

Ask the Nincompoops

Year 3 /4

HIAS English Team
Spring 2020
Final version

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Using the Home Learning Materials

The materials

- Each writing booklet contains a sequence of 5 lessons.
- You should set aside time to complete each of the lessons in order.
- Each lesson will take no more than 30 mins to complete.

How to use

- Read the instructions carefully before you start a task.
- Each lesson has a simple explanation and examples to get you started.

How can parents, carers and siblings help?

- Read the extracts aloud with your child
- Collect interesting words and phrases on paper / post-its as they read
- Talk to your children about their ideas before they write
- Adapt any of the resources and materials as you feel necessary to support your child's needs

5 day writing sequence

This sequence is developed using inspiration from podcasts by Andy Stanton and Carrie Quinlan.

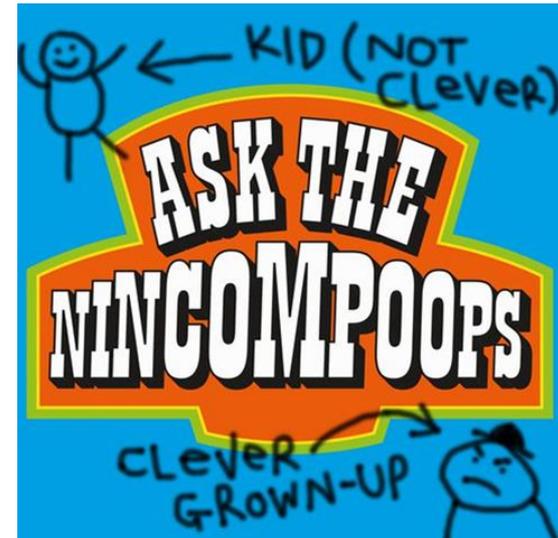
Ask the Nincompoops

<https://play.acast.com/s/nincompoops>

The outcome is to write a humorous / nonsense interview in a similar style to the podcasts. Depending on technology available at home, the outcome could be oral or written.

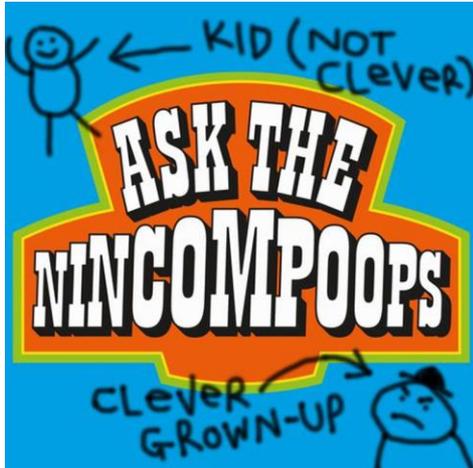
Teaching sequence:

- 1) Listen and enjoy
- 2) Develop engaging questions
- 3) Sound like an expert
- 4) Plan the interview
- 5) Writing challenge



Lesson 1 – Listen and enjoy

Ask the Nincompoops



Andy Stanton (bearded author of the Mr Gum books) and Carrie Quinlan (unbearded actress, comedian and all-round weirdo) answer questions.

Listen as Andy and Carrie share their ‘wisdumb’ and ‘nollidge’ in a feast of nonsense, hilarity and truly outrageous lies.

Who invented words?

What’s the opposite of a kettle?

Why are oranges called oranges?

Have a listen to this one to start with – try different ones and enjoy more if you wish!

<https://play.acast.com/s/nincompoops/cbab5c2b-5400-415c-a103-b1d9bd348529>

Lesson 2 – Develop engaging questions

Reflect on what you heard yesterday:

Did you find Andy and Carrie funny?

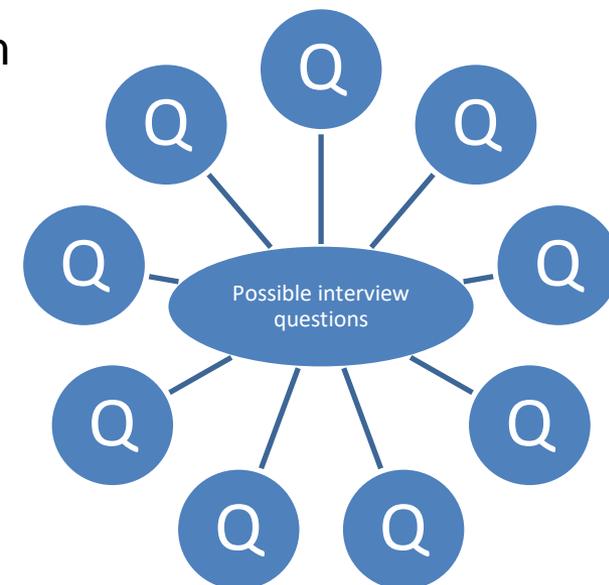
What made it humorous / not humorous?

What was the atmosphere like in the studio?

How did they achieve that?

By the end of this unit you will write your own interview.

Brainstorm some possible crazy questions – come up with lots of ideas to start off with. Vary your question starters.



What ... ?	How ... ?	Can ... ?
Where ... ?	When ... ?	Who ... ?

Discuss with family and friends – get them to help you choose the best three from your collection. Which will achieve the funniest answers?

Lesson 3 – Sound like an expert

Ask the Nincompoops podcasts are a clever mix of sounding like an expert whilst talking nonsense. Create some imaginative, funny people who will be involved in your answers to your three chosen interview questions.

Write how you will introduce them using the word bank below for ideas. Practise and play with ideas until you think you have the best introduction for each of your three answers.

Who invented the bounce in tennis balls?

Professor Whizz Babble was the respected scientist who created the ever so brilliant bounce in tennis balls.

Professor Whizz Wisdom was the experienced inventor who confirmed it was possible to put bounce in tennis balls and is famous all over the world.

Lesson 4 – Plan the interview

Introduction	Key ideas to include in the answer	How will you make it funny?
Q1)		
Q2)		
Q3)		

Lesson 5 – Writing

Using everything you have been working on this week, carry out your interview. You could complete this as a verbal interview and record it like a podcast or you could write the questions and answers down.

If you present your work orally, either ask someone else to ask you your questions, or change your voice so you sound different.

Keep switching who is speaking like an interview:

1. Interviewer introduces the interview and everyone involved
2. Interviewer asks first question
3. Interviewee answers first question
4. Interviewer reflects on the answer and then asks question two
5. Interviewee answers second question
6. etc

Try to make it as funny as possible for your audience.
Have fun making it!



Word bank

wisdom	professor	experienced	knowledgeable	assure
nonsense	garbage	claptrap	create	guarantee
invent	gobbledygook	twaddle	discover	confirm
respect	gibberish	specialist	formulate	certain
expert	babble	whizz	devise	skillful

HIAS English team

The HIAS English team offer a wide range of high-quality services to support schools in improving outcomes for learners, including courses, bespoke consultancy and in-house training.

During the current school closures, we are still offering school support in a variety of ways such as video conferencing, phone calls and bespoke creation of resources remotely. Coming soon will be teacher training via virtual classrooms. We would be happy to discuss your needs.

For further details referring to English, please contact:
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For further details on the full range of services available please contact us using the following details:

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