

Over the next six pages you will find texts that have been annotated with the answers to questions which test your **comprehension** (understanding).

When you have read a text that you are being asked questions about, you might want to **skim read**, or quickly read through the passage again, to reinforce your understanding of it. Then, when you are answering the questions, you will need to **scan** the text to find the words, phrases and clauses that link to the questions.

The simplest types of questions ask you to find information in the text. The more in-depth questions ask you to ‘read between the lines’ to see what the writer is implying or to give your own ideas. In your SATs test, simple questions are usually worth 1 mark and the more difficult ones can be worth 2–3 marks.

Q2 This simile shows the reader that Lucy was still feeling the effect of being on the ship because the ground seemed to be going up and down like a ship on the waves.

Q1 Example of personification: the ship is compared to a slow-crawling insect.

Extract from *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis

Lucy was of course barefoot, having kicked off her shoes while swimming, but that is no hardship if one is going to walk on downy turf. It was **delightful** to be ashore again and to smell the earth and grass, even if at first the ground seemed to be pitching up and down like a ship, as it usually does for a while if one has been at sea. It was much warmer here than it had been on board and Lucy found the sand pleasant to her feet as they crossed it. There was a lark singing.

They struck inland and up a fairly steep, though low, hill. At the top of course they looked back, and there was the *Dawn Treader* shining like a great bright insect and crawling slowly northwestward with her oars. Then they went over the ridge and could see her no longer.

Q3 ‘Delightful’ tells us that Lucy is happy (this paragraph is written from her point of view so this is what she is thinking).

Q4 The clues are: Lucy had come ashore, so most likely she had come from a ship; the *Dawn Treader* was heading ‘northwestward with her oars’, which tells us more definitely that it is a ship.

- 1 Find one example of personification in the text.
- 2 Why is the simile ‘like a ship’ used to describe the ground?
- 3 Which adjective tells us that Lucy is feeling happy?
- 4 What is the *Dawn Treader*?
 - a. a giant sea snake
 - b. a ship
 - c. an aeroplane
 - d. a giant insect



Q1 The phrase 'into the descent' tells us Kuni is coming down the mountain.

Q2 Kuni ignored the radio call at the start because she was on 'exposed ground' that had previously avalanched and she wanted to get down.

Extract from *Mortal Chaos* by Matt Dickinson

Kuni was into the descent, moving as fast as she could down the steep ice field when her radio went off in her pocket.

'Kuni, this is base camp. Base camp, over.'

Her first reaction was to ignore it, she was on extremely exposed ground and she knew that the slope had avalanched in the past with catastrophic results. Worse still, she could see a narrow crack had opened up in the face, a grey shadow of fractured ice which snaked almost fifty metres across the summit pyramid. Kuni knew it was a potentially lethal sign, that the snowpack had shifted, a clear cut indication that the face was definitely not stable.

But the radio blurted out again and through the rising wind Kuni thought she heard the words 'your father'. She came to a halt, pushing her ice axe deep into the snow to act as a support, then took the radio out of her pocket.

'This is Kuni.'

'We've got your father on the line! Wait just a moment.'

Q3 Expanded noun phrase that tells us Kuni's life could be in danger.

Q4 The word 'blurted' means that the radio came on in a sudden way.

- 1 What does the phrase 'into the descent' tell us about Kuni's movements?
- 2 Why did Kuni ignore her radio call to start with?
- 3 Find an expanded noun phrase that tells the reader Kuni's life could be in danger.
- 4 'But the radio blurted out again...' What does the word 'blurted' mean in this context?



Keywords

Comprehension ➤ Understanding

Skim read ➤ A quick reading technique to help you get the gist (main idea) of a text

Scan ➤ A quick reading technique to help you find specific words, phrases and clauses in a text



- 1 Answer this question about *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*.

Why does the narrator say that it was 'no hardship' for Lucy to be barefoot?

- 2 Now answer these questions about *Mortal Chaos*.

- a. Why is 'snaked' an effective way of describing the crack in the face?
- b. Which clause tells the reader that Kuni stopped?



