

Longman English

Spark!



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1 A new start

A new school year! Woo hoo! Which of these pictures best match how you are getting on at school?
Tick (✓) your answers.

1

Getting up and going to school

Ready for another day!



b

Oh no!



a

OK. Time to get up!



c

2

Making new friends at school



a



b



c

3

Finding your way around school

This way!



a



b



c

How did you do? Turn the page upside down and add up your score.

(3–7 points) Cheer up! It's still early days! ★

(8–12 points) You're doing fine! Keep up the good work! ★★

(13–15 points) You're doing great! Well done! ★★★



What things do you still need to find out about your school? How will you do this?

Score Q1: a1, b5, c3 Q2: a3, b5, c1 Q3: a5, b3, c1



In this unit, you will listen, read and talk about starting secondary school and write a blog entry about your new school.



When we **SKIM**, we read quickly to understand the main idea of a text. Skim the diary entries. What are they about?



When we **SCAN**, we look quickly for a piece of information in a text. Scan the diary entries. In what week of term were they written?

Starting a new school year is exciting, isn't it? Read the diary entries about one student's experience.

Text 1



Diary of a

Wednesday, 2nd week

1 I love Wednesday. It's my favourite day of the week. Why? Because we don't have Maths lessons on that day. The whole class
5 is scared of our Maths teacher, Miss Tai. She's quite fierce and rarely smiles. My mate Jimmy says we can predict her mood by the colour of her clothes. Blue means not so bad, grey means pretty bad, and black means ... we are
10 all in **BIG TROUBLE!** Secondary school teachers seem quite strict.



Keep standing until someone can answer my question!



Thursday, 2nd week

2 Today I went to the canteen at recess. Yippee! Hot food! There was a long queue. Students were lining up for a new snack — giant fish balls. There were two
15 flavours — spicy and super spicy. Jimmy and I both wanted to try the super spicy flavour but there was only one left. We played rock-paper-scissors to decide who could have it. I won! After I ate the fish balls, my lips were as red as beetroot. Not only that, there's a stain
20 on my shirt now. Mum's going to be so angry!



