Reading and Thinking

Comprehension - Tigers

The tiger is the largest of the cats. The head and body of a full-grown male is two metres long with the addition of a metre of tail. Its shoulders stand a metre above the ground and it weighs up to one hundred and eighty kilograms.

Most tigers lived in thick forest areas of central India, where they mainly hunted buffalo, deer, wild pig, and monkeys. There were about 40,000 sixty years ago but because large areas of forest have been cleared for farming, there are now less than 2000.

A tiger prefers to hunt at night, as it sees well in the dark. Its black stripes blend in with the shadows, and the pads on its paws make no noise as it walks silently. It will creep through the bushes and between tree trunks until it is close enough to spring out with a rush. It leaps onto the back of an animal, grabbing it with its strong paws, and delivers a lethal bite to the neck.

When a tiger does make a kill, it drags the body into thick bushes or among rocks. After eating as much as possible it will have a drink, sleep all day, then have another meal until there is nothing left. A small deer may be eaten in one meal, but a buffalo will provide several.

Tiger cubs are usually born in litters of two, three or four. They weigh between one and two kilograms and their eyes remain closed for the first two weeks. The mother hides them in a cave whilst she goes hunting. The cubs feed on their mother's milk for two months and then gradually change to eating meat. They are still too young to hunt, and spend their time playing and walking around whilst their mother is away.

When the cubs are about a year old, they weigh up to a hundred kilograms. By now they are big enough to begin hunting their own food. In another year they will be able to look after themselves, and the family breaks up.

Place a tick against each sentence that is true.

1  Tigers are not as large as lions.
2  Tigers travel in packs when they go hunting.
3  A tiger prefers to hunt when it is dark.
4  Tigers always have a single cub.
5  A baby tiger cannot see when it is born.
6  Tiger cubs usually leave the family when they are about two years old.

* Write a word from the passage that means:

7  able to cause death ............................
8  mixes ........................................
Foreword

Excellence in English Year 5 is the fifth of a series aimed at primary children to help improve their English. There are many challenging exercises that will extend their vocabulary, grammar, reading and thinking skills. The systematic practice will give confidence to those who may later sit for entrance or scholarship examinations which test English and General Aptitude.

It is suggested that a child works through the book sequentially rather than jumping from one section to another. A dictionary should be consulted to avoid guesswork - especially when the meaning of a multiple choice word is not known.

Answers are provided in the centre section for ease of removal. When using this book at home or school, it may be a temptation for a child to look at answers if they remain in the book.

Peter Howard
Comprehension - The First Paper

At first men and women painted or carved pictures and signs on bone, wood or stone. They then made bricks of clay and stamped inscriptions on them. The Egyptians carved hieroglyphics, a kind of picture writing, on their temple walls. Later, they were probably the first to invent a kind of paper, and the word ‘papyrus’ was the name of the bulrush from which it was made. This plant grew along the banks of the Nile.

Papyrus paper was primitive. The white pith was cut into long strips and laid together with strips going across. A little mud was used to glue them together and then it was beaten and dried. Many old papyrus rolls have been found with writings of famous Greek visitors to ancient Egypt.

We really must thank the Chinese for our modern paper. These people originally wrote on bamboo boards or on silk until someone used bark, old rags or fishing nets to make paper. When this happened we are not sure, but there is a story of how the oldest paper came to be found. An English explorer, Sir Aurel Stein, went to China to trace lost cities along the Great Wall built to keep out invaders. Here and there along the ancient wall stand the ruins of old watch-towers. In a heap of rubbish in one of these towers, Dr Stein and his workers made a wonderful discovery. They found bundles of letters on actual paper made from bark and rags. The letters were in an unknown language. When the language was translated later by experts, it was found that the letters were written in the actual year Jesus Christ was born. These letters are the oldest pieces of true paper known.

It took over seven hundred years for this invention to reach Europe. The Chinese had taught Arabs how it was done. In turn, the Arabs invaded Spain, and brought the secret methods with them. Soon many countries mastered the skill of using rags or pulp wood to make paper in much the same way it is made today, only the process has been improved and speeded up by using machinery.

Answer the questions.

