

Name: _____

Year 9 Homework Booklet 1

Book A



Instructions

Each week your teacher will allocate a task for you to complete. Write all your answers in the exercise book you have been given. Do not write in this booklet.

Ways to improve your spelling

Task 1

Explain what 'Look. Say. Cover. Write. Check.' means.

Task 2

List five other ways you can improve your spelling.

Task 3

Keep a list of words that you have difficulty spelling. Try to learn these words each week until you are confident you can always spell them correctly.

Tip: Look out for words teachers correct in your books.

Spelling lists

For each word, learn to spell it and learn the meaning if you don't already know it. Then use it in a sentence that shows its meaning. If you are not sure what it means or how to use it, look it up. I recommend downloading the program 'WordWeb' which usually shows how a word is used as well as the meaning. (Note: If you use an online dictionary, make sure it is not an American one.)

Your teacher will check your sentences, test your spelling or do both. You need to be prepared.

A	B	C
archetype	crevasse	imperceptible
avenge	croissant	impetuous
belligerence	cynic	impossible
boutique	dichotomy	impromptu
buoy	eloquence	infallible
callous	encumbrance	insurgence
camouflage	exquisite	interfere
connoisseur	fascinate	knell
catastrophe	haughty	knoll
commemorate	hysterical	labyrinth

D	E	F
luscious	nonchalant	pacifist
magnanimous	nuance	palette
magnify	naive	pamphlet
memento	nucleus	paraphernalia
mercenary	nuisance	parody
minuscule	obnoxious	partition
mirage	obsolescent	patriarch
momentous	occurrence	pavilion
motif	oscillate	periphery
municipal	overwrought	perjury

Homophones

Two words are homophones if they are pronounced the same way but differ in meaning, spelling or both. There are many homophones in English. Look at the list below. Check that you know what each of the words means. Then choose five pairs that you find difficult and write sentences to show the meanings of each word, that is, ten sentences in total.

allowed / aloud	band / banned	bare / bear
billed / build	boar / bore	board / bored
bold / bowled	bread / bred	bridal / bridle
cent / scent	cereal / serial	chews / choose
crews / cruise	days / daze	desert (v) / dessert
dies / dyes	fair / fare	flew / flu
flour / flower	guessed / guest	hay / hey
heal / heel	heard / herd	higher / hire
I'll / isle	knead / need	knight / night
knot / not	mind / mined	missed / mist
nun / none	pail / pale	pairs / pears
pause / paws	peace / piece	peer / pier
pole / poll	pore / pour	pray / prey
raise / rays	rapper / wrapper	root / route
rose / rows	saw / sore	sew / sow / so
sight / site	soared / sword	tense / tents
toad / towed	toes / tows	wait / weight
waist / waste	war / wore	wares / wears
warn / worn	weakly / weekly	weather / whether
weave / we've		

Tips for getting a job

In today's economic climate jobs are hard to get and keep, particularly if you are young. Below you will find tips to help you.

1. Find out something about the company and the job

Don't just waltz up and expect the boss to give you a job if you haven't at least looked up the place on the Internet. For example, if you were going to apply for a job at Nestle you should know that they exploit women in poor countries and rip off farmers around the globe.

Take another example: if you were applying to work for an arms manufacturer you would want to know how many deaths they have indirectly been responsible for. You would want to research techniques the directors use to help them sleep at night knowing their products have been used to slaughter and maim so many innocent people. You'll also need to find out what sorts of justifications you can give when people want to know how you can do a job which is basically selling death. The old one of it creates jobs for workers in this country is so ridiculous no intelligent person even bothers with it anymore.

2. Dress appropriately for the interview

Dress to impress. At the very least you need to be neat and clean. If it's a desk job and you're male, wear a tie. Women need to wear something equally formal. (Though why you would want a job where you are chained to desk all day is beyond me.)

If the position is line worker in an abattoir you would be a lunatic to wear a tie, but don't turn up in blood covered clothes.

Look like you mean business, even if you're just there because you've lost your benefit payments and you would much rather be at home watching brain-numbing daytime television.

3. Arrive at the interview on time

No excuse is ever good enough. Late trains, buses that don't stop, flat tyres -- these excuses just don't cut the mustard. Nothing short of a death in the family or a major terrorist attack will do. Think about it: Is it likely that someone will be punctual every day if they can't even make it to an interview on time? If you don't want the job, turn up late.

4. Take care with your application letter

You would be surprised just how sloppy some people can be when it comes to their applications. Spelling errors, using lined or tatty bits of paper, writing sentences that don't make sense -- all of these convince people you would be a waste of time.

