

Holiday Challenge: Writing

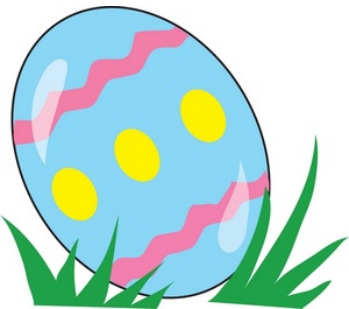
'10 Challenges for 10 Days'

This booklet is designed to keep your brains 'ticking over' during the Easter break. Just a few short activities will mean that you return to Year 6 ready to learn and raring to go! Try to really impress your teacher by completing one challenge for each day of the holidays. Circle any questions that you'd like some more help with when term starts again.

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Editing challenge – day one

This piece of text needs editing for **spelling** errors. Underline ten errors and write the correction, explaining why each is wrong.

It was ridiculous! Nobody else had such a strict mother. Nobody else had such stupid limits imposd upon them. He new for definatue that Colby's mum let him go on his tablet all night long. And Radley's mum's boyfriend always let him play on his 18 certificate games. So why did he have to have these unfair limits on his screen time?

Heavy rain rattled against his window. Even though it was early afternoon, the light was fading dramaticly. A long, slow rumble anounced the approach of the heart of the storm. At least it made a change from Mum angrily banging furniture around, the way she often did after an arguement.

Crash! A bright burst of lightening was followed almost instantly by a deafaning crack of thunder. Harley jumped up and poked his head out of his door. Mum was just down the hall, shoving towels into the airing cuboard. "Are you alright, love?" she asked kindly.

Think:

- What spelling rules do I know?
- Which part of the word doesn't look right?

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Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

Editing challenge – day two

This piece of text needs editing for **spelling** errors. Underline ten errors and write the correction, explaining why each is wrong.

What affects shadow size?

The angle between the direction of the light and the surface on which the shadow is cast will determine how long the shadow is. When the sun is low in the sky, like in the morning or evening, shadows seem much ‘taller’ than the objects causing them. When, however, the sun is higher in the sky, the shadows are shorter.

It also matters where the object is placed between the light and the surface. If you move it closer to the source, the shadow on the surface will look bigger; move it in the other direction and the shadow will get smaller.

Fun with shadows

Shadows can be used for entertainment. The idea for shadow puppets originally came from China but it has now caught on around the world. You can even make your own, but just remember, no matter how good you are at art, the shadow will never show any designs or features that you draw on to your puppet. You need to cut out any details, such as eyes, that you want to appear as part of the shadow. Alternatively, you can use your hands and fingers to make shadow animals – dogs, rabbits and butterflies are the easiest to make.

Think:

- What spelling rules do I know?
- Which part of the word doesn't look right?

1. _____

Explanation: _____

2. _____

Explanation: _____

3. _____

Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

Editing challenge – day three

This piece of text needs editing for **grammar and punctuation** errors. Underline ten errors and write the correction, explaining why each is wrong.

He saw it the moment he returned to his room. There, on the blackboard he hadnt really used for years, was a message scrawled in chalk TIDY UP YOUR ROOM. Pathetic, Mum.” muttered Harley. Crash Another thunderclap made him jump out of his skin. When his heart had stopped racing he went off down the corridor again. Trying to hide his relief at spotting Mum in the living room, he grumpily asked for some juice and stomped into the kitchen

By the time he had returned to his room, the message had changed: IT MIGHT HELP TO PASS THE TIME. That was quick, thought Harley – he’d only been gone a minute or so and he wasnt aware of Mum having moved. Grudgingly he decided to follow the suggestion, crawling on his stomach to make a start under his bed. After all, what else was there to do.

Think:

- What grammar rules do I know?
- When I read the writing aloud, does the punctuation sound right?

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Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

Editing challenge – day four

This piece of text needs editing for **grammar and punctuation** errors. Underline ten errors and write the correction, explaining why each is wrong.

