

Check the meaning and word class of these words in your dictionary before you start the Quest!

Word	Word class	Definition
decade	noun	ten years
prosper		
incompetent		
exile (the place)	noun	
immune system		
bitter		
notorious		
rebel	noun	
negotiate		
permit	verb	
perilous		



Gromitz's punishments

A member of your family has been brutally punished by one of Gromitz's guards. You are upset and frustrated, but you have decided that enough is enough, and you have to do something ...

Circle **five** words which express the way you feel.

anxious happy worried bored concerned sad

excited cheerful distressed nervous powerless relaxed

scared angry confused resilient tense calm

apprehensive curious agitated contented tired afraid

delighted troubled joyful miserable lonely exhausted

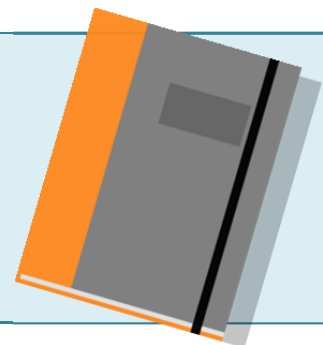
resentful pensive vengeful stoical stressed resolute

Using the words you have chosen, write a short diary entry in which you describe your feelings, and your decision to take action! You could use this opening to start you off.

Dear Diary

I cannot believe how upset I am feeling tonight after watching my brother suffer at the hands of Gromitz's brutal guard. The frustration is boiling inside me! But I need to stay calm and focused

...



Grammar focus: comparative sentences

Zebulon is fair. Gromitz is cruel.

Different ways in which to combine sentences to present contrasting information:

Zebulon is fair; Gromitz is cruel.

Zebulon is fair but Gromitz is cruel.

Zebulon is fair whereas Gromitz is cruel.

Zebulon is fair; Gromitz, on the other hand, is cruel.

Zebulon is fair; however, Gromitz is cruel.

Zebulon, who is fair, contrasts with Gromitz, who is cruel.

Using subordinating conjunctions to make comparisons:

Whereas Zebulon is fair, Gromitz is cruel.

While Zebulon is fair, Gromitz is cruel.

Combine these two short contrasting sentences in five different ways:

Gromitz is still in Britannica. Zebulon is in exile.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Anxiety in the hay cart (conditional tenses)

What will happen if ...?

You travel to Oban concealed in the back of a hay cart. What could possibly go wrong?!

Write down ten things which could happen during your journey. You may use these examples to start you off.

If one of Gromitz's spies **hears** me sneeze, **he'll find** me and **kill** me.

If a huge spider **crawls** over my face, **I'll scream** and someone **might discover** me.

What would have happened if ...?

You have successfully reached Oban without anyone detecting you. You are relieved, but can't help thinking what might have gone wrong.

Look back at your ten thoughts, and write down what could have happened. You could use these examples to start you off.

If one of Gromitz's spies **had heard** me sneeze, he **would have found** me and **killed** me.

If a huge spider **had crawled** over my face, I **would have screamed**, and someone **might have discovered** me.

Encounter with Gromitz's spy (homophones)

Choose a word from the list below which fits into the space. You may only use each word once. (There are six extra words which you won't need....)

1. are you going?
2. not from round these parts, are you?
3. Take that bag your back and open it!
4. waiting for you in Oban?
5. People don't clothes like that around here!
6. What was the like in Grimsville when you left?
7. nephew did you say you are?
8. I don't know to believe you or not.
9. I'm tired to talk to you anymore.
10. Go and stand over



you're	of	where	whose	your	whether	their	too
wear	they're	off	who's	weather	to	there	whom

Meeting the fisher folk (making polite requests)

There are many different ways to ask for help in English. How many can you think of?

You need the fisher folk to help you. How are you going to ask them for help? Which of the options below do you think would be the most effective? Which would be the least effective?



- 1. Help!
- 2. Give me help!
- 3. I need help!
- 4. Help me!
- 5. Please help me!
- 6. Can you help me?
- 7. Could you possibly help me, please?
- 8. Is there any way that you could help me?
- 9. Would you be able to spare a moment to help me?
- 10. I'm so sorry to trouble you, but could you possibly help me?

The fisher folk have already agreed to help you which is good news. But you are very hungry, and won't be able to go out fishing until you've had some food. You have seen some sandwiches and fruit in a basket in the bottom of the boat.



Write down three ways in which you could ask the fisher folk for food. Which do you think would work best?

- a.
- b.
- c.

Health and safety report

You need to take a ship from Oban to Tongwe Island but you can't afford to buy a ticket. The shipping company have said you can travel for free if you do a health and safety check on all the cabins. You agree. Unfortunately, one of the cabins is absolutely filthy, and there are several health and safety hazards. Draw and label a detailed sketch of the cabin, and then write notes to hand over to the shipping company's boss.