I can hear an objection. At school you never bothered to proof-read your work and you got away with so you wonder why you should start doing it now. If you don't know by now that you would have achieved a higher grade in just about every subject by just checking your work, you probably don't deserve a decent job.

5. Apply for jobs you might be able to do

High aspirations are great. Self-belief can be wonderful. Applying for a job you can't do isn't either of these. For example, putting in an application for the position of chief brain surgeon at a hospital when you don't know a scalpel from a skull will hardly impress a potential employer. If you can't tell the difference between a shotgun and a pistol, applying for a job as a hitman may not bring the rewards you desire.

What harm can it do? Applying for a job you can't do won't hurt anybody, will it? Wrong. People notice inappropriate applications. They remember names. When you come to apply for something reasonable, such as administrator at the hospital, they see your name and bin your application without looking at it.

No matter what you do you won't get every job you apply for, but you can improve your chances if you follow the tips above.

Question

The examples the writer uses are unusual. Choose one and say whether you think it is effective or not.

Rules for Plurals

singular = one

plural = more than one

The following rules explain how you make plurals.

1. Most words just add 's'. e.g. cat → cats
2. If a word ends in 's', 'sh', 'ch', 'x' or 'z', add 'es'. e.g. box → boxes
3. If a word ends in 'y' preceded by a vowel, add 's'. e.g. storey → storeys
4. If a word ends in 'y' preceded by a consonant, change the 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'. e.g. story → stories
5. If a word ends in 'f' or 'fe', alter to 'ves' (usually). e.g. half → halves

Task 1

Learn the rules above ready for a test.

Task 2

Try to find ten examples of words that don't follow the rules above. For example, the plural of 'roof' is 'roofs', not 'rooves'. (Hint: Rules three and four have very few exceptions.)

Spelling lists

For each word, learn to spell it and learn the meaning if you don't already know it. Then use it in a sentence that shows its meaning. If you are not sure what it means or how to use it, look it up. I recommend downloading the program 'WordWeb' which usually shows how a word is used as well as the meaning. (Note: If you use an online dictionary, make sure it is not an American one.)

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G

perseverance
persuade
peruse
pesticide
petition
phenomenon
philosopher
picturesque
pinnacle
plight

H

poignant
posthumous
precise
prestigious
principle
principal
pronunciation
purge
quarantine
queue

I

rational
rationale
rectify
rehearse
reminiscence
rhetorical
satellite
scenario
seclude
sceptic

Word Puzzles

Using the letter grids below, how many words can you find? Each word must contain the central letter. However, the letters do not have to be connected. Proper nouns are not allowed, though plurals are. Try to find at least twenty words.

Each grid also contains one nine letter word. Can you find it?

1.

C	A	T
I	R	S
O	S	N

2.

R	O	P
M	I	P
T	M	U

3.

F	S	A
C	I	A
T	N	E

Gordon is a dork

If you saw Gordon you'd immediately think 'dork' as though it was tattooed on his forehead. His name says it, his face says it and his behaviour says it. He's the sort of kid who wears a tie on the weekend and tucks his jumper into his trousers. He is so square you could find him in a Maths textbook.

But let's go back to the beginning. He was new, but he had lived in this city before. His parents had taken him to London at the end of year six. Now they had returned to the South West as year nine was dragging on. When my tutor announced he was going to be joining us I reluctantly confessed that we had been in the same class in primary school. As a result I was made his 'buddy'.

Everyone knows that buddies are supposed to show new kids around, introduce them to the teachers, make them feel welcome, etc. Let me tell you what I actually did.

After registration my tutor told me to give Gordon a tour of the school. We walked around with me saying 'This is a classroom.', 'This is another classroom.', etc. When he was so bored he was nearly asleep on his feet I led him to the toilets and said, 'Here are the boys' toilets.' Casually covering the little metal disk which says whether it is a men's or a ladies' with my hand, I pushed the door open, grabbed him and shoved him in. He cautiously lent on the inner door to open it. I counted to three.

A scream, much loud swearing and Gordon shot out of the girls' toilets like someone had shoved a firecracker up his ... nose. (I'm not crude, you know.) His face was the colour of beetroot. I just laughed and laughed.

I had expected him to cry or something. Instead, as soon as his face became to return to something like a normal hue, he began to grin. He didn't say much to me, but who would after what I had just done?

After tutorial came Science. I was sitting next to Gordon, being his buddy. Normally, I don't mind the subject but the teacher was going on and on about Newton's theory of relativity or something.

Everyone was bored. Gordon yawned. I saw my chance. Now was the time to concentrate hard, for a change, on what the teacher was saying.

Just as I was losing the will to live it finally happened. The teacher asked a question.

'And who can tell me what really important law Einstein has given us?'

