

The centipede's song

These questions will help you practise:

- ★ retrieving and recording information
- ★ explaining how information contributes to meaning
- ★ identifying how language choices enhance meaning
- ★ summarising main ideas
- ★ making inferences.

'I've eaten many strange and scrumptious dishes in my time,
Like jellied gnats and dandyprats and earwigs cooked in slime,
And mice with rice – they're really nice

When roasted in their prime.

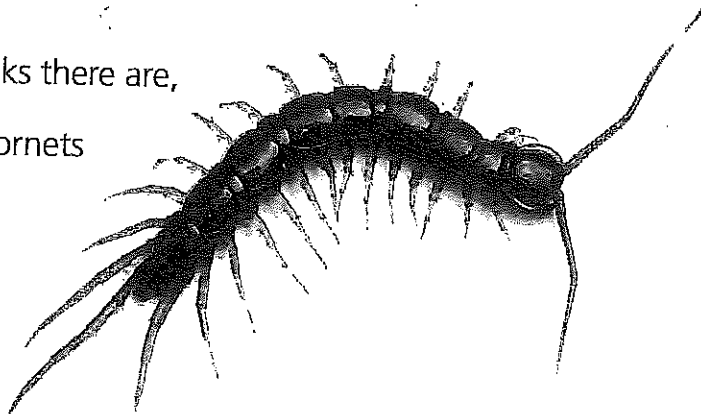
(But don't forget to sprinkle them with just a pinch of grime.)

'I've eaten fresh mudburgers by the greatest cooks there are,
And scrambled dregs and stinkbugs' eggs and hornets
stewed in tar,

And pails of snails and lizards' tails,

And beetles by the jar.

(A beetle is improved by just a splash of vinegar.)



'I often eat boiled slobbages. They're grand when served beside
Minced doodlebugs and curried slugs. And have you ever tried
Mosquitoes' toes and wampfish roes most delicately fried?

(The only trouble is they disagree with my inside.)

From *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl

1 Match the groups of food that were eaten together.

(1 mark)

mice

lizards' tails

minced doodlebugs

curried slugs

scrambled dregs

rice

snails

hornets stewed in tar

2 Explain the purpose of the brackets at the end of each verse.

(1 mark)

3 How does the writer create a sense of humour in the poem? Give **two** details to support your answer.

(2 marks)

1. _____

2. _____

4 Write **one** sentence to summarise the main idea in this poem.

(1 mark)

5 What other kinds of food do you think the narrator of the poem would enjoy?

(3 marks)

Refer to the text in your answer.

 / 8

Total for this text



Present Tense and Past Tense

To write about something that happens regularly, use the present tense.

Dave visits his gran. Mr Smith hears everything.

To write about something that's finished, use the past tense.

Dave visited his gran. Mr Smith heard everything.

1 Tick the sentences which are in the present tense.

I get up at seven o'clock.

They launched the rocket.

Leon writes every day.

We leave at half past one.

The koala did a dance.

Megan posted her letters.

Rewrite the sentences you ticked so that they are in the past tense.

.....

.....

.....

2 For each pair of words, write one present tense and one past tense sentence.

Jack golf



Present:

Past:

we shop



Present:

Past:

"I can use the present tense and the past tense."



Present and Past Progressive

To write about something that's still happening, use the present form of 'to be' plus the main verb with 'ing' on the end. This is called the present progressive.

are / am / is + verb + ing → Chloe is chatting.

The past progressive is formed like the present progressive, but 'to be' has to be in the past tense. → Leo was frying an egg.

1 Cross out the incorrect words to form the past progressive tense.

We (are / is / were) (plant / planting / plants) seeds.

I (am / was / were) (looking / look / looks) for my dad.

He (is / were / was) (ride / ridden / riding) a horse.

2 Form the present and past progressive by using the correct form of 'to be' and the 'ing' form of each verb.

verb	present progressive tense	past progressive tense
to go	Bob out.	Bob out.
to win	We the race.	We the race.
to drive	I to France.	I to France.
to shut	She a door.	She a door.
to knit	They hats.	They hats.

3 Write a sentence about what you were doing one hour ago.

"I can use the present and past progressive tenses."



The Perfect Form

Use the present perfect form of a verb to talk about something that happened before now, but not at a specific time.

Riley has spilt his drink. → We don't know exactly when he spilt the drink.

Use the past perfect form of a verb to talk about something that happened before now, and before something else happened.

Riley had spilt his drink when Mum arrived. → We know that Riley spilt the drink before his mother got there.

1 Complete these sentences using the past perfect form of a suitable verb.

Corrie had moved to Belfast by the time she was six.

Steve was annoyed because Simon the film already.

Ruby me her old guitar before she bought a new one.

I my gran's letters in time for dinner.

2 Rewrite this passage using the present perfect form.

I went to a welcome day at my new school. I put my name down for the netball team, and Jon joined the art club. We spoke to our new teacher.

"I can use the past and present perfect forms."

