

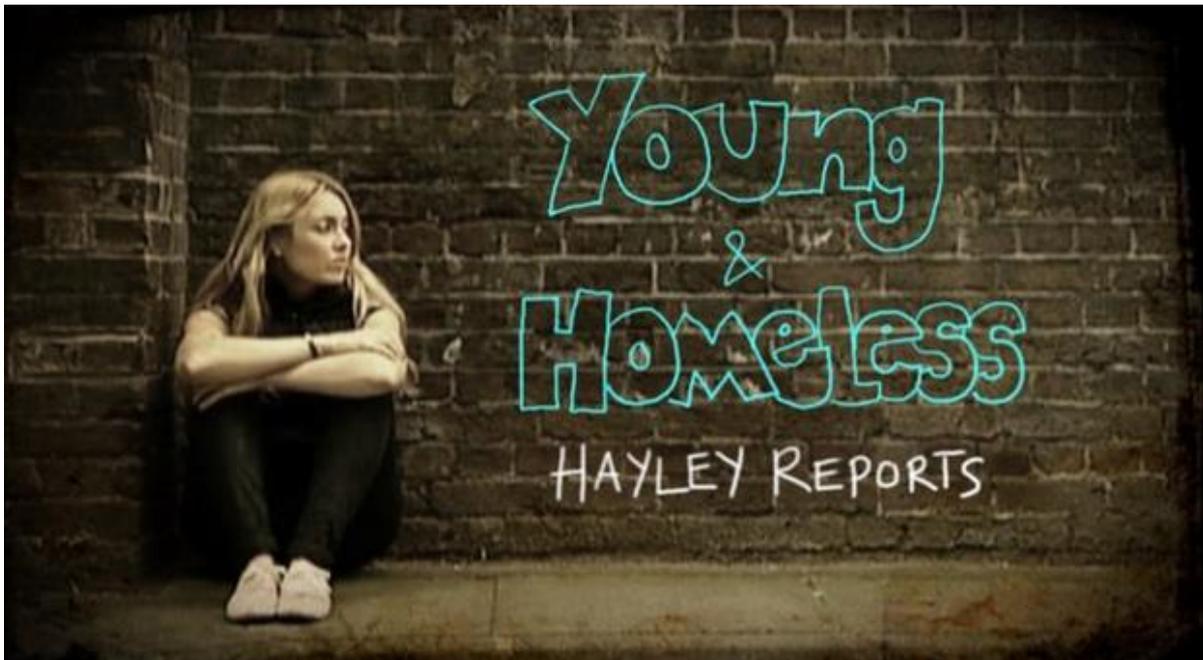
Essential English Skills

Name:

The intention of this booklet is to improve your
reading skills.

Take your time and complete each week's task to
the best of your ability.

If you find the task difficult, email your teacher.



This week in CBBC's Sarah Jane Adventures, Clyde is left abandoned on the streets of London. But what's it really like to sleep rough - and not have a roof over your head?

For the first of some special reports on being homeless, Hayley is going to find out what it's like spending a night on the streets. She's in London where she'll be living and sleeping rough for the next 32 hours.

She has no belongings except for a sleeping bag and the clothes she is wearing.

The charity Shelter says that around 80,000 young people are homeless in the UK. This means they have no permanent home of their own.

Hayley's going to get a snapshot of what life is like for these people and meet some of them along the way.

She's currently two hours in and it already feels very different to her average morning. The streets were deserted at 6am but now people have started their journeys to work.

She says: "It's just got busy on the streets of London. Just had to use the public toilet - I'll have to get used to that for the next 30 hours."

We'll be keeping you updated on Hayley's experience throughout the day.

Week 1.

Read Hayley's report, 'Young and Homeless' and answer the questions below:

1. The article begins with this sentence: "***But what's it really like to sleep rough - and not have a roof over your head?***"

What is the effect of starting the article with a question?

By starting the article with a question, the writer makes the reader.....

.....
.....
.....

2. What is Hayley's reason for carrying out the report? **Find two correct answers from the article.**

- a. Hayley is carrying out the report so that.....
.....
.....
- b.
.....

3. Look back through the article and find the evidence for each of the following points:

- a. She will not have anywhere to sleep. For example, it says in the text, ".....
.....
....."
- b. Hayley will not have any things with her apart from the basics. For example, it says in the text, ".....
.....
....."
- c. Hayley will have to do things that she does not feel comfortable with for the report. For example, it says in the text, ".....
.....
....."

Leaking oil has reached the shore in New Zealand.

Oil leaking from a stranded ship has reached the shore in New Zealand.

The container ship started leaking when it hit a reef in the Bay of Plenty last Wednesday.

The area is one of the country's most popular tourist spots and rescue teams are racing to get the oil off the ship before more escapes.

The spill has left a three mile oil slick and it's already harmed some Little Blue penguins and other sea birds.

Between 20-30 tonnes of oil have leaked so far and two barges are scooping it up.

Authorities say fist-sized balls of oil were found in one of the area's main beaches, which was then closed.

They've now warned people to stay away.



Week 2.

Read the article, 'Leaking oil has reached the shore in New Zealand.' and answer the questions below:

1. Look back through the article and find the evidence for each of the following points:
 - a. The oil will affect a lot of people. For example, it says in the text, "
.....
..... "
 - b. A huge effort has been needed to clean up the oil. For example, it says in the text "
.....
..... "

c. The oil is dangerous for people to be near. For example, it says in the text, "....."
....."