There are lots of different types of poem.
These are just a few:

- list
- performance
- concrete
- acrostic
- haiku
- limerick
- calligram



Using kennings to write a poem

A kenning is a two-word phrase or compound word that describes an object without actually giving its name. For example, 'mouse-catcher' to describe a cat.

What animal might these kennings be talking about?

Tree-stomper
Bush-eater
Pond-splasher
Trunk-waver
Tusk-thruster

Read this kenning poem about 'Dad'.

Dad by Andy Fusek Peters

Dad
He's a:
Tall story weaver
Full of fib fever
Bad joke teller
Ten decibel yellor
Baggy clothes wearer
Pocket money bearer
Nightmare banisher
Hurt heart vanisher
Bear Hugger
Biscuit Mugger
Worry squasher
Noisy nosher
Lawn mower
Smile sower
Football mad
Fashion sad
Not half bad
So glad I had
My
Dad!

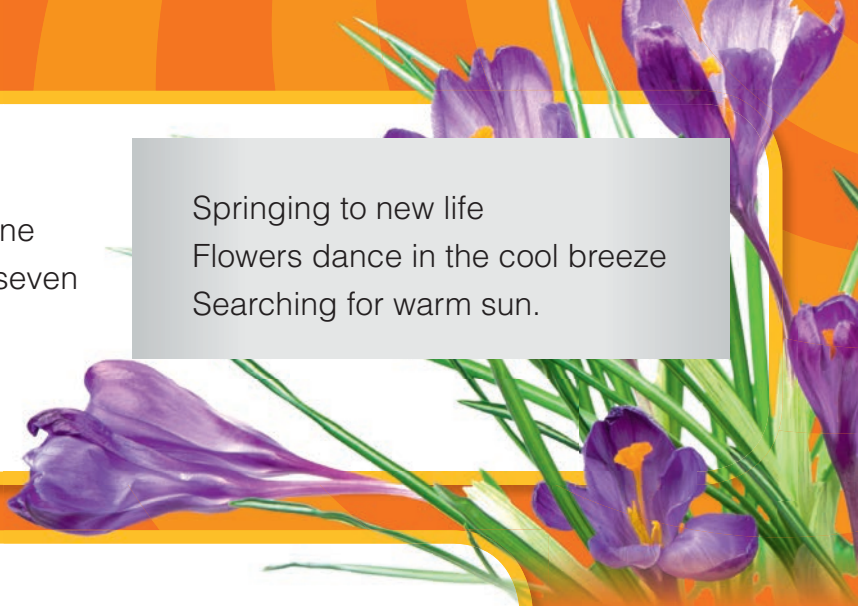


Haiku

A traditional Japanese haiku is a three-line poem with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second and five in the third.

Haiku poems are usually about nature.

Springing to new life
Flowers dance in the cool breeze
Searching for warm sun.



Limericks

Limericks are funny, five-line poems which always start with: There was... The first two lines and the last line rhyme; the third and fourth lines rhyme.

There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, 'It is just as I feared!
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!'



Concrete poem

A concrete poem is sometimes called a shape poem. It is where the poem is written in the shape of the main subject of the poem.

Star!
Shining bright
in the black velvet night.
A jewelled and twinkling comfort light.
A high golden diamond
Shining bright.
Star!

