

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June: Meerkat Mail – postcard proof-read

On Friday, I asked you to write a postcard, imagining you are an animal who goes on a trip to a place which is very different from their home (if you need to, you could finish this postcard today). Today, I would like you to proof-read the postcard. Use a different coloured pencil and read through your work, looking for little mistakes you may have made; there are some ideas of what to look for below. When you spot an error, underline or circle it. When you have read your whole postcard, go back to the parts you underlined or circled and correct your mistakes.

- ✓ *Capitals letters to start sentences*
- ✓ *Capital letters for the word 'I', names of characters or places*
- ✓ *Have you used 'and' more than once in a sentence?*
- ✓ *Full stops, question marks or exclamation marks to end a sentence*
- ✓ *Do you have capital letters in the middle of words?*
- ✓ *Have you made any spelling errors*

Remember: mistakes are nothing to worry about! They are totally normal and spotting and correcting them is a really important part of learning to write well.

You can practise by proof-reading my writing below – there are lots of mistakes for you to fix for me!

dear mum and dad

i arrived here in the sahara desert yesterday. I was very tired fRom my long journey all the way from AntaRctica but i woz so excited to get here. In the miDDle of the night it was very colD and I felt rite at home and there were millions of twinkling stars in the sky abuv me as i settled down for a long sleep

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June: Meerkat Mail - verb hunting.

Today, you are going to be a Verb Hunter! Remember what we say at school: "Verbs are things you do!". Here are some examples:

sing      dance      giggle      cook      dream      bounce

I would like you to hunt for and collect as many verbs as you can from Meerkat Mail and write them in a list (you can use the grid below).

**Year 2:** Write a list of verbs you find. **Year 3:** Write the different versions of the verb, see the example below.

**Extension:** Write some sentences with the alternative verbs, see the below example.

Verb	Other Tenses
live	lived, living Sunny <i>lived</i> in the Kalahari Desert. Sunny is <i>living</i> in the Kalahari Desert with his family.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June: Meerkat Mail - verb converter

I have written some present tense sentences inspired by our book. Can you rewrite these sentences so they are in the **past tense**? Remember the verb is the doing word.

**Steps:**

1. Find the verb in the sentence.
2. Underline the verb.
3. Write the past tense version of the verb.
4. Rewrite the sentence with the past tense verb.

Present Tense Sentence	Past Tense Verb	Past Tense Sentence
Sunny and his family <u>play</u> together.  Sunny's family learn together.  Sunny wishes he could live somewhere else.  On Monday, Sunny visits his Uncle Bob.  He decides it's time to move on!	played	Sunny and his family <u>played</u> together.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June: Meerkat Mail - imagine a problem.

We are going to write our own stories inspired by Meerkat Mail next week. At the beginning of Meerkat Mail, we learn about some problems Sunny has with where he lives:

He thinks the Kalahari Desert is too hot!

He sometimes thinks he has to live too close to his family!

Today, I would like you to choose an animal as the main character of your story. This might be the animal you have researched or it could be a pet, *as long as you know about where the animal lives.*

When you have chosen your animal, imagine what it is like where they live. What do they like? What do they dislike? Jot down some ideas, include facts and some adjectives which describe their home. You might want to look at the notes you made from your research to help you and there is a word bank of adjectives on the right for inspiration.

Likes	Dislikes

comfy	uncomfortable
cosy	crowded
peaceful	noisy
snuggly	smelly
perfumed	sweaty
warm	itchy
cool	freezing
clean	polluted

dry	wet	sandy	muddy
dusty	gritty	squishy	

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June: Meerkat Mail - write a problem.

Today, write a paragraph describing your character's problem with where they live, using the ideas you collected yesterday. You can use my example paragraphs and the first 6 pages of Meerkat Mail to help you.

The Grammar Challenge:

- ✓ **Year 2s** Include **adjectives** which tell me about where your character lives. **Year 3s**, try to use expanded noun phrases (e.g. hot, dry desert).
- ✓ Write in the **present tense**, like Emily Gravett does in Meerkat Mail. This means you need to use **verbs** like the ones below:  
**lives**   **plays**   **thinks**   **dislikes**   **wishes**

Here are two of my own examples:

Example 1: I used the book to help me a lot for this one. You can spot the different kinds of words using the colours.

Odgar is a dog, a Welsh Springer Spaniel. He **lives** in a house with a **neat and tidy** garden. It is VERY neat and VERY tidy. Sometimes Odgar thinks it is TOO neat and tidy! Odgar **comes** from a **quiet, peaceful** house. He **sleeps** in a **quiet** room, he **eats** in a quiet room and he **plays** in quiet rooms. In fact, most of the rooms are quiet. Sometimes Odgar **thinks** they are TOO quiet. Sometimes Odgar **wishes** he lived somewhere else, somewhere messier and more lively. So he **packs** his suitcase and **writes** his family a note.

Example 2: I used more of my own words for this one. Can you spot the different kinds of words? (Verbs, adjectives and nouns)

Penny is a penguin, an Emperor Penguin. She lives in the Antarctic where it is cold and icy. Sometimes Penny thinks it's far too cold and much too icy. Penny and her family live as part of a huge group of penguins who huddle together for warmth. They shuffle together, they play together, learn and sleep together. In fact, they do nearly everything together and sometimes Penny thinks they are together too much. Penny begins to wish she could live somewhere else so one day she packs up a bag then writes a note to her family.