

Jan & Elly

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ENGLISH MADE POSSIBLE PRIMARY SIX

LESSON 4

TODAY'S LESSON COVERS:

- ◆ **COMPREHENSION TIPS**
- ◆ **COMPREHENSION (OPEN-ENDED)**
- ◆ **GRAPHIC STIMULUS COMPREHENSION**
- ◆ **EDITING FOR SPELLING AND GRAMMAR**
- ◆ **VOCABULARY MCQ**
- ◆ **SITUATIONAL WRITING**

COMPREHENSION TIPS

The following are some tips on how to approach comprehension exercises. The most important thing you can do to be better at comprehension exercises is to read a lot: the better a reader you are, the more proficient you will be at comprehension. These tips are primarily aimed at MCQ and open-ended exercises where you have to read a passage first.

1. Do not look at the questions first! Read the passage through two times before looking at the questions: once for a quick overview of what's going on, second for a more careful consideration.
2. Whilst reading through the passage a second time, underline any words that you do not understand. Try to deduce the meaning from context. However, do not get flustered by what you do not know, focus on what you do know.
3. Read through the questions carefully. Miss out any questions you do not understand; reconsider them later if time permits. For each question, consider which question word is it: who, what, why, when, where and how.
4. Read the passage a third time with the various questions in mind. Annotate (perhaps by writing the question number) or underline parts of the text relevant to various questions.
5. Consider who the writer is and what is his or her motivation in writing the passage. Does the writer have bias?
6. Most questions are factual and will be readily answerable by locating the information in the passage, for example 'What time did the party start?'. However, some questions will be inferential, for example 'How do you know that the pupil was not happy?'. These questions require some deduction from the clues provided in the text.

COMPREHENSION (OPEN-ENDED)

EXERCISE 4.1

Read the passage below and answer questions 1 to 10.

What are little boys and little girls made of? Frogs' legs, puppy dog tails, sugar, spice –or are they made of clay? Ever had your liver eaten daily by an eagle? Was fire or air-conditioning the greatest invention ever? The answers to these and many other questions are provided in the wonderful Greek myth of Prometheus.

Prometheus was the son of Iapetus, who was one of the Titans. Prometheus was exceedingly cunning. He did not hold the Olympian gods in awe, and actually ridiculed the king of the gods, Zeus.

Zeus's father, Cronus, ordered Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus to make creatures to populate the earth. Prometheus crafted a creature out of clay after the shape of the gods: Man; his brother created the beasts. Zeus took the figures and breathed life into them. The man figures that Prometheus had created worshipped and paid homage to Zeus. To Zeus's shock and anger, the beast figures that Epimetheus had created attacked him! Zeus was angered by the brothers' actions and demanded a sacrifice from newly created Man to the gods to show that Man was obedient and worshipful.

The gods and Man arranged a meeting at Mecone, Greece, where the division of sacrifice was to be settled. Prometheus slew a large ox, and divided it into two piles. In one pile he put all the meat and most of the fat

but disguised it with the ox's hideous stomach; in the other pile, he dressed up the bones artfully with fat. Prometheus then invited Zeus to choose. Zeus did not see through the trick and chose the pile of bones. Thus Prometheus tricked the gods into eating bare bones instead of good meat.

Zeus was furious. He forbade any teaching of civilisation to Man. However, Prometheus felt very sorry for Man when he saw the pitiful state they had to live in: sleeping in dark and cold caves, and eating raw meat. Prometheus decided to steal fire from the gods and gave it to Man. He taught Man how to stay warm and to cook food.

As punishment, Zeus commanded that Prometheus be chained for eternity in the Caucasus mountains on Earth. There, an eagle would eat his liver, and each day the liver would be renewed. This excruciating punishment was to be endless. After several years though, the demi-god Hercules, who was the son of Zeus, freed Prometheus. Prometheus promptly captured the eagle and ate its liver as revenge! Zeus, despite being even more angry, did not punish Prometheus, as the freeing of Prometheus brought more glory to his beloved son, Hercules.

Man, however, was not so lucky: to punish Man for what Prometheus had done, Zeus told Hephaestus to 'mingle together all things loveliest, sweetest, and best, but look that you also mingle therewith the opposites of each.' Hephaestus took countless opposite substances such as gold and dross, pure snow and mud, and the bloom of the rose and the toad's venom. These were all blended into one substance which was then moulded into a woman as beautiful as a goddess. Zeus breathed life upon the shape and named her Pandora.

Zeus sent Pandora to marry Prometheus' brother, Epimetheus. Although Prometheus had warned his brother never to accept gifts from the gods, Epimetheus fell instantly in love and soon married. The gods presented the newlyweds with many gifts, and Zeus presented them with a box. Zeus told Pandora never to open the box, but curiosity got the better of her and she did anyway – as Zeus hoped she would. Upon so doing, all suffering and despair were unleashed upon Man. Zeus had his revenge.

Unknown to Zeus, the goddess Hera, Zeus's wife, placed something at the bottom of the box which would be the last to come out: Hope.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. What are people made of?

2. What figures did Epimetheus create?

3. Was Prometheus a kind person? How do you know?

4. What meal did Prometheus prepare for Zeus?

5. Did Prometheus like eagles? How do you know?

6. Why didn't Zeus punish Hercules for freeing Prometheus?

7. What was Pandora made from?

8. Why didn't Pandora obey Zeus's order regarding her wedding gift?




9. Following Pandora's disobedience, what were unleashed upon the world?

10. What did Hera place at the bottom at the box and why?

GRAPHIC STIMULUS COMPREHENSION

EXERCISE 4.2

Study the following text and then answer questions 1 to 5.