VIEW



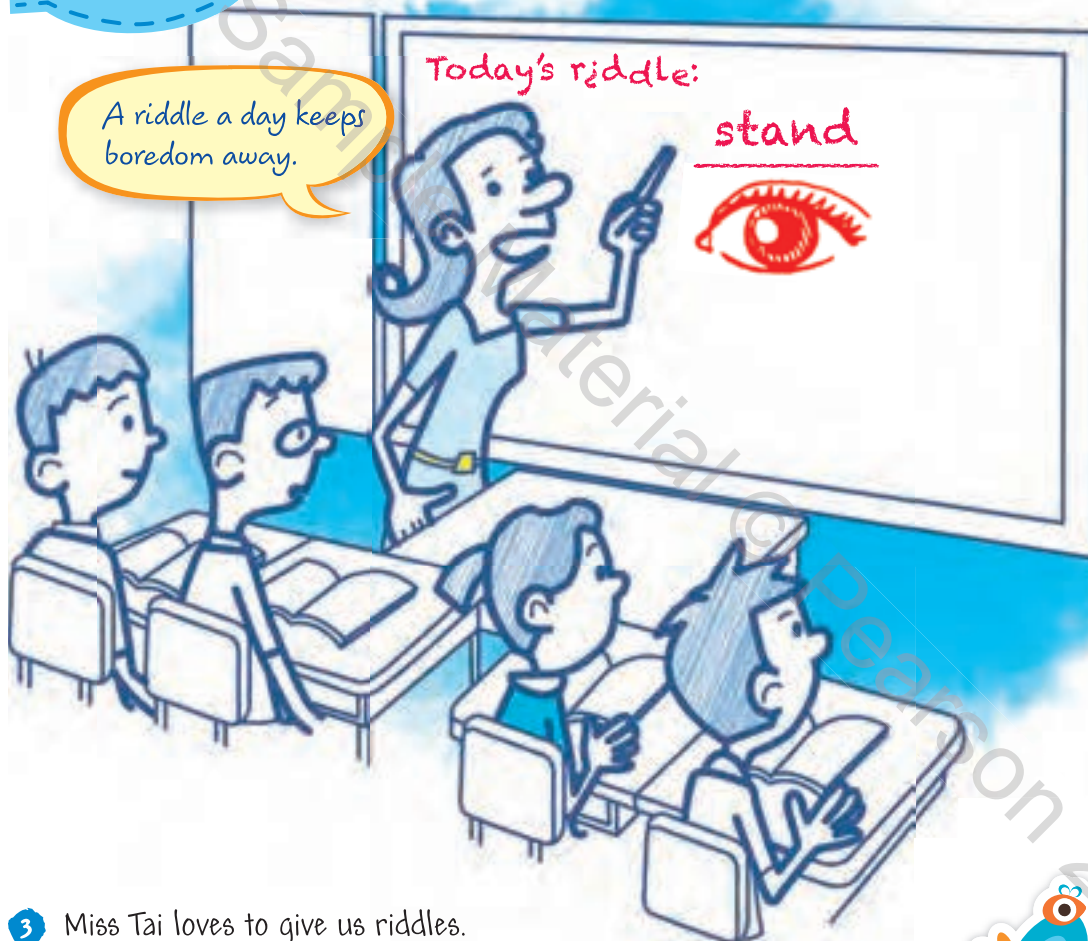
Middle School Newbie

Friday, 2nd week

A riddle a day keeps boredom away.

Today's riddle:

stand



3 Miss Tai loves to give us riddles.

'They're fun!' she says. She gives us a riddle four times a week. In other words, every time we have a Maths lesson.

25 She always says they're as easy as pie. I don't think so. What's easy about pie anyway? Today Miss Tai gave us this riddle. She said she would treat us to an ice cream cone if we could solve it. I want to give it a try.



Check your understanding

A Answer the questions using information from Text 1. For multiple-choice questions, blacken one circle only.

- READ**
4
- How many days are covered in the diary extract? _____
 - (a) Which school day does the writer like most? _____
(b) Why? _____
 - Why is the writer scared of his Maths teacher?

 - The Maths teacher is in a very bad mood. Which of the following dresses will she wear?

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○



- Decide whether the following statements are True or False according to paragraph 1.

T F
○ ○
○ ○
○ ○

- The Maths teacher only teaches Maths on Wednesday.
- The Maths teacher doesn't smile a lot.
- The writer and Jimmy are friends.

- In line 12, the writer says 'Yippee!' because he is _____ to eat hot food.

- A afraid
B excited
C sad
D satisfied

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

- READ**
5
- What happens at recess on Thursday? Put the following events (1–4) in the correct order. One has been done for you.



Scan the text. Who are the people mentioned in it and where are they?



Can you **PREDICT**, or guess, what the text is about?

Do you ever wonder what goes on in the staff room? Read the skit below.

Text 2



Staff Room CHAT



It's after school in the staff room. The teachers are chatting.

Mrs Chan: Oh, I'm so glad the day is over. It's definitely time for a snack and a cup of tea.

Mr Farmer: Yes, TGIF!

5 **Miss Tai:** TGIF? What does that mean, Mark?

Mr Farmer: It's short for 'Thank Goodness It's Friday'. It's a common phrase where I come from. Ling, can I help you with those ice cream cones? I can take one away. You have so many...

10 **Miss Tai:** Thanks for your kind offer of help, but I need them all for Class 1B. I gave them a very hard riddle today. If they solve it, I'll give each student a cone on Monday.



Mr Farmer: Oh, I see ... but do you need so many? Are you sure they can ALL solve the riddle?

Miss Tai: Oh yes. They're very smart and very hard-working students.

15 **Mrs Chan:** I agree. I'm their class teacher. They're 'B' for bright — a very clever lot. They're very creative too.

Mr Farmer: Yes, they are. They always ask me, 'Mr Farmer, do you grow any potatoes at home?' Ha! Ha! ... Ling, are you sure I can't have an ice cream cone?

20 **Miss Tai:** Only if you can solve the riddle, Mark! I always treat students and teachers the same!

Check your understanding

A Answer the questions using information from Text 2. For multiple-choice questions, blacken one circle only.

- 1 At what time of the day does the chat take place? _____
- 2 On what day does the chat take place? _____
- 3 Circle TWO things that Mrs Chan is probably going to eat and drink.



Parts of speech

Words do different 'jobs' in a sentence. For example, some are verbs and some are nouns. We call these different groups of words **parts of speech**. The poem below introduces some common parts of speech.

Read the poem and find an example of each part of speech in Texts 1 and 2.

A **noun** refers to a person, place or thing,
like teacher, canteen, tea or Ling.
Instead of nouns, **pronouns** stand,
so Jimmy's hand becomes his hand.
5 **Adjectives** tell us more about a noun,
like a strict teacher or my eyes are brown.
Articles (a, an, and the)
are really very common, huh?
Verbs tell of something being done,
10 like eat or play or jump or run.
How things are done the **adverbs** tell,
like running slowly or she sings well.
A **preposition** comes before a noun,
so on the desk or in the town.

Some words can be more than one part of speech, e.g. *smile* is a noun and a verb:

She had a *smile* on her face.

She *smiled* at me.

Understanding the 'jobs' that different words do can help us in many ways. For example, it can help us use the right word when we write or speak.