2. What effect has the oil spill had so far? **Find two correct answers from the article.**

- a.
.....
- b.
.....

3. How does the article make the oil leak seem like an emergency?

The article makes the oil leak seem like an emergency by.....

.....

For example, it says in the text, "....."

This makes the reader feel.....

.....

The word "....." is effective because.....

.....

.....

Sir David Attenborough predicts TV you can smell



The famous nature presenter Sir David Attenborough has predicted that one day you will be able to smell, as well as see what's on your TV.

The broadcasting legend made the claim after winning an award for outstanding contribution to technology at the T3 Gadget Awards.

"Smell-o-vision is a definite possibility," he said.

He also claimed hologram TV, "where animals can hop out of a television set" could happen in the future too.

Sir David was chosen for the award for the way he has promoted new technology over his 60-year career.

"I've been at this game rather a long time, so this award means a lot to me," he said.

Elsewhere, the Microsoft Kinect won gadget of the year and the Apple MacBook Air 11-inch won computer of the year.

Week 3.

Read the article, 'Sir David Attenborough predicts TV you can smell' and answer the questions below:

1. How does the article make Sir David Attenborough sound important?

The article makes David Attenborough sound important by.....

.....
For example, it says in the text, "....."

This makes the reader think.....

.....
The word "....." is effective because.....

.....

For each of the questions which follow, answer the question and then back your point up with evidence from the text (a quotation).

2. Why was David Attenborough chosen for the award?

.....
.....
.....
.....

3. What else did he predict would happen in the future?

.....
.....
.....
.....

4. What other winners are mentioned in the article?

.....
.....
.....
.....

West Ham deal for Olympic stadium collapses



A deal to let West Ham football club take over the Olympic stadium after the 2012 Games has collapsed.

The people who originally said they could move in have changed their minds.

They're said to be fed up with all the delays caused by a row between the Hammers and Tottenham over who should get the stadium.

Now the stadium will still be owned by the public and rented out instead. West Ham are expected to be among those bidding to be the new tenants.

Background

Tottenham and West Ham have been in and out of court over the past few months trying to get control of the Olympic stadium, as they both want to make it their new home ground.

Earlier this year, the company dealing with what happens after the Games gave its support to the West Ham bid.

But Tottenham challenged that decision as they felt it was unfair.

Week 4.

Read the article, 'West Ham deal for stadium collapses' and use the information to complete the speech bubbles below:

The article provides a balanced view of the dispute. Explain the different sides' points of view in the speech bubble below:



West Ham:

We at West Ham want.....
.....
.....



People in charge of deciding what happens to the stadium:

We have decided.....
.....
.....

As well as the point of view of West Ham Football Club and the decision made by the Council Officials, one other point of view is given in the article.

A. Which other point of view is given?

.....

B. What do these people think about who should have the stadium?

.....

Schoolboy suspended for selling sweets to classmates

A schoolboy has been suspended from his healthy eating school for repeatedly selling sweets to classmates.

12-year-old Tommie was making up to £200 a day selling chocolate and fizzy drinks in the playground at lunch and break times. But his school weren't happy and suspended him for breaking their strict healthy eating rules. Tommie has since promised to give the rest of his stock to the Salvation Army "to bring to the homeless".

Tommie said he first got the idea from the BBC series *The Apprentice*. He bought the sweets and drinks in bulk from discount stores and then sold them on for a profit.

"I've got a good business brain. I saw stuff was going for cheap, so I bought about £30 worth and then dotted it around mates' houses," he said.

Tommie's father Gary Rose said he had no idea his son was selling the snacks at first and was surprised when he found out how much he was making. Tommie was grounded when his parents found out what he was doing, but his dad thinks the school went too far in suspending his son. A spokesperson for the Oasis Academy in Salford said that while they support pupils' new businesses ideas, they must not break any of the school rules.



Tommie was making up to £200 a day from selling sweets at school

Week 6.

Read the article, 'Schoolboy suspended for selling sweets to classmates'.

Below is a grid with arguments both FOR and AGAINST Tommie being allowed to sell sweets in school.

- Identify which points are FOR Tommie selling in school and colour them in one colour.
- Identify which points are AGAINST Tommie selling in school and colour them in a different colour.

His healthy eating school should promote eating healthily- not eating sweets.	Tommie was making £200: Money he could use to pay for essential items that his family may not be able to afford.	Selling in school is against the school rules.
Tommie's dad punished him when he found out that he had disobeyed school rules.	Selling produce enabled Tommie to improve his business brain.	Tommie clearly had good intentions as he donated the left over stock to the Salvation Army.

Read the opening of a letter, written by Tommie to his Head Teacher. In the letter, he is trying to persuade his Head Teacher to allow him to set up a sweet shop in school. How successful is the letter at persuading the reader?

Find each of the following persuasive techniques in the article:

13 Highfield Grove
Salford
23rd Oct. 2011

Dear Mr. Smith,

I appreciate that you are a very busy man so I would like to begin by thanking you for taking the time to read this letter. I have been nominated to speak on behalf of the pupils of our school about the lack of a tuck shop in school. We feel very strongly that we should have one and I am sure, as a fair and reasonable man, you will consider our point of view- won't you?

Being polite and trying to flatter the Head Teacher.

Using a rhetorical question, to make the Head Teacher think about the importance of the issue.

Using personal pronouns, like 'we' to make it seem like the students are very united and all think the same thing.