

Adults Guide – English Week 16

Hello grown-ups and home-schoolers! Welcome to pack 16!

This week will continue to focus on reading skills as well as the use of apostrophes in written English.

There will not be a proper pack next week as the week is only two days long. Instead I will put together an activity pack that you can choose to use throughout the 6 weeks holidays.

Monday:

As normal we will begin with learning the new spellings:

| Week 11 |
|---------|
| brake |
| break |
| fair |
| fare |
| grate |
| great |
| groan |
| grown |
| berry |
| bury |

It is important that your child understands the meanings of these homophones so that they can select and use the right one in context. It may be worth putting some of these words into sentences for this reason.

Tuesday-Thursday

Here is the text alongside the answers to the questions that your child must answer.

Interview with an Inuit – Teacher Version

The Arctic is one of the most hostile places on Earth. During the winter, temperatures drop to well below zero and the land is plunged into darkness for months on end. Yet plants, animals and people live and thrive on this land; in particular Inuit people, who have been living on this land of ice and snow for thousands of years. I have travelled to Greenland to meet an Inuit child named Anik. I wanted to ask him how he coped with living in such a cold climate.

E: Where is the Arctic? (C6/2b) The Arctic is located at the northern most part of the planet.

M: Why do you think the interviewer described the land as being 'hostile'? (C1) The word 'hostile' means unfriendly or unkind. This suggests that the Arctic must not be very kind to those who live there.

S: What does the word 'thrive' mean? (C1/2a) To grow or develop well.

D: What is the purpose of this first paragraph? (T4) It gives us a brief introduction to the Arctic and it tells us where the interviewer is and why they are there.

Interviewer: Hello Anik, thank you so much for agreeing to chat to me. I'm absolutely freezing so can I begin by asking how you manage to stay warm in such a cold climate?

Anik (laughing): It can get much colder than this in the winter. When it's really cold, we wear boots, gloves and coats which are made out of animal skins and fur. Caribou fur is the best because it provides the most insulation. Our long parkas reach right down to our knees. Nowadays, we buy our clothes from the local store but some families still make their own clothing.

E: What type of text is this? (T3) An interview.

D: What are the features of this text? (T4) An introduction about the person being interviewed and why they are being interviewed. Names are on the left followed by a colon. No speech marks. Open questions to encourage a detailed answer. Use of question marks. Interesting facts, thoughts and feelings which are personal to the person being interviewed.

Interviewer: Your mother told me that you are 9 years old. Do you go to school?

Anik: Yes. Most Inuit families live in small communities. In most of our communities you will find a church, a store and a school. I go to school every morning, just like other children do. Maths is my favourite subject but I like reading and writing too.

Interviewer: During the winter, you have to cope with months of darkness. What on earth do you do for fun?

Anik: Like any other child of my age, I like to watch television and play computer games. When the lighter days arrive I love to ski, skate and ride on the snowmobile. Dad is also teaching me how to ice fish, which is great fun.

B: Which activities do you do on a REGULAR basis that are similar to Anik's? (C6/2b) Children might make reference to going to school, watching television, playing computer games.

D: Which activities would it be trickier for us to do and why? (P2/2e) Skiing, skating, riding a snowmobile and ice fishing. We do not have enough snow or ice to do these activities without going to a purpose made facility such as an ice rink or snow dome.

Interviewer: Is fishing an important skill to learn?

Anik: It is one of our main sources of food. We cannot grow crops because it is too cold for them to grow. We also hunt walrus, seals and caribou. Our diet is quite fatty as this gives us energy in the cold weather. Very little of the animal is wasted; we always make use of the meat, skin, fur and bones. Whenever an animal is killed, the hunters will sing a song to honour the animal's spirit.

Interviewer: Is your dad teaching you to hunt too?

Anik: Dad takes me with him sometimes. When I am older, I will need to go hunting too. Hunting can take my dad away from home for weeks at a time. The hunting party often has to travel around to find the best places to hunt. Whilst they are away, they sleep in igloos (in the winter) or tents (if the weather is warmer).

E: Why is fishing such an important skill? (C6/2b) It is their main source of food and income.

M: What does the term 'income' mean? (C1/2a) Money received on a regular basis for work done.

M: Why do you think the hunters honour the animal's spirit? (P5/2d) They have not killed the animal for fun. They only kill the animal because they need to survive. Maybe it is a way of saying sorry to the animal and for being grateful that it will provide for their family.

S: What is the purpose of the brackets? (T4) The brackets are used to add extra information.

Interviewer: There are dogs everywhere. Are they all pets?

Anik: The dogs are very important members of our family. Dad wouldn't be able to go hunting without them. They pull the sleds that are packed with the supplies needed for the hunt. The dogs are incredibly fit and strong. They are very good at coping with the weather conditions too. Dad's ability to earn a living depends on them, so they are very well cared for.

Interviewer: As we speak, I can see that the sun is already setting and the temperature is starting to feel even colder. Surely it is impossible for wildlife to survive out here?

Anik (laughing again): You would be surprised at the number of animals living in the Arctic. The species that live here have adapted to survive in these conditions. There are many polar bears living above the ice and we have thousands of fish and seals living below it. Polar bears are amazing creatures. They are so big and strong. They have this fantastic sense of smell that allows them to sniff out prey over long distances. They wait for the seals to pop up at breathing holes in the ice. It's fascinating to watch. I love arctic foxes too – they have this amazing fur that stops them from getting cold. The fur is a beautiful white colour throughout the winter but it changes to a greyish-brown colour during the summer. They also have a greater blood flow to their feet to stop them from freezing as they walk through the snow and ice. Many animals migrate for the winter but return again during the summer months.