What part of speech is the underlined word in each sentence below? Write the correct part of speech in the blank. Then write your own sentence using the underlined word. One has been done for you.

1 Tony often behaves badly.

I play the piano badly.

adverb

2 The new teacher is very kind.

3 Mr Chan always gives us good advice.

4 Our Music teacher sings very well.

5 Here's my phone number — don't lose it.

6 Jane is my cousin and she likes reading.



Talking about things that are generally true

When we want to talk about things that are true now (but may change later), we can use **the simple present**.

Our classroom **is** on the first floor.

Miss Tai **teaches** us Maths.

We form *yes/no*-questions and short answers in the simple present like this.

- With the verb *to be*:

Are your classmates friendly?

Yes, they **are**.

Is your school big?

No, it **isn't**.

- With other verbs:

Do you **have** a lot of homework?

Yes, I **do**.

Does the principal **teach**?

No, he **doesn't**.

See **Appendix 3** for information on how to form statements and *yes/no*-questions in **the simple present**.

Grammar in text

Find examples of the simple present in Texts 1 and 2.

In each example, what is true at the time that the text was written?

One verb can be used more than once.

- be
- forget
- give
- hand in
- like
- make
- punish

Let's practise

Complete the following chat with the correct forms of the verbs given. Add 'not' where necessary.

Do you ⁽¹⁾ _____ your new school?

Yes, I do. It ⁽²⁾ _____ very big.

We even have a football pitch!

Wow! What about the teachers?

⁽³⁾ _____ they nice?

Yes, they ⁽⁴⁾ _____. They

⁽⁵⁾ _____ us even when

we ⁽⁶⁾ _____ to do our

homework. 😊 ✌️

You ⁽⁷⁾ _____ so lucky. My class

teacher ⁽⁸⁾ _____ very strict. He

⁽⁹⁾ _____ us detention when we

⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ our homework.

⁽¹¹⁾ _____ he _____

you copy out the school rules?

⁽¹²⁾ _____, he _____,

but he makes us learn the school rules by heart —

there are pages of them! 😞

Write a blog entry

What is new and interesting about your secondary school? Write a blog entry to share your opinions! First let's find out more about blogs.

What is a blog?

A blog is like an online diary. It is a place where you can share your thoughts, feelings and experiences.

A Blogs cover a wide variety of topics but they have some features in common. Read the following extracts and pay attention to the writing style. Then read the guidelines below and cross out the incorrect options in the brackets.



The dos and don'ts of writing blogs

GUIDELINES

- Remember that your blog is for **family and friends**. The style should be *(formal/informal)*. Don't write exactly how you speak though!
- This is a **personal** piece of writing, so it's *(OK/strange)* to use 'I' in sentences.
- *(Do/Don't)* use too many big words. Keep it simple. You want your blog to be **readable**.
- Your readers are interested in your **opinions**. Also, everyone loves **humour**, so make your blog funny, but *(do/don't)* be mean!



What other topics do people blog about? Which of these topics are you interested in?

VOCABULARY ROUNDUP



People in school

class teacher (*n phr*) p. 7

librarian (*n*) p. 16

principal (*n*) p. 10

technician (*n*) p. 17

janitor (*n*) p. 16

monitor (*n*) p. 12

school secretary (*n phr*) p. 17

Add more!

What other useful words and phrases have you learnt? Add them to the appropriate lists.

Parts of a school

basketball court (*n phr*) p. 16

corridor (*n*) p. 16

laboratory (*n*) p. 17

principal's office (*n phr*) p. 17

canteen (*n*) p. 2

gym (*n*) p. 16

library (*n*) p. 11

school office (*n phr*) p. 17

classroom (*n*) p. 10

hall (*n*) p. 17

playground (*n*) p. 16

staff room (*n phr*) p. 6

School life

be absent (*v phr*) p. 13

copy out the school rules (*v phr*) p. 10

get lost (*v phr*) p. 18

give sb a quiz* (*v phr*) p. 12

have assembly (*v phr*) p. 15

make new friends (*v phr*) p. 1

be late for school (*v phr*) p. 11

find one's way around school (*v phr*) p. 1

get up early (*v phr*) p. 15

give sb detention* (*v phr*) p. 10

line up (*phr v*) p. 2

Describing people

bright (*adj*) p. 7

fierce (*adj*) p. 2

hard-working (*adj*) p. 7

smart (*adj*) p. 7

clever (*adj*) p. 7

friendly (*adj*) p. 10

helpful (*adj*) p. 8

strict (*adj*) p. 9

creative (*adj*) p. 7

funny (*adj*) p. 15

kind (*adj*) p. 9

* 'Sb' stands for somebody.

