

Comprehension Workbook 1

The Piece of Paper

(Recycling)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

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Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Caring for the environment

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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The piece of paper

Once upon a time there was a piece of paper. It could do all sorts of things. It could bend and fold, twist and turn. Children loved playing with it. On Monday, they drew pictures on it. On Tuesday, they cut it into shapes. On Wednesday they folded it into a paper airplane and flew it around the room.



On Wednesday night, the paper looked old, grey and torn. That night, the children put it into a rubbish bin with old cans and bits of plastic. Thursday morning the bin men came and emptied all the rubbish into a big truck. The truck bumped along the road. It was a long trip for an old piece of paper.

On Thursday afternoon, the piece of paper was emptied onto a conveyor belt. Hands came down and placed the paper into a big bin with all the other pieces of paper. In the bin, the little paper could see pieces of paper from magazines, newspapers, egg boxes and pieces of card.



It was so crowded that the poor little piece of paper could hardly move. Friday morning, the little piece of paper was suddenly sucked inside a large machine. The paper was soaked in water and pushed through a screen. Then the paper was spun around and around. On Friday afternoon, the little paper was rolled flat under a big roller and dried over night.

The next morning, everything was quiet. The paper looked around and saw that it was sitting next to other clean paper. The paper was clean and smooth and white. On its back was the word, "recycled". On Sunday, the piece of paper was sent to a shop, and was bought by some children. The little piece of paper was very happy – now it could go and play with the children again.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'rubbish'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'rubbish' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'rubbish'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'rubbish'.

e Give an example of some types of 'rubbish'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: crowded	busy

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Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

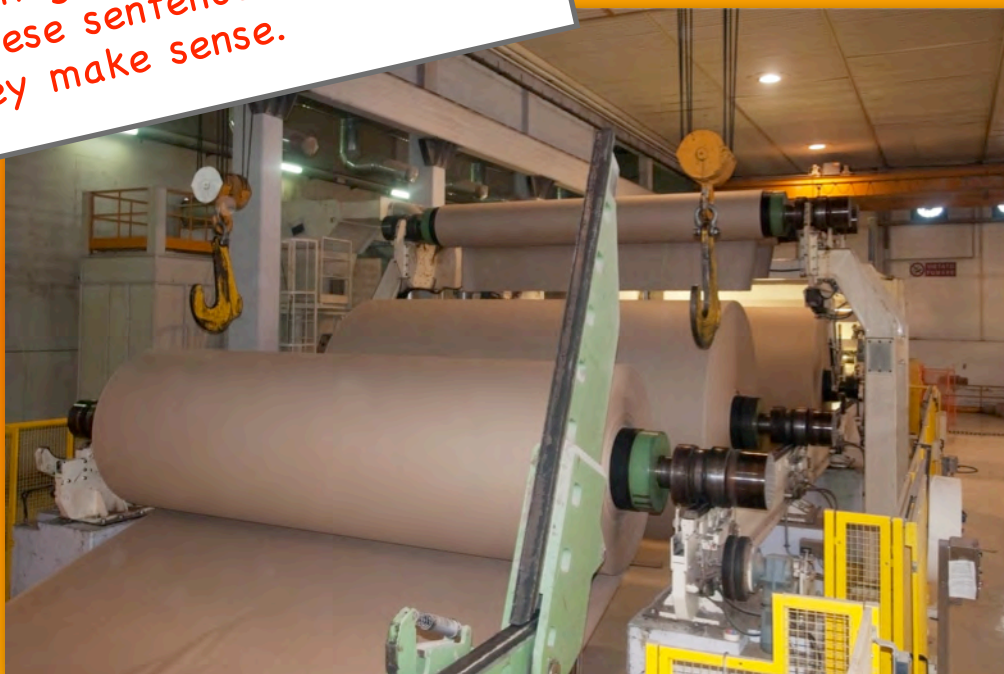
1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.

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Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



Friday morning, the little piece of paper was suddenly sucked inside a large machine.

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On Friday afternoon, the little paper was rolled flat under a big roller and dried over night.

On Wednesday they folded it into a paper airplane and flew it around the room.