My hand shot into the air and I sat up so straight you could have used me to rule lines.

'Clare, your hand is up. Could you tell us the answer?'

Pointing to him, I said, 'Gordon is new, Miss, but he's really clever. He'll know the answer.' I nudged him to get his attention.

'Gordon? Oh yes, you introduced him earlier,' said the teacher doubtfully. 'Gordon, do you know the answer?'

Of course he didn't because like everyone else, except me, he hadn't been listening. I whispered in his ear, 'Pineapples. The answer is pineapples.'

He looked at me, looked at the teacher who was gazing at him intently and said, 'Pineapples, Miss.'

'What?' queried the teacher.

'You'll have to shout. She's deaf. Everyone knows it,' I whispered frantically in his ear.

'Pineapples!' he shouted.

I nearly weed myself I laughed so much. Everyone except Gordon and the teacher were killing themselves. Two points to me and we hadn't even reached break.

At lunch time I got two surprises. Firstly, Gordon stuck with me when I went to sit with my friends. Fair enough: he was a lonely loser. But secondly, he started telling my mates about the tricks I had played on him. They laughed. Did this bloke like to be humiliated? Did he actually like having a red face?

I continued to be Gordon's buddy, partly because it won me huge brownie points with my teachers, particularly my tutor, but mostly because it gave me opportunities to play pranks on him. I was a quite surprised, however, by how he reacted to my practical jokes. Let me give you an example.

You know already that Gordon and I went to the same primary school. What you don't know is that we both starred in the school production. He was Prince Charming and I was Snow White. The teacher said Prince Charmless (as I called him) had to kiss Snow White. I swore that if he touched me I'd punch him in the stomach. Eventually it was agreed that he would only pretend to give me a peck on the cheek. Fine.

First night: okay. Second night: disaster. He planted one right on my lips, my lips, and slobbered all over me. I shot up like a jack-in-the-box and swung my fist about fifteen centimetres below his navel. I missed his stomach accidentally on purpose. He rolled around on the stage in agony for several minutes.

Anyway, back to the more immediate story: several photos had been taken of us in our costumes. Choosing one where he was leaning over me and showing his tights to their best advantage (not his), I printed it out, added the caption "How tight can you get?" and posted several copies around the school. Everywhere you went people were pointing and giggling. It was a riot.

During the last week of term we had a talent show. Did I mention that Gordon was such a geek that he played the violin and the piano? Okay, so he plays both of them brilliantly, but that doesn't mean he's not a dork.

To get out of English I bought a ticket for the first show. When he found out I would be there Gordon dared me to sit in the front row. What was he thinking? Where better to be so I could humiliate him?

On the day the show was good, but I couldn't wait for Gordon to appear. He was to be the last act. I didn't have a plan, but I was sure I'd get some inspiration.

Then it happened. Gordon walked onto the stage, sat down at the piano and pulled the microphone towards him. He leant forward and said, "I'd like to dedicate this song to my buddy. She's just so much fun and so beautiful." His started to play and sing "Hallelujah".

During the second verse he looked directly at me. He was less than ten feet away when he sang, "Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew me." He'd changed the words. As he reached, "She broke my throne and cut my hair" I was reminded of the story of Sampson and Delilah. A tear escaped from the corner of one eye. Several of my friends were staring straight at me, filled with jealousy.

The crowd went wild when he finished. You can't blame them. He was so magnificent. Even the bell for break didn't stop the cheering.

As the audience dispersed I strolled over to him. Heaps of other girls had flocked around, fluttering their eyelids, thrusting out their chests, throwing their knickers, etc. like a lot of groupies at a pop concert. Unfortunately, one of the infatuated infants was the mole of year ten bully, Bates. He was not impressed by the amount of attention Gordon was being paid. He bided his time.

Eventually we were kicked out of the hall. Gordon and I made our way towards the lower door. Bates was waiting. He threw Gordon against the wall. "I don't like the way you were looking at my girlfriend. I think you and I ..."

With hardly a moment's hesitation I grabbed Bates by the lapels, swung him towards me and kneed him very hard in the groin. Expertly executed, Bates had no choice but to crumple to the floor, tears streaming from his eyes.

Leaning down I grabbed him by the earlobe and hissed, "Gordon is mine to make fun of, humiliate, or beat up. If you even breathe near him again I'll emasculate you with a blunt knife." (Like Gordon, I quite like using long words. Look up 'emasculate' if you don't know what it means.)

Straightening up I smiled broadly at Gordon, took him by the hand, led him to a quiet corner of the playground and ... Well what would you do if someone had just done what he did?

1. How does Gordon react to the practical jokes?
2. Why do you think the narrator finds Gordon attractive? Explain using quotations.