1. Who were the first to make paper similar to the kind we use today? ........................................
2. What nationality were the people who went to Egypt and wrote on papyrus? ......................
3. Was Dr Stein able to understand the contents of the letters he found? ..............................
4. What was used by Egyptians to make papyrus besides pith? ..............................
5. Would paper-making be over a thousand years old? ........................................
6. Write a word from the passage that means: simple with little technology ................
7. in the beginning ......................................
8. changed from one language to another ..................
9. attacked and occupied .............................
Excellence in English Book Five

Reading and Thinking

Comprehension - The First Fliers

We have all read how Wilbur Wright was the f...... to fly in an aeroplane. We forget about the work done by m...... who flew before him. They took to the a...... in balloons. It all began when two b......, Joseph and Jack Montgolfier, watched smoke r...... from a fire. They filled paper bags with smoke and they r...... to the ceiling. After experimenting, they made a huge paper b....... Under it they fitted a basket to carry two men. A little furnace to supply s...... and heat was attached to the basket. Two other men volunteered to f......, and after lighting the fire they rose into the sky over the c...... of Paris. The men carried bundles of w...... to feed the fire and wet sponges in case the balloon caught f....... They travelled safely above all the city buildings and came d...... safely. Soon after, two Frenchmen went up in a balloon f...... with hydrogen gas. They rose to the incredible height of 3000 m...... and travelled a distance of 50 k....... More and more people flew in balloons and there were plans made to leave the earth and fly to the m....... Balloons could only g...... where the wind carried them. Flying them was a step towards aeroplanes that could fly against the wind.
Vocabulary

Wearing Apparel and Fabrics

* Choose a word from each box to fill the spaces.

jodhpurs scarf moccasin brassiere skivvy parka mackintosh petticoat caftan kilt jersey cape

1 raincoat ..................................................... 2 pullover or jumper ................................
3 woman's undergarment ...................... 4 Scottish skirt ..........................................
5 knitted, high-necked garment ................. 6 worn round the neck ............................
7 jacket with a hood .................................. 8 underwear to support breasts ............................
9 trousers for horse-riding ......................... 10 soft leather shoe ................................
11 loose cloak .............................................. 12 loose garment with long, sleeves........

blazer sari pantyhose leotard bikini singlet cravat tuxedo culottes cardigan mitten pinafore

13 woman's tights ................................ 14 knitted jacket with buttons ..............
15 lightweight jacket with school or club badge ........................................
16 Indian dress consisting of a single piece of material wound round the body ........
17 tight-fitting dancer's garment .............. 18 woman's small bathing suit ..............
19 glove that encloses fingers and thumb separately ........................................
20 woman's skirt divided like trousers .......... 21 a dinner jacket ..............................
22 child's apron worn over a dress .......... 23 sleeveless undergarment ..............
24 man's scarf worn around the neck under a shirt instead of a tie ..............................

mohair velvet satin corduroy denim tweed polyester

25 woollen with a coarse, rough surface ......... 26 strong cotton used in jeans ..............
27 synthetic compounds mixed with fibres to make crease-resistant material ....
28 silk or cotton with a soft, smooth pile ........ 29 cotton, with thick ribs ..........................
30 made of the fleece of an Angora goat .......... 31 smooth, shiny rayon or silk ..............

Reading and Thinking

Reading and Thinking 3

Write the one word that describes the other four.

1 sister mother aunt female daughter ..................
2 ferry ship trawler galleon destroyer ..................
3 roar whisper speak yell sound ........................
4 woman man girl person child ..........................
5 niece aunt cousin relation grandmother ...........
6 ruler queen dictator president emperor ...............
7 petrol liquid water milk beer ........................
8 entertainer clown magician crooner dancer ..........

Write the abbreviations from the box as answers to the clues.

Oct. UK RIP Capt. DFC Wed.
RC PM NRMA LPG BA TNT

9 a university degree .............................. 10 a Christian religion ..............
11 a country made up of 4 others .............. 12 an Air Force medal ..............
13 an explosive ........................................ 14 a weekday ................................
15 an army or navy officer .......................... 16 a month ................................
17 a motoring organisation ........................ 18 an inscription on a grave ..............
19 a type of gas ........................................ 20 a country's leader ..............

Write the missing word from a proverb in the spaces. Each one is an object.

21 People in glass houses should not throw s ..................
22 Don't cross the b .......................... until you come to it.
23 Great oaks from little a ........................ grow.
24 A new b ........................ sweeps clean.
### Occupations

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>writes the story of someone’s life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>flies planes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>owns and collects rents from buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>sings with a band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>makes women’s hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>carries goods by truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>works to maintain railway tracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>guards prisoners in a jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>head male servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>works with stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>is a crew member on a ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>makes products from wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>mounts dead animals to look lifelike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>sells cloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>writes names on metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>selects food for patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>sells glasses and tests eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>street entertainer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>looks after a rich man’s clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>fits glass to windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>supplies food and drink for a party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>shoes horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>accountant who checks books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>measures land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>lends money for interest on goods left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>studies plant life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>looks after finances at a university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>loads and unloads ships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>supervises parks and forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>makes skins into leather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>teaches at a college or university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>attends people’s feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>moves furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>mends shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>keeps bees and collects honey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>travels in space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Vocabulary

