



# Three summer English challenges

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Reading; Writing; SPaG



Feeling excited or worried about school in September? Get ahead of the game with these fun English challenges.

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**Instructions:**

1. Read the three challenges.
2. On the following three sheets, choose your challenge tasks.
3. Complete a row, a column or complete them all - it's like Bingo!
4. When you have completed a task, ask your parents to sign (or put their initials) in the box beside each task.
5. Bring the signed sheet with your name on it into school in September and give it to your English teacher.
6. Each entry sheet will go in to a prize draw.





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Read the news online: BBC Newsround or Good News Network and find 5 positive stories or 'happy news' to share with others. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>

Read at least 5 stories/extracts from The Book of Hopes, available for free here: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

Read a science fiction book or book with science links. Ideas: Mortal Engines by Philip Reeves; The Martian by Andy Weir; City of Ember by Jeanne Duprau; Horrible Science series; Helping our planet by Jane Bingham

Select and listen to an audiobook. These links have free audiobooks: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-LLfKzQDcayCQMA0--X21Q/playlists>

Select a favourite picture book, graphic novel or comic book and read it to a younger child (for example, a sibling or family friend) OR flip the reading and read any book to an older adult

Read a book that is linked to a famous character. Ideas: Young Sherlock by Andy Lane; Tarzan: the Greystoke Legacy by Andy Briggs; Dodger by Terry Pratchett; Oliver Twisted by J.D. Sharpe; Young Bond by Charlie Higson and Steve Cole

Re-read a fairy-tale or myth and make a miniature book. Click on this link to find out more <https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/make-a-miniature-book>

Listen to a modern classic being read aloud. You could start with Harry Potter [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vA8f5PY41s&list=PLrSV6QhCrkoPuwBAtufjSiI9d\\_bp7w14e&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vA8f5PY41s&list=PLrSV6QhCrkoPuwBAtufjSiI9d_bp7w14e&index=2)

Read a book recommended by a friend.

Read a nonfiction book. You could try a memoir of a famous or interesting person. Ideas: Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls; I am Malala; Diary of Anne Frank; My family and other animals by Gerald Durrell

Write a book review for the school library using this template: [https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/lesson-plans/migrated-files-in-body/oct06\\_book\\_review\\_template.pdf](https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/lesson-plans/migrated-files-in-body/oct06_book_review_template.pdf)

Write a letter to the author of your book telling them what you thought of their book, what you learnt and any further questions or comments you have.

Read a book about someone who is different to you or lives a life very different to yours. Ideas: In the sea there are crocodiles by Fabio Geda; Pop! by Catherine Bruton; Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman; Shine by Candy Gourlay; The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Read a book in a genre you don't normally read (adventure, fantasy, history, mystery, realistic, romance or horror). For ideas visit: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

Summer Writing Challenge: Complete a row, a column or all the boxes. Ask your parent/carer to sign in the box when a task is complete

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Go for a walk and describe everything you see.  
Use lots of precise detail.  
50+ words

Write a letter to your younger self. What would you tell your younger self about what has happened in your life? What advice would you give?  
50-100 words

Think of your favourite food. Write about it and try to make it sound as disgusting as possible.  
50+ words

If you were in charge of planning a holiday, where would you go?  
Create an itinerary including how you would get there, where you would stay and what you would do. Write it out neatly on a page.

Write the start of a story with this idea:  
The last thing you touched is trying to kill you.  
Explain why.  
100+ words

Imagine running into someone famous. Describe your conversation.  
50+ words

Write the start of a story with this idea:  
Your hero has turned into a superhero. What do your character's new powers allow them to do?  
50+ words

Take these three nouns and turn them into an illustrated story or cartoon  
**Arrival Departure Promise**  
Minimum one page with drawings.

Write a myth to explain why the sky is blue OR why birds fly and fish swim OR why the sun sets.  
100+ words

Begin writing a story by starting each sentence with a different letter of the alphabet. You must use all 26 letters from A to Z to begin the first word in each of the first 26 sentences.

Write a 24 word story on a piece of paper starting with 'One day...' Share your writing using #247challenge. Tag three friends!

Review a film you saw recently. What was it about? Who were the actors? How many stars would you rate it?  
75+ words

Listen to your three favourite songs and their lyrics. Write lyrics for a brand new song mixing in the lyrics and lines from your favourite songs.  
Minimum 25 lines.

7 Days, 7 Lines: Write a poem where each line/sentence is about each day of last week.  
Make every word count.

Write a story that begins with the phrase:  
I wish I had lied.  
100+ words.

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Create a poster on homophones and easy ways to remember how to use them properly.




Learn three mnemonics for words you often spell wrong, for example: Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants is a way to remember B.E.C.A.U.S.E.

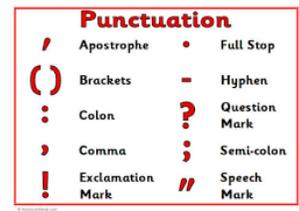
Find out what a root word is and then create a list of 10 Greek and 10 Latin root words commonly used in English. Add images to help you remember them.




Create an acrostic poem using a 12 letter word. For example: championship, civilisation, hippopotamus...




Write 10 sentences using the same words but with different punctuation each time.




Create a table of common suffixes (word endings) for example, -ence/-acy/-ible/ -ful including what they mean and examples of words that use them.

Create a wordsearch for parts of speech. E.g. noun, pronoun, adjective, adverb, verb, preposition, conjunction, interjection and what they mean.

Build muscle memory: create a list of 10 words you usually spell wrong. Choose a word and write or type it CORRECTLY 10 times a day for 5 days.

Create a sturdy bookmark with 12 spelling or grammar mistakes you know you often get wrong. Keep this bookmark in the reading book you bring to school and use it!

Make a list of 10 palindromes (words and phrases that are spelled the same forwards and backwards)

Create an alphabetical list of words with silent letters – they can either start with silent letters or have silent letters inside them (Tip: only J, Q and Y are never silent)

Go for a walk or bike ride and write down accurately words you see from road signs to street names, adverts to shop names. Get a friend or family member to test you spelling them aloud.

Create a table of common prefixes (word beginnings), for example: un/in/dis/hyper/extra including what they mean and examples of words that use them

Play spelling games with friends and family: Scrabble, Hangman or complete a crossword or newspaper word puzzle.

Show you understand syllables by writing a haiku (a type of poem) More information here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/memory-aids/zdws7nb>

Handwriting practice: Complete some free practice sheets (cursive or print) here: <https://www.studenthandouts.com/handwriting-worksheets/nature-quotes-copywork-workbooks.html>