 <p>\$ 1.20</p>	<h2>THE TRIANGULAR TIMES</h2> <p>For the tastiest news! No 1, Total Truth Road, Dreamland</p> <p>2 January 2009</p>
<p>Latest: <i>English teacher climbs Mt. Olympus and meets a camera salesman called Prometheus. See pictures of a newly discovered eagle inside ... SG</i></p>	
<p>TOP STORY</p> <h3>NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL!</h3> <p>Sentosa is finally on the map!</p>  <p>By A. C. E. Reporter</p> <p>It is confirmed: Sentosa will have a secondary school! In an eagerly awaited but widely anticipated announcement today, the Ministry for Learning and Fun confirmed that a brand new secondary school will soon dot the educational landscape. A spokesman refused to confirm or deny rumours about who would be the principal. Many in the community are hoping that the enigmatic but charismatic Teacher X would be chosen. Watch this space!</p> <p>FULL STORY: See pages 2-5</p>	<p>Last night, Teacher X gave a lecture at the University's Etiquette Centre advising students 'Don't look a gift horse in the mouth, unless it's a box with a big Z embossed on the front'. FULL STORY: See page 6</p>
<p>Sensational pop singer Bitty Spares arrived at a restaurant last night as bald as an eagle! She exclaimed, 'I don't get my hair in tangles any more'. After posing tastefully for the paparazzi, Bitty sat down to a delicious meal of fois gras and french fries, served with coke and sour lemons.</p> <p>PHOTOS: See Celebrity pages.</p>	<p>LIFE!</p> <p>Dessicated Liver Tablets Have you heard of the expression 'Eat your heart out'? What about liver? Is it good for you? Collect 3 tokens to receive a 25% discount off the price of a bottle of 1,000 tablets. See Life! Health Supplement</p> 

Choose the most suitable answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) and write the number in the brackets.

1. Who did the teacher meet on Mt. Olympus?
 - (1) Zeus
 - (2) Hercules
 - (3) Apollo
 - (4) Prometheus[]

2. What did Teacher X advise students against doing?
 - (1) lazing around
 - (2) going swimming at Sentosa
 - (3) refusing gifts
 - (4) thanking Zeus[]

3. What did Bitty Spares eat at the restaurant?
 - (1) liver
 - (2) eagle
 - (3) fish
 - (4) coke[]

4. How do you receive a discount off a bottle of desiccated liver tablets?
 - (1) say please
 - (2) collect 3 tokens
 - (3) accept the tablets as a gift from Zeus
 - (4) climb Mt. Olympus[]

5. Who might be the first principal at Sentosa Secondary School?
 - (1) Teacher Nik
 - (2) Teacher Martin
 - (3) Teacher Paul
 - (4) Teacher Y – 1 letter[]

EDITING FOR SPELLING and GRAMMAR

EXERCISE 4.3 – EDITING FOR SPELLING AND GRAMMAR

Correct each word in bold for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box.

1

I am **compeled** to tell you something, even though it is a

2

3

little bit **embarasing**. Last week, I am in a quiet

4

restaurant when **gwest** who walked in? Yes, Bitty Spares!

5

Do you believes it? She actually looked at me and smiled!

6

7

Then it **occured** to me that I had goose liver drips down my chin!

8

Still, Bitty didn't seem to mind; she **orderred** some too.

9

She didn't enjoys her meal though because she was

10

constantly being **harrased** by paparazzi.

VOCABULARY MCQ



EXERCISE 4.4: Choose the most suitable answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) and write the number in the brackets.

1. He is such a wimp. He has no _____.
 (1) courage (2) faith
 (3) backbone (4) stomach []
2. The meal was expensive and delicious.
 (1) scrumptious (2) sumptuous
 (3) exquisite (4) gastronomic []
3. My elder brother has just gained his _____ in the Army.
 (1) commission (2) admission
 (3) remission (4) submission []
4. When I grow up, I want to be a person who studies animals.
 (1) carnivore (2) veterinarian
 (3) entomologist (4) zoologist []
5. A polymath is someone who is excellent in _____.
 (1) many things (2) mathematics
 (3) polymers (4) counting parrots []
6. You are inebriated!
 (1) careless (2) drunk
 (3) ineligible (4) satisfied []
7. She is so wistful.
 (1) wishy-washy (2) wishful
 (3) misty-eyed (4) sadly reminiscing []
8. Geology is the study of _____.
 (1) angles and lines (2) rocks
 (3) countries (4) ancestors []
9. He likes to solve word puzzles where you rearrange letters.
 (1) anagrams (2) anacondas
 (3) crosswords (4) word searches []
10. This chemical is dissolvable in water.
 (1) solitary (2) insoluble
 (3) transparent (4) soluble []

SITUATIONAL WRITING

EXERCISE 4.5 - MY WEEKLY PLANNER

Below is a page from your weekly planner.

 **MY WEEKLY PLANNER** 

Monday: Show and Tell in English
 4 pm Chess Club

Tuesday: MY BIRTHDAY!!!!
 Science Practical Examination
 7.30 pm Family Dinner at Foies Gras Restaurant

Wednesday: English Oral Examination
 Chinese Oral Examination
 6 pm Badminton

Thursday: Open Day at Sentosa Secondary School

Friday: School Holiday
 Visit Jurong Bird Park with Bitty and Badonna

Saturday: Shopping with mummy
 Cycling at East Coast Park with Gloria

Sunday: Barbecue at my place. Invite friends