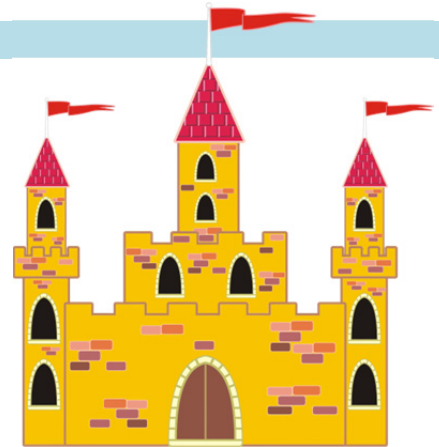


Title	Health and safety check
Location, date and time	
Organisation of furniture in the cabin	
Structural issues (walls, windows, etc.)	
Fire safety equipment and evacuation plan	
Safety hazards in the cabin	
State of cleanliness in the cabin	
Potential health hazards in the cabin	
Conclusion and recommendations	

Tongwe Island

As you walk around Tongwe Island for the first time, the island makes a huge impression on your senses. You have no way of taking any pictures, so you commit as much as you can to memory. You find it helpful to think of describing words to help you remember what you are seeing.

Here is a list of the places that you see as you cross the island towards Zebulon's castle. Think of at least one adjective to describe each noun phrase.



Adjective(s)	Noun
wide sandy	bay
	path
	cliff
	town
	village
	road
	hill
	woodland
	swamp
	river
	castle

Meeting Zebulon for the first time

Write the script of this conversation. Include stage directions in the present tense.

1. You could start like this:

(Zebulon looks frightening. You make an effort to show that you feel self-confident, even though you don't).

Me: (nervously) Good morning, sir. I'm the traveller from ... G-G-Grimsville.

Zebulon: (briskly) Yes, I know who you are. I've been waiting for you for days.

Me: (apologetically) I'm so sorry. I came as quickly as I could, but...

Zebulon: (interrupting) Yes, yes. Never mind. You're here now.
Let me look at you.

2. Continue the script in **formal Standard English**, as you are trying to impress Zebulon.
3. Now read the same conversation below but written in narrative form.

I will never forget that moment as long as I live. As I stood in front of Zebulon, my teeth started to rattle so hard that I was sure he would hear them. Meanwhile, my knees felt as though they were turning into jelly, and I feared I would faint.

Summoning up every ounce of courage I had, I broke the silence.

'Good morning, sir,' I mumbled. 'I'm the traveller from Grimsville.' I was stuttering so badly that I could hardly pronounce the name of my home town.

'Yes, I know who you are,' replied the great man. 'I've been waiting for you for days.'

These words filled me horror - I had kept the mighty Zebulon waiting! But I blundered on, desperate to offer an apology.

'I'm so sorry; I came as quickly as I could, but ...'

I had no opportunity to finish my garbled explanation as Zebulon cut me off.

'Yes, yes. Never mind. You're here now.' He narrowed his eyes, suspiciously. 'Let me have a look at you.'

Suddenly exhausted, I dropped my head, and felt tears well up in my eyes. But, when I looked up again, his face had changed. It was calm and serene, with a hint of a smile around the corners of his mouth. At that moment, I knew everything was going to be all right.

List five differences between the script and the narrative writing:

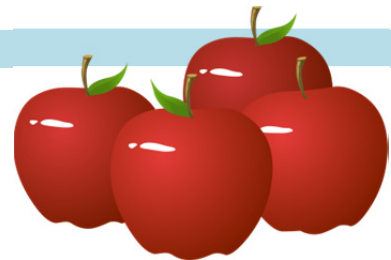
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Which do you think is easier to write? Why?

.....

Zebulon’s new dessert (imperative verbs)

Zebulon’s favourite fruit is an apple: he loves raw apple, cooked apple, apple mixed with other ingredients. How many different instructions could you give someone who was about to prepare a dessert using an apple? Here are three to get you going:



Cut it!			
Dice it!			
Core it!			

Zebulon’s dessert

You are going to invent a new dish for Zebulon using apples. He likes most flavours, but he doesn’t like rhubarb, grapefruit, mint or alcohol. So avoid those!

Write a recipe in which you include the following:

- the ingredients
- the equipment needed
- the method (how to prepare the ingredients)
- the preparation time, including the cooking time
- the oven temperature, if necessary.



Zebulon's castle (prepositional phrases)

While you are waiting for dinner on your first evening, you have a quick look around Zebulon's castle. It is the most incredible place you have ever seen!

You know that your family will want further details when you return from Tongwe Island, so you start jotting down brief notes. You begin in the Banqueting Hall where Zebulon takes meals with his guests. Here are your notes: put them together in writing. You will need to add a few verbs and prepositional phrases (choose these from the table below). The first one has been completed to help you!



Noun phrase	Verb	Prepositional phrase
A hand-drawn map of Tongwe Island	hung	above the mantelpiece
A huge mahogany table		
Zebulon's pet tarantula		
An ancient suit of armour		
A spiral staircase		

Verbs

wound	sat	lurked	stood
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Prepositional phrases

up to the first floor balcony	behind Zebulon's chair
near the fireplace	in the middle of the room

Tips for writing a front page news story for the Tongwe Star

If you are writing one of the news stories for the Tongwe Star, you might find this useful as a model - or you might just write this one instead. You will need a **headline**, but these are often added after the story is written.