Holidays can be more than just a chance to top up your tan, however. By visiting other countries, you can get a better understanding of different people and foreign culture’s. You might even be inspired to learn some of the language in order to communicate with local people. Whats more, by spending your holiday cash in their shops and restaurants, you will be helping to support families whose lives depend on tourism. On your own, you might think that you can only make a small difference, but if enough people do make the effort to go abroad, then it could help to promote better relations between nations, which has to be a good thing

On the other hand you might well argue that there are plenty of excellent reasons to enjoy a ‘staycation’ as it has become known. For a start, the UK is a wonderfully diverse and fascinating place. Whether your interested in history culture, sporting activities, or spectacular scenery, we have it all here in our own country. There are even plenty of wonderful beaches where you do’nt have to worry about what dangerous creatures might be lurking beneath the waves.)

Think:

- What grammar rules do I know?
- When I read the writing aloud, does the punctuation sound right?

1. _____

Explanation: _____

2. _____

Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

Editing challenge – day five

This piece of text needs editing **for meaning**. Underline ten errors and write the correction, explaining what is wrong each time.

With anger prickling eyes, Jed darted out of the room. Slamming the back door behind him, he sprints down the short garden path, through the gate and out on to the hillside.

It was a good couple of minutes before he slowed down. By this time, she was deep into the dense tangle of ferns that covered the Beacons, following one of the many narrow sheep trails that pushed through the undergrowth. Although shoulder-height to an average grown-up, the ferns were taller than him, so Jed knew he was well-hidden best of all, very few people ever ventured far from the paths and tracks that led hikers around these popular, picturesque hills, so he knows that he would be blissfully alone.

By the time he had reached his secret den in small, grassy clearing, his breathing had calmed down to a normal rate and his heart had stopped thumping against his ribs. I dropped to my knees and crawled into the rough shelter he had built the previous week out of of sturdy branches, interwoven with twiggy twigs.

Consider these editing errors:

- words that are missing
- words that have been repeated
- sentences that are too long or are unclear
- the incorrect choice of simple words
- the inconsistent use of tense or perspective (person)

1. _____

Explanation: _____

2. _____

Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

Editing challenge – day six

This piece of text needs editing **for meaning**. Underline ten errors and write the correction, explaining what is wrong each time.

That’s why the dockside is my favourite patch. There are always plenty of shadows and dark corners in which you can lurk unseen, waiting, watching. Usually, I can get all I want from the rich pickings just lying around.

Sometimes he have to cut into a sack or work my way into crate, but, as often as not, I don’t have to to break in to anything.

When I am younger and had a taste for the finer things in life, I used to sneak on board the ships when they were moored on the dockside in those days, I was much agile, and perhaps more daring, but certainly a lot less wise. You see, I’ve always been a good climber, so I would scurry up the ropes that secured the boats to the quay. If I could find his way to the hold, then it would feel like I’d hit the jackpot. The trouble was, I usually discovered that the stash was jealously guarded by the ones who live on board. I got into some terrible scraps and, once or, was lucky to escape with my life. So now I tend to stay land-side where there’s less choose, but it’s much safer.

Consider these editing errors:

- words that are missing
- words that have been repeated
- sentences that are too long or are unclear
- the incorrect choice of simple words
- the inconsistent use of tense or perspective (person)

1. _____

Explanation: _____

2. _____

Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

Editing challenge – day seven

This piece of text needs editing **for meaning**. Underline ten errors and write the correction, explaining what is wrong each time.

Wherever you go in the world, apart from the polar regions and a few lonely islands, I will find bats. Yet, considering how widespread they are, these fascinating creatures are remarkably unfamiliar to many people. Maybe it's their association with spooky stories, or maybe it's simply the fact that most of them only appeared at night that gives them mysterious reputation.