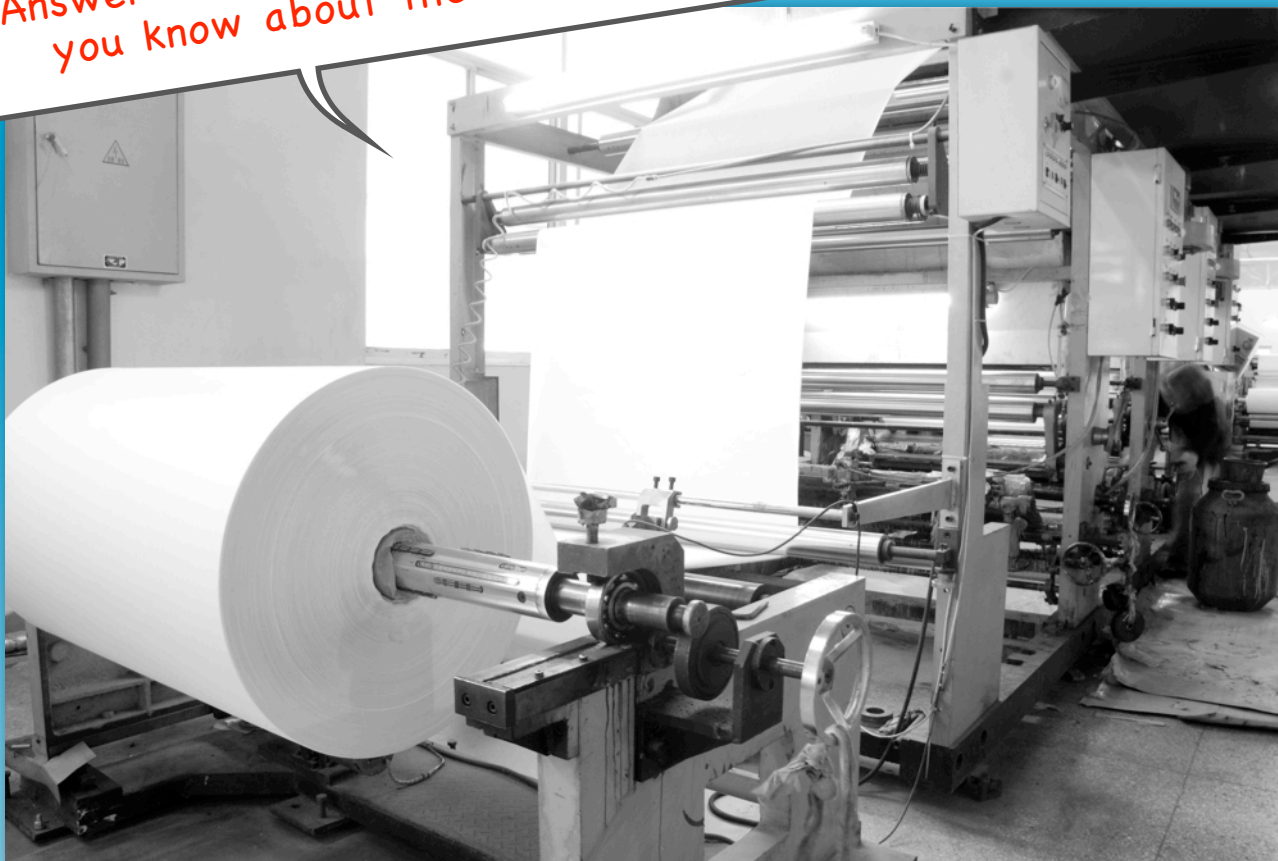
On Sunday, the piece of paper was sent to a shop, and was bought by some children.

On Monday, they drew pictures on it.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 Where was the paper put when it was old and torn?

2 Where was the piece of paper emptied?

3 What was the paper sprayed with inside the machine?

4 What happened to the paper after it was pushed through the screen?

5 What was the word on the paper's back?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why could the little paper hardly move?

2 Why was the paper put on the conveyor belt?

3 What happened to the paper inside the machine?

4 Why was the paper proud?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



1 Do you think this is a true story?

2 Why did children love the paper?

3 Do you think the paper is happy to be recycled?

4 Where did the paper go in the big truck?

5 What other kinds of paper were in the big bin with the little paper?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Moral of the story?

What do you think is a good moral for this story?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



A piece of rubbish

Pretend that you are a piece of rubbish. One day, you are thrown away. (Now continue the story of describing what happens to you. Are you recycled or sent to the rubbish tip? Write about what happens along the way...)

The Piece of Paper

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