REFUGEE FINDS SAFE HAVEN!

Your first paragraph should then include a short summary of **who did what**, and **when** and **where** they did it.

A teenage refugee from Britannica was given a warm welcome by 50 Tongwe residents at a local restaurant last night.

Your next few paragraphs should include further details:

- Matt Dymoke, 16, who had made the crossing from Oban in a flimsy boat, broke down in tears as he was treated to a slap-up meal at the Haven Hotel in Tongwe Town yesterday evening.
- Matt had fled from Britannica after Gromitz had brutally executed his parents and siblings following a tragic misunderstanding. Members of Gromitz's Secret Police had turned up at the Dymoke house during a storm, demanding a meal. The door slammed shut in the wind, and the Secret Police arrested all the family members for treason. Matt, who was out fishing at the time, managed to escape.
- After a perilous journey to the coast by hay cart last weekend, Matt found some fisher folk who were willing to give him their old boat. Matt nearly drowned when the boat sank off the east coast of Tongwe Island. Fortunately, he was rescued by some local fishermen and brought to safety.

Include at least two quotations from people who have a personal comment to make:

- Matt told us: 'I knew I had to escape from Britannica as Gromitz's guards were hunting for me. But I was terrified in that little boat. I thought I was going to die.'
- Tongwe fisherman, Matthew Rushmore, commented: 'I was just hauling in my last catch of fish when I spotted Matt in the water. I'm so glad we were able to save him.'
- General Manager of the Haven Hotel, Sophie Goodley, added: 'It was a privilege to cook a meal for Matt tonight, and we will be seeing much more of him. We have been struggling to recruit a Kitchen Porter, and Matt needs a job!'

Short conclusion linking to future developments:

- If you would like to meet Matt Dymoke, and hear his stories from Britannica, he can be found at 10pm every evening, at the end of his shift, at the Haven Hotel on Tongwe High Street.

Find a rhyme!

The task 'The final ingredient' includes a poem, 'The Ballad of the Crab', which is based on a famous poem called 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. It has a regular rhyme scheme: the second and fourth lines rhyme. When writing a rhyming poem, poets need choices. Sometimes it is hard to find exactly the right rhyming word ...

Can you find three more words which rhyme with each of these words?

now	vow			
cry	die			
be	sea			
day	bay			
bring	sting			
power	hour			
bright	night			
home	foam			
wait	late			
stare	lair			

Preparing to descend the cliff (apostrophes)

Read through the sentences below. Eleven of them need an apostrophe, but one does not. Can you put in the eleven missing apostrophes, leaving one sentence as it is?

1. As I consider Zebulons task, my knees start to knock.
2. The travellers face lights up as the arching rock comes into view.
3. The suns rays beat down upon my defenceless head.
4. The crab waves its pincers menacingly in my face.
5. My familys friends are all relying on me to get home safely.
6. I know its a long way home even if I succeed in this task.
7. I dont know whether I can make it down the cliff.
8. Where will I go when the jobs done?
9. I am afraid of Gromitz spies.
10. I will be so relieved when I reach my journeys end.
11. After six weeks travel, I am ready to sleep in my own bed again!
12. The waves incessant crashing against the rocks fills me with dread.

The journey home: choosing which tense to use

A writer makes many choices when producing a piece of narrative writing. One of them is which **tense** to use. Shall I use the present tense, to make it sound more immediate? Or the narrative past tense, as if I were describing events that happened in the past? Have a look at these two examples: which do you think works best?

As I **set off** for Grimville with the Cure in my backpack, a lump **enters** my throat.

Will I ever **see** Zebulon again? What if I **fail**?

Taking a deep breath for courage, I **head off** down the hill towards the bay, pausing only to turn and wave at Zebulon one last time. From a distance, I **think I can see** a tear rolling down his face. But I **can't be sure**. I **am** probably his only hope now. Only I **can save** Grimsville.

It's a huge responsibility, and I **am** afraid of the journey that **lies** ahead. But thinking of my family **gives** me courage.

I **allow** myself to think back briefly to that terrible day when Gromitz's guards **came** to our house. My brother **had passed** one of Gromitz's spies in the market place, and **sniggered** when the spy **tripped** and **fell** into a puddle. Later that day, the guard **returned** and **whipped** my brother. I **can see** it now as if it **were** yesterday.

But I **cannot let** that horrific memory distract me. I **must return** to Grimsville. Quickly!

As I **set off** for Grimsville with the Cure in my backpack, a lump **entered** my throat.

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Taking a deep breath for courage, I **headed off** down the hill towards the bay, pausing only to turn and wave at Zebulon one last time. From a distance, I **thought I could see** a tear rolling down his face. But I **couldn't be sure**. I **was** probably his only hope now. Only I **could save** Grimsville.

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But I **could not let** that horrific memory distract me. I **had to return** to Grimsville. Quickly!