**A Words Instead of a Phrase 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insert</th>
<th>Haven</th>
<th>Fugitive</th>
<th>Strait</th>
<th>Hoard</th>
<th>Unruly</th>
<th>Shod</th>
<th>Debtor</th>
<th>Wary</th>
<th>Shabby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. hard to control  
2. hidden store  
3. put in  
4. escaped person  
5. place of shelter  
6. one who owes  
7. fitted with shoes  
8. on guard  
9. great misfortune  
10. narrow sea passage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scour</th>
<th>Crunch</th>
<th>Parch</th>
<th>Divorce</th>
<th>Fatal</th>
<th>Innocent</th>
<th>Pant</th>
<th>Nightmare</th>
<th>Drizzle</th>
<th>Hideous</th>
<th>Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. extremely ugly  
12. free from blame  
13. light rain  
14. left over  
15. crush noisily  
16. causing death  
17. end a marriage  
18. bad dream  
19. make hot and dry  
20. causing death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avoid</th>
<th>Stationary</th>
<th>Imaginary</th>
<th>Hobby</th>
<th>Bachelor</th>
<th>Separate</th>
<th>Juvenile</th>
<th>Approximate</th>
<th>Menu</th>
<th>Duplicate</th>
<th>Meticulous</th>
<th>Carnivorous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

21. standing still  
22. take apart  
23. make a copy  
24. nearly correct  
25. careful and accurate  
26. list of dishes  
27. unmarried man  
28. favourite pastime  
29. flesh-eating  
30. young person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trophy</th>
<th>Catastrophe</th>
<th>Widower</th>
<th>Parasite</th>
<th>Soloist</th>
<th>Kidnap</th>
<th>Sanctuary</th>
<th>Eaves</th>
<th>Empire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

31. a huge disaster  
32. seize someone against their will  
33. overhanging edges of a roof  
34. prize for a victory  
35. land belonging to a country  
36. one person singing  
37. area for wild animals to live unharmed  
38. animal or plant that feeds on others  
39. turned her o ......  
40. Henry, I ...... her to leave h ......  
41. if only I could see her again to apologise.* Drawing the v ...... from her face, the happy b ...... kissed her father.  
42. properly salted d ...... were brought in, and all the guests were happy to taste such wonderful food.

### Comprehension - Cloze Passage

**Write the word missing from each line on the right.**

**The Wedding Feast**

Long ago, a father one day asked his t .......... daughters:

1. What is the sweetest thing in the w ............... ?
2. "Sugar," replied the e ...... girl.
4. Her father t ...... she was cheeky but she repeated her answer.
5. He was so angry he told her to leave h ...... "You had better find somewhere to l ...... where the cooking suits you better."
6. It was a lovely night and the g ...... sat singing in the forest.
7. A young prince came by and f ...... in love with her.
8. He took her home to his palace and m ...... her.
9. The bride invited her father to the w ...... feast without telling him she was his daughter. All the f ...... was prepared without salt and the guests noticed this and would not e ...... it

10. "Ah," said the bride's father, "salt is truly the s ...... thing in the world. But when my daughter said that, I turned her o ...... . If only I could see her again to apologise.* Drawing the v ...... from her face, the happy b ...... kissed her father.
11. Properly salted d ...... were brought in, and all the guests were happy to taste such wonderful food.
Page 6
Wearing Apparel and Fabrics
1 macintosh 2 jersey 3 petticoat 4 kilt 5 skivvy 6 scarf 7 parka 8 brassiere 9 jodhpurs 10 mocassin 11 cape 12 caftan 13 pantyhose 14 cardigan 15 blazer 16 sari 17 bikini 18 leotards 19 mitten 20 culottes 21 tuxedo 22 pinafore 23 singlet 24 cravat 25 tweed 26 denim 27 polyester 28 velvet 29 corduroy 30 mohair 31 satin

Page 7
Occupations
1 biographer 2 aviator 3 landlord 4 vocalist 5 milliner 6 haulier 7 fettler 8 warden 9 butler 10 mason 11 mariner 12 joiner 13 taxidermist 14 mercer 15 engraver 16 dietitian 17 optician 18 busker 19 valet 20 glazier 21 caterer 22 farrier 23 auditor 24 surveyor 25 pawnbroker 26 botanist 27 bursar 28 stevedore 29 ranger 30 tanner 31 lecturer 32 chiropodist 33 removalist 34 cobbler 35 apiarist 36 astronaut