Food

From fruit to fish and from bugs too blood, different bats favour a wide variety of foods. More than two thirds of all bat species eat insects. Often, he hunt them in mid-air by using echo-location, which means they make high-pitched noises and listen for the echo to pinpoint their prey the largest bats, which are sometimes called flying foxes, feed on fruit – ripping them off of trees and taking them back to their roosts. There, they hung upside down from branches, sucking out the juice and spitting out the pips. Some bats suck nectar from flowers; others catch frogs and even fish even fish. Perhaps the most notorious are vampire bats, which suck blood from large mammals as cattle.

Consider these editing errors:

- words that are missing
- words that are spoken English
- sentences that are too long or are unclear
- the incorrect choice of simple words
- the inconsistent use of tense or perspective (person)

1. _____

Explanation: _____

2. _____

Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

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Explanation: _____

Editing challenge – day eight

This piece of narrative text needs editing **for impact**. The five highlighted parts of the text lack impact in a variety of ways. How can you improve them to create an effect for the reader? What image do you want them to see as they read? What will make the narrative exciting and engaging? Write your change (maybe one word, a phrase or a sentence) and explain the impact it will have.

“Come on! Look, I’ve found something!” **said** Jamie, as he **got** off his new BMX bike. The two boys were crouched over an old, tattered brown suitcase placed in between two spiky tree trunks. **They** wrenched open the case – opening their eyes to an amount of money that they would never have dreamed of. At that very moment, Jamie saw pound signs dance in front of his eyes. **After Jamie took in what was inside**, he noticed a black shotgun **with a black leather handle**.

Consider the use of the following:

- precise language choices
- powerful verbs for effect
- varying sentence structure
- figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification)

1. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

2. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

3. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

4. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

5. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

Editing challenge – day nine

This piece of formal writing needs editing **for impact**. The five highlighted parts of the text lack impact in a variety of ways. How can you improve them to ensure they suit the purpose and the audience for a letter of complaint? Write your change (maybe one word, a phrase or a sentence) and explain the impact it will have. You can adapt, extend or change any sentences or parts of sentences that you choose to improve the impact of the writing.

On Saturday 14th July, I came into your **shop** to **get** a combined laptop/tablet to help with my school work when I move up to high school next year. **I had saved up for a year.** I was both excited and anxious. I couldn't wait to get what I had been working towards, but equally I wanted to make sure I **got what I wanted**. That is why I was determined to talk through my requirements thoroughly with one of your sales team.

Although I can't remember his name – the receipt just says 'Tech Team 14' – I can tell you that the person who served me was **a man**.

Consider the use of the following:

- formal language to match the tone of the writing
- precise language choices for information
- expanded noun phrases to add detail
- extending, varying or combining sentences which are too short

1. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

2. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

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Impact on the reader: _____

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Impact on the reader: _____

5. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

Editing challenge – day ten

This piece of non-fiction writing needs editing **for impact**. The five highlighted parts of the text lack impact in a variety of ways. How can you improve them to ensure they suit the purpose and the audience for a leaflet for Icelandic holidays? Write your change (maybe one word, a phrase or a sentence) and explain the impact it will have. You can adapt, extend or change any sentences or parts of sentences that you choose to improve the impact of the writing.

Iceland is a land of surprises. A land of experiences. A land of adventure. It is located in the North Atlantic Ocean. It is located just outside the Arctic Circle. It boasts a dramatic landscape with active volcanos and fringed with rugged coastlines. For those who love the outdoors, it's got everything from spectacular views to specialist sports. Best of all, with lots of daylight in the summer, you can really do lots of things!

Iceland is a force of nature. Shaped by hundreds of volcanos, including around 30 that are still active, it has glaciers, waterfalls, beaches of black sand and fields of living lava. No wonder it has been called the land of fire and ice!

Consider the use of the following:

- precise language choices for information
- expanded noun phrases or adverbials to add detail
- extending, varying or combining sentences which are too short or repetitive

1. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

2. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

3. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

4. _____

Impact on the reader: _____

5. _____

Impact on the reader: _____
