of the dog family there are many species of fox and a female fox is called a vixen they are found all over the world in both cities and in the countryside their home is called a den and they eat just about anything including worms, berries, spiders and even small mammals like mice if they have extra food, they hide it underground for later