

LISTENING

1. Listen decide whether sentences 1 – 6 are true [T] or false [F].

6p.

- 1 According to Lindsey, a good film adaptation is exactly the same as the book.
- 2 A good adaptation has to get the timing right.
- 3 Choosing the right cast can make a big difference to the success of a film adaptation.
- 4 The main reason for the success of *The Lord of the Rings* series is its setting.
- 5 Special effects were used extensively in the creation of the character Gollum.
- 6 The main reason why Lindsey doesn't like *The Hunger Games* films is the casting.

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | T | F |
| 2. | T | F |
| 3. | T | F |
| 4. | T | F |
| 5. | T | F |
| 6. | T | F |

READING

2. Read the text and decide whether sentences 1 – 8 are true [T] or false [F].

8p.

Why *Horrible Histories* is a hit

Getting an audience interested in history can be a daunting task at the best of times, but it's especially difficult when your medium is the written word. Enter Terry Deary, former actor and full-time author of the best-selling series *Horrible Histories*. Since the publication of *Terrible Tudors* and *Awesome Egyptians* in 1993, readers have been hooked on the series, which now consists of over 60 titles. More than 20 million copies have been sold in around 30 different languages. So just what is the secret behind Deary's success?

The answer lies in the way the subject is presented. For each of his tales, Deary selects an important era from the past and picks out the most unpleasant events: gory killings, juicy scandal and grim tales of revenge. These lesser-known aspects of history are recounted in comic-book fashion, eliciting disbelief in the reader, although the details are completely accurate. And this is what appeals to children about his books: the fact that by reading them, they learn something unbelievable but true.

As well as Deary's writing style, it was also coincidence that contributed to his rise to fame. Two years after the series began, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II came along. Deary had conveniently just written *Blitzed Brits*, a description of events in wartime Britain. Teachers were looking for something on the subject to grab their students' attention in class and *Blitzed Brits* fitted the bill perfectly. The book shot up the sales charts and made Deary into a bestselling author almost overnight.

Yet *Horrible Histories* is not confined to books. Deary's gruesome tales have also been adapted for television, providing the material for five whole series. The shows are presented by a talking rat called Rattus Rattus, whose job is to introduce comedy sketches portraying a particular historical event and to verify the facts they contain. The sketches often parody current media stories, and each episode contains a song that imitates a particular pop style, which can be anything from boy bands to hard rock. The outrageous costumes and ridiculous humour of the show appeal to both children and grown-ups alike, and the TV series has won numerous awards at both children's and adult ceremonies.

Not even Terry Deary anticipated the huge success of *Horrible Histories*, which has joined the ranks of other children's favourites such as *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games*. Along with reading the books and following the TV series, fans can also purchase magazines, listen along to audio books, play video games and watch stage productions. There have even been rumours of a theme park. With a range of products that wide, who would dare claim that history is boring?



- 1 The author of *Horrible Histories* used to work on the stage.
- 2 Deary's *Horrible Histories* books are purely fictional.
- 3 Deary began writing the stories in the same year as his country celebrated an important occasion.
- 4 Teachers bought *Blitzed Brits* to teach their classes about World War II.
- 5 The host of the TV shows is a famous figure from history.
- 6 In many of the comedy sketches, a parallel is drawn between past and present events.
- 7 The author did not expect his concept to be so popular.
- 8 Plans to build a *Horrible Histories* theme park have been announced.

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | T | F |
| 2. | T | F |
| 3. | T | F |
| 4. | T | F |
| 5. | T | F |
| 6. | T | F |
| 7. | T | F |
| 8. | T | F |

VOCABULARY

3. Match the words with their definitions.

9p.

Bow	A type of hat which protects the head of a soldier.
Bullet	A weapon which can fire many bullets very fast one after another.
Cannon	A long stick with a pointed metal end which is used as a weapon.
Helmet	A large weapon used for firing heavy balls of metal at the enemy over long distances.
Machine gun	A weapon which is launched into the air and can travel long distances.
Missile	A weapon with long sharp metal blade and a handle.
Shield	A small object which is fired out of a gun.
Spear	A curved weapon with a string which is used for shooting arrows.
Sword	

4. Choose the correct answer.

8p.

It's great that I've almost got the flu but because of it I've really got with my paperwork. I think I'll be able to catch up over the weekend if I can get babysitting for my brother. Actually, even if I have to babysit, it might be OK because I'll be able to get my work once the baby is asleep. The report isn't very important so I can probably get not finishing it until Tuesday. In any case, all this work means I'm not going to be able to get Alex and Noah to play golf as we'd planned. John texted this morning as well about Saturday, but I haven't had time to get him yet. I've just been so busy. Sometimes I wonder why I got this field of work - even without having the flu, I'd still have lots of work to do!

5. Complete the sentences with one word – a sound. The first letter is given to help you. 8p.

1. They **w**..... to each other because they didn't want anyone else to hear.
2. As Anna's father read her terrible school report, he **s**..... with disappointment.
3. Several of the girls **g**..... at Paul's silly joke.
4. Because he was so nervous, Jacob **s**..... all the way through his presentation.
5. It was a great film but we all **s**..... at the tragic ending.
6. Rebecca was terrified of the dark and when she heard the door creak open, she **s**..... so loud even the neighbours heard it.
7. From the way he **y**..... at her, we could tell that she'd done something pretty bad.
8. The goalkeeper **g**..... in pain when he tried to stand up on his broken ankle.

6. Translate the sentences into Polish.

10 p

- a. The plot was obviously based on the famous rebellion which, against overwhelming odds, led to the government overthrowing.

- b. Never before had I watched such an implausible, and yet gripping film.
- c. The wounded refugees finally surrendered in the sledge.
- d. Her fiancé implored with tremendous patience to organize the rendezvous in the historic site nearby.
- e. Only later did we get the chance of plunging into this somewhat intriguing media coverage.

7. Use the words in capital to form a word that fits in the space in the text.

10 p

Idioms

A high (0) of the English language consists of idioms which a (1) will have to acquire in order to achieve complete (2) However, good (3) is not based on the quantity of idioms used, but on their appropriate usage. Students of English can (4) make themselves understood using a minimal amount of (5) language, but some feel it is a (6) to learn them and then use them as often as possible to make a good (7) and show how good their language is. However, using them (8) can sound worse than not using them at all. Thankfully, there are many (9) teachers who can provide clear (10) and help with practice.

PERCENT
LEARN
FLUENT
COMMUNICATE
EASE
IDIOM
NECESSARY
IMPRESS
CORRECTLY
QUALIFY
EXPLAIN

eg.

(0) PERCENTAGE

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

8. Write a review of a book or a film in 100 words (+/- 20 words).

7 p

I will play attention to dedicated vocabulary use – 3 points

The coherence of the text – 2 points

Correctness – 2 points