D: Why does his dad look after the dogs so well? (C6/2b) The dogs are needed to pull the sleds on hunting trips. Dad wouldn't be able to earn a living without them.

S: What does Anik mean when he says that animals have adapted to survive in the Arctic? (C1/2a) He means that the animals have changed to suit their environment.

M: What evidence is there to suggest that Anik likes polar bears? (C6/2b) Anik uses words like 'amazing' and 'fantastic' when talking about the polar bears. He said they are 'fantastic to watch'.

D: Why do you think the polar bears wait for seals at the breathing holes? (P2/2e) They are waiting to catch the seals as they come up to breathe. Seals are a source of food for polar bears.

S: Why do you think the arctic fox changes the colour of his coat in the summer? (P2/2e) It is white during the winter to blend in with the snow and ice. The greyish-brown colour will help the fox blend in with the environment during the summer, when some of the snow and ice has melted.

S: What does the word 'migrate' mean? (C1/2a) To move from one habitat or region to another, according to the seasons.

Interviewer: Scientists are saying that climate change is causing the Arctic to warm up. Have you seen any evidence of this?

Anik: The hunting parties have. During the winter, the sea freezes over, giving the hunting parties more area to cover. This sea ice is an important habitat for many animals too, like the polar bear. They use it as a platform from which to hunt and swim. Dad has noticed that the sea ice is reducing and appears to be melting quicker as each summer arrives. We are worried that fish, birds and mammals will find it too difficult to live here if the temperatures continue to rise.

M: What do you think will happen to the Inuit people if the animals can no longer survive in the Arctic? (P2/2e) They depend on the animals for food and to make their living. If there are no longer any animals to hunt, the Inuit people may have to move.

Interviewer: I hate to leave things on a sad note but it looks like your mother needs you to get ready for bed. Who is the old lady with her?

Anik: That is Kirima, my grandmother. She lives here too. She is the best at telling bedtime stories. She tells us tales of what life was like for our people before modern technology came along to help us. She also tells us these wonderful stories about the Northern Lights and the magical creatures that come to life when the lights shine.

Interviewer: That sounds like a marvellous way to go to sleep. Can I say a huge thank you for taking the time to talk to me. I have really enjoyed learning all about the ways in which you keep warm, the food you eat, the importance of hunting and how animals have adapted to live in this harsh but beautiful environment. May I also wish you sweet dreams.

B: How does Anik's grandmother help the family? (C6/2b) She helps put the children to bed and tells them lovely bedtime stories.

S: Anik's grandmother tells tales about how Inuit people lived years ago. Can you identify one thing which is done differently today? Look back to the section which begins, 'It can get much colder than this in the winter.' (C6/2b) Nowadays people buy their clothes from the store instead of making them themselves.

S: What is the purpose of the last statement made by the interviewer? (T4) It is a concluding statement which thanks Anik for his time and summarises some of the things the interviewer has learnt.

M: What are the Northern Lights? (C1/2a) The Northern Lights is another name for the Aurora Borealis. These lights occur naturally in the north and south poles, caused by electrically charged particles colliding as they enter the Earth's atmosphere. They appear as green, pink, red and blue lights which dance and stream through the night sky.

Interview with an Inuit – Challenge Activity

Section A

Identify whether you would find these features in an interview.

| Feature | Found in an interview | Not found in an interview |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| speech marks | | ✓ |
| names on the left followed by a colon | ✓ | |
| no speech marks | ✓ | |
| open-ended questions | ✓ | |
| question marks | ✓ | |
| a list of instructions | | ✓ |
| brackets | ✓ | |
| personal facts, thoughts and feelings | ✓ | |
| yours sincerely | | ✓ |

Section B

Read the sentences below. Decide whether each sentence should finish with a full stop, question mark or an exclamation mark.

- What awful weather we are having!
- Do you enjoy going to school?
- Most Inuit families live in small communities.
- How thoughtful they are!
- How do you cope with such cold temperatures?
- Fishing is one of our main sources of food.
- What a clever creature it is!
- Have you seen any evidence of global warming?
- The sea ice is an important habitat for many animals.

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Interview with an Inuit – Challenge Activity

Section C

Rewrite the following sentences and replace the missing punctuation.

- polar bears are amazing creatures

Polar bears are amazing creatures.

- during the winter the sea freezes over

During the winter, the sea freezes over.

- i like to ski skate fish watch television and play on computer games

I like to ski, skate, fish, watch television and play on computer games.

- how do you manage to stay warm in this freezing climate

How do you manage to stay warm in this freezing climate?

- we make use of the meat skin fur and bones

We make use of the meat, skin, fur and bones.

Section D

Anik (laughing): It can get much colder than this in the winter. When it's really cold, we wear boots, gloves and coats which are made out of animal skins and fur. Caribou fur is the best because it provides the most insulation. Our long parkas reach right down to our knees. Nowadays, we buy our clothes from the local store but some families still make their own clothing.

Friday:

Ask your child to recap and practise their spellings once more. Then take away the sheet.

Spelling tests are completed much slower than times table tests. Children do not need a speedy recall, just to get the word correct. Read each word twice and put it into a sentence as well. Children then write down the word. I tend to muddle up the order because I'm mean like that, but it is completely up to you. Afterwards, children may ask to have any of them read aloud again. Then you may mark them together.