Page 8
A Word Instead of a Phrase 1
1 unruly 2 hoard 3 insert 4 fugitive 5 haven 6 debtor 7 shod 8 wary 9 calamity 10 strait 11 shabby 12 singe 13 hides 14 innocent 15 drizzle 16 surplus 17 churn 18 despair 19 parch 20 fatal 21 scour 22 divorce 23 nightmare 24 pant 25 stationary 26 separate 27 duplicate 28 avoid 29 imaginary 30 approximate 31 meticulous 32 menu 33 bachelor 34 hobby 35 carnivorous 36 juvenile 37 catastrophe 38 parasite 39 kidnap 40 eaves 41 trophy 42 widower 43 empire 44 soloist 45 sanctuary

Page 9
Food We Eat
1 sausage 2 yoghurt 3 spaghetti 4 cashew 5 hamburger 6 muesli 7 mutton 8 lobster 9 salmon 10 juncket 11 sirloin 12 pheasant 13 oyster 14 venison 15 almond 16 mango 17 macaroni 18 scone 19 treacle 20 scallop 21 dumpling 22 marmalade 23 flapjack 24 chop suey 25 shortbread 26 strudel 27 hubarb 28 paw-paw 29 poulty 30 crumpet 31 muffin 32 ginger 33 caviar 34 jaffle 35 cutlet 36 prune 37 wafer

Page 10
Animals
1 jaguar 2 echidna 3 gorilla 4 cheetah 5 stallion 6 goanna 7 whale 8 mare 9 grizzly 10 rhinoceros 11 dinosaur 12 drake 13 boar 14 leopard 15 kangaroo 16 doe 17 husky 18 gosling 19 coyote 20 alligator 21 eaglet 22 fawn 23 buck 24 orangutan 25 heifer 26 hyena 27 nanny-goat 28 skunk 29 moose 30 kid 31 impala 32 gecko 33 panda 34 filly 35 gander 36 ewe

Page 11
Where Would You Find?
1 igloo 2 saloon 3 wharf 4 restaurant 5 hostel 6 monastery 7 penthouse 8 kiosk 9 convent 10 theatre 11 stadium 12 aquarium 13 laboratory 14 studio 15 cellar 16 incinerator 17 depot 18 archives 19 mosque 20 synagogue 21 creche 22 seminary 23 greenhouse 24 armoury 25 foundry 26 consulate 27 manse 28 computer 29 spacecraft 30 aviary 31 arsenal 32 refinery 33 incubator 34 tannery 35 canteen 36 asylum 37 abattoir 38 mosque 39 vestry 40 car 41 vault 42 silo

Page 12
More Occupations
1 physiotherapist 2 flautist 3 stenographer 4 chancellor 5 archaeologist 6 physician 7 draughtsman 8 geologist 9 knacker 10 chamber 11 croupier 12 manicurist 13 upholsterer 14 purser 15 undertaker 16 prospecter 17 chiropractor 18 dramatist 19 coroner 20 mannequin 21 couturier 22 entomologist 23 retailer 24 caddy 25 liquidator 26 ornithologist 27 philatelist 28 evangelist 29 choreographer 30 toxicologist 31 hydrologist 32 numismatist 33 panelbeater 34 bailiff 35 statistician

Page 13
Nationality Words
1 American 2 American 3 the Americans 4 Canadian 5 Canadian 6 the Canadians 7 Italian 8 Italian 9 the Italians 10 New Zealand 11 New Zealander 12 the New Zealanders 13 Danish 14 Dane 15 the Danes 16 Scottish 17 Scot 18 the Scots 19 Polish 20 Pole 21 the Poles 22 English 23 Englishman 24 Englishwoman 25 the English 26 British 27 Brit 28 Welsh 29 Welshman 30 the Welsh 31 Irish 32 Irishman 33 Irishwoman 34 the Irish 35 Dutch 36 Dutchman 37 Dutchwoman 38 the Dutch 39 Swedish 38 Swede 39 the Swedes 40 Turkish 41 Turk 42 the Turks 43 Spanish 44 Spaniard 45 the Spanish 46 Israeli 47 Israeli 48 the Israelis 49 Greek 50 Greek 51 the Greeks 52 Thai 53 Thai 54 the Thais 55 Norwegian 56 Norwegian 57 the Norwegians 58 Chilean 59 Chilean

Page 14
Motoring Words
1 tread 2 skid 3 intersection 4 axle 5 accelerate 6 battery 7 clearaway 8 exhaust 9 grille 10 puncture 11 sedan 12 utility 13 automatic 14 generator 15 upholstery 16 bonnet 17 manual 18 brakes 19 distributer 20 suspension 21 piston 22 lubricate 23 radiator 24 clutch 25 chassis 26 ignition 27 differential 28 carburettor 29 transmission

Page 15
Kinds of People
1 ancestor 2 hostage 3 truant 4 monster 5 volunteer 6 widow 7 bankrupt 8 hermit 9 stowaway 10 cannibal