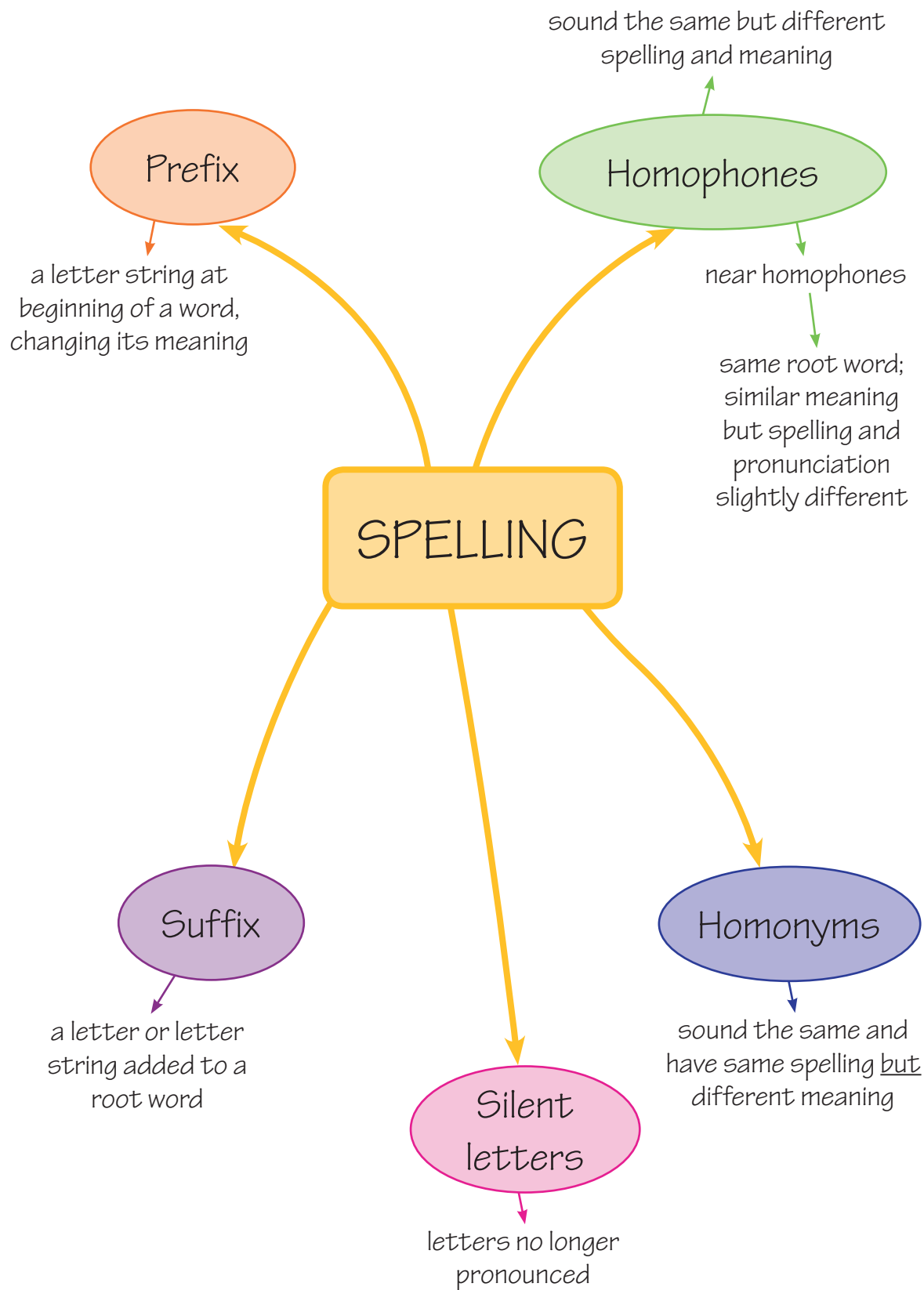


Write a kenning poem about a bird. Here are two compound words to help you:
full-throttle; sky-diver



- 1 What are the features of a haiku?
- 2 How many lines does a limerick have?
- 3 What is meant by a 'concrete poem'?

Now see if you can remember all the main points from this topic.
Have a go at drawing your own mind map.



- 1 Use an appropriate prefix to change the meaning of these words. (4 marks)

happy
understand
appropriate
polite

- 2 Underline the two incorrect words in these sentences then write the correct homophones.

- a. We eight our pairs and went out to play. (1 mark)

.....

.....

- b. They're hare has been cut very short. (1 mark)

.....

.....

- 3 Use an appropriate suffix to change these words into adjectives: (4 marks)

influence
division
horror
present

- 4 Spell the underlined words correctly. (2 marks)

We have only brawt our ruff sketches althow if we have enuff time we awt to be able to complete them.

.....

.....

- 5 Which homonym would complete both these sentences? (1 mark)

We watched the to the very end.

Dad lit the bonfire with a

- 6 Underline the correctly spelled word in brackets in the sentences below:

- a. Some cracks have appeared in my (ceiling/cieling). (1 mark)

- b. My parents (recieved/received) my school report last night. (1 mark)

- c. The Latin expression 'carpe diem' means '(seize/sieze) the day'